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The Initiatives and Role of Librarians towards Open Access

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Abstract

Open Access is the free online availability of digital contents, scholarly journal articles, research results that authors publish without expectation of payment and is based on an ethical argument that research funded by the public should be available to the public. Open Access operates within the legal framework and owns the original copyrights for their work. Authors can transfer the rights to publishers to post the work on the web or else can retain the rights post their work on the archives. This article talks about the influence of open access in the present era. The objectives of the researcher have been clearly defined. A thorough in-depth literature review has been provided on the subject of the study. The initiatives on the Indian side towards open access has been defined with the table showing various repositories. Then the role played by Librarians towards the open access movement has been discussed. A few suggestions have been given by the researcher for consideration and finally, the conclusion has been drawn on the above subject.

Keywords: Open Access, Digital content, Scholarly articles, Ethical argument, Legal framework, Repositories, Indian initiatives.

1. Introduction:

The concept of open access came into existence during 1991 due to the need of the scholarly communication. Open access to scholarly communication showed a mechanism to address journal prices and growing limited access to the increasing volume of research literature. Open access helps the researchers directly both as authors and readers. It helps the institutions that fund and supervise research from universities and laboratories to foundations and governments. It increases the distribution of research literature among the researchers without compromising peer review, preservation, indexing, or the other characteristics of conventional publishing. With the growing number of journals, academics and societies which were traditionally publishing them, could no longer cope with the numbers. And enterprising commercial publishers started taking over the burden of publishing many of the journals. Some decade ago open access has emerged as an alternative way to the publisher-driven model of scholarly publishing that provides free access to scientific information to its users. The open access publishing model give access to full- text of journals free of charge to a user through well-organized and professionally managed web interfaces. The proposal of open access originated from grounds that it would strengthen the exchange of ideas and information among the scientific community of young researchers, it would from the limitations of subscription costs, licensing arrangements and copyright inherent to the traditional model of commercial journal publishing and help researchers, postgraduate students, librarians and others. The availability of ICTs carry on to make changes in every aspect of our society and reshapes scholarly communication in many ways.

2. Open access:

The Budapest Open Access (2002) Initiative defines open access as "free availability on the internet, permitting users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of these articles, crawl them for indexing, pass them as data to software, or use them for any other lawful purpose, without financial, legal or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the internet itself.

Some of the features of Open access are:

- Open access literature is digital, free of charge and free of copyright;
- Open Access is compatible with copyright, peer review, revenue, print, preservation, prestige, career advancement, indexing and supportive services associated with conventional scholarly literature;
- Open Access campaign focus on the literature that authors give to the world without expectation of payment;
- Open Access is compatible with peer review and all the major AO initiatives for scientific & scholarly literature insist on its importance.

3. Objectives:

- To highlight the Indian open access initiatives.
- The facilities provided by the open access initiatives.
- The coherent effect of open access on researchers.
- The challenges faced by librarians to forward this facility to the users.
- Some of the suggestions regarding this phenomena.etc

4. Literature review:

Open Access Initiative in India is more effective as Bist and Mohanty (2006) described that it is a new trend in scholarly communication which can provide free access to all the researchers, they also described about some of the Indian initiatives which includes open access journals, repositories its progress and future.

Kaur and Yip Ping (2009) described about the software related to open access initiatives like DSpace, EPrints, etc. They made a study on Malayasian University library to investigate the extent of open access adoption, the types of initiatives taken and the efficiency of these initiatives based on user perspectives.

Chandrakar and Arora (2010) gave an overall view on open access contents in India specially the initiatives taken by the INFLIBNET centre.

Arunachalam and Muthu (2011) emphasized on Vidhyanidhi its availability, EPrints as a first Indian institutional repository, Open J-Gate, DSpace as a institutional repository etc.

Jain (2012) described about open access and its emergence development, its current situation in developed countries and benefits etc.

Alam (2014) described the various open access initiatives and discussed the impact of open access on libraries mainly the role played by Librarians.

Sanjeeva and Powdwal (2017) discussed the steps taken by librarians to implement open access in respective institutional libraries in Mumbai. There is some of the international initiatives and Indian scenario also expressed.

5. Indian Initiatives :

The first Institutional Repository successfully implemented in India is the E-prints repository of research outputs from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore. The archive is maintained by National Center for Science Information (NCSI) and it supports self-archiving by IISc's scientist for their research publications and supports metadata for browsing and searching through subject, year, author, keywords and by the latest addition. E-prints@IISC is well populated with almost 3645 publications which are growing. Not all publications are available for open access, some are for registered users only, and others are linked to publisher's websites. NCSI allows deposits by e-mail with attachments. Another endeavor of IISc, is the e-theses repository ETD@IISc which covers 153 records of theses and dissertations at present, mainly in the area of science and technology. It offers theses templates in both MSWord and Latex. It also has a browsing function by guide and by subject which has been customized for local use by NCSI. Librarian's Digital Library (LDL) at DRTC offers Search Digital Libraries (SDL), a selective harvester for archives and e-journals in library and Information sciences. Archives including E-LIS and DLIST can be browsed individually or searched together. It includes about 236 items basically research papers, articles, reports and provides access to papers published in DRTC conference and seminar proceedings. INFLIBNET, an Inter-University Centre of UGC that serves towards modernization of libraries through a National Network of Libraries in around 264 Universities, Colleges and R&D Institutions across the country created an OAI repository DSpace @INFLIBNET for its post prints, preprints, new clippings, CALIBER and PLANNER full text proceedings, training material and other scholarly publications. Repository of INFLIBNET annual reports and IRTPLA (Inflibnet Regional Training Programme on Library Automation) course material is also maintained. Another subject specific repository of Indian Medlars centre (IMC) caters to the information need of the Indian Medical community is the E-print archive OpenMed@NIC which stores and provides access to biomedical literature. It has value added features such as MESH classification and offers RSS feeds to its users. Another Significant document type repository Vidyanidhi Project by University of Mysore, is designated to act as a national repository for e-theses providing support to universities which may not have resources to manage their own repositories. The Indian repositories are as follows:

