

Editorial

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It is very common now for scientists across multiple disciplines to access and mine data and information from a variety of heterogeneous sources. The information varies from textual to numeric, medical to geospatial, and quantitative to qualitative. This is stimulated by the fact that future innovation lies in the interface of multiple disciplines, particularly between engineering and science, and the trend towards borderless research. The borders between disciplines and between geographic locations have become truly porous.

In such a world, the efforts of information scientists are directed towards innovating new tools and techniques to convert such a vast resource of data and information to knowledge that can lead to innovation, thus heralding an era of exponential growth of knowledge. One such direction is the 'Semantic Web'. Though the concept of the Semantic Web has been around for several years, its importance and applications to newer domains was not recognized in the past. In this issue, Kim H Veltman has looked at the present and the future of the Semantic Web. His gaze into the crystal ball brings out the future that will be in tune with the integration of the 'Internet of Things' and the need to integrate ideas to distinguish and search knowledge from different worlds- metaphysical, man-made, social, and creative.

In the world dominated by heterogeneity in types of information, services, and tools, interoperability is a daunting need. The paper by Dennis Nicholson, Anu Joseph, and Emma McCulloch describes a novel idea of subject interoperability through embedding pilot terminology web services. The authors present an expert evaluation of DiLAS (Digital Library Annotation Service). Their work, as expected, has culminated in the generation of large number of user requirements for the next prototype.

Digital technology, while offering all the comforts of providing instant and democratic access to information, is also known to be fragile. Fast obsolescence is very common. It is indeed a great challenge today to preserve the digital knowledge over a period of time. Heather Brown's paper is one with high practical utility and describes three key strategies that may potentially have the capacity to profoundly affect people's understanding of digital preservation.

One of the important roles of the World Digital Libraries Journal is to share international experiences. We are very fortunate to have two articles - one by Jakob Heide Petersen and Jens Thorhauge on Danish digital libraries strategy and the other by Kristiina Hormia-Poutanen on digital library infrastructure in Finland. Both these articles describe some of the important issues that one

needs to address in the world of digital libraries and also a few of their current projects.

We hope that you will enjoy reading these and would benefit from them. We also hope

· that these articles, through which world
· renowned experts share their experiences,
· would stimulate many of you to contribute
· and work towards the advancement of digital
· libraries.