

Awareness of Institutional Repositories and Open Access Publishing Among Researchers in University of Calicut

Manchu O

Research Scholar

Dept. of Library and Information Science

University of Calicut

Kerala, India

manchuchandran@gmail.com

Dr. Vasudevan T M

Professor & Head

Department of Library and Information Science

University of Calicut

amandev44@yahoo.com

Abstract

The paper examined institutional repositories and open access publishing awareness among the researchers in university of calicut. Questionnaire method was adopted to collect data for the study. Major findings of the study were that a large majority of researchers in university of Calicut aware of the concept of institutional repositories and open access publishing. The major motivating factors of researchers for using institutional repositories and open access publishing was improvement of their scholarly communication. The discouraging factors for researchers not deposit their work in it were that majority of them did not aware of how can they deposit their work in it and a good number of them thought that repository would have low prestige. The study concluded with a suggestion that library should provide appropriate awareness program and training to researchers about the benefits of using institutional repositories and open access publishing and should encourage them to deposit their work in it.

1 Introduction

In the past few decades, with advances in Information and Communications Technologies (ICT), and most particularly the Internet, the web has become the primary global medium for communication, including scholarly communication. Introduction of new models for the dissemination of scholarly research and knowledge has transformed and redefined the long established relationship between authors, publishers and academic libraries. The open-access movement gained momentum to provide access to scholarly literature free of charge, and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions. In addition, publications that are made available as open access seemed to have a better citation advantage compared to the traditional toll access method. Along with the open-access movement, the past decade witnessed the proliferation of institutional repositories (IRs) in libraries. Most academic libraries have taken the initiative not

only to build and maintain IRs systems but also have made an effort to create awareness among faculty and researchers on the usefulness of such repository systems and benefits of depositing their work in open access publications(OAP) (Oguz & Assefa , 2014).

2 Institutional Repositories and Open Access Publishing

Open access publication (OAP) means the literature that freely accessible online which scholars give to the world without expectation of payment. Primarily, this category encompasses their peer-reviewed journal articles, but it also includes any unreviewed preprints that they might wish to put online for comment or to alert colleagues to important research findings. There are many degrees and kinds of wider and easier access to this literature (Budapest Open Access Initiative, 2002). Wikipedia (2017) defined open access publishing or Self-archiving as “the practice of depositing articles in an open access repository, this can be an institutional or a disciplinary repository such as arXiv”. open access to the literature, means its free availability on the public internet, permitting any 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. The only constraint on reproduction and distribution, and the only role for copyright in this domain, should be to give authors control over the integrity of their work and the right to be properly acknowledged and cited (Budapest Open Access Initiative, 2002).

An institutional repository may be defined as “an online locus for collecting and preserving in digital form the intellectual output of an institution, particularly a research institution”(Wikipedia, 2017). It consists of formally organized and managed collections of digital content generated by faculty, staff, and students at an institution. The content of these repositories can be made available for integration with on-campus library and course management systems. It can also be made available to colleagues and students at other institutions, as well as to the general public. With increasing use of ICTs and availability of open sources software packages most of the institutions are maintaining such repository or archive to collect, preserve, and make accessible the entire intellectual product created by the scholarly communities of the institutions. The main objectives for having an IR are to create global visibility for an insitution’s scholarly research; to collect content in a single location; to provide access to institutional research output by self-archiving it and to store an preserve other institutional digital assets including unpublished or otherwise easily lost literature (Padma & Ramasamy, 2016)

3 Literature Review

Over the last few years the importance of Institutional repositories and open access publishing has been increased and so many studies were conducted in the field. Manjunatha

