Editorial

We are pleased to publish the first issue of the eighteenth volume of the **International Journal of Information Studies,** which includes the following papers.

In the opening paper, "**A Comparative Evaluation of Professional Book Indexing Software: Capabilities, Limitations, and Future Directions,**" the authors *Devendrappa* and *Biradhar* presented a comparative analysis of five professional indexing software tools CINDEX, MACREX, SKY Index, TExtract, and Index Manager. They weighed the features of all five sources they evaluated and documented their capabilities. They found that while indexing tools have advanced significantly, there remains no universal standard for multilingual or regional language indexing, highlighting a critical gap for future development.

In the paper "**Transforming User Engagement: Awareness and Utilisation of Information Sources at Sikkim University Library,**" *Suresh Babu* and *Reshmi Deb Choudhury Das* examined how students, faculty, and researchers perceive and use the library's resources and services. They found that high awareness and use of print books (85.7% aware; 65.7% frequent users), but significantly lower engagement with digital resources: only 60% were aware of online databases, and only 35.7% used them frequently. Finally, they advocated a user-centred approach to align Sikkim University Library's evolving services with academic demands in the digital age, thereby enhancing accessibility, user satisfaction, and scholarly support.

In the last paper, "**Digital Literacy Skills among College Students in Tamil Nadu: A micro-level analysis**," the author *Melvin Jebaraj* analysed the digital literacy skills of college students across three districts of urban, semi-urban, and rural areas using a structured survey design. The author collected data from 150 undergraduate and postgraduate students using a standardised questionnaire that assessed access to digital devices, usage patterns, competency levels, and awareness of digital safety. He further used descriptive and inferential statistics for analysis. The author found that while access to smartphones and basic digital tools is widespread, significant disparities persist in advanced digital skills, particularly in research tools, information literacy, data analysis, and cybersecurity awareness.

We hope that the findings reported in this study will help to advance research in information studies.

Editors