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# **Awareness in PG students and Research Scholar in Mysore University about open access Institutional Repository**

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**Keywords:** Institutional Repository (IR), Open access repository (OER), Open access software

**Abstract:** The study has been conducted as a pilot study to know the users awareness and feedback towards the existing Institutional repository of University of Mysore. The study focuses mainly on student's awareness about Institutional repository and the open access repositories and software. The study is an attempt to know how students are familiar with IR and whether they are interested in submitting their intellectual output and using the Institutional Repository.

## **Introduction**

Now a day's open access to research through institutional repositories is an emerging and significant trend. Conception about institutional repository as a location to gather, manage and keep the knowledge output of an institution has been changed now; repositories are now also acting as a medium of communication and knowledge sharing. IR's are now become an indispensable component for information and knowledge sharing in the scholar world (Sarmah M, Bhattacharjee N (2015). An institutional repository or IR is an online platform that allows access to and preserves work created and deposited by members of that scholarly community (Geoffrey Little, 2011). The national institute of health library defines an institutional repository as "a service that enables the organization preservation and dissemination of the scholarly output of an institute.... Repository items are born digital or digitized, tagged with metadata to

describe the subject, ownership, copyright and structure; indexed; organized into collections and searchable via the web; and preserved for long term access. "Institutional repositories are inherently tied to open access movement." (Ronald C.J. and Wilson M.C, 2008). Mostly, institutional repositories have collections of research publications, thesis, dissertations, annual reports and institutional publications. Earlier the institutional repositories had restricted access of their collections to the staff, researchers and users of the parent organization. The scenario, however, is changing gradually. "All of the repositories permit free access to abstracts without any registration necessary. However, most of the repositories require the user to register for accessing the full text of items." (Tripathi M. and Jeevan V.K.J., 2011). "IRs are widely seen as a medium way of enhancing wider access to research carried out using public funds while at the same time improving visibility of research especially in developing countries". (Madaiah Krishnamurthy, et. al. ,2011).

Institutional repositories enhance teaching, learning, research and are considered as a boon to the scholarly community. Institutional repositories have great potential for improving visibility and impact of institutional research. The establishment of IRs in a developing country like India will help to get access of global research and in turn global presence to the local research results ( **Rashmi Rekha Gohain, 2011**). The repository movement in India started mainly after 2002 and described by many researchers. An institutional repository is a means to ensure that the published work of scholars is available to the academic community even after increases in subscription fees or budget cuts within libraries (Bhardwaj, 2014 & Boufars 2011). This study has been conducted to know that how many students are aware and what are their opinions about depositing their intellectual output to the open access and institutional repositories, in Mysore University?

### **Vidyanidhi**

On 25<sup>th</sup> July 2003, The Department of Library and Information Science, University of Mysore initiated a project to develop an institutional repository called Vidyanidhi. Which is suppose to be

#### **Benefits of IRs:**

Students and Faculty may benefited by IR in many ways. Like

- For preservation and long term accessibility of your works.
- For maximizing the use of your work.
- For improving quality by peer review.
- For restricting plagiarism.
- For enhancing teaching learning and research through dissemination of scholarly output of the Institutions.
- It has potential to play an important role in the current scholarly communication system.
- For betterment of institutional visibility and prestige.
- For transforming local publication into global publication.

**Need of the study:**

There are lots of institutional repositories in India in different institutions & Universities and there are many studies to discuss about Institutional repositories, their development, Policies, Funding etc. but there are very less study about user orientation and awareness about institutional repository.

**Objective:**

This study is carried out with the broad objective of estimating the awareness about open access Institutional repository among students of Mysore University. However, the specific objectives of the study are the following:

- 1) To know how many students are aware about open access Institutional Repositories.
- 2) To literate them about open access software and IR websites.
- 3) To encourage them to visit the IR websites and contribute their intellectual output.

**Data and Methods:**

We propose to carry out the study of the PG students and Research scholars of Mysore University from different discipline. The study proposes to use primary data to be collected using questionnaire. A total of 100 questionnaires would be administered to students from different departments of Mysore University. Questionnaire will consist of open ended questions. Percentage, ratio and graphs would be used for analyzing the data collected through questionnaire.

