Chapter 15

Initiatives of an Institutional Repository (IR) of the Academic Institutions in the Indian Scenario:
Prospects and Challenges

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ABSTRACT

The chapter analyses that more than 60 academic and research institutions have set up their institutional repositories as indicated by ROAR (Registry of Open Access Repository) and DOAR (Directory of Open Access Repository) (e.g., IISc, IIMK, ISI, NCL, NIO, RRU, NAL, NIT, and so on). There are a few institutions that have not registered in ROAR or DOAR. IRs has been increasing worldwide. Currently, ROAR lists 1,793 and Open DOAR lists about 1,966 IRs all over the world. It is found that more institutions (47) installed the D-Space (62%). It is followed by e-prints adopted (26), and two institutions implemented OAR through GSDL.

INTRODUCTION

Few years ago, Institutional repository initiatives were initiated only in some developed countries. In India, Institutional repository movement was started in 2004 and is gaining momentum and new initiatives are emerging around the country. Institutional repositories are already well established in many IITs, IIMs and other institutes having national importance. Institutional Repository has become an essential part or component of digital library that provides an alternative platform for sharing knowledge globally. Institutional Repository has four characteristics as defined by Johnson (2002). They are mentioned below: institutionally defined (as opposed to discipline- or subject-focused); scholarly (containing the

products of faculty, research staff, and students); cumulative and perpetual (the content will be preserved on a long-term basis); and open and interoperable (attentive to the Open Archives Initiative—Protocol for Metadata Harvesting).

INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORY (IR): DEFINITION

In simplest terms, a digital repository is where digital content, assets, are stored and can be searched and retrieved for later use. A repository supports mechanisms to import, export, identify, store and retrieve digital assets. According to the SPARC (Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition) position paper on institutional repositories "an institutional repository is a digital archive of the intellectual product created by faculty, research staff, and students of an institution, with few if any barriers to access"(Crow, 2002). According to Lynch (2003), "a university-based institutional repository is a set of services that a university offers to the members of its community for the management and dissemination of digital materials created by the institution and its community members. It is most essentially an organizational commitment to the stewardship of these digital materials, including long-term preservation where appropriate, as well as organization and access or distribution."

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Dutta and Paul (2014) has made a study on institutional repository related issues among faculty members of university of Calcutta. The paper discussed faculty members awareness and their willingness to participate in IR. It reported faculty members have more or less positive attitude towards IR and their lack of awareness and confusion about copyright issues discourage them to participate in it. Lemayehu (2010) explained about researchers' attitude of using institutional repository of Oslo university found that researchers have low awareness of institutional repository but interested in contributing their work in to the university repository and have very positive attitude towards providing free access to their work through their university institutional repository. Dulle and Minishi- Majanja (2009) explored Tanzanian researcher's awareness and usage of open access scholarly communication. The study revealed that majority of researchers in Tanzanian public universities was aware of open access scholarly communication and use these resources to access scholarly content than to disseminate their research findings. Awasthi (2016) made a comparative study on attitude of research and academic community towards the use of institutional repository. The study also compared the similarities and differences in the attitude of both the community towards the institutional repository. These studies show the importance of institutional repositories and open access publishing in scholarly communication and necessary of researchers having awareness about it. University Grants Commission (2005) has already developed a policy document on building University level Institutional Digital Repository in India. UGC has recommended that all the universities should set up theses repository to facilitate e-submission, archiving, maintenance and access to these repository at the university level. University Grants Commission (2005) enacted "UGC (Submission of Metadata and Full-text of Doctoral Theses in Electronic Format) regulations, 2005" to strengthen national capability of producing electronic theses and dissertations, and, to maintain university-level and national level databases of theses and dissertations. This Regulation proposed two sets of planned actions, such as: Creation of Indian National Theses Database (INTED).Internet accessing

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