

## Editorial

As the months progressed, the summer of 2023 saw one global temperature record after another being broken (Copernicus, 2023). The newsreel made the consequences of sustained downpours or drawn-out heat waves into headlines as people grappled to adjust to so-called adverse weather events. The relentlessly ongoing climate crisis, comprising the natural, social, cultural and political consequences of climate change, has come to permeate our daily existence. As people and institutions struggle to make sense of new environmental realities and uncertain futures, urgent research vistas are opening up for library and information studies (LIS) to engage in social research and shed light on the changing and transforming conditions of life.

Yet, until recently, environmental questions have not garnered as much attention in library and information studies as in some other disciplines, and the field has been described as underdeveloped in this regard (Haider, 2012, p. 639; Meshede and Henkel, 2019, p. 1357). However, research on environmental issues that has emerged from the field points to a richness and diversity, regarding both empirical and theoretical approaches, that ought to be explored further. These include the role of libraries and librarians in providing environmental information (Johnson, et al., 1999; Murgatroyd and Calvert, 2013), the creation of meaning through environmental education (Fedorowicz-Kruszewska, 2020), the concept of the green library (Fedorowicz-Kruszewska, 2021a, 2021b; Hauke, et al., 2013), everyday information practices related to environmental issues (Ekström, 2022; Ekström, 2023; Graminius and Haider, 2018; Haider, 2011, 2012; Muzzarelli, 2023; Nathan, 2012), science communication practices of climate scholars (Graminius, 2020), the organisation and interpretation of historic climate data (Bates, et al., 2019), and the algorithmic shaping of environmental information (Haider et al., 2022). With the climate crisis unfolding before our eyes, this journal's thematic issue is intended to further inspire the LIS community to engage in environmental research and to deepen the understanding of environmental issues from the multiple perspectives that the discipline offers.

This issue of NJLIS contains three research papers and one research note that all address different types of environmental and climate issues from the perspective of library and information studies. The first research paper explores the complex character of the field of the Environmental sciences, which leads to challenges in fitting it into a controlled vocabulary such as the Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH). In the article by Frances Purcell and Julia Bullard, *LCSH and Environmental science: A comparison of subject heading and domain analyses*, the authors employ a visual mind-mapping technique to examine how environmental sciences are represented by codified language within the LCSH, and then conduct a domain analysis of the field to determine how environmental science represents itself. In comparing these two analyses, Purcell and Bullard find that the LCSH's

subject headings fail to capture the interdisciplinary character of the field as the term *Environmental sciences* is not sufficiently connected to the terms representing other major scientific subjects that are essential to the foundational understanding of environmental science. Correcting this, they argue, is an important task, since ensuring that researchers are able to find and access a full range of environmental science materials is necessary in order to develop sustainable climate solutions.

The second research paper deals with the important topic of search engines and their queries in the shaping of environmental information. Björn Ekström and Elisa Tattersall Wallin's article, *Simple questions for complex matters: An inquiry into Swedish Google search queries on wind power*, addresses online information searching on renewable energy in a Swedish context. Drawing on practice theory and a digital methods approach, the article illustrates that geographical locations, wind power functions and small wind turbines are prominent sub-themes of inquiry when seeking information through Google Search. The results contribute to a better understanding of contemporary environmental information searching as simple questions are phrased for complex matters and nuances are lost in the search for uncomplicated answers.

While environmental information is situated, enacted and represented in many artistic as well as mundane shapes and forms, the third article in the thematic issue cautions researchers against treating art as a way to send or *extract* information on environmental issues. In *The art of storytelling: against the instrumentalisation of stories as information sources in climate communication* Carin Graminius and Phil Dodds explore the multifaceted and complex roles of stories and storytelling as means of environmental communication. By analysing the role of stories in three climate fiction novels, the article stresses the importance of understanding how stories work in practice within specific works of art. Within library and information studies, this article serves as a timely reminder for the need of more complex approaches to the use of stories in climate communication.

The fourth contribution is a research note by Henrik Jochumsen and co-authors, which presents *UPSCALE* - an international collaborative research group exploring four ongoing projects of collaborative consumption at public libraries in a Danish and Norwegian setting. The premise is that libraries and librarians can act as agents in facilitating and promoting different forms of sustainable development in the pursuit of a more sustainable future. Collaborative consumption, a practice wherein libraries function as hubs for sharing material consumer goods, is one of the areas in which libraries can take the lead and offer alternative socio-economic futures.

In addition to these thematic contributions, the issue contains an already published non-thematic paper as part of the continuous publishing strategy of NJLIS. Maciej Liguzinski's *The development of e-lending models and policy across Scandinavian public libraries* explores the development of e-lending models for digital books (e-books and digital audiobooks) in public libraries from a comparative perspective through case studies in Norway, Denmark and Sweden. The comparison highlights the similarities between the three countries, but also differences in regard to preferences for a particular e-lending model and in the pace and character of the analysed e-lending processes.

The issue also includes a book review by Jenny Lindberg of two substantial contribution to the field nordic library history. It also presents four Nordic PhD theses. Sara Ahlryd reviews Teija Käränen's thesis "Everyday energy information literacy: defining the concept and studying it empirically in Finland». Live Kvaales thesis "The Perspectives, roles, and knowledge transfer among stakeholders of research data sharing" is reviewed by Kalpana Shankar. Sheila Corral reviews Pieta Ekström's thesis *Academic Librarianship in Flux*". Finally, Hanna Carlsson reviews Amalia Juneström's thesis "Content

Moderation and Fact-Checking. A study of Journalist's Information Practices in the Contemporary News Media Landscape".

We were invited to host this issue and would like to express our gratitude to the NJLIS editorial board for giving us the opportunity to lift these important questions. Our hope is that LIS scholars will not only conceptualise, theorise and help to make environmental initiatives visible, but also actively embrace, pursue and lead research that can help us to navigate, understand and engage in the ongoing climate crisis. We are, furthermore, grateful for the help and support from NJLIS editors Kim Tallerås and Sunniva Evjen, who handled the peer-review process of the submitted papers and who assisted us in the production and development of this issue.

**Carin Graminius, Björn Ekström & Jutta Haider**

Guest editors

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