

Chapter 13

Open Access Initiatives and Institutional Repositories: An Overview

Naseehath S

Mannaniya College of Arts and Science, India

ABSTRACT

This chapter gives an over view of Open access initiatives and institutional repositories. It emphasizes the emergence and development of open access initiatives from various international declarations up to its present stage. Definitions, types, characteristic features and impact of open access on various sectors are discussed. Open access initiatives in India are briefly included. DOAJ and other global organizations are taken in to discussion with their recent events. Objectives of Institutional repositories are given with an emphasis on institutional repositories in India. It throws light on DOAR and ROAR. Types of institutional repositories and softwares used to create them are also discussed. Earlier and latest institutional repositories in India are listed in tables. Major Indian institutional repositories with their software used are also in the table form. Role of librarians and libraries on open access and institutional repositories are also included followed by a conclusion for the whole chapter.

INTRODUCTION

Research is an important component in an academic situation as it produces new knowledge. Nascent information is very essential to do research. The impact of information is very high in this technological era. Scholarly journals are required in large numbers to meet the specific needs of the users. Specializations in various disciplines are growing tremendously and a number of scholarly journals are increasing day by day

with an escalating cost. But our library budget is shrinking, thereby causing a scholarly crisis (Joshi et al, 2012). To overcome this crisis ‘open access’ resources and institutional repositories are essential to meet the growing and specific information needs of the users. Open access means free online access to anyone with an internet connection and institutional repositories are online archives for the intellectual output of an institution particularly a research institution for the global visibility for that institution’s scholarship.

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Today in this digital era where E-information predominates, creating new challenges for collection assessment which can be defined as the systematic analysis of the qualitative and quantitative measurements. Modern digital tools are essential for the collection management and development in modern libraries. This chapter aims to give an overview of open access initiatives and institutional repositories which are new paradigm for modern libraries from their initial stage to the present status along with their characteristics and features.

OPEN ACCESS: MEANING AND DEFINITION

Open Access (OA) is free, immediate, permanent online access to the full text of research articles for anyone, web wide. Open Access (OA) means that electronic scholarly articles are available freely at any point of use. In general, Open Access (OA) publications are those made freely available online to anyone anywhere, with no charges imposed for access. Open access helps to ensure long-term access to scholarly articles. Unlike articles that are licensed in traditional article databases, libraries can create local copies and institutional repositories of these resources. Libraries, by working together to make repositories of open access literature, can ensure continued access to these scholarly publications into the distant future.

- **The ‘Budapest Open Access Initiative’ (BOAI-2001)** defined the OA as “World-wide electronic distribution of the peer-reviewed journal literature, completely free and unrestricted access to it by all scientists, scholars, teachers, students, and other curious minds.”
- **The ‘Bethesda Statement’ (2003)** defines; “Open access, where “The author(s) and copyright holders (s) grant(s) to all users a free, irrevocable, worldwide, perpetual right of access to, and a license to

copy, use, distribute, transmit and display the work publicly and to make and distribute derivative works, in any digital medium for any responsible purpose, subject to proper attribution of authorship as well as the right to make small numbers of printed copies for their personal use.”

- **The ‘Berlin Declaration on OA to knowledge’ (2003)** defined OA as: “For a work to be OA, the copyright holder must consent in advance to let users copy, use, distribute, transmit and display the work publicly and to make and distribute derivative works, in any digital medium for any responsible purpose, subject to proper attribution of authorship.”

Though differing slightly, the statements, commonly known as three Bs essentially note that OA allows users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full text of works, permitting use for any lawful purpose, as long as Internet access to the material is possible. The BBB definition goes beyond removing price barriers to removing permission barriers, or beyond gratis OA to libre OA. But at the same time, all three allow at least one limit on user freedom: an obligation to attribute the work to the author.

- **Harnard, S (2008)** who is known as the guru of Open access movement has described the Open Access as; “Information, which is Free, immediate, permanent, full-text, on-line and accessible”. He suggests three main justifications of OA: “to maximize the uptake, usage, applications and impact of research output of your university; to measure and reward (research metrics) the uptake, usage, applications and impact of research output of your university; and to collect, manage and showcase a permanent record of the research output and impact of your university”.

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