

Editorial

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This issue of *World Digital Libraries* addresses a range of issues, affecting libraries in their transition towards providing digital services and digital content to their readers. Of course, this transition is taking place at different times in different places, but the libraries mentioned in this issue are plainly on the right side of the digital divide.

The article by Mohammad Ishaq Lone and Zahid Ashraf Wani on “Digital Library of Kashmiri Willow Wicker Items: A Small Step towards Preservation of Culture” (p 95) is a good example of the transition because it embeds information about traditional physical materials in a Greenstone Digital Library. The Greenstone Digital Library effectively publishes the documents to a worldwide readership, which will help to market the product as well as preserve the techniques for making willow wicker items.

Readers must be aware of electronic information services and must know how to use them. This is the topic of the article by Tanveer Haider Naqvi on “Awareness, Use, and Impact of Electronic Information Services on the UG and PG Students at JNMC Library, AMU, Aligarh, India” (p 107). An awareness of electronic resources, especially searchable

databases, is especially important for medical students. In today’s world, it would be bad if medical professionals remained satisfied with what they learnt as students, but keeping up with new developments could be hard for those who have no access to libraries with physical journals or books. Electronic information can be accessed wherever Internet access is available, which is increasingly ubiquitous via smartphones.

Although a great deal of scholarly information sits behind paywalls, where teachers cannot read it unless they pay privately (or unless their school is financially well endowed), open access content is free to everyone with Internet access. The article by Fayaz Ahmad Lone, PhD, on “Open Access Journals in the Field of Education: An Informative Study” (p 123) helps to make readers aware not only of the presence of these journals, but of the fact that over 87 per cent charge no article processing fees, which means that authors can write for them without grants or institutional support.

The role of Facebook in the university has been the subject of extensive discussion and there is evidence that many students are unwilling to give it up, even for an incentive. (Bröns, 2013) The article by Rabishankar Giri, Debal C Kar, and B K Sen on “The Effect of Facebook

Adoption in an Academic Library” (p 133) shows the reader how libraries can use Facebook “to be a cost-effective means of engaging users effectively, irrespective of the size of the academic library”. The authors are careful to point out that one should not generalize on the basis of a single case study, but the success of their study is worth noting.

Radio Frequency IDentification (RFID) is a different kind of technology that does not rely on digital content in the internet, but on digital signals in order to make the use of analog

materials more efficient. This is the topic of the final article in the issue by M Madhusudhan and Parul Gupta on “Use of RFID Technology by Students in Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi and Indian Law Institute, Delhi: A Survey” (p 145). Although the study includes two relatively elite but quite different institutions, the results from the two campuses are sufficiently similar to support the authors’ argument that “...factors such as system quality, use, and user satisfaction positively influence consumer attitudes towards RFID-enabled services”.

References

- Bröns P, Greifeneder E, and Støvring S. 2013. **The Reluctance to be on a Facebook Sabbatical: How Facebook Promotes Students’ Academic Life.** 027.7 *Zeitschrift für Bibliothekskultur/Journal for Library Culture* 1. doi:10.12685/027.7-1-3-40