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Editorial

The technological innovation has an enduring impact on the discipline of Information Science, resulting in the evolution of new breeds of information institutions, systems and libraries nurturing in a cross disciplinary, deep and fragile ecosystem. The whole gamut of these developments culminate in emergence of different scholarly communication systems, philosophies and movements demanding the discipline to diversify its tentacles to sense and gather new sources of information and to evolve techniques and tools of information storage and discovery. Besides, the field has posed new challenges and offered unique opportunities with wide ranging developments in communication technologies throughout the globe. The development, despite few shortcomings in rural setting especially in developing nations, is changing the information scenario drastically.

In this backdrop, the present volume of the journal from portals of the highest seat of learning in the valley addresses recent areas of information management. The issue contains five research papers which have a common thread of digital environment seeking to share experiences, surveys, reviews and research on its various dimensions. The research contribution by three scholars (Rafiq *et al.*) takes stock of diversifying behaviour of search engines vis-à-vis open access repositories to expose new fronts of information retrieval recently explored by McCown *et al.* (2006).

The article by two teachers of Management Sciences is a hard labour of contributors to formulate a well illustrated framework for digital libraries, sidelined to some extent by library professionals. The exposition by Sarika Sawant is a literature review on digital archiving- a concern of librarians, archivists and, scholars and clients equally. The user survey of web in Higher Education by Naushad Ali and M Javeed focuses on behaviour, impact and difficulties confronted by customers to a new media now fast developing, modifying and adapting to different flavours and fragrances. A literature survey of recent developments in technology of digital librarianship – gaining a new ground in defining and re-modeling 'search engines and digital libraries' in wider context- by S M Shafi finds a place in the journal as well.

The journal as usual, rightly secure a corner to brief reviews of select publications in the field but couldn't accommodate a few more due to technical limitations. As a tradition, the publication maintains 'News scan' column to assist professionals in keeping aware of few developments in information arena.

We hope professionals, teachers and readers will go through the journal and contribute their valuable research outputs and innovative experiences from time to time besides favouring inputs to improve our efforts to make the journal a powerful vehicle of Knowledge, research and development.

While I pen down these lines, I recall loving memories of our teacher, well wisher and colleague, Professor M L Wali who left this world in September 2006 and equally cherish the affection and glory of a friend and fellow, Professor (Mrs) Veena Saraf who breathed her last this year at Shillong (Meghalaya) after a long illness. May God rest their soul in peace.

I thank all contributors and colleagues for their contributions to the journal. My young and budding colleague Mr. Sumeer Gul deserve a special pat and encouragement for his help.

Reference:

McCown, F., Liu, Xiaoming, Nelson, M. L. and Zubair M (2006). Search Engine Coverage of the OAI-PMH Corpus. *Internet Computing*, 10 (2),66-73.Retrieved September 25, 2006 fromlibrary.lanl.gov/cgi-bin/getfile?LA-UR-05-9158.pdf

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