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ORIGINAL ARTICLE





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AN OVERVIEW OF AN INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORY

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Abstract:

The emergence of ICT in the field of library and information science has changed the face of today's libraries. In the technology driven era the services offered by a library and the responsibilities of the librarian have been changed tremendously. The current study attempts to depict the overview of an Institution Repository. The chief objective of the study is to find out different issues, challenges and contents of an Institutional Repository. The study also gives an idea about Indian institutional repository scenario. The study suggests that definite policies should be made before building up an institutional repository in terms intellectual property rights.

KEYWORDS:

Institution Repository, India, Open access.

INTRODUCTION

An institutional repository includes variety of materials produced by scholars from many units, such as e-prints, technical reports, theses and dissertations, data sets, and teaching materials. Some institutional repositories are also being used as electronic presses, publishing e-books and e-journals (Bailey, 2005). According to Prosser (2003) there are undoubted benefits to institutions in building up of repository as they are able to greatly extend the amount of material they can offer to their researchers. The classical definition of IR by Lynch (2003) as follows: 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.

Resting on thehymn of "shared and open access", institutional repository (IR) systems have broughtrevolutionary changes to the way the scholarly communication is taking place. As anemerging publishing model, the institutional repository is here to stay, as long as thedegree of user participation is high, and there are sound policies and stakeholderengagement. This transformative force driving information dissemination has ushered in new challenges to the traditional routines of librarianship, and institutional repositories are seen as creditable information channels in institutional settings across the world, transforming scholarship media (Lynch, 2003). The emergent institutional repositories have incredible impact as they are capable of facilitating timely and open access to research and scholarship; maximize thepotential research impact of archived publications, supporting alternative forms of

journalpublishing and novel forms of digital scholarship by preserving and making accessibleacademic

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digital objects, datasets, and analytic tools that exist outside of the traditionalscholarly publishing system (Chan, 2004).

Although IRs are still evolving and taking on differing manifestations in specific institutions, they can be defined in general as systems and service models designed to collect and organize, store, share and preserve an institutions digital information or knowledge assets worthy of such investments. This may look similar to libraries but the technical infrastructure and types of materials collected in such a repository presents new challenges and extended responsibilities for traditional libraries.

As the concept of Institutional Repository is not known to the research community, it is very important for the responsible institution to promote the repository by conducting various promotion activities such as passing out brochures, conducting presentations to faculty committees, publishing articles in the library or campus newsletters / newspapers, and formally launching the repository.

OBJECTIVES

1.To give a general overview of an Institutional repository in terms of its content and language of publication.

2. To find out issues and challenges related to IR

3. To give a quantitative view of IR with respect to Indian scenario.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Bonilla-Calero (2013) discussed paradigms of good practices for improving performance of an Institutional repository from the point of view of a user, author and reviewer. The methodology used was concerned around institutional databases which were used as source to analyze the research output. The study reveals different facets from three points of view which affects the performance of an institutional repository which consists of visibility, accessibility, usability, update, navigability, quality and user satisfaction from user's point of view ; political, legal aspects, security, authenticity from the author's point of view. The study shows some of the constraints which restrains the growth of IRs such as fear of plagiarism, ignorance of how to make a deposit in a repository, etc.

Calderón-Mart'ınez and Ruiz-Conde(2013) analyzed top 50 European University repositories which include Spanish universities and, repositories that only include research content which allows open access to scientific and academic production. Specifically, this work harmonizes earlier studies on the consolidation of the repositories, focusing on the analysis of the competitive environment by considering their participation and relative visibility shares. The analysis, using competitive maps and comparative advantage method, allowed them to identify European university repositories that lead their segments, in terms of their levels of participation and web visibility in the market. Factors such as the language of the repository, the diversity of the content, the size of the institution or its funding were not considered in the study to evaluate whether they influence the leading positions. The results showed that University College of London (UK) leads at European level in terms of participation and the repository of the University of Umea (Sweden) is the leader in visibility.

Babu, Kumar, Shewale&Singh, (2012) opined that institutional repositories can be broadly divided into two groups based on subject of content and the purpose of deposit : subject repositories and dispositive repositories. The objective of this paper is to find out the rationale for institutional repository (IR) categories, and the challenges in sustainable development of open scholarship to facilitate scholarly communication. A critical study method was adopted to find out the categories of IR and various developmental challenges with the aid of related literature. It states that developing content with substantial support of open access communities would be the biggest challenge in institutional repository development. Some of the other major challenges in developing an institutional repository discussed in the study are Digital stewardship; Discoverability, digital preservation and validating formats; Interoperability, retrospection and cultural conservancy. The results revealed that IR categories and their nomenclature are found to be overlapping when used by repository registries and librarians alike. As the digital objects in the repositories are expanding, with a requirement to store new entities as diverse as linked data and web archives, IR categorization becomes difficult to determine. Even though the growth of IRs in India is phenomenal, concerted research and development efforts to strengthen digital infrastructure and repository solutions in multilingual settings are slow. The study provides a (SWOT), analysis of institutional repositories development in global context.

