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Envisioning Digital Transformation in Libraries for NextGen Academic Landscape

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The INFLIBNET Centre organises the CALIBER in different parts of India in collaboration with universities/ institutions. The International CALIBER 2022 which is 13th in the series of the conventions was organised in collaboration with Sayaji Rao Gaekwad Library, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh during November 17-19, 2022 at Varanasi. The theme of the Convention was conceptualized in view of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the role of the library professionals and institutions in successful implementation of the NEP 2020 and achieve the goals of NEP which aims to increase the GER in Higher Education through implementation of modern technology. With the NEP 2020 in mind, the convention invited papers on broad subthemes: Inceptive Approach of Libraries for National Education Policy (NEP 2020); Emerging Technologies and Trends in Libraries;and Open Science and Open Library. The CALIBER 2022 invited full-text papers on various themes and 52 full-text papers were presented during the convention from which 45 submissions were published as book chapters and seven papers are being published in this issue of the journal.

From these seven papers, one provides a student's perception regarding blended learning and e-learning. The results of the article will be helpful for teachers in developing new strategies for improving the learning environment in their institutions. It also outlines the difficulties faced by the students in adopting to this new mode of learning and help administrators in solving these issues to improve the participation of students in e-learning mode.

Two papers which are related to the current trend of machine learning and artificial intelligence. The application of machine learning and artificial intelligence are being talked on in every field of research and its application to different subject domains. One of the papers gives brief understanding and working method for data science including data extraction, preprocessing, analysis, forecasting, and model optimization. It gives an introduction to Data Science and its use. It also highlights several well-known data processing technologies, including Python, R, SAS, Apache Spark, D3.js, Tableau, and TensorFlow. It introduces the machine learning as one of the important parts of data science. The next paper is a complement to the previous paper and demonstrates the use of machine learning for subject indexing and assigning of keywords based on LCSH. The framework can be extended for creation of catalogue records using automated subject assignment that will save lots of time for the cataloguers.

One of the papers provides a overview of open access publishing in India and its academic, economic and societal impact using various data points taken from Web of Science, Scopus and DOAJ. It documents various policies formulated for promoting open access by different funding agencies and how far the goals have been achieved. Such study is of benefit of academicians and policymakers for understanding difficulty in adoption of open access and formulate suitable nationwide policy. There are two more papers on different aspects of research data curation and its availability. One outlines the various open data initiatives of Government of India and its role in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030. The second one gives an account of the challenges and issues of academic institutions in research data curation. The special issue also includes a paper on Visualising the lost script of South Asia using a Digital Humanities tool named VisualEyes. It helps to visualise the Brahmi script through its inception in an interactive way.

For this special issue on the theme of CALIBER 2022, the INFLIBNET Centre and DESIDOC have come together to give wider access to the selected papers which would be helpful for the library professionals and the larger LIS audience.