

Editorial

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The world of computers and communication has witnessed a stupendous and relentless growth in the past few decades. Library science exploited this trend like no other field. The more recent 'storage and content' revolution has come as a boon to library scientists. The Internet and its large plethora of search engines have changed library science to information science. The ever-changing face of the traditional library, and the ease with which information can be stored, processed, and accessed independent of the location, time, and language has, in large measure, democratized access to information. Information science has now become an intellectually alert field, tapping innovations and newer ideas. These innovations now drive the field of computers, and storage and communication, and, indeed, they have become more like the hunters rather than the hunted. Like many new inter-disciplinary areas, information science is poised at the interface between science and engineering, and it is from here that future innovations would emerge.

Digital libraries epitomize the advances in information science and form a strong pillar on which the impact of all advances would be felt. One of the fundamental paradigms in information science is that information grows when shared. The WDL (World Digital

Libraries) journal has been launched to provide a platform to those who use new applications and technologies, professionals and young students for sharing knowledge – knowledge that is authenticated by peer review and validated by an international-base clientele.

The major topics that have become more relevant in the digital world are digital preservation and management of electronic information, its access, multilingualism, and security. In the digital world, the existing copyright laws and business models need a complete rethinking. The digital library developments have also initiated new thoughts in open access and the need for newer business models. All these will form the subject matter of the journal. The WDL journal would provide an avenue for reporting original research contributions and sharing of best practices and experiences across the world.

The members of the editorial board are the best in their respective field. But keeping in mind that knowledge knows no boundaries, they would continue to rely on inputs from the readers.

There are six peer-reviewed articles in the inaugural issue of the journal. The topics span from evaluating digital libraries, providing open access for scholarly communication,

using e-research as a new genre in digital library services, preserving cultural heritage – a Russian experience, and searching across PDF documents. Hopefully, the readers would benefit immensely from these articles and contribute more, so that there is a non-linear expansion of knowledge in the field of digital libraries.