Ali and Iqbal (2011) evaluated one of the three major institutional repositories of India i.e. Eprints@IISc, Banglore, Open access repository of Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Banglore and Digital

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Repository services of National Institute of Oceanography, Goa which were in the list of "The Ranking of Web of World Repositories" prepared in 2010 by cyber metrics Lab. The main objective of the study was to find out which software and metadata standards are being used by the institutions to establish IRs, type of documents the IR contained, the authority and coverage of IRs etc. The three repositories were evaluated on the basis of criterion such as software, metadata, purpose, coverage, user friendliness etc. The key findings of the study revealed that Dspace and Dublin Core Metadata standards were used by majority of the IRs. It discovered that the documents contained were journal articles, conference papers, teaching resources, thesis and technical reports. All institutional repositories under the study offer facility for self-archiving by using the repository online submission system to their research society. The study also suggested some points to advance access to existing IRs in the country.

Manjunatha and Thandavamoorthy (2011) studied researcher's outlook towards depositing their research outputs in institutional repositories as a mode of scholarly communication. The study states that although vast amount of information is available in the World Wide Web (WWW) still notable amount of research is not available and accessible freely. The objectives of the study include finding out academic scholar's perception towards open access, self-archiving, scholarly publishing and institutional repositories; comparing academic scholars approaches of different disciplines; finding out factors which leads to discouragement in depositing research outputs in institutional repositories. Data for the study was collected from researchers from the ranks of post- graduate student level to professors" level from thirty five universities in Karnataka (India) with the help of questionnaire. The study reveals reasons for both contribution and non contribution in IRs. It reveals that the majority of the science, technology and medicine scholars are aware of and positive towards depositing in institutional repositories while the humanities and social science researchers are found to be ignorant of the institutional repository but were interested in contributing their research work to the University Institutional Repository and have a positive attitude towards providing free access to scholarly research results of their University.

Sawant (2011) examined a variety of issues relating to the IR software/system drawn in development of institutional repositories (IRs) in India. The objectives of the study were to recognize the software's used in the development of IRs and their features; to know the interoperability standards and long-term preservation techniques applied; to know the types of file formats supported by the IR software/system; to investigate issues concerning migration of present IR software/system tonew IR software/system in future. A survey was conducted for collecting data with the help of web questionnaire created with the help of software provided by surveymonkey.com. The results revealed that 79 per cent of the institutions had implemented the DSpace IRsoftware package. The respondents considered the Enduser interface to be the top ranking IR-systemfeature. It was found that all IRs supported Text (HTML, Postscript, PDF, Spreadsheet etc.) fileformats. Half of the respondents marked bitstream copying as a longterm preservation strategy.Almost all institutional repositories were OAI-PMH-compliant. The study identified the existence of 16 functional IRs, some of which were not registered in any of the directories such as ROAR, Open DOAR.

Armbruster and Romary (2010) compared different repository types and gave an idea about which type of repository best supports scholarly communication. The authors distinguished four types of publication repositories, namely the subject-based repository, research repository, national repository system and institutional repository. The repositories should be constructed keeping user and reader uppermost in mind to give most successful services. With regard to service, high value to specific scholarly communities is essential. This implies that repositories are likely to be most useful to scholars when they offer dedicated services supporting the production of new knowledge. The three key dimensions of barriers to repository development are : a) identification and deposit of content; b) access and use of services; and c) preservation of content and sustainability of service. The authors concluded the study with an indicative comparison of challenges and barriers in some major world regions such as Europe, North America and East Asia plus Australia.

Campbell-Meier (2008) studied different dynamics associated with an IR such as factors influencing IR development, best practices for IR development and best model for IR development. The researcher conducted preliminary interviews with IR developers at six colleges and universities throughout the United States to test and revise interview questions. Throughout the literature and in the preliminary interviews, several factorswere identified as influencing IR development including stakeholdersinvolved in the IR process, planning, assessment, content, policy development, marketing, costs, sustainability, motivation and perceived IR benefits. The study stressed that to maintain and build an effective IR project adequate support from technical services and public services is very important. This study explored the growth ofrepositories at doctoral institutions, identifying factors that influence development andbest practices using a relative case study analysis approach to gather and analyzedata. A detailed account and

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analysis of academic institutional repositories was formedproviding knowledge of individual IR development as well as a cross case comparison ofdevelopmental factors including adoption, motivating factors and perceived benefits. It identified use of a narrative, project management practices beyond technical development, and theinclusion of the campus community as key factors in development of an IR. The study also demands the need to educate both librarians and faculties about open accesscollections. The case studies revealed that IR developers need to review the IR software and know its functionality andlimits prior to discussing options with faculty; the repositories were not being marketed to the faculties in a proper way which acted as a barrier in the success of the repositories.

