

Editorial

Dr Michael Seadle

Professor, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Director, HEADT Centre; Executive Director, iSchools, Inc.

World Digital Libraries 17(1): v-vi (2024)

This issue examines a wide variety of topics that should interest our readers. *World Digital Libraries* generally focuses on how technology interacts with scholarly content in our academic world, and that is essentially the focus of this issue, since all of the articles have a technology base that most readers will recognize quickly. Technology often goes through a phase where some new product gets a great deal of hype, while older but still valuable tools receive less attention. *World Digital Libraries* attempts to give an appropriate balance, by touching on some well established technologies, while also exploring a few new ones, including some based on artificial intelligence.

In the article on “Scientometric Visualization on Mughal Architecture: tracing research trajectories” B. Dolai, A. Maity, D. C. Kar and N. Hasan write “Utilizing the vast Scopus database in conjunction with sophisticated analytical tools such as R-Studio and Python in the Anaconda environment, the study uncovers subtle correlations in a dataset consisting of 99 articles.” This study is very fair and balanced. The authors go on to say “Pakistan’s significant influence is

emphasized in the assessment of country-specific contributions...” The authors are also clear about the limits of their study: “Although the model can be used to identify broad patterns, it can be enhanced by identifying potential areas for further research, feature enhancements, and other modelling techniques.”¹ Anyone with an interest in Mughal architecture should read this article.

R. B. Bonal wrote an article on “AI-enhanced Academic Animations and Chatbots: transforming library learning experiences and user engagement.” There is considerable interest in AI systems these days, and it is important to remember how much the reliability of these systems depends on appropriate training. In the article Bonal explains: “This study examines the efficacy of incorporating AI-powered academic animations and chatbots into library resources to increase user engagement, knowledge retention, and overall learning outcomes.”² The author concludes: “Libraries ought to offer academic animated content to their patrons. By providing access to such materials, libraries enhance the quality of research and learning experiences for users.”³

¹ P. 11

² P. 15

³ P. 21

The article on “For ‘All Rights Reserved’ to ‘Some Rights Reserved’: open licensing to scholarly publication” by P. Rai discusses how much institutions “are benefitting from novel open publishing models that enable researchers to share their findings with a wider audience while safeguarding their intellectual property through Creative Commons licensing.”⁴ The author favours open access, but also discusses potential enforcement issues regarding copyright.” In conclusion the author writes: open licences play a major role in keeping the rights of the intellectual assets with creators [to] some extent. By bridging the gap between different open licences and their practical applications, the paper underscores the importance of legal protection and shared knowledge within the academic domain.”⁵

P. S. Mandal and S. Mandal write in the article “Revealing Scholia: a hidden gem in academic insights” that “[i]n the future, Scholia will definitely change the processes of information processing and the procedure for providing information on which decisions will be based in a digital form.”⁶ Scholia itself is a “SPARQL-based

Wikidata Query Service”⁶ The authors present a number of examples and they conclude: “it is clear that Scholia is not only a repository tool but also an exploratory tool that makes a bridge between research production and discovery...”⁷

“Mobile Technology Integration in First-generation IIT Libraries: an evaluative study” by M. Margam and B. P. Singh discusses how with “the rapid advancement of mobile technologies, ... libraries are shifting from traditional to mobile-based services, creating the mobile library concept.”⁸ Their “study used a descriptive survey method with an online questionnaire designed using Google Forms...”⁹ The authors note that even though the “study reveals that first-generation IIT libraries have yet to adopt mobile applications for on-the-go library services fully. ... [the] IIT Delhi library incorporates the most mobile technology features, offering a wide range of mobile-based library services on users’ mobile devices 24×7.”¹⁰

As always, I hope you enjoy reading this issue and will learn more about what is possible with digital resources from the articles.

⁴ P. 39

⁵ P. 15

⁶ P. 41

⁷ P. 50

⁸ P. 54

⁹ P. 56

¹⁰ P. 64