(2011) conducted a study on academic scholars' attitude towards deposit in institutional repositories of Universities in Karnataka. The major findings of the study were that most of the researchers have low awareness of the institutional repository, interested in contributing their work in the institutional repository of university and they have very positive attitude to make their work freely accessible through institutional repositories. Goutam Dutta and Dibyendu Paul (2014) has made a study on institutional repository related issues among faculty members of university of Calcutta. The paper discussed faculty members awareness and their willingness to participate in IR. It reported faculty members have more or less positive attitude towards IR and their lack of awareness and confusion about copyright issues discourage them to participate in it. Muluken W. Alemayehu (2010) in a case study about researchers' attitude of using institutional repository of Oslo university found that researchers have low awareness of institutional repository but interested in contributing their work in to the university repository and have very positive attitude towards providing free access to their work through their university institutional repository. F.W. Dulle and M.K. Minishi-Majanja (2009) explored Tanzanian researchers awareness and usage of open access scholarly communication. The study revealed that majority of researchers in Tanzanian public universities were aware of open access scholarly communication and use these resources to access scholarly content than to disseminate their research findings. Shipra Awasthi (2016) made a comparative study on attitude of research and academic community towards the use of institutional repository. The study also compared the similarities and differences in the attitude of both the community towards the institutional repository. These studies show the importance of institutional repositories and open access publishing in scholarly communication and necessary of researchers having awareness about it.

4 Objectives

1. To know researchers' awareness about Institutional Repositories and Open Access Publishing
2. To find out researchers' willingness of contribution to Institutional Repositories and Open Access Publishing
3. To examine researchers' motivating factors of using Institutional Repositories and Open Access Publishing
4. To find out the factors discouraging the researchers not to deposit in Institutional Repositories and Open Access Publishing

5 Methodology

The overall objective of the study is to examine research scholars' awareness of institutional repositories and open access publishing in Calicut university. Questionnaire method

was adopted to collect data for the study. The researcher distributed 140 questionnaires among the research scholars in university of Calicut, out of which 125 were received back gives a response rate of 89.3%. The collected data were organized by the process of editing, classification and tabulation and analyzed by using percentage method for easy interpretation of data.

6 Analysis and interpretation

6.1 Distribution of sample

Table 1 describes the gender-wise distribution of the respondents. It shows out of one twenty five respondents in the sample twenty eight (22.4%) respondents belongs to male category and ninety seven(77.6%) belongs to female category.

Table 1
Gender-wise distribution of sample

Gender	Number	Percentage (%)
Male	28	22.4
Female	97	77.6
Total	125	100

Table 2
Subject-wise distribution of sample

Subject	Number	Percentage(%)
Science	68	54.4
Humanities and social science	57	45.6
Total	125	100

The subject wise distribution of the respondents in table 2 indicates sixty-eight (54.4%) respondents belongs to science category and fifty-seven (45.6) respondents belongs to humanities and social science category.

6.2 Respondents awareness about Institutional Repositories and Open Access Publishing

The data presented in table 3 shows the respondents awareness of Institutional Repositories and Open Access Publishing. It shows out of 125 respondents in the sample, 104(83.2%) have awareness and 21(16.8%) don't have awareness of institutional repositories and open access publishing.

Table 3

Respondents awareness about Institutional Repositories and Open Access Publishing

IR and OAP awareness	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Yes	104	83.2
No	21	16.8
Total	125	100

From the table 3 it can be concluded that a large majority of researchers in Calicut university are aware of Institutional Repositories and Open Access Publishing.

6.3 Source of getting awareness about Institutional Repositories and Open Access Publishing.

Table 4 indicates respondents' source of getting awareness of institutional repositories and open access publishing. The table reveals majority of respondents come to know about of institutional repositories and open access publishing through internet and online resources (68.3%) and from their colleague and friends (61.5%). A good number of respondents get to know about it from workshops, seminars and orientation programs (44.2%), from library professionals and their assistants (43%), and through library website and manual (35.6%).

