Editorial

This is the fall issue of this year. This issue contains ten articles. The authors come from seven nations: China, Philippines, Ghana, South Africa, Zimbabwe, United States, and Nigeria. The topics of this issue include artificial intelligence and information literacy, theme library practice of public libraries, virtual reference service, LIS education, library staff cross training, and much more.

In their article, Wu et al., from Northeast Normal University of China, investigate the landscape of information literacy research in the era of artificial intelligence (AI), comparing trends and characteristics across domestic and international contexts. Utilizing data from the Web of Science and CNKI databases, and employing bibliometric and visualization analysis, their study reveals a consistent upward trajectory in research output for both domains, with notable peaks reflecting technological advancements and policy initiatives. The research themes demonstrate a shift from early focuses on information retrieval and knowledge organization to more recent explorations of AI literacy, social media, and user engagement.

The next article explores the practice of theme library (A library within a library) by Suzhou public library of China. The author talks about the recently constructed and opened Suzhou Second Library that includes a number of theme libraries, such as "Suzhou Literature Library," "Music Library," and "Design Library." The establishment of these theme libraries within the Suzhou Second Library allows the library to build special community-focused collections that are culturally rich, to collaborate with local cultural organizations to create quality public programs that highlight the collections, and to actively engage the public with special events and exhibits surrounded by multimedia, digital special effects.

Mariano from Philippines examines some key findings relevant to library practitioners' experiences with virtual reference services. The results of the study showed that participants had a positive opinion of virtual reference services' utility since they serve as a platform for communication that bridges the digital divide caused by physical distance.

In their article, the three authors from Ghana talk about possible reasons of the theft and mutilation of library resources at Walton Whaley Library (WWL) at Valley View University of Ghana. Based on the study, they suggested some measures to correct the situation.

Chigwada and Pasipamire explores the perception and use of Large Language Models (LLMs) by library and information science students. Their study contributes to a better understanding of how emerging technologies are reshaping the field and how students are at the forefront of navigating their opportunities and challenges. The results can inform curriculum development, training programs, and policy formulation for incorporating LLMs into library and information services.

Jiang's article explores the role of virtual libraries in community college settings, focusing on strategies to enhance access, inclusivity, and collaboration. This paper examines how virtual libraries can address challenges such as digital literacy gaps, collaboration with academic departments, and technology infrastructure limitations. It also highlights opportunities for virtual libraries to expand their reach globally, foster collaborative partnerships, and leverage emerging technologies to innovate service delivery.

Wang's article details a small-mid size academic library's implementation of a cross-training program designed to enhance staff flexibility, professional growth, and service delivery. Through comprehensive training in circulation, reference services, cataloging, and technical support, the library has successfully created a more cohesive and responsive team, better equipped to meet the dynamic needs of its academic community.

The authors of last three articles are all from Nigeria.

The first article assesses the impact of information media on information needs and seeking behavior of tricycle riders in Osubi Axis, Delta State, Nigeria.

The second article examines the information-seeking behavior of the clergy using parish pastors in the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG) in Agbarho community in Delta State as a case study.

The third article explores the role of librarians in promoting information literacy for inclusive education, entrepreneurship, and national development in today's knowledge-driven society.

Happy reading!

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