A Very Warm Welcome from TRIM

Welcome to the maiden issue of Trends in Information Management (TRIM)– an annual journal of the Department. It is a matter of satisfaction for us that the Department is making strides in different directions; it has remodeled the traditional truncated BLIS and MLIS programmes into a two years integrated Master's programme; it has fine-tuned its course contents to blend them with modules essential for training students in new professional competencies that the profession claims in the wake of deep penetration of ICT into the whole gamut of the profession; it has established a ICT Laboratory with essential ICT gadgets to train young men and women to manage and operate library and information services in keeping with the requirements of the Information society of the day; and, now launching of a journal, an annual, to begin with.

The publication of the Journal TRIM is a testament to the profound effects of the ongoing revolutionary changes in library profession round the globe. Information Management provides an innovative, transdisciplinary approach to the management of information — the most critical asset of our time. Our central mission with the publication of the journal is to provide a platform for professionals studying the impact and consequences of ICT on information gathering, organizing, accessing and harvesting activities, in order to analyze, deliberate and debate on these changes that are now studied under the umbrella term of Information Management. It is intended to provide an interdisciplinary forum to address the issues, problems and policies that matter most today with an eye on the issues that may matter tomorrow in all facets of Information Management. This phrase is a recent development reflective of emerging trends in managing information sources and services in digital and networked environment. The field though expanding rapidly is still at a teething stage.

The articles in this inaugural issue of TRIM focus on important areas of interest to professionals and students. They are a collection of important research papers invited from professionals working in an advanced environment of information management. The paper *Who Uses What* is a very informative article based on a national survey studying the use of electronic and print media by academics. The findings are succinct and the authors conclude that use of electronic resources is on the rise but the traditional print format "is not dead" At the end they pose questions very vital from information management point of view—*Who will ensure their continuing preservation, and how?* Second paper is equally significant. Libraries world over are now engaged in subscribing to both print and electronic journals and the comparison of non-subscription costs of these formats in eleven US academic libraries would be useful for professionals in libraries in more than one way. The authors' findings favour the transition to the electronic format subscription as an economy measure though they have spotted a very pertinent question of archiving solutions to ensure long-term preservation and access to materials in the new format. The third paper is equally interesting and relates to the establishment and operation of map collections in the ICT environment. It offers comprehensive details about the Alexandria Digital Library project that offers web-based service to users the world over. An article by the Chief Editor sums up the problems that have surfaced in the Information Society and how the libraries can tackle them effectively.

A paper on bibliometric analysis of theses submitted to the university of Kashmir in the field of Sciences for a span of 20 years demonstrates the application of bibliometric laws to the field. In order to encourage young scholars we have accommodated an article on new competencies that the professionals are called upon to acquire to deliver goods in the emerging environment. In order to diffuse information on developments of professional interest a separate section under the

caption NEWSCAN has been incorporated in the journal. This must be of particular interest to the professionals as it will help us to know the trends and developments across the globe. Review of books should be a permanent feature of a journal so that special features of some publications of professional interest are identified by those who have found something of special interest in them. Three book reviews adorn the pages of this issue.

I place on record the support of the University of Kashmir by way of giving a green signal for the publication of the journal, funding for its publication and in a host of other ways. We look forward to similar favours in future as well. I am particularly thankful to worthy Vice-Chancellor for writing a thoughtful message for the journal.

Then, I feel it my duty to thank the distinguished authors whose papers adorn the pages of this journal. I look forward to their contributions in future as well.

I would like to express my profound thanks to the teaching faculty of the Department, Dr. S M Shafi in particular. He was very eager to see the journal in its finished form and did a lot of editorial work.

I hope and pray the journal continues as a regular feature of the academic activities of the Department and, in due course of time, turns to be a biannual and even quarterly.

Prof. Wajih A Alvi