

Book Review

Organizing Knowledge: Then and Now, By **Bidyarthi Dutta**; Ess Ess Publications, New Delhi, 2015, ISBN: 9788170007487, Hardback, 183 pages, INR 725.00.

Organizing knowledge in libraries, as perceived in the 20th century, has transformed into a completely new dimension at the beginning of the 21st century. Due to the advancement of information and communications technologies (ICTs), the users are now more empowered to generate, analyze, store, and disseminate contents for their professional, educational, social, cultural, and entertainment-related purposes. The exponential growth of scientific literature and user-generated content are now contextually aligned to a new generation of users and creators. These users and creators not only possess information but also process information as per their needs. Library and information services have taken pathways of the ICT-enabled information superhighway, where metadata schemas are as important as the traditional indexing techniques.

The book, written by Dr Bidyarthi Dutta and edited by Dr Bimal Kanti Sen, highlights major developments at the beginning of the 21st century in the context of significant ICT-enabled information infrastructure available around the world. The world is now familiar with the new humanities, more particularly the digital humanities, where digital scholarship becomes a significant tool for academic discourses. Digital humanities create a virtual world of scholarship, re-creating lost documentary resources with a touchstone wand. The book highlights that the new knowledge representation system has eased not only traditional professionals in information processing and retrieval business, but also the end users who have become metadata creators, indexers, and information disseminators. To a new generation of information seekers and knowledge creators, knowledge systems represent a diverse knowledge universe. But pathways to achieve universal access to knowledge are significantly different in different regions, particularly when knowledge divide is much contested.

Sometimes, the knowledge universe has its own subjectivity. Knowledge systems for humanities could be more different than the knowledge systems for science and technologies. Today's knowledge workers are supposed to possess greater information and digital literacy skills, than their counterparts in two decades ago. The information

users have become much knowledgeable in the use of social technologies for content creation, metadata creation, and social dissemination of published knowledge. What information professionals possess more exclusively are the knowledge organization skills. The book examines new developments in organizing knowledge, more particularly in the Web 2.0 and Library 2.0 environment. While researchers and scientific workers are more communicative in social media and knowledge forum e-platforms, information professionals are engaged in the standardization of metadata descriptors and building open access knowledge repositories at the institutional and national level. Self-archiving facilities in knowledge repositories facilitate the researchers and scientists to participate equitably as content creators and disseminators.

Making sense of diverse knowledge resources is important in today's world. Otherwise, worthwhile scholarly knowledge would become untraceable as is the case with many online media articles. Enrichment of knowledge resources with long-term preservation strategies requires much deeper introspection.

The book introduces some of the prevailing systems in the cyber world in Web 2.0 and Library 2.0 environment. The book begins with identifying characteristics of the knowledge, information, and paperless societies. The book has thirteen informative chapters, briefly introducing key concepts such as domain ontology, semantic web, folksonomy, metadata tagging, information control using keywords, categorization of information, information explosion, information overloading, new orientations to information processing and organization, traditional ways to information processing and organization, Web 2.0, and Library 2.0.

This book is an interesting read for the information researchers, library and information science (LIS) students, and also information professionals managing significant information resources in Web 2.0 and Library 2.0 environment.

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