**Data analysis:**

The data has been collected through questionnaire. The questionnaire spread among library users of University of Mysore. Maximum numbers of students were too late to response on questionnaire as they had very less knowledge about open access institutional repository so it took some time to share their experience and feedback on their Institutional repository. There are some multiple choice questions. The questions are related to Institutional repository and open access software etc.

**Frequency of Library visit:**

In order to know users feedback on their university Institutional Repository (IR) we asked them how often you visit the library? 100 students participated. Survey result indicated (see figure 1) the maximum number of students (65%) visit library several times a week, 22% of library user visit library at least once in a week, 13% of users visits library very less like once or twice in month and there are not a single student who never went library.. This distribution shows that there should be some improvement in library services to attract users to visit library on daily basis or several times a week at least.

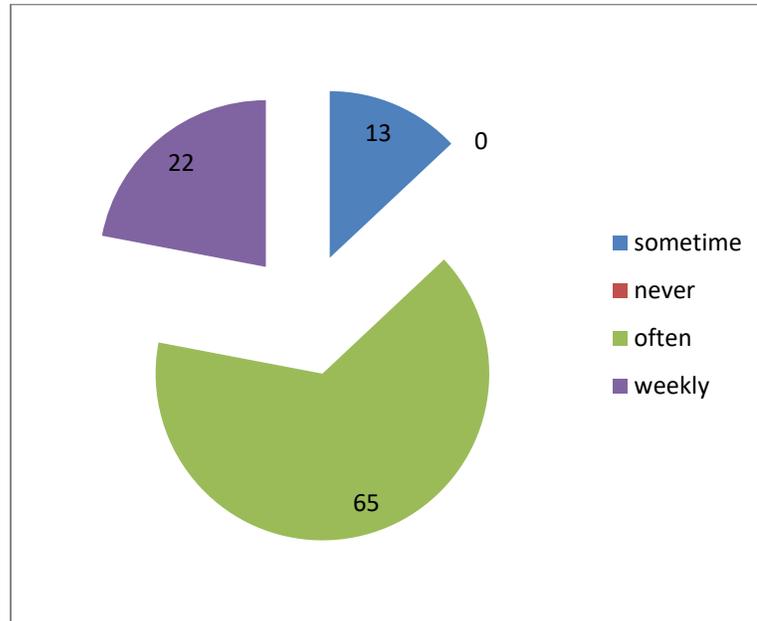


Fig 1: Frequency of library visit

#### **Awareness about IR:**

In next questions we have enquiry that, are the aware with the term Institutional Repository? 32 out of 100 respondents denied that they have not heard the term Institutional repository. This a clear indication that, there should be some awareness programs so that students can learn more about IR.

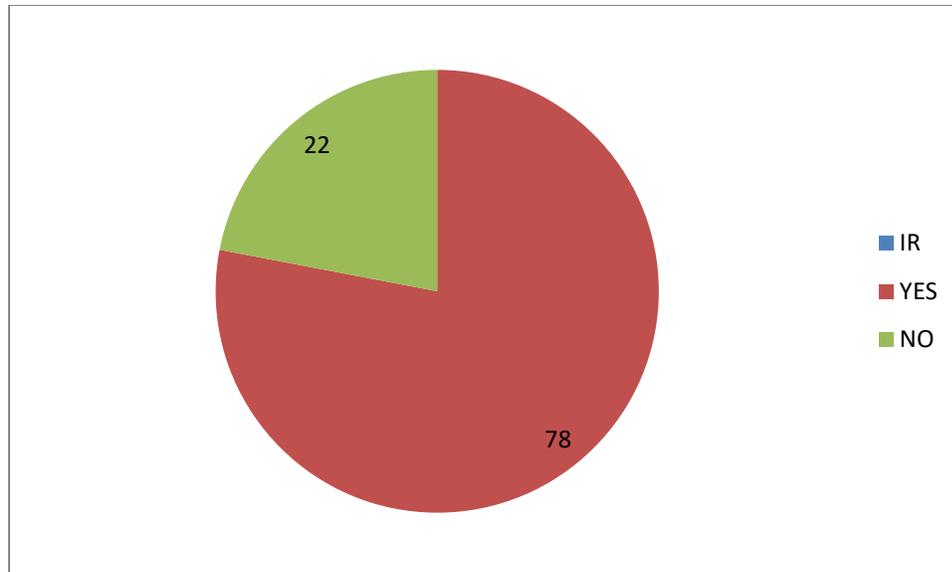


Fig 2: know IR

### Frequency of visiting IR website

68 students out of 100 answer this question. Around 50% of the responded marked as they visit IR website 2 or 3 times in a month. 20 % visit 1 once in a week. 10 % visit the IR website rarely. And 20 % visit the IR website on a daily basis.

