Issue editorial

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'Digital Libraries' can mean many things, but we consider them to be libraries first and foremost, built upon the enduring principles of information management, which lay at the heart of the practice of librarianship for decades. Libraries, themselves repositories, have always dealt with the management of repositories for the benefit of their users. With libraries now routinely managing repositories of various types in digital formats, does it auger well for the quality of repositories and institutions? There are considerable implications for librarians who manage digital material as full-text, where the digital items are accompanied by digital metadata.

A growing percentage of researchers have discovered the utility of the web for the dissemination of their research outputs, and have now been using it, for many years in the case of some disciplines. The library community, increasingly focused on a digital library agenda, has understood the need to ensure that the material being disseminated is managed successfully through proper description, indexing, and storage for long-term preservation. The approach, which has now proved its worth is being used for other types of material generated within institutions.

The marriage of research generated by academics, with output management by librarians, has created a new form of publication with open values, which presents a growing challenge to commercial publishers who have controlled the publication of research for many decades.

In order to address some of these challenges, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), in partnership with the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) organized a mega conference – International Conference on Digital Libraries (ICDL) 2010 – the theme of which was 'Shaping the Information Paradigm'. Held every three years at New Delhi, the four-day conference attracted 650 participants from 40 countries. Some selected papers from the conference have been published in this issue. Abdullah, in her paper, provides a comprehensive overview of the pilot study she concluded at a leading research-intensive university. She emphasizes on methods to populate the Institutional Repository (IR), in order to enable the researchers to self-archive papers and utilize the pre-existing collection of theses and dissertations. She also puts forth suggestions for new roles in content recruitment and interpreting policies.

Eld Zierau and Ulla Bøgvad Kejser study the use of the Open Archival Information Systems (OAIS) reference model to provide an overall framework for systematic analysis of the technical and organizational requirements of institutions for a remote bit repository. The study further shows that, depending on the collections

they hold, institutions have expressed varying needs for safety, accessibility, and confidentiality of enormous amounts of data and information.

Indian music and culture is regarded highly throughout the world, especially Rabindra Sangeet, which was composed and published by Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore, is a worldwide phenomenon. Chandan Misra, Baidurya Bhattacharya, and Anupam Basu have given a brief description of the new framework and a simple application for archiving Tagore songs in Musical Instrument Digital Interface (MIDI) and notational formats.

Reinhard Altenhöner's paper chronicles 10 years of activity and focuses on the latest developments in the German National Library or Deutsche Nationalbibliothek (DNB), established in the 1990s. DNB has the legal mandate to collect, archive, index, and enable access to digital publications.

A novel approach to visualizing and navigating the document collection of a digital library using ontology is presented by Surjeet Mishra and Hiranmay Ghosh. They further give an abstract view of the knowledge map, clear and concise, which can be progressively 'zoomed in' or 'zoomed out' to navigate the knowledge space.

Plato L Smith II, in his research paper, opts for an experimental approach of collaborative, open-access institutional repository digital collection building and digital preservation strategy for Diatomscapes—a small, representative sample image of biological silica.

Rosy Jan and Nadeem Akhtar Khan make a detailed study of Google Scholar's credibility and harvesting capability by submitting select titles from the field of microbiology in three major, renowned, and open-access journal lists—Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), Highwire, and BioMed Central.

Open Access Initiatives (OAI) and open digital repositories are the key elements for discussion across the globe. Issues that are of main concern are—interoperability, multilinguality, and digital rights management. I am sure the readers will get a new direction towards digitization of resources and institutional repositories, of institutional and national memories.