Table 4

Source of getting awareness about Institutional Repositories and Open Access Publishing

Source	Respondents	Percentage (%)
From Library Professionals and their assistants	45	43
Through Library Website & Manual	37	35.6
From Bulletin Board & Periodicals	19	18.3
Through Internet & Online resources	71	68.3
Workshop, Seminars and Orientation Programs	46	44.2
From Colleague/Friends	64	61.5

From table 4 it can be concluded that the major source of researcher getting knowledge about institutional repositories and open access publishing are internet, online resources, their friends and colleagues.

6.4 Motivating factors for using Institutional Repositories and Open Access Publishing

Table 5 reveals motivating factors of respondents using institutional repositories and open access publishing. It shows a large majority of respondents motivating factor for using institutional repositories and open access publishing is that it improves their scholarly communication (83.7%). About half of them responds it displays intellectual output of their

institute (47.1%). A good number of them says it is easy to use (40.4%), provides easy access of gray literature(35.6%) and a few of them responds that depositing their work in institutional repositories and open access publishing protects their work from plagiarism(27.9%).

Table 5

Motivating Factors for using Institutional Repositories and Open Access Publishing

Motivating Factors	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Increases my image and recognition	21	20.2
It improves scholarly communication	87	83.7
It is easy to use	42	40.4
Colleagues are contributing	13	12.5
It displays intellectual output of the institute	49	47.1
It provide easy access of gray literature	37	35.6
Depositing work in IR protects it from plagiarism	29	27.9

Table 5 concluded that the major motivating factors of researchers’ using institutional repositories and open access publishing are for improving their scholarly communication.

6.5 Willingness to publish in Institutional Repositories and Open Access Publishing

Table 6 shows respondents’ willingness to publish in institutional repositories and open access publishing. Out of 104 respondents, 71(68.3%) express willingness to publish their work in institutional repositories and open access publishing and 33(31.7%) not willing to publish their work in institutional repositories and open access publishing.

Table 6

Willingness to publish in Institutional Repositories and Open Access Publishing

Willingness	Yes	Percentage (%)
Yes	71	68.3
No	33	31.7
Total	104	100

From table 6 it can be seen that majority of researchers in Calicut university are willing to publish their work in institutional repositories and open access publishing

6.6 Publications in Institutional Repositories and Open Access Publishing

Respondents who expressed willingness to deposit their work were asked whether they have publications in institutional repositories and open access publishing and the responses are reported in table 7.

Table 7

Publications in Institutional Repositories and Open Access Publishing

Publications	respondents	Percentage (%)
Yes	25	35.2
No	46	64.8
Total	71	100

Table 7 shows a few respondents (35.2%) has their publications in institutional repositories and open access publishing and majority of them do not have their publications in institutional repositories and open access publishing.

6.7 Discouraging factors for not depositing in Institutional Repositories and Open Access Publishing

From table 6, it is found that majority of researchers in Calicut University are willing to publish their work but from table 7 it is also found that a few of them have publications in institutional repositories and open access publishing. In this light the researchers were asked their discouraging factor for not depositing their work in institutional repositories and open access publishing.

Table 8

Discouraging factors for not depositing in Institutional Repositories and Open Access Publishing

Discouraging Factors	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Don't know the deposit process	68	65.4
Don't want to publish work that has not been peer-reviewed	27	25.9
Not able to publish the work elsewhere later	30	28.8
Repository would have low prestige and few people would see the work published there	31	29.8
Difficult and time-consuming to deposit work	23	22.1
Copyright issues	42	40.4

The response shown in table 8 reveals that majority of respondents (65.4%) don't know how to deposit their work in institutional repositories and open access publishing and a good number of them not deposit their work because of the copyright issues with the publishers (40.4%) and thinks that repository will have low prestige and few people would see the work published there (29.8%). There is also some factors which discourage a few respondents to publish their work in institutional repositories and open access publishing such as if their work published in it, they may not able to publish it elsewhere later, the work published in institutional repositories and open access publishing has not been peer reviewed, difficult and time consuming to deposit work in institutional repositories and open access publishing etc.