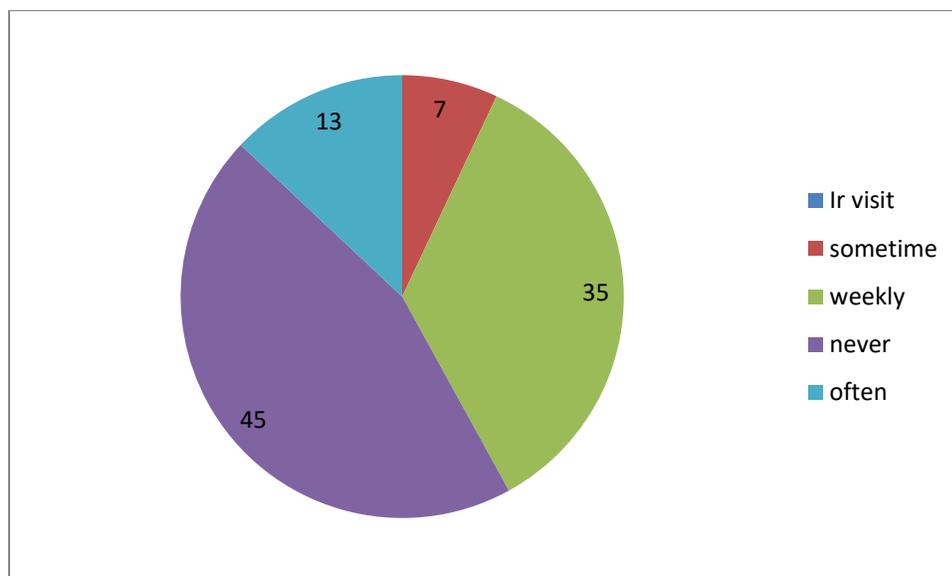


Fig 3 : Frequency of IR visit

### Types of documents search in IR:

Majority of students (56% ) (see fig) who use to go to the IR website searches for articles, than 35% of respondent searches for Thesis rest 9% students search media, dissertation, annual reports etc.

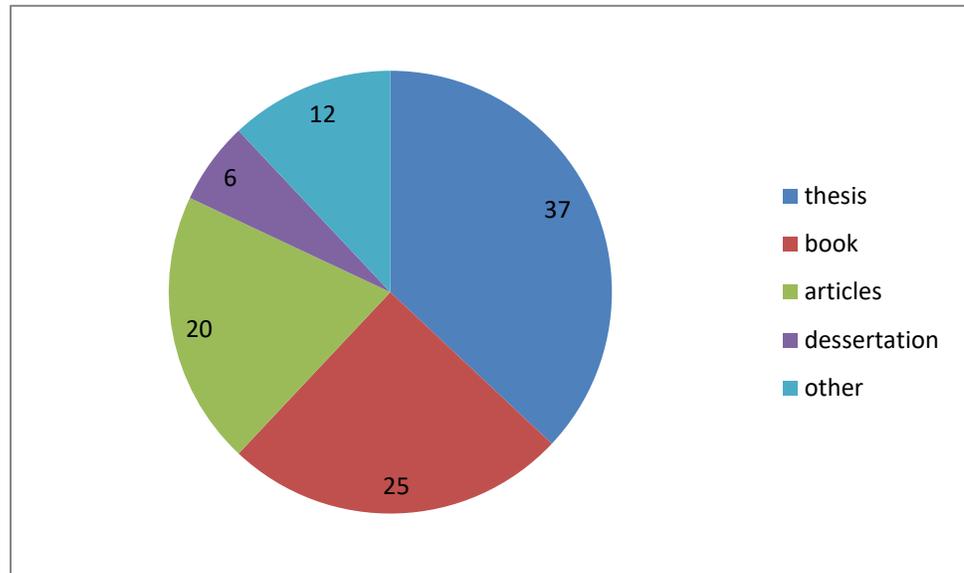


Fig 4: Document search in IR

### Information about software requires for IR:

60 % of the respondent had no idea about the software requires to run an IR whereas 40% of the respondents have a little knowledge about IR like they named some of the software like Dspace Eprint etc.

