

Institutional Repository

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INTRODUCTION

The article is based on the literature review on Institutional Repository it aims to provide a theoretical framework of the repositories especially in academic environment in the global perspectives. This article briefly outlines the meaning and definition of institutional repository and it throws light on the need, purpose, benefit, features and importance of institutional repository. The article reveals the different types of repositories and current trends of establishing repositories in the libraries.

THE CONCEPT

Institutional Repository is a new concept for collecting, managing, disseminating, and preserving scholarly work created in digital form by faculties and students in the academic institutions. It offers a set of services including digital content submission, organization, access, distribution, and preservation (Chang, 2003). As Lynch (2003) explained an effective *Institutional Repository* necessarily represents collaboration among librarians, information technologies, archives and record managers, faculties, and university administrators. Within this framework, libraries play an important role in building and maintaining the infrastructure of these repositories. Since libraries have always managed their institutional collections, they have accumulated abundant expertise in collection assessment, organization, and development. They have also built many efficient tools for facilitating these jobs that led many libraries took the initiative in launching the *Institutional Repositories*.

HISTORY AND ORIGIN

Developments in web publishing such as open archives initiatives, open access journals and disciplinary archives have created opportunities for institutions to enhance scholarly publishing. With the launch of open source software globally, the development of IRs has picked up momentum.

The origin of the notion of an “institutional repository” is twofold:

- Institutional repositories are partly linked to the notion of digital interoperability, which is in turn linked to the Open Archives Initiative (OAI) and its Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting (OAI-PMH). The OAI in turn had its roots in the notion of a “Universal Preprint Service,” since superseded by the open access movement.
- Institutional repositories are partly linked to the notion of a digital library - i.e., collecting, housing, classifying, cataloguing, curating, preserving, and providing access to digital content, analogous with the library’s conventional function of collecting, housing classifying, curating, preserving and providing access to analog content.

Institutional repositories are one of the recommended ways to achieve the open access vision described in the Budapest Open Access Initiative definition of open access. This is sometimes referred to as the self-archiving or ‘green’ route to open access (Wikipedia, 2014).

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MEANING AND DEFINITIONS

Some of the prominent scholars summarized IR in the following ways: Crow (2002) described *Institutional Repository* as an online archive of universities, colleges, funding agencies, and other research institutions. Further Crow (2004) identified IR as a digital collection that preserves and provides access to the intellectual output of an institution. Foster and Gibbons (2005) defined *Institutional Repository* as an electronic system that captures, preserve and provides access to the digital work produced by a community. *Institutional Repository* is an organization based set of services offered by organization to its community members in the form of management and dissemination of digital materials. It is an organizational commitment to the management of digital materials, including, organization, access, distribution and long-term preservation (Lynch 2003). According to Markey et al. (2007) an IR is a set of services and technologies that provide the way to collect, manage, access, disseminate and preserve digital materials produced at an institution. Since the most *Institutional Repositories* based at colleges and universities, it is managed by the libraries.

These definitions emphasized IR as a vehicle for the delivery of services such as access, use and long-term preservation of digital collection. These are digital archives of intellectual products created by the faculty, staff and students of an institution accessible to end users both within and outside the institution. Governance of such materials needs a cumulative, openly accessible database and a commitment to long-term preservation.

NEED AND IMPORTANCE OF INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORIES

Kamila (2009) pointed out the following needs for creating the IRs:

1. Technological changes have forced to establish IRs,
2. The IRs are responsible for increase in the volume of research,
3. Rising needs of archival and access to unpublished information of institutions,
4. High demand for easy access to knowledge objects from anywhere at any time, and

5. Increasing uncertainty with regard to handling the preservation and archiving of digital scholarly research material.

Narayana (2009) in her paper *Institutional Repositories: An Effective Scholarly Communication Channel* observed following needs for IR:

1. Providing outlets for monographs and other specialty publications,
2. Ensuring persistent access to information of individual institution,
3. Better representation of research created within the institution,
4. Stake or further leadership claim in a specific subject area,
5. For consortia, display the depth and breadth of members intellectual output, and
6. Halving the double dip of communication and access gap among scholars.

BENEFITS OF INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORIES

Kamila (2009) on the significance of IR stated that it stipulates the development of services on research information made available through the repositories and provides open access to research work. It provides a window to improve the sponsoring institution visibility, status and support the open access model of publications.

Narayana (2009) discussed the technical and strategic benefits of IR. The technical benefits include:

1. Free software a cost effective tool for low-income countries,
2. Easy to establish and technical help available,
3. All IRs are interoperable, conforming to OAI-MPH international standards,
4. It provides distributed network and use shared cost of infrastructure,
5. Searchable by Google, Yahoo and specialised search programs (e.g. OAIster, SHERPA searches),
6. Usage (impact) statistics are available, and
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