

# Editorial

## Professor Michael Seadle

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

World Digital Libraries 12(1): v-vi (2019)

---

This issue has five articles that deal with various practical aspects of library technology: two with a focus on discovery, two with a focus on tools, and one that analyses research output. While *World Digital Libraries* has a strong technological orientation, this journal continues its practical focus on how digital technologies advance the work of libraries in practical ways.

The article by B. M. Gupta and S. M. Dhawan on “Machine Learning Research in India: A Scientometric Assessment of Papers During 2006–17” is particularly relevant to my own work, since one of the research integrity projects my HEADT Centre<sup>1</sup> staff are working on is whether machine-learning algorithms can effectively detect specific kinds of image manipulation in scientific articles. We are in conversation with partners in the US, Europe, and east Asia, but it is clear from this research that India has a wealth of scholars working on the subject and ought to be consulted too.

The article on the “Use of Web 2.0 Tools and Services by the Library Professionals in Lagos State Tertiary Institution Libraries: A Study”

by A. J. Aina, Y. T. Babalola, and A. A. Oduwole shows some of the limits of the application of internet technology in libraries. They found that “web tools were not sufficiently and efficiently used” because of “technical hitches like unstable internet access, erratic power supply, and restrictive institutional policies.”<sup>2</sup> The authors noted the need for an “uninterrupted electricity power supply to encourage availability and use of web 2.0 resources for library service delivery”<sup>3</sup> and they encourage “more hands-on practice workshops, seminars, and conferences on web-based technology and computer literacy....”<sup>4</sup>

M. Lamba and M. Madhusudhan wrote about “Metadata Tagging and Prediction Modeling: Case Study of DESIDOC Journal of Library and Information Technology (2008–17)”. They used 375 articles from the “Journal of Library and Information Technology” over a ten-year period and found that the core topics were “digital libraries, information literacy, scientometrics, open access, and library resources”.<sup>5</sup> While the results were unsurprising, the method lets scholars “identify the disciplinary identity of

---

<sup>1</sup> Humboldt-Elsevier Advanced Data and Text Centre

<sup>2</sup> P. 1

<sup>3</sup> P. 16

<sup>4</sup> P. 16

<sup>5</sup> P. 33

research in India by finding the main topics (tags)".<sup>6</sup>

The article on "Google Drive: A Boon for Developing a Web-based Collaborating Working Culture in Libraries" by A. Gawadekar and J. N. Gautam addresses a topic that one of my former doctoral students wrote about in a South American context. Google drive certainly enhances the ease of collaboration among authors and generally gets high ratings. Google Drive is not the only tool to make this possible (Microsoft offers similar services), but Google Drive's simplicity of use is a plus.

S. Mandal's article on "Bibliographic Data Display in VuFind: A Practical Approach" used the Emerald database, which has "various

types of documents such as database of books, database of journals, and database of conference proceedings."<sup>7</sup> Many of these works are relevant to libraries because of Emerald's strong collection on Library and Information Science topics. The authors explain the advantage of their approach: "In the Internet system, one has to search the Emerald database by entering in the particular address. However, in this VuFind discovery tool, one can easily find not only the same Emerald database, but also the various other databases available on the Internet campus."<sup>8</sup>

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

---

<sup>6</sup> P. 34

<sup>7</sup> P. 109

<sup>8</sup> P. 109