

# Editorial

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This issue contains five articles with a strong emphasis on international topics. Libraries have become even more relevant during the COVID-19 pandemic as people seek places to find reliable information in the flood of misinformation and outright fake news. Over the decades libraries have built up trust for their ability to distinguish between rumor and fact. They serve also as interpreters of complex scientific information about disease, medicine, rates of infection, and risks. Even when the library buildings are closed to protect staff and visitors from infection, the digital presence of libraries can make itself felt online through electronic resources and online help desks. The articles in this issue do not deal with the pandemic and its consequences for libraries they were written before the crisis began but they help to show some of the strengths of the international library community.

‘BRICS Countries Research Output in Open Access Journals, from 2003 to 2019: an analysis’ by S. Satish addresses a timely topic. Its objective was “to analyse and identify the research outputs

of Brazil, Russian Federation, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS countries), growth of publications and collaboration pattern in open access journals, from January 2003 to May 2019, with respect to DOAJ.”<sup>2</sup> Brazil was the top performer, but India also did well, especially in medicine and dentistry.

S. A. Dar and M. Madhusudhan wrote ‘Enhancement of Library Services into Mobile-based Library Services in Select University Libraries in Delhi (India): users’ perspective’. Mobile services are especially important in countries where not everyone can afford a portable computer or risk leaving it unguarded on a desk, even for a short time. The authors note that their “study can provide guidance to the students, research scholars, faculty members, and others to identify popular mobile library services and access them on the go.”<sup>3</sup> Unfortunately “the academic libraries surveyed are in the stage of infancy, least interested in the mobilization of funds to the mobile web.”<sup>4</sup>

‘Perception and Use of Social Media by Library Users of the Aliah University, Kolkata:

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

<sup>2</sup> P. 1

<sup>3</sup> P. 11

<sup>4</sup> P. 22

a study' by N. Alam offers a case study whose goal "was to investigate the perception towards social media and its effective utilization by Aliah University Library users in meeting their information needs."<sup>5</sup> The author calls for libraries to change their attitudes and to "use social media platforms to connect in order to provide the quality services to their patrons."<sup>6</sup>

S. Jan and A. Ali wrote about the 'South Asian American Digital Archive: exploring digital reflections of South Asian Americans'. North America has a large number of people from South Asia and it is important that they have resources to keep in touch with their culture. "The study revealed that majority of the South Asian American Digital Archive (SAADA) collection is related with freedom movement (13.5%), community media (8.10%), and arts (7.16%)."<sup>7</sup> The analysis provides a table that

shows "... that the majority (50.26%) of the items are in the form of photographs, followed by correspondence (27.18%), newspaper clippings (11.55%), and oral history (5.41%)."<sup>8</sup>

'Relationship Between Gender and Cognitive Factors that Influence Information Seeking Amongst Postgraduate Students: a case of Kenyatta University Post-modern Library in Nairobi, Kenya' by D. W. Muthee and J. M. Masinde looks at the social and psychological aspects of information seeking. The authors' conclusion could be controversial: "The major takeaway from the study is—there is no need for libraries to develop/implement information services and systems on the basis of users' gender. Gender has no role to play in cognitive factors."<sup>9</sup>

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

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<sup>5</sup> P. 29

<sup>6</sup> P. 38

<sup>7</sup> P. 43

<sup>8</sup> P. 48

<sup>9</sup> P. 51