

Guest Editorial

Knowledge Organisation

If knowledge is power then information is instant power. It facilitates power, security, control and wealth generation. Hence organisation of knowledge/information is a pre-condition for timely access to pertinent information, the process of knowledge organisation is not a luxury but a necessity in the internet era. For the purpose of this special issue, the term knowledge means explicit knowledge or recorded information. The traditional processes of knowledge organisation are classification, cataloguing, indexing, and vocabulary control. But now-a-days, organisation of electronic resources (e-resources) has given birth to new processes and tools. Interoperability is a major issue.

Library classification is the basic tool for organising, accessing and exploring the documents stored in a library. In modern times, they are the navigation tools for locating and retrieving relevant documents more precisely. In the era of ICT, the electronic versions of the DDC and UDC make it possible to realise the potential of library classification to improve subject retrieval.

Although classification schemes were mainly designed for organising bibliographic items on library shelves, many researchers have also used library classification schemes for organising information resources on the web. Examples of such applications include CyberDewey and so on. Many heavily-used digital libraries and subject gateways also use bibliographic classification schemes to organise internet information resources, such as BUBL (uses DDC) and ACM digital library (using ACM classification).

As internet is a largest storehouse of information and is always growing, finding required information available via the internet is a complex task. Attempts have been made to apply library classification schemes for retrieval of information contained on networks. The advantages of adopting library classification schemes are:

- (a) Enhanced browsing, subject search facilities, and navigation;
- (b) Possibility of offering multilingual access;
- (c) Interoperability with other services;
- (d) Facility for partitioning of large databases;
- (e) More recall and precision through broadening and narrowing search terms;
- (f) Contextual representation of search terms;
- (g) Making search easier across databases; and
- (h) Users may find it easier to browse, because of the familiarity with the classification scheme which they might have been using in libraries.

Moreover, if the internet service provider uses any existing and popular classification scheme, it has better chance of being up-to-date as it is revised at regular intervals and is popular with users. All libraries now have increasing numbers of e-resources that need to be classified. There is currently much interest in the concept of information architecture which incorporates key elements of library technical processes: Cataloguing (metadata), classification (taxonomy), and indexing and thesaurus construction (ontology). The latter two concepts are of relevance, where principles of library classification and classification schemes are examined and extrapolated into digital information environment with the examination of subject trees, taxonomies and ontologies

The discipline library classification is conditioned by the constant multifaceted, multidimensional and infinite development of the macro and micro knowledge and users' needs. Change is the law of nature and whatever does not change with the changing needs and demands become static and redundant like a piece of artefact in a museum. Accordingly, it has been the attempt of library and information scientists, associations and institutions to work in the direction of making library classification; a living discipline, a discipline which can cope with the ever-growing and infinite demands and challenges both of knowledge and users of libraries and information centres.

Given the complexities and resource-intensiveness of bibliographic classification systems, some alternative approaches to classification of e-resources have evolved over the past few years. This unstructured or freely structured approach to classification with users assigning their own labels is variably referred to as 'folksonomy', 'ethnofolksonomy', 'distributed classification', 'social classification', 'open tagging' and 'faceted hierarchy'. Folksonomy is the internet-based information retrieval methodology consisting of collaboratively generated, open-ended labels that categorises content such as web pages, online photographs, and weblinks. It allows users to easily add webpages of their choice to their personal collection of links, to categorise those sites with keywords, and to share the collection not only among their own browsers and machines, but also with others.

This special issue includes eight papers. The papers by M.P. Satija and Jagtar Singh deal with Dewey Decimal Classification and Colon Classification, respectively. K.S. Raghavan and M. Krishnamurthy focus on different approaches to knowledge organisation. A.S. Chandel and Rai Vijay Prasad trace the development of cataloguing from Panizzi's Principles to Resource Description and Access (RDA), whereas Shyama Rajaram explores the symbiotic relationship between FRBR and Ranganathan's Colon Book Numbers. The remaining three papers by John Paul Anbu K., Sanjay Kataria, and Shri Ram; Sangeeta Deokathey and K. Bhanumurthy; A. Neelameghan and S.K. Lalitha focus on ERMS initiatives; Domain Visualisation Using Concept Maps; and Multilingual Thesaurus and Interoperability, respectively. I sincerely hope that the papers in this issue would partly serve the purpose.

I am deeply grateful to Prof M.P. Satija for providing me the elbow support to write this editorial at a critical period while I was still recovering from my heart by-pass surgery.

