

Editorial

From the Desk of Editor-in-Chief

"When there is (right) Information, there is Enlightenment" - Atifete Jahjaga

We are very happy to bring out the third issue of our International Journal "ACCESS" as the principal publication of Nepal Library Association (NLA).

In the new constitution of Nepal, promulgated in 2015, the article No. 27 entitled "*Right to Information*", that expounds: "*Every citizen shall have the right to demand and receive information on any matter of his/her interest or of public interest, provided that no one shall be compelled to provide information on any matter which must be maintained confidential in accordance with law.*"

Similarly, the article No. 51-h "Policies relating to Basic Needs of Citizens," #4 states: "*To establish and promote community information centres and libraries for personality development of citizens.*" In short, it can be summed up that information and knowledge in today's society is essential and the role of libraries and community information centres in building information literate citizenry is significant.

It's a matter of pride that out of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 2030) of the United Nations Organization, libraries are considered as the potent organizations to play a pivotal role to help achieve as many as 9 goals, viz. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 13, 14 and 15. And, among them the goal number 4 i.e. "**Quality education**" is even more closely related to the effect of library services. The president of IFLA (Int'l Federation of Library Associations and Institutions) Ms. Vicki McDonald says, "*IFLA was actively involved with the creation of the UN 2030 Agenda. IFLA's position is that access to information is essential in achieving the SDGs. Libraries offer a range of educational resources...training programmes and learning opportunities that can help individuals acquire the knowledge and skills they need to improve their lives and contribute to sustainable development...*"

In this connection, last year in mid-August 2023, on the request of Federal Parliament Secretariate, Sustainable Development and Good Governance Committee, Singha Durbar Kathmandu, a grand seminar was organized by Nepal Library Association about the role being played by the libraries to help the Government in achieving the SDGs 2030.

Apart from the day to day works of organizing documents and disseminating services, professional

librarians are also known responsible for advocating Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression. They help safeguard copyright, intellectual property rights, minimize plagiarism, make others aware of OERs, help maintain better publishing practices, promote resource sharing and to maintain academic excellence of the nation and the world at large.

For the last few years, we have been well aware of the fact that with the advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI), the sector of library and information dissemination service too are being modified rapidly for the fast and flawless service to the library clientele. Keeping all these in view, our library professionals must keep themselves abreast of recent developments taking place all over the world and change themselves accordingly. In this context, such journals play a vital role not only in information sharing but for continuous education too. Moreover, they help the library professionals to keep them UpToDate.

So, realizing the urgent necessity of a standard journal of its own, the NLA started publishing this ACCESS journal three years ago. All the manuscripts submitted to us went through the processes of double-blind peer-review, author's revision and were finally accepted and incorporated. From the first issue to this third one, we are fortunate to cover articles from 23 countries and this shows the journal's necessity and popularity growing satisfactorily. This third issue contains altogether 10 articles, out of which 3 articles are from Nepal and remaining 7 articles are from overseas countries and Asia.

It is our prime responsibility and privilege to sincerely acknowledge to all who have contributed in materializing this journal. First of all, we are grateful to the learned authors for submitting their manuscripts in time. We thank as well as feel sorry to those national and international contributors whose submissions could not be accepted for various reasons. We thank our panel of the eminent reviewers, who took time out of their busy schedule to complete the anonymous review process. Similarly, we are grateful to all the advisory board members for giving consent to be on the advisory board panel and advising us a lot whenever we sought help from them.

Last but not the least, the Editorial Board is thankful to all our beloved professionals and others who remained invisible but were constantly backing us up in materializing this journal right from the first issue! We wish to be assured of honest feedback, comments and corrections from our valued readers and all the concerned to make this journal even better in the future.

Thanks again to all of our contributors, reviewers, advisors, professionals and beloved readers for your continued support.

I.P.Adhikari,

Editor-in-Chief

Former President, Nepal Library Association, www.nla.org.np

Former chief librarian, Tribhuvan University Central Library, Kathmandu and

Former country manager, NepJOL / Nepal Journals Online, www.nepjol.info

Email: adhikariip@gmail.com