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Library Bulletin

A monthly publication of LRC

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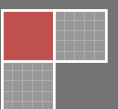


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News Corner

Library Bulletin – a monthly publication of LRC

Welcome to the first edition of *Library Bulletin* – It is our pleasure to present the first edition of this bulletin. We intend it to be a monthly updates on the activities, facilities, and resources added in last/previous month within LRC to keep the UMT community informed. It aims to be informative and is a part of communication policy of LRC for specifying objectives, action plans and evaluation methods for services of LRC to work closely with its users (whether they are from within or outside).

In future we will make it more interesting using a clearly structured and regularly updated layout that can support users' awareness about developing the concept and context of learning. We have had tremendous support from our users in adding value to our services as direct result; we are able to extend our repository of collection accessible to a variety of research work.

We cordially invite you to contribute to the cause of your LRC by sharing the facilities, resources and equipments necessary to deliver the services needed for human intellectual development. It is very crucial for us to shape our services and make the resources readily available consistently with the long-term needs of all of our users in harmony with the mission statement of the LRC. We are determined to provide as seamless a service as possible

Last but not least you will find us welcoming at every single opportunity to reinforce awareness about the services and facilities available with LRC.

New Library Building – the library of the future

Since its inception, the University of Management and Technology had looked forward to the day when the Library would be housed in its own building. Afterward, when the university moved to its permanent campus - the dream of new library began to take definite shape. Finally the dream came true when the library moved to its permanent building in mid October 2011. It was a gigantic task of packing and shifting the entire library undertaken by the team LRC who had full support from OFM throughout the shifting and then settling at new premises.

It is now up and running and all services are in full swing with over 600 visitors to the library every day. Circulation transactions and reference queries have also gained momentum. It has designated study corner for faculty and students. We sincerely regret the inconvenience caused to our valued patrons due to the suspension of the library services by reason of the relocation to the new premises.

The new library building is about 26000 sqft facility i.e. four and half time greater in size of the previous facility. The timeline for the completion of library building remains on schedule. It is consisted of two integrated units i.e. *level 1* and *level 2*. The scope of the building is to embrace changing landscape of the conventional concepts of library and put the up-and-coming trends into service in the learning processes. It will help to bridge the changes and innovations between virtual and real spaces. Advanced integrated and participative planning of the new library building is based on the vision, mission and core values of the university to convey a sense of identity and unity of purpose and cause. Seminar and conference rooms will profile the library as central support services aim at catering expanding activities of the university in terms of research and development, consultancy, academia-industry interaction and interface, library and information services as a whole on a wider scale.

We are determined that this shifting in new library building will be productive in developing knowledge infrastructure, discipline-focused and subject-specific applications. It will provide a common context and a common purpose of learning and knowledge services. Our major undertaking is to act as a coordinating point

between the learner and learning resources that establish the new way of learning. We looking forward to you as our learning partners for building the library of the future as nothing would be without you.

Free Trial Access to Emerald online Resources

UMT was selected to automatically receive complimentary access to Emerald full collection for a month started mid December 2011 and is valid till mid of January, 2012.

Free trial includes access to:

Emerald Management eJournals: 220+ journals; 60,000 titles

Emerald eBooks Series Collections: 100+ book series titles in 20 subject areas

Emerald Emerging Market Case Studies: online collection of peer-reviewed case studies focusing on business decision making and management development throughout key global emerging markets.

A nice opportunity to explore and download articles, book chapters, and case studies relevant to your research and study needs. To access these resources please visit: <http://www.emeraldinsight.com/>

Selected Article

Scourge of fake journals

by Isa Daudpota (Dawn, 1 December 2011)

IT all began with false eyelashes. Growing up in the 1960s I could not fathom why actresses with plastic insertions appeared attractive to their fans. The equally disgusting discovery of fake-colored nails on Americans was made in the late 1980s. An office mate explained these were off the shelf and not obtained through careful tending of the cuticles.

Returning to academia in Pakistan in the first half of the last decade, one discovered how expats and other Pakistanis were applying and getting jobs in our institutions using fake degrees from fake universities — here and abroad — using fake publications. In the context of this article, a fake academic journal is an online journal that has no referees (despite a long list of editorial board members) and that takes a fee from the author to get the article published online, very quickly.

Nearly eight years ago, I informed Dr Atta-ur-Rahman of a fake journals publishing racket in Faisalabad, which needed to be squashed by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) and the law agencies, failing which it would grow and entice academics to take the short-cut to promotion and privileges. The damaging role of substandard universities in our midst that had received a charter was also highlighted.

