

Chapter 25

Use of Institutional Repository for Information Dissemination and Knowledge Management

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ABSTRACT

The paper is a case study which gives a summary of the experience in disseminating information through an institutional repository at the Automotive Research Association of India, Pune. The paper has proven to cover different aspects of Knowledge Management (KM) and discusses more about Institutional Repository in Knowledge Management perspective. In this paper, we emphasize the need for deploying and share our experience in creating a state-of-art Institutional Repository using the DSpace software. The method of developing the IR, which includes, the installation, defining the communities and collections, content development and management are illustrated. The paper also illustrates the library services and mode of information dissemination to its users by engaging with knowledge management. It also discusses the proposed initiative of incorporating the library database from LibSys and linking the e-Modules from Learning Management System (LMS) to the institutional repository for the benefit of user community at ARAI.

INTRODUCTION

Knowledge Management (KM) has been encouraged as a valuable business concept for almost two decades. Although originally emerging in the world of business, the practice of knowledge management has now spread to the domain of non-profit and public sector organizations, including that of libraries.

Stephen Abram (1997), writing in an LIS context observed that knowledge can be shared but cannot be managed: In fact capturing knowledge in any form other than into a human being's brain reduces it to mere information, or worse, data. Only the knowledge environment can be managed.

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This has been reflected in the following definition of KM from an LIS perspective: According to Abell and Oxbrow (2001) the conception and subsequent management of an environment which encourages knowledge to be created, shared, learnt, enhanced, organized and utilized for the benefit of the organization and its customers.

Knowledge Management is a combination of people, process and technology. This involves people from a wide mixture of disciplines including, Information Technology (IT), Engineering Sciences, Library and Information Sciences and Human Resource Management (HRM).

Mr. B. Martin (2008) says that there are many possible strategic routes to KM including: building a technical infrastructure; structuring or restructuring into a learning organization; fostering a knowledge-friendly culture; establishing KM processes; and measuring or leveraging intellectual capital. In a broader perspective, Mr. M. Alavi (2000) says the goal of an effective KM strategy should be to enhance the creation, transfer and utilization of all types of organizational knowledge. Knowledge Management system facilitates the creation, access and reuse of knowledge, and its main goals are to promote knowledge development, communication, preservation and sharing for the right person at the right time.

The authors tried to present the role of an institutional repository, engaging with knowledge management and also attempts to overview the need for deploying and sharing experience in creating a state-of-art Institutional Repository using the DSpace software from the librarians' perspective, towards the effective integration of knowledge as best practices in the daily organizational domain & business processes.

ARAI KNOWLEDGE CENTRE (LIBRARY)

The Automotive Research Association of India, well known as ARAI established in 1966 as a Co-operative Industrial Research Centre by the Automotive Industry and Government of India. It has grown substantially to become a Prime Research, Development and Testing Institute in India, bringing complete automotive technology under one roof. ARAI has entered into Golden Jubilee Year. To mark this significant milestone, we are celebrating Golden Jubilee of ARAI from 10 December 2015 to 10 December 2016. The Library was set-up in the year 1975 is a fully automated special library and is one of the finest libraries in India possessing a specific automotive collection. It assists users in the field of Automotive Engineering, like Students, Professionals, Faculty and various Government Organizations in respect of Automotive and its allied subjects. It provides free access for reference to all SAEINDIA members in India.

Currently the library has a collection of around 15,000 books on various topics like Powertrain, Electric & Hybrid Vehicles, Emissions, Noise, Vibration and Harshness (NVH), Brakes, Fatigue, Vehicle Dynamics, Safety, Automotive Electronics, Automotive Materials, Management, Soft Skills, etc. and technical reports, seminar/conference proceedings such as SAE, IMechE, etc. Every year, more than 100 books are added to the library. It has a rich collection of National and International standards like IS, SAE, JASO, ISO, DIN, ASTM, BS, EEC/ECE, ADR, AIS, etc. It also has a good collection of national and international journals with back volumes. Collection of SAE Technical papers is another valuable addition to the library.

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