7. Findings

The major findings of the study are following

- A large majority of researchers in Calicut University are aware of Institutional Repositories and Open Access Publishing.
- The major source of researchers getting knowledge about institutional repositories and open access publishing are internet, online resources, their friends and colleagues.
- The major motivating factors of researchers' using institutional repositories and open access publishing are for improving their scholarly communication
- Majority of researchers in Calicut University are willing to publish their work in institutional repositories and open access publishing but a few of them has their publications and majority of them do not have their publications in institutional repositories and open access publishing.
- The discouraging factors for researchers for not having publications in institutional repositories and open access publishing are that majority of them don't have the awareness of how can they deposit their work in it and a good number of them not deposit their work because of the copyright issues with the publishers and thinks that repository will have low prestige and few people would see the work published there.

8 Conclusion

Both researchers and their institution benefits from institutional repositories and open access publishing. The development and success of institutional repositories and open access publishing depends on the participation of faculty members and research scholars in terms of their contribution and utility. It is the central archive of researchers' work. By depositing scholarly work, researchers will get feedback and commentary from users which will improve the quality of their work. Although majority of researchers in University of Calicut are aware of institutional repositories and open access publishing and willing to publish their work in it, most of them don't know how to deposit their work in it and a good number of them thinks that

repository would have low prestige and confused about copyright issues. The library has a main role here to provide appropriate awareness programs and training to the faculty members and researchers about institutional repositories and open access publishing, its benefits of using, the process of depositing scholarly work in it and also has to encourage them to deposit their work in it.

References

- Alemayehu, M.W. (2010). Researchers' attitude to using institutional repositories: a case study of the oslo university institutional repository (DUO) (Master's thesis, Oslo University College, Oslo) Retrieved from https://oda.hioa.no/en/researchers-attitude-to-using-institutional-repositories-a-case-study-of-the-oslo-university-institutional-repository-duo/asset/dspace:1228/Alemayehu_MulukenWubayehu.pdf
- Budapest Open Access Initiative. (2002, February 14). Retrieved November 1, 2017, from <http://www.budapestopenaccessinitiative.org/read>.
- Dutta, G., & Paul, D. (2014). Awareness on institutional repositories-related issues by faculty of University of Calcutta. *DESIDOC*, 34(4), 293-297. DOI: 10.14429/djlit.34.5138
- Dulle, F.W. & Minishi-Majanja, M.K. (2009). Researchers' perspectives on open access scholarly communication in Tanzanian public universities. Retrieved from <https://www.sajim.co.za/index.php/SAJIM/article/download/413/405>
- Institutional Repository. (2017, December 11). In Wikipedia: The free encyclopedia. Retrieved November 1, 2017, from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Institutional_repository
- Manjunatha, K. (2011). *Academic scholars attitude towards deposit in institutional repositories of Universities in Karnataka a study* (Master's thesis, Anna University, Chennai) Retrieved from <http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/handle/10603/14547>
- Oguz, F., & Assefa, S. (2014). Faculty members' perceptions towards institutional repository at a medium-sized university: Application of a binary logistic regression model. *Library Review*, 63(3), 189-202. doi: 10.1108/LR-07-2013-0088
- Open Access Publishing. (2017, December 27). Retrieved December 29, 2107, from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open_access.
- Padma, P. & Ramasamy, K. (2016). Institutional repositories are for use: a global study of open access repositories on 'library and information science' as registered in openDOAR. In S. Dhanavandan & M. Tamizhchelvan (Eds.), *Transition in librarianship* (pp. 269-281). Daryaganj, New Delhi: Dominant Publishers & Distributors Pvt Ltd.
- Shipra, A. (2016). Attitude of research and academic community towards institutional repository: a comparative study. *International Journal of Information Research and Review*. 3 (1), 1769-1774. Retrieved from http://www.ijirr.com/sites/default/files/issues-files/0848_0.pdf