While the number of digital collections have been increased constantly and in diverse practices, there are some concerns regarding the relevancy and value of the efforts to expand, enhance, and sustain these collections to society at large. These concerns call for discussions and exemplifications of how research efforts and practices in digital libraries improve the quality of human life in all dimensions, such as education, business, socialization, public administration, culture, and humanities. In addition, these questions initiate a quest to discover novel methods in producing, managing, analyzing, and storing digital collections as well as to deliver state-of-the-art services in a complex, connected, and ever-changing environment that matter to our daily lives.

The annual International Conference on Asia-Pacific Digital Libraries (ICADL) series is a significant forum that provides opportunities for researchers, educators, and practitioners to exchange their research results, innovative ideas, service experiences, and state-of-the-art developments in the field of digital libraries. The theme of ICADL 2017 was “Data, Information, and Knowledge for Digital Lives” open to all opportunities that illustrate how digital libraries, digital collections, and corresponding methods would lead to better lives.

Since the first ICADL in 1998, the conference has grown to become one of the premier forums in the digital library community. Based on the success of the first 18 ICADL conferences, the 19th ICADL conference was hosted by the Department of Library Science, Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand. This year the conference was co-located with the 8th Asia-Pacific Conference on Library and Information Education and Practice (A-LIEP) under the collective title “International Forum on Data, Information, and Knowledge for Digital Lives.” Hosting these conferences together in the heart of Bangkok brought together a diverse group of academic and professional community members from all parts of the world to exchange their cutting-edge knowledge, experience, and practices in various relevant issues in digital libraries and other related fields.

The submissions to ICADL 2017 covered a wide spectrum of topics from various areas, including information visualization, data mining/extraction, cultural heritage preservation, personalized service and user modeling, novel library content and use environments, electronic publishing, preservation systems and algorithms, social networking and information systems, Internet of Things, cloud computing and applications, mobile services, interoperability issues, open source tools and systems, security and privacy, multi-language support, metadata and cataloguing, search, retrieval, and browsing interfaces to all forms of digital content, e-Science/e-Research data and knowledge management, and cooperative service and community service.

The keynote speakers of ICADL 2017, as part of the International Forum, included Prof. Chayodom Sabhasri from Chulalongkorn University (Thailand), Prof. Makiko Miwa from the Open University of Japan, and Prof. Jane Greenberg from Drexel University (USA).
ICADL 2017 received 51 submissions from 21 countries. Each paper was carefully reviewed by the Program Committee members. Finally, 21 full papers and six short papers were selected. On behalf of the Organizing and Program Committees of ICADL 2017, we would like to express our appreciation to all the authors and attendees for participating in the conference. We also thank the sponsors, Program Committee members, external reviewers, supporting organizations, and volunteers for making the conference a success. Without their efforts, the conference would not have been possible.

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