Editorial

Michael Seadle
Dean, Faculty of Arts and Director, Berlin School of Library and Information Science, Germany

This issue of *World Digital Libraries* includes articles on two broad areas. The first is text mining and data harvesting, including harvesting metadata. Text and data mining are old techniques in the computer science world, but libraries have taken a new interest in them, partly as a result of Franco Moretti's 2013 book titled *Distant Reading*, which made humanists more conscious of what computers could do to analyse texts and may someday transform how people use library content.

The article by Samrat Guha Roy, B Sutradhar, and Partha Pratim Das on "Large-scale Metadata Harvesting—Tools, Techniques and Challenges: A Case Study of National Digital Library (NDL)" focusses on mining metadata. Harvesting metadata has advantages over ordinary text harvesting because the metadata are structured and can thus be searched with greater ease and accuracy. It is possible to harvest metadata from distant sites using tools, such as OAI-PMH and then analyse them with text mining techniques. The "single window search box" that the authors describe can have considerable sophistication using boolean search techniques, and the advantages become even greater when a whole corpus of machine-readable content becomes available for searches using "Regular Expressions", which are a common feature of computer languages such as C, Perl, and Python.

"Text Analytics Applied to Indian Politics" by Madhu G Nadig, K N Bhargav, and Kavi Mahesh opens further possibilities for text mining politically relevant material. Open government initiatives are active in a number of countries and the ability to run an analysis of the words and phrases that are part of the daily political landscape opens new ways for citizens to become involved. Generating visualizations is a particularly good way of communicating information quickly, especially to a population with limited literacy. The geospatial mapping in the article offers an especially powerful tool for a complex society like India.

The second topic area in this issue is providing library services via websites and smartphones. Websites have become a standard part of the modern library and the need to adapt and reengineer them is growing as library resources evolve. One of the areas where the library web presence urgently needs improvement is with smartphones, as Kavita Chaddha makes clear in the article on "Exploring the Usability of Library Services through Smartphone: A Case Study of Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow–Noida Campus". Many students use their

smartphones as a standard tool and expectations are growing that all library services should be smartphone accessible. An interesting fact is the dominance of Android devices, averaging over 70% for the respondents, and the relatively low percentage of Windows users (under 10%). This means that initial development can reasonably focus on one smartphone operating system.

The article on "Design and Development of Library Website of Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education: An Experimental Study" by Parvin S L Kureshi, Akhilesh K S Yadav, and D D Pednekar is a good companion piece, because it gives an overview of how to design a website using the open source tool Drupal. The overview of Drupal, the list of requirements, and the installation process are likely to be helpful to libraries creating a new interface. The many screenshots of the process are also a plus. The design suggestions will help librarians with little experience to get started quickly.

Ganesh Ramdas Sanap writes about "Reengineering of College Library Services through Web Technology". The author begins with a list of user expectations, which makes sense since the point of reengineering is to serve the users better. This ties closely with the author's admonitions to set up clear objectives that include retraining staff. Involving stakeholders and the whole political side of reengineering will do much to determine its success.

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