Unfortunately, the advice was not heeded. As a result, we have parliamentarians with fake degrees hoodwinking the HEC and the Election Commission for over two years. Sadly, the Supreme Court has also failed to take up an old petition by members of civil society outlining a simple process for verifying degrees that could be completed in a few weeks.

The issues of plagiarism, fake degrees, fake and substandard universities and dishonest politicians are intimately linked. A common response to this hydra-headed problem is despair. Wait until society reforms itself, some say. Proponents of this approach would like society to attack seemingly far more important issues, the solution of which would make such ‘minor’ issues disappear.

The wiser approach is to be holistic in one’s analysis yet split the problem into doable parts and attack each swiftly. This latter approach is how the HEC ought to tackle the issue. Failing to do so will cause the few centers of excellence and genuine researchers here to be viewed with suspicion internationally further dampening their morale.

A weeklong intensive research led to findings of large-scale use of fake journals. These are approved by the HEC and appear on its site in the resumés of its certified PhD supervisors. The HEC chairman, Dr Javaid Laghari, and several holders of the HEC Distinguished National Professorships have been notified of this. I can email interested readers the documents provided to the HEC.

My research and the follow-up letter to HEC were prompted by the encouraging news report in a newspaper titled, ‘Laghari says HEC believes in zero-tolerance policy with regard to plagiarism’. It said: “Dr Laghari ... said that the HEC believed in a zero-tolerance policy on plagiarism in the theses of teachers and that if any university was found favoring plagiarists, the HEC would take stern action against it”.

The other spur to this effort was the unsolicited bulk mail that I received advertising patently fake journals. On investigating their claims I found a large number of Pakistani academics associated with them as editors and contributors. One such person, in addition to being on the editorial board of such a family of journals, had also contributed an article to them — this article was part of this person's application for promotion to professorship in Pakistan's premier public university. The HEC approved this ascension earlier this year.

Becoming suspicious of these editorial boards, I checked the names of four professors from prestigious western universities whose names appeared on these sites, including two from Cambridge, England, and the University of Maryland (UMD). They were both horrified by this revelation and the UMD professor got her university's attorney to get the offending website removed. The others have been requested to do so similarly. But surely this is what one would like the HEC to do too.

One of the editors on the blanked-out site may have a little to worry about though. He is on the board of many such journals, and despite working for a university with a dubious reputation following a PhD from an equally poor university, published 11 papers in 2010, and in the first half of 2011 had nine 'foreign' publications, in fake journals. [The HEC website lists them as 'recognized'.] Courtesy of his many papers, he has managed many foreign junkets, in fact 13 in the past five years. Most amusing is his attendance at a workshop in Lahore on Research Ethics and Anti-Plagiarism Strategy! I wouldn't be surprised if the HEC footed the bill for this one.

One could continue offering other such anecdotal evidence of large-scale fraud, but I return to the warning I gave to the past HEC chairman in 2003, which has now been vindicated by articles by Jeffrey Beall of Colorado University at Denver. He has shown how the racket that began in Faisalabad has proliferated. It now has offices in the capital, as my investigations show.

Without doubt, the HEC's quality assurance programme has failed. There is an urgent need for an internal and external review followed by the institution of a robust system that maintains transparency and restores the integrity of research publications and higher education in Pakistan. One hopes that such a change will not be relegated to endless committees. The treatment is known; it is time for action.

The writer is an independent researcher.

