

Chapter 18

Institutional Repositories Initiatives in India: A Study

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this chapter is to present the development and current situation of Institutional Repositories (IRs) in India. This chapter explores the main concepts of open access, institutional repositories, and their needs and benefits. The chapter highlights the current status of Institutional Repositories (IR) in India by its collection type, subject coverage, and present working status of the repositories available to the academic community as open sources. This chapter examines the overall growth of IRs in Asia and enumerates the Institutional Repositories in India. The chapter analyzes the accessible institutional repositories based on the selected study criteria and studies various digital library software used in the development of IRs in India.

INTRODUCTION

The development of the Open Access (OA) movement since early 1990s has been radically changing the scientific communication landscape (Tonta, 2008). Within the last decade, several universities and institutions have developed institutional

repositories to showcase their research output by offering long-term access to scholarly materials, i.e. refereed journal articles, conference papers, theses and dissertations, and courseware produced by the faculty members, research scholars, and staff. According to Bist and Mohanty (2006) Open Access (OA) was initiated in the developed coun-

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tries and was marked by three notable declarations known as Budapest Open Access Initiative (BOAI) in 2002 (<http://www.soros.org/openaccess/read.shtml>), Bethesda statement in June 2003 (www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/bethesda.htm), and the Berlin declaration in October 2003 (<http://www.zim.mpg.de/openaccessberlin/berlin.declaration.html>), and since then the issue is spreading through the world, and many developing countries including India have joined the effort. In India various research and development organisations, academia like Indian Institute of Science, IITs, ISI, institutes under the CSIR and Indian Council of Medical Research, etc. are now taking part in the open access movement by establishing institutional and digital repositories to provide worldwide access to their research literature. Recently UGC-INFLIBNET has taken initiative to encourage and support Open Access to publically funded research by developing repository Shodhganga@INFLIBNET. Shodhganga@INFLIBNET is first project in India as a National Repository of Electronic Theses Dissertations (ETD) wherein all universities in India are expected to join after a Gazette notification issued by UGC. Universities are signing MoU with the INFLIBNET Centre to join Shodhganga project by giving a commitment for digitisation of old theses as well as by hosting their current theses in the repository.

DEFINITION OF OPEN ACCESS

According to Peter Suber, “open access is immediate, free, and unrestricted online access to digital scholarly material primarily peer-reviewed research articles in journals.” The Budapest Open Access Initiative defined open access as “the literature that should be freely accessible online is that which scholars give to the world without expectation of payment.” Open access to scholarly materials means that its free availability on the Internet and any users can read, download, copy,

distribute, print, open access documents under creative commons licenses or similar licenses. The basic meaning of OA is that the user can use the material on Internet and can take print outs of it and that can be further distributed to others without commercial purpose or any payments or restrictions.

INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORIES

Institutional repository consists of formally organized and managed collections of digital contents generated by faculty, staff and students at an institution (Mc Cord, 2003). Institutional Repositories is concerned with the collection, management, preservation, and dissemination of intellectual output of an individual institution in a digital form within and outside the institution (Singh, Kaur, & Sharma, 2011). It is a kind of service, which an individual institute or organization offers to its community for the management and dissemination of research materials created by different community members and provide improved access to their research publications.

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF AN INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORY

An Institutional Repository is a digital archive of the intellectual product created by the faculty, research staff, and students of an institution and accessible to end users both within and outside of the institution. There are some essential elements of an Institutional Repository:

- Pre-print of papers
- Post-print of papers
- Doctoral theses
- Masters dissertations
- Research reports
- Book chapters

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