Chapter 16

Strategies and Issues of Institutional Repositories:
An Indian Scenario

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ABSTRACT

In the age of ICT, the concept of institutional repository has arisen, which has become a very essential mode of accessing and sharing information. Institutional repositories are digital collections of the outputs created within a university or research institution. This chapter discusses the growth of institutional repositories in India. This chapter is a consideration of some of the important aspects related with institutional repositories. The chapter also explores the trends at the global and national levels of institutional repositories. The present chapter also discusses some important software, which is being used by institutional repositories of various organizations worldwide.

INTRODUCTION

Information has always been resources for creating material welfare but it has no value until it is extracted in a required way. The traditional system to access the information has a lot of limitations. However, in the present age of ICT, the concept of institutional repository has arisen, which has become a very essential mode of accessing and sharing information. It is very beneficial to scientists, research scholars, faculty members, and students of every field, and it provides an opportunity to access and communicate their research findings and innovations. Institutional repositories are tools to support, disseminate, and showcase the scholarly communications and intellectual life of an institution (Foster, Bankier, & Wiley, 2008).

MEANING OF INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORY

Institutional repositories are digital collections of the outputs created within a university or research institution. An Institutional Repository is an online locus for collecting, preserving, and disseminating—in digital form—the intellectual output of an institution, particularly a research institution. For a university, this would include materials such as research journal articles, before (preprints) and after (post prints) undergoing peer review, and digital versions of theses and dissertations, but it might also include other digital assets generated by normal academic life, such as administrative documents, course notes, or learning objects (Institutional Repository, 2010).

DEFINITION OF INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORY

Clifford Lynch (2003) has defined an institutional repository as:

An Institutional repository is an Organization based set of services which the organization 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.

According to Richard K. Johnson (2002) an institutional repository is:

Digital archives of intellectual products created by the faculty, staff and students of an institution or group of institutions accessible to end users both within and outside the institution.

OBJECTIVES OF INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORY

The four main objectives for having an institutional repository are to (Institutional Repository, 2010):

1. Provide open access to institutional research output by self-archiving it.
2. Create global visibility for an institution's scholarly research.
3. Collect content in a single location.
4. Store and preserve other institutional digital assets, including unpublished or otherwise easily lost literature.

ADVANTAGES OF INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORY

A repository has the following purposes and benefits for an institution (Swan, 2010):

- Opens up the outputs of the university to the world.
- Maximizes the visibility and impact of these outputs as a result.
- Showcases the university to interested constituencies—prospective staff, prospective students, and other stakeholders.
- Collects and curates digital outputs.
- Manages and measures research and teaching activities.
- Provides a workspace for work-in-progress, and for collaborative or large-scale projects.
- Enables and encourages interdisciplinary approaches to research.
- Facilitates the development and sharing of digital teaching materials and aids.
- Supports student endeavours, providing access to theses and dissertations and a location for the development of e-portfolios.

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