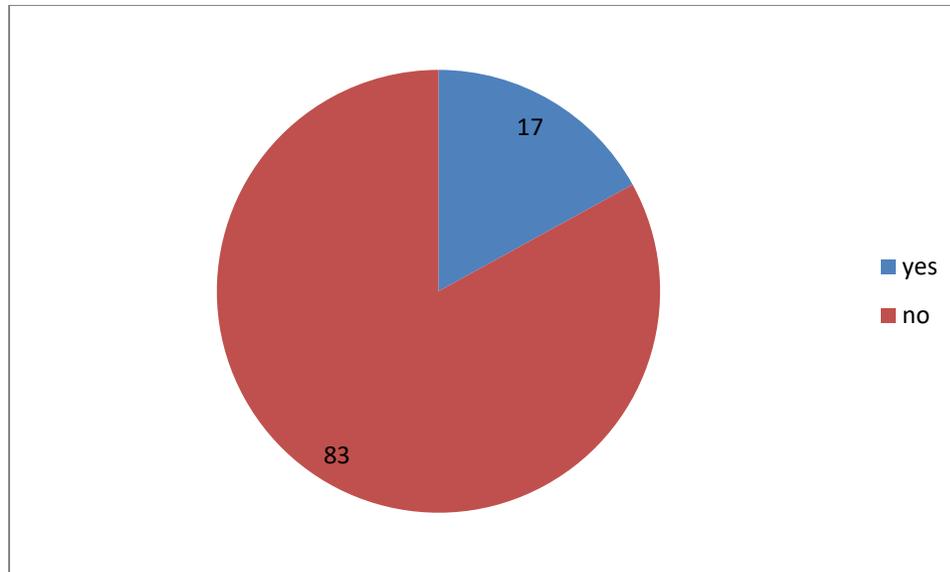


Fig 5: Information about S/W

### Contributing intellectual outcome to the IR:

When it comes to contribute in IR, Majority of respondent (60%) shows their interest to submit their research outcome to the IR, 22% students are not sure about that and 18% are denied to submit. The data indicates that students are not very much sure about how and why they should contribute in IR.

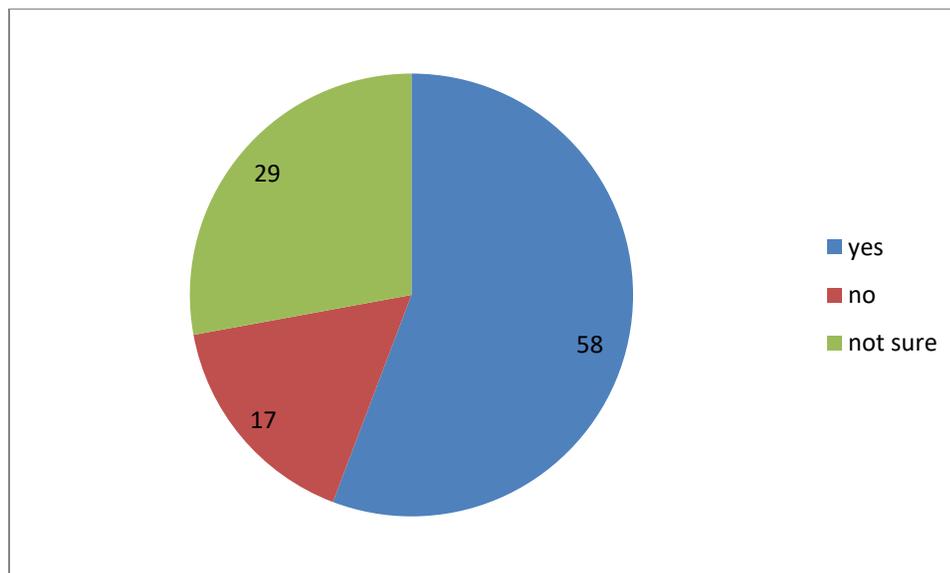


Fig 6: Article submission

## **Findings:**

This study has been conducted to know the users awareness about Institutional repository in the students of Mysore University. The data reveals that students had very less information about IR. These students are pursuing Post graduate and research, so it is expected that at least they should know about the IR and there should be some awareness programs so that students will get more information about IR and motivated to contribute in IR.

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