

EDITORIAL

Celebrating 25 Years of Publishing of DESIDOC Bulletin of Information Technology

With 2005 marking the 25th year of continuous publishing, the DESIDOC Bulletin of Information Technology is a remarkable Indian presence in the world of dissemination of information regarding information technology sources and services as applicable to library and information centres. The Journal is committed to conduct peer review because it ensures the quality of scholarly material within its pages, and is an important communication link which is recognised and depended upon by contributors and users alike.

The journal was started in 1980 by DESIDOC under the title DESIDOC Bulletin which acted as a newsletter to report the activities/services of DESIDOC. In 1985, the Bulletin started publishing articles on applications of IT with slant to professional library and information activities and services. In 1992, it was renamed as DESIDOC Bulletin of Information Technology to act as a forum for communication regarding the impact of IT on library and information science.

During the period, keeping abreast of the latest developments in print and digital information resources had been an endless task. By playing a proactive role on emerging IT developments, the Journal has been able to create an interactive engagement between the researchers and the users. Beneath the gradual make over has been a determined commitment to keep readers informed of the latest developments in library automation, new products, network news, new software and hardware, and people in technology through its different sections. Published bimonthly and distributed six times a year, it combines features, regular columns, news items and a diary of forthcoming events worldwide, and represents the perfect way to stay abreast of important issues and activities in the library and information world - especially concerning impact of IT on library and information services.

If we look at the past issues of the journal, we notice a great change in its content and format. Along with focusing on research in LIS, we now include the web-based systems and technologies and their use for library and information professionals. As with any publication that has been around for so long, the journal has gone through numerous changes due to encouraging support of learned authors from India and abroad for their valuable contributions to the journal on one side, and dedicated commitments of Guest Editors and Editorial Board to make it a timely publication on professional development in library and information science at international level.

Being contemporary with the professional developments, focus also began on more theme-based issues. During 1998-2004, 19 thematic issues were brought out which covered contemporary topics such as: Collection Development, Indian bibliographic Databases, Digital Libraries,

Research in Library and Information Science, Information Systems for Agriculture, Information Marketing, Access to social Science Information, Multimedia a Application in India, Environmental Information system, Role of Classification & Cataloguing in the Information Age, Information Technology, Web Page Design and Development, Marketing of Information Products and Services, Future Publishing Technologies and many more.

Some of our forthcoming special issues are: Web-based Information Services, Knowledge Management: Models and Mechanisms, Information Management in a Knowledge Society, Digital Libraries: Design, Development and Adoption, E-Publishing: Impact and Prospects, IPR: Freedom, Censorship and Security, Information Revolution and Science: Impact and Dependency, and Multimedia: Technical Issues and Uses.

Twenty-five years of continuous institutional support of the Journal indicates the significant role the Journal plays in the DESIDOC's long-standing commitment to library and information professionals and students. The Journal continues to be a prime resource in the interdisciplinary field of information technology is quickly expanding its scope beyond geographical boundaries to reviewers, contributors, and subscribers around the world. It is now included in Wilson databases namely Omnifile Full Text Mega and Omnifile Full Text Select. The bibliographic details are included in Inspec databases, LISA, Informed Librarian, etc. In 1995, an editorial board has been formed with six members from a variety of academic and professional backgrounds all across India and now our editorial structure is comprised of three editors.

In addition, DESIDOC Bulletin of Information Technology commissions interdisciplinary research in the forms of papers, book reviews, and other valuable material relevant to library and information professionals. The topics of studies enjoined by DESIDOC Bulletin of Information Technology are based on feedback which has come through the editors and users about the current state of IT useful for library and information professionals throughout the world.

Since its launch over 25 years ago, the journal has been dedicated to the enrichment of knowledge and the advancement of library services. It prepares its readers to understand and embrace current and emerging technologies affecting library and information functions and the information needs of the users. From the automation of library services to the evaluation of sources and models for delivering more effective library services, it provides indispensable information for all types of libraries which experience change.

We now hope to grow our presence and meet the needs of both the producers and consumers of information, which may be on research, management, development, planning, teaching, media, communication, presentation, and many other aspects. The credit to bring this publication of international level, entirely goes to the Guest Editors, editorial team, eminent and reputed professional authors, and valuable esteemed readers. They all deserve deep heart-felt congratulations for their 25 years sustained efforts for improvement of the contents of the journal more and more timely and professional.

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