

## EDITORIAL

The Web is growing as the fastest communication medium. This technology in combination with latest electronic storage devices enables us to keep track of enormous amount of information available to the information society. A plethora of search engines ranging from general to subject specific are the chief resource discoverers on the Web. These engines search an enormous volume of information at an impressive speed but have been the subject of wide criticism for retrieving identical, irrelevant and non-scholarly information. The reasons include their comprehensive databases having information on different magnitude like media, marketing, entertainment, advertisement etc. Besides, these do not sift information from scholar's point of view though some engines like Google have developed tailored interfaces e.g., 'Google Scholar' for disseminating scholarly information. The web. 02 and web semantics may help to answer these questions to a great extent but many arise which may shape the subject of Information Science in coming years. I sum up here some issues, harvested from review papers, which may help stakeholders to formulate new directions in coming decades and raise queries relating to architecture of libraries - fountain heads of knowledge and information. These include:

- Search engines will be viewed as synonymous with finding information and library catalogues (web-opacs and co-opacs) may cooperate with them to bring in web material simultaneously. It may be end of the belief in "library space" as an area of isolated quality information.
- Dependence on metadata as useful entity to minimise shortcomings in search engines with rise of 'folksonomy' becoming a viable alternative to indexing and taxonomy.
- Major digitisation projects from Europe bringing a print-less world within reach and arrival of usable e-book technology bringing large implications for libraries coupled with possible collapse in the current understanding of intellectual property rights, already eroded by e-repository and open access initiatives, now increasingly being endorsed by policy making institutions.

- Exponential growth of social computing like Wikis, Blogs, U - tubes, My Space etc changing scholarship map with implications for libraries together with increasing prevalence of mobile and ubiquitous information provision
- The belief in the “wisdom of crowds” rather than the ‘wisdom of experts’ may guide the use of information and knowledge
- Supplanting of academic libraries by information provision through e-learning environments is making a ground and the new role of the public library as a community centre is socially becoming more relevant, with books and information provision an increasingly marginalised aspect.
- And ultimately virtual reality information environments, increasingly blurring the boundaries between the real and the virtual.

We, here, feel the fragrance of florescence of knowledge and information portals available in variety of crucibles, thanks to ICT revolution, and thus the journal rightly focuses some issues through the papers, reviews and ‘News Scan’ webbed in local and international context to charge the fragile and fertile ecosphere with fresh and nascent ideas.

*Editor*