Table 1: Indian repository

Sl. No.	Repository name	Hosting agency	subject	Using software	No. of records
1.	EPrints@IISC http://eprints.lisc.ernet.in	Indian Institute of science, Bangalore	Science & technology	E-Prints	3645
2.	ETD@IISC http://etd.ncsi.iisc.ernet.in	IIS	Theses & dissertations	D-Space	153
3.	Librarians Digital Library-LDL-http://drtc.isibang.ac.in/	DRTC, Bangalore	Library & Information Science	D-space	236
4.	Dspace at INFLIBNET http://dspace.inflibnet.ac.in	INFLIBNET centre, Ahmadabad	Library & Information Science	D-Space	428
5.	IIA Repository	Indian Institute	Astronomy &	D-space	725

		of Astrophysics, Bangalore	astrophysics		
6.	Dspace at INSA http://61.16.154.195/dspace	Indian National Science Academy	Member publication, events, images etc.	D-space	818
7.	ISI Library http://library.isibang.ac. in:8080/dspace	Indian Statistical Institute	Mathematics & Statistics	D-space	10
8.	OpenMED@NIC Scieence http://openmed.nic.in	Indian Medlars centre, Delhi	Health Sci. MESH Classif	E-prints	1035
9.	Eprints at NCL http://dspace.ncl.res.in/	National Chemical laboratory(NCL), Pune	e-theses, chemistry & biological science	D-space	290
10.	Dspace@IIMK http://dspace.iimk.ac.in	Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode	Management discipline	D-space	133
11.	Eprints@IIMK http://eprints.iimk.ac.in	Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode	Research papers, Articles etc	E-prints	25
12.	NAL Institutional repository http://nal-ir.nal.res.in/	National Aerospace Laboratories	Aerospace Sciences, NASA Classification	E-prints	418
13.	Eprints@IITA http://eprints.iita.ac.in	Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad	Articles reports, conference reports	E-prints	22
14.	Dspace at NCRA reports http://ncra.lib.ncra.tifr.res. in/dspace	National Centre for radio Astrophysics	Conference proceedings	D-space	22
15.	Dspace@NITR http://dspace.nitrkl.ac.in/dspace/	National Institute of Technology, Rourkela	Engineering, physical and natural sciences	D-space	223
16.	Repository of RRI http://dspace-rri.res.in/	Regional research Institute	Physics and astronomy	D-space	1064
17.	Eprint@IITD http://eprints.iitd.ac.in/	Indian Institute of technology, Delhi	Engineering Sciences	D-space	1296
18.	Vidyanidhi National E-theses http://www.vidyanidhi. org.in	University of Mysore	Multi-disciplinary Theses, access by Registration	D-space	1835

			(Under Dev.)		
19.	Dspace at GBPUAT http://202.141.116.205 dspace	GBPUAT G.B. Pant Univ. of Agriculture and Tech., Pantnagar	Articles, reports, conference proceedings	D-space	82
20.	Digital Repository NIO reports http://drs.nio.org/drs/ dspace	National Institute of Oceanography	NIO Articles, reports Conference proceedings	D-space	55

6. **Challenging role of librarians**:

With the advancement of technology the role of librarian has changed drastically. Open access supported technology in a public forum for all the information to a range of resources and tools, academic librarians have to play a role in supporting scholarly publishing literacy in the following areas:

- Raising awareness on the various open access initiatives.
- Advising researchers to use more and more open resources and providing them exact database which they need.
- Managing the author's creative writing.
- Promoting the use of institutional repository.
- Using journal indicators for enunciating high level of the quality research paper.

7. Suggestions:

Some of the suggestions for the librarians are as follows:

- Establishing institutional repositories and enhancing the publication of scholarly communication.
- They need to increase their knowledge in professionalism.
- They should publish their research related work in open access portal.
- They should create a positive attitude towards open access.
- Proper training should be given to the library staff also.

8. Conclusion:

In recent times open access journals and repository have become the main source of research work. It not only helps the researcher, academicians or students but also helps in providing quality material related to a subject within a short span of time. Making their dissertations easy, efficient in knowledge of writing a paper, influencing the authors to write a quality article. So we can say open access initiatives are more reliable and accessible in comparison to other sources of information. Earlier librarians only provided their users with a large number of books in printed format but advancement of technology made the demand high. So the user wants to get information quickly and safely. Providing the user with a proper information about their required field the need of open access initiative came into existence. But Librarians need more training for organizing their library and need efficient staff. They have to inspire the user about the benefits of open access.

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