

Editorial: March 2026 Issue

Spring Greetings

This issue presents eleven contributions—ten research articles and one book review—spanning a diverse array of themes central to contemporary librarianship and information practice. A significant portion of this issue is dedicated to the transformative role of Artificial Intelligence (AI), exploring its burgeoning applications, ethical implications, and the evolving landscape of information science.

We begin with a focus on healthcare and student success. **Li and Coates** examine the current status and future prospects of healthcare services as they are reshaped by generative AI. Their study provides vital guidance for academic faculty, medical and dental students, and subject librarians navigating the rapid technological shifts in the healthcare sector.

Shifting toward student support, **Wang et al.** utilize a case study to examine how community college libraries can support student wellbeing. Their work highlights the critical role libraries play in mitigating academic and personal pressures while maintaining essential professional boundaries.

The core of this issue features several global perspectives on AI integration:

- **Obi** provides a systematic review of AI's role in enhancing library services, from cataloging and predictive analytics to virtual assistance. By synthesizing literature from 2015 to 2024, the study identifies key technological trends and global strategies for implementation.
- **Ebhonu and Igbinovia** further explore the implications of AI and Machine Learning (ML), advocating for responsible adoption and the continuous professional development required for librarians to navigate this fluid environment.
- **Akinola and Omotade** investigate how AI remodels user experience and data analysis, while **Ebijuwa and Rajkumar** explore the intersection of AI and the Internet of Things (IoT), highlighting innovations like intelligent search and automated resource monitoring.
- From a qualitative perspective, **Kayode et al.** employ a phenomenological approach to document the lived experiences of system librarians in Nigeria regarding AI anthropomorphism in web-based service delivery.
- Closing our AI coverage, **Xuan** details the technical development of a Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) system. This project, completed during a 2025 research leave, offers a practical blueprint for using cloud-based AI to enhance discovery within institutional repositories.

In addition to our focus on emerging technology, this issue features important regional studies and bibliometric research. **Khalili et al.** assess public libraries in Pakistan against IFLA standards,

specifically regarding collections, staffing, and accessibility for individuals with physical disabilities.

Finally **Gunasekera** provides a bibliometric analysis of research patterns in Sri Lanka based on a decade of publications in the *Journal of the University Librarians' Association of Sri Lanka*.

We hope these articles provide both practical insights and theoretical inspiration for your own work.

Happy Reading.

Yongming Wang

Editor-in-Chief

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