

Editorial

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The articles in this issue discuss a range of topics that touch on the core aspects of what libraries do: both preserving the complex content of “scientific data”, which today is fundamentally digital and satisfying user needs for information through online interfaces.

The article on “Risk Factors Identification in the Domain of Scientific Data Management” by Maria Beatriz Ferraz Cunha, André Barbosa, João Cardoso, and José Borbinha, looks at what may be the most challenging problem, because digital data comes in such various forms and the potential risks are not always under the control of those attempting to maintain it for the long term. Good examples of problems that face repository managers are the “Improper use of Archived Data” and “Wrong Interpretation of the Data; Management Plan or Metadata”. Repository managers can provide guidelines, but little else. Another example of a problem beyond the control of the repository manager is a “Loss of Archived Data due to organizational failure”, which David Rosenthal also includes in his DSHR Blog of April 7, 2014.¹ As the

¹ Rosenthal, David. 2014. “What Could Possibly Go Wrong?” in DSHR’s Blog. Available online at <<https://blog.dshr.org/2014/04/what-could-possibly-go-wrong.html>>.

authors conclude, “According to the results, the importance of the implementation of a data and metadata management plan, as a complement to the data, is significant, as all the necessary information on the data management process can be contained in these documents, thus reducing the risks” (pp. 9–10).

Adebowale Japhet Aina, Adebambo A Oduwole, Hamid Olumide Okunnu, and John Oluwaseyi Monu write about “Information Need, Resources Availability, and ICT Proficiency: Experience at the Lagos State University Library”. This study used a survey with 320 users from different departments throughout the university. In one sense, the results were unsurprising: “It was found that majority of the respondents sought information from journals, textbooks, reference books rather than other library materials” (p. 13). In another sense, the result confirms the academic focus of the university library, with an emphasis on materials used in classes and less emphasis on general literary materials or broader news-related sources.

The article on “Leveraging Mobile Devices in Enhancing Information Services: Perception of Students in Different Universities of Delhi” by Saleeq Ahmad Dar and Margam

Madhusudhan addresses a topic that is popular among my doctoral students and is probably underrepresented in scholarly analysis. Not everyone carries an expensive laptop around in their daily life, not even students in wealthy countries, and yet libraries have been slow to offer services tailored to small form factor devices. As the authors conclude, “libraries should take the lead in providing mobile access to e-resources, particularly e-books and e-journals, as suggested by the users” (p. 38).

Shankaranand Hiremath and Dr P Dharani Kumar wrote about an “Evaluation of Indian Institute of Management Bangalore Library Web OPAC: A Case Study”. The evaluation showed that the “... users satisfaction level is ‘Good’ rather ‘Excellent’, and highlights many problems such as, lack of search-based knowledge, limited search features, lack of training, poor database index, and non-accessibility of other IIM OPACs.” These could be serious concerns for an institution as well-regarded as the Indian

Institute of Management in Bangalore, but they also represent the high standards of the respondents. The results distinguished between answers from regular students and those by research scholars, which gives special insight into how top scholars view the Web OPAC, which is generally more critical.

The final article on a “Revolution Boon to Meet the Imminent Challenges in Virtual Epoch of Library” by Anand S Gawadekar and J N Gautam “intends to understand and examine the effectiveness of Google applications in providing quality library services to the end users” (p. 60). One result of the study is “... that the five laws of S R Ranganthan are still valid even when library has changed from physical domain to the virtual” (p. 67). While librarians may never have doubted this, it is worth remembering that the basic principles have not changed.

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