

Editorial

Michael Seadle

Director, Berlin School of Library and Information Science, the HEADT Centre, (a research project); Executive Director, iSchools Inc.

World Digital Libraries 14(2): v-vi (2021)

Access to information is a particularly urgent issue in this time of COVID, when library users are so dependent on access to digital sources. Providing good access involves a wide range of topics because of the wide range of user needs and the many different layers of information technology. Controlled vocabulary is just one example, because that vocabulary determines much of the effectiveness of the search functions. Libraries must also select the right E-resources to match the needs of universities' departments, and must identify which international websites will most benefit the users. Libraries have a responsibility to encourage sustainable development goals in their regions, and choosing the right resources for that task can be harder than it appears.

S. Mandal's article "On Controlled Vocabulary System for Knowledge Organization: Designing a Framework" uses "the TemaTres open source tool"¹ to look at the use of controlled vocabulary. An important feature of TemaTres is its handling of multiple languages, which means that it can handle English, Bengali,

and many other regional languages. One of the author's conclusions is that "thesaurus construction and visual vocabulary creation are possible using TemaTres."²

In the article "Status of E-resources in Select University Libraries of Haryana" S.Rani and N. Kaur based their study on "data collected using a self-designed questionnaire from three well-established, multi-disciplinary state universities of Haryana..."³ The authors "found that all university libraries take the feedback from their users regarding continuation or discontinuation of e-resources... [And that the] universities' libraries of Haryana need to subscribe more e-resources and appoint full-time librarian[s] so as to better serve their users in the post COVID-19, new normal situation."⁴ One of the key points is that the libraries need enough trained staff to handle the electronic resources and to support their users.

V. K. Bajpai and M. Madhusudhan wrote an article on "Library Software Skills: a case study of college libraries of Delhi". They used questionnaires to ask librarians about their

¹ P. 111

² P. 122

³ P. 125

⁴ P. 125

software skills. The authors write: “that most LIS professionals are deficient regarding skills in burglar systems, electromagnetic security systems (ESS), access control system, quick response (QR) codes, biometric technology, content management systems, reference creation and management, [and the] R software [statistical package.]”⁵ This emphasizes again the need for better training for library staff at all levels.

The article on “Search Engine Optimization by Moz Link Explorer and Google PageRank: a study of international digital library websites” by Sadaf Zia and Muzamil Mushtaq aims “to evaluate and compare the international digital library websites to explore their performances and efficiencies, based on search engine optimization.”⁶ The article also looks at a Web Impact Factor and found that the International Children’s Digital Library did well. The authors also looked at spam scores for library websites.

M. A. Sayeed’s article “Knowledge Management Involving Sustainable Development Goals and Demographic Dividend of Bangladesh” addresses how “to achieve [a] demographic dividend (DD) of Bangladesh, importance of knowledge management, and implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).”⁷ This is an ambitious goal,

and “the paper tried to focus ... [on] ways of cultivation for sharing so that the communities concerned can take benefit.” The author notes that “Bangladesh has been producing substantial numbers of non-technical higher education people who are virtually jobless.”⁸ Clearly this is a problem. The author notes that Bangladesh has an “enormous number of present workforce aged 24–65”⁹, which gives the country an opportunity to achieve a “demographic dividend”.

In the article “Usage of E-resources in Libraries of Selected Health and Family Welfare Institutes in India: a case study” by S. Chand the author notes that the “Health sector is the largest discipline in the world and relates to all human beings.”¹⁰ He also notes that: “After independence, the health care delivery system in India has recorded an impressive increase.”¹¹ The author’s goal was to “find out the satisfaction level of the users regarding use of e-resources available in open domain[s].” The result of the study is “that users of e-resources are mostly satisfied by the various e-resources provided by their respective libraries.”¹² This is good news for Indian libraries and for the country.

As always, I hope you will enjoy reading this issue and will learn from the articles.

⁵ P. 139

⁶ P. 157

⁷ P. 173

⁸ P. 180

⁹ P. 190

¹⁰ P. 195

¹¹ P. 196

¹² P. 204