Palmer, Teffeau and Newton (2008) identified strategies and conditions that areadvancing and influencing IR development. The researchers studied three succeeding IR initiativesusing the comparative case study methodcapturing deep data on IR activities within a local context.To capture evolving IR strategies and develop well-rounded cases during the course of the one-year pilot project, the research team visited eachsite multiple times over a nine-month data collection period. The caseswere developed primarily through semi-structured interviews, with other contextual data derived from examination of repository collections andonline documentation, as well as supporting materials provided by interviewrespondentsThis case study presented a close assessment of the approaches taken at three university libraries, evaluating choices, strategies, and conditions driving development activities among which one with an innovative service model, an equally innovative content model at play at another, and the thirdfunctioning as a more mixed model, with a greater emphasis on policyand best practices. All together, the three policies exhibited a strong, intrinsic goal to expand the conventional position of the university library as the hub of scholarlycollections and stipulation of allied services. Long-standing objectives or victory targets for their initiatives were not evidently specified by any of the three IR approaches. The three cases proposed a series of productive responses to the many challenges facing institutional repositories, as they mature, expand, and incorporate further with library operations, and continue their important contribution to the ever-changing enterprise of scholarly communication.

METHODOLOGY

The principal methods used to collect data were: extensive literature review of related studies along with an online survey of Indian Institutional Repository details from Open DOAR.

The Indian scenario:

As of March 15, 2014, there are 59 Indian repositories registered in OpenDOAR (http://www.opendoar.org/), do not completely represent open access initiatives in India as they depend on voluntary registration. ROAR also includes archives in testing or development phase which may not be openly accessible. While ROAR can provide a graphical representation of the cumulative growth of records in Indian open access archives over the last few years, OpenDOAR has subject and content type classification potentially useful to librarians (Fernandez, 2006).

From the data available in DOAR it is visible that most of the Indian repositories have used the open source software Dspace for building up their respective repositories and most of the repositories are providing access to materials published in English. However, some repositories provide access to materials published in other Indian regional languages such as Hindi, Bengali and Malayalam.

IR content

An Institutional Repository provides access to different sets of materials such as Pre-prints / post prints, Research reports, Conference papers / posters,Book reviews, Teaching materials,Student's assignments / projects, etc.

Advantage of an IR

1. It increases the diffusion of information in an impactful way. The usage and citation of open access material is greater than that of restricted access work.

2. Storage and access to a wide range of materials, including digital representations of artwork, data sets, and audio-visual material. Compared with traditional print-based publication, the IR offers greater variety and flexibility; compared with personal or departmental web sites, the IR offers greater security and longer term accessibility.

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3. Standardisation of institutional records

4. Leverage of existing systems

Policies

The institutions that develop institutional repositories need to research and write policies and regulations for their collections. The IR needs to decide: Who is allowed to deposit materials; What types of digital documents can be deposited (e.g. Pre-prints, post-prints, working papers, theses, chapters, datasets, etc.); What digital formats will be accepted ; Quality assurance procedures; Preservation procedures; Metadata quality standards; Restricting Access; Content guidelines for submission and organisation (Barton & Waters, 2004).

Challenges

Cost: the initial cost of setting up an IR may be lessen by using freely available open source software but continuing costs, however, especially staff costs (time spent drafting policies, arranging licensing agreements, developing guidelines, publicising the repository, training and supporting users and creating metadata), may be noteworthy.

Difficulties with generating content: A triumphant IR depends on the eagerness of authors to deposit their work. Authors" existing working practices, and their attitudes and concerns, sometimes militate against this.

Underneath support and commitment: The IR is an enduring commitment. Its maintenance must be an institutional deliberate goal. Methods of long term digital preservation are as yet untested.

Rights management: Materials placed in an IR are subject to intellectual property rights. Concerns over intellectual property rights are a major deterrent for many authors

DISCUSSION

The leading software packages, DSpace (MIT) and EPrints (Southampton) as well as Greenstone are available free under open source licenses, and there are at least half a dozen other possible packages. In theory, commercial document management or knowledge management software packages might also be suitable but are unlikely to be adopted given their costs.

According to Lynch (2006) making a decision can be complex and involves careful thought about factors such as what the repository will contain, how it will be used, the features that are wanted, and the local technical environment. It is also important to select software with the right features. However, even the "software may not have every feature an institution wants.

Areas for further studies

Overview of Institutional Repositories.
Comparison of different Indian Institutional Repositories.

CONCLUSION:

Institutional repositories can provide long time preservation of research output of scientific and academic organizations; it can offer perpetual access to those literatures as well. Institutional repositories (IRs) form a key element in the open access movement tobring scholarly research onto the open World Wide Web. IRs are a practical,cost-effective, and strategic means for institutions to build partnerships with theirfaculty to advance scholarly communication by capturing and preserving intellectualoutput of academic or research institution.

Cultural diversity of organizations is demonstrated through their collections preserved in institutional repositories. Also, it includes more open scholarship. Setting up an IR demands certain necessities such as user engagement, retrieval efficiencies, testingand evaluation of systems, and strong support from all stakeholders. Unlike the traditional backdrop of information services, institutional repositories help toencourage participation by end-users, because potential users contribute in the

openaccess development either through self-archiving or because of institutional mandates, which in turn

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increases the rate and scale of research impact of usage and citation.

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