Dr Jagtar Singh
Professor
Dept. of Library & Information Science
Punjabi University, Patiala-147 002
E-mail: jagtardeep@gmail.com

About the Guest Editor

Dr Jagtar Singh obtained his MA (English) from Punjabi University, Patiala, Master of Library Science (MLibSc) from Panjab University, Chandigarh in 1980, and PhD in LIS on the topic, 'Rural Public Library Network in Punjab: A Study' from the same university in 1986. At present, he is working as Professor in the Department of Library and Information Science, Punjabi University, Patiala (India). He has also served as Dean, Faculty of Education and Information Science from April 2008 to March 2010. He has 27 years of teaching and research experience and about 10 years administrative experience. He has contributed about 100 papers to various journals, conferences, seminars, and edited books. He has also authored two books entitled, 'Information Democracy and South Asia: Promises and Perils of the Web', 'Pioneers of Library Movement in India: A Tribute by SATKAL' and edited five books. He has also edited the following four books as principal editor: 'Library and Information Science in Digital Age', Three Volumes: 'Envisioning Employable LIS Courses in Developing Countries for the Emerging Knowledge Society' (2009), 'Emerging Challenges and Lingering Issues in LIS Education, Research and Training' (2010) and 'LIS Education, Research and Training: Vision 2020' (2011).

Besides being on the editorial boards of about a dozen peer-reviewed national and international journals, he has also served as Chief Editor for the ILA Bulletin. He is the recipient of the *Commonwealth Academic Staff Fellowship* (1992), *Salzburg Seminar Fellowship* (2003), the *Ken Haycock Leadership Development Award* (2005), and the PLA-Prof. M.P. Satija Award for Professional Excellence-2008. He has also been awarded *Certificate of Appreciation by UNESCO* for outstanding contributions to the Training-The-Trainers (TTT) in Information Literacy Workshops 2008-2009. He has also served as Former Director Asia, International Association of School Librarianship (IASL). He is an International Affiliate of the International Institute for the Study of Digital Inclusion (ISDI), Stetson University (USA), and Consultant Professor for the PhD Programme at the National Institute of Library and Information Sciences (NILIS), University of Colombo, Colombo. He

is also a Governing Board Member of the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF), Kolkata (an apex body for public library development in India) by the Government of India. He has served as UNESCO Expert on Media and Information Literacy at Bangkok in November 2010. He has also been appointed Chairman of the UNESCO-Sponsored International Media and Information Literacy Survey (IMILS) Project, (South Asia) to generate baseline data for UNESCO about information seeking behaviour of graduates.

He has visited Austria, Bangladesh, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland, Malaysia, the Maldives, the Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Singapore, Sweden, Thailand, Sri Lanka, UK, and USA on various academic assignments. He has also served as 'Project Leader' for the IFLA-UNESCO Workshop on Information Literacy (2005), and the UNESCO-sponsored workshop on 'Training-the-Trainers (TTT) in Information Literacy' held at Patiala from 5-7 November 2008. He hosted the IFLA/FAIFE-sponsored workshop on 'Role of Libraries as Transparency Institutions to Check Corruption at Public Places' from 17-18 November 2009. He has also conducted an IFLA/ALP-sponsored International workshop on 'Health Information Literacy' (IWHIL) during 27-30 July 2011 at East West University, Dhaka, Bangladesh. He is the President of the Indian Association of Teachers of Library and Information Science (IATLIS) since 2008, and also the Country Representative of the UNESCO Project 'Info Lit Global'. He is also President of the Punjab Library Association (PLA) since 2010 and President of the 'Satinder Kaur Ramdev Memorial Trust for Advancement of Librarianship (SATKAL)'.

He has served as Convener of the Committee which drafted Punjab Public Library Bill 1993 for the Government of Punjab. He is the Core Committee Member of the Government of Punjab (2011) to prepare Public Library Development Plan and Budget Estimates for Punjab. He is RRRLF Chairman's Nominee on the State Library Planning Committee (SLPC), and State Library Committee (SLC) for the State of Punjab and Union Territory of Chandigarh since 2010. He is also been appointed a member of the RRRLF Institution Level Search-cum-Screening Committee (ILSSC) to recommend potential candidates for 'Tagore Fellowship' to the National Selection Committee (NSC) of the Government of India. He is also Resource Person for the RRRLF's Public Library Skill Development Programme (PLSDP) to empower public library staff through a series of workshops all over India. Besides, he has served as Resource Person for a number of UGC Refresher Courses, Conferences, etc. His areas of interest include LIS education and research, library advocacy and capacity building, information consolidation and knowledge organization, open source, public libraries and digital libraries, collaboration and partnership, library automation and networking, information literacy, and institutional repositories. He was invited to present a key paper at the 'UNESCO-Supported International Conference on Media and Information Literacy' being held in Moscow from 24-28 June 2012.