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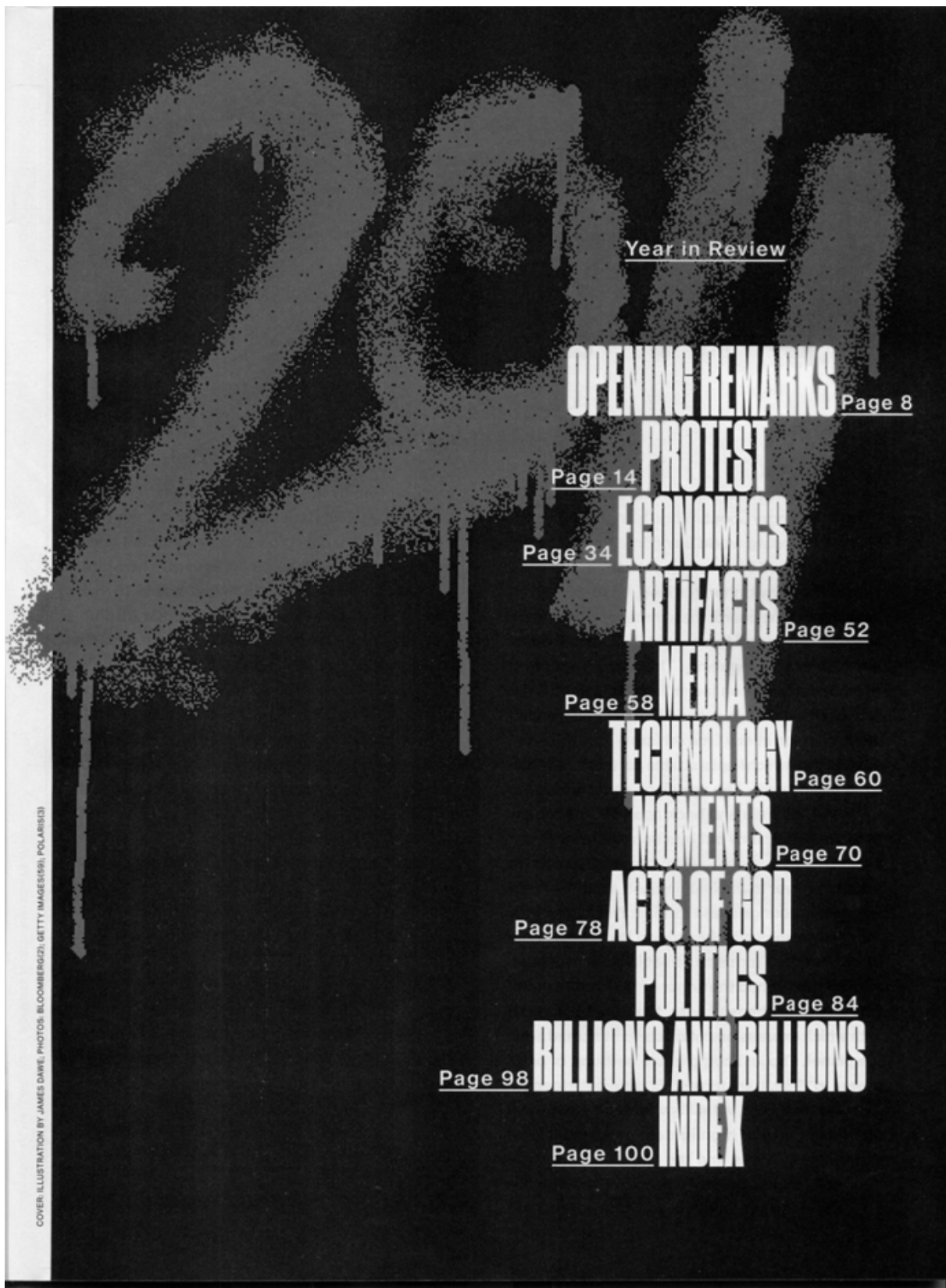
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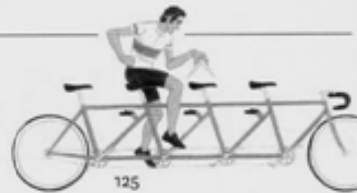
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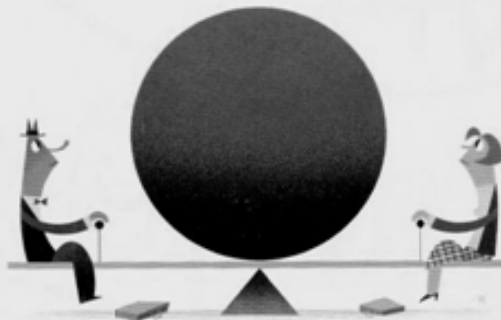
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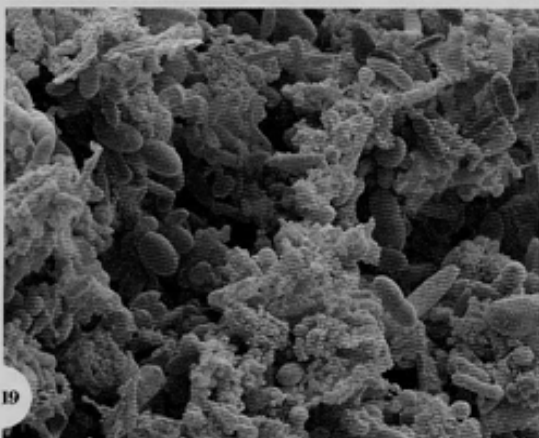
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SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN

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ON THE COVER



Our third annual "World Changing Ideas" special issue showcases 10 technologies and trends that will shape the future. In addition to stories on neural microchips, cryptocurrencies and nanotech antibiotics, we take a close look at an ambitious project to exploit the growing torrent of available data streams to model politics, culture, finance and the environment. Photographs by Dan Saelinger.



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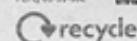
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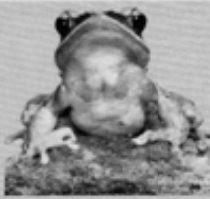
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