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Institutional Repository

*I*nstitutional Repository (IR) is an online archive for collecting, preserving, and disseminating digital copies of the intellectual output of institution, particularly a research institution. The development of institutional repository redefines the production and dissemination of scholarly material within academic communities. Therefore, it can also be stated that Institutional Repository is a digital archive where intellectual work is made accessible and preserved for posterity. A repository is where multiple database of the institution or files are located for distribution over a network or a repository can be a location that is directly accessible to the user without planning to transportable through a network.

Main goal of Institutional Repository is to circulate scholarly articles to the users. It is most particularly an organizational assurance to the stewardship of these digital materials, including continuing preservation where suitable, as well as organization and access or dissemination (Lynch, 2003).

Institutional Repository expands a scientific library's ability to participate in the scholarly communication system, and this capability should be considered a source of value, especially in a word that continues to migrate to the digital. The spread of knowledge in term of publications among the community is also an important task of scientific institute. Institutional Repository fulfils this necessity. In this consequence NIOH (National Institute of Occupational Health) has been developing institutional repository to accumulate the research work of this institute.

<u>What is Institutional Repository</u>?

Institutional Repository is a set of services that an institute offers to the members of its community for the management and dissemination of digital materials created by the institution and its community members. Institutional Repository will be capable of indexing and serving a wide range of static and moving images, and will be seamlessly visible from integrated library systems, administrative workflow systems, and via public portals.

The building of Institutional Repository for any organization is needed in the present scenario of digital world because of the following certain changes:

- ➢ Technological changes.
- ➢ Significant increase in the overall volume of research.

- ➢ Increasing need of archival and access to unpublished information bearing objects.
- ➢ Increasing demand to access knowledge objects from anywhere at any time.
- ➢ Increase uncertainty over who will handle the preservation archiving of digital scholarly research materials.
- ➢ It will provide a window that gives open access to improve the sponsoring institution's visibility and status.
- ➢ It will support the open-access model of publication.
- ➢ It will help to develop a national research repository infrastructure by setting up, populating and linking individual repositories.

<u>Content:</u> -

When we use the term "repositories" today, we can be speaking about one of many different technologies that support the storage and distribution of digital content. Institutional repository can, therefore serve as a publisher of research materials-peer-reviewed papers, e-prints, theses, reports, conference papers, working papers, research data, Monographs and books, datasets resulting from research project, teaching materials, student project, committee papers, computer software, photographs and video recording and other type of document.

<u>Benefits of Institutional Repositories:</u> -

Institutional Repository is carried out in order to maximize the visibility and accessibility of comprehensive, local research, Institutional repositories are beneficial to both the researcher and the researcher's institution. The benefits of repositories to institutions and individuals are numerous.

For the contributor

- ➢ Greater citation
- ➢ Speed
- ➢ Preservation
- ➢ Organisation
- ➢ Ease of use
- ➢ Permanent place

For the institution

➢ Documents reflecting the institutional history of the academic and research institutions like NIOH (National Institute of Occupational Health), both scholarly and non-scholarly, are preserved for future use.

➢ The scholarly material produced by the institute is available at one place.

For the user

➢ There is no charge to access this material, and there are no subscription fees.

➢ Material in an institutional repository can be found through a search engine.

➢ Grey literature, material not easily found through conventional means, will be actively recruited for the repository.

Individual Benefits

➢ Safekeeping
➢ Lower technology barrier
➢ Wider distribution
➢ Time
➢ Persistent URLs

Other Benefits

➢ Complete customization of policies and user interface.
➢ Increased visibility to the Library.
➢ Increased contact with constituents.
➢ Responsiveness to local user needs and preferences.
➢ Archive post-prints, preprints (and extra materials).
➢ Papers will get persistent URL and more citations.
➢ Support teaching and learning.
➢ Showcase and preserve scholarly output and historic documents.
➢ No need of maintaining server to back up.

Role of Institutional Repositories: -

Main objectives for having Institutional Repository are to provide open access to institutional research output by self-archiving it, to create global visibility for an institution's scholarly research, and to store and preserve other institutional digital assets, including unpublished or otherwise easily lost ("grey") literature such as thesis, working papers or technical reports.

Institutional repository is the "administrative attention span" and long-term commitment to insure preservation and maintenance of the repository over time.

Providing necessary confidence to enable faculty members to contribute their work to the repository.

Assets contributed to a personal or departmental repository may migrate over time into the institutional repository, so their "life cycles" must be considered as asset management practices are designed.

Role of Librarians in Institutional Repositories: -

Pro-activity and responsibilities relating to Institutional Repositories are assumed by different people in various institutions. Largely they will be undertaken collaborative by officers within the library in partnership principally with research and development, and information technology section. Nixon (2002) rightly observed that "Reference Librarians are a library's eyes and ears. They understand users' needs and perception. They know what's working and what's not. When they act as subject selectors, they are the library's primary liaison with faculty in their subject areas and its most visible representatives. They know how to help, inform, persuade and teach users. For an Institutional Repository to succeed, it is essential that they be involved in its planning, implementation and operation."

Indian scenario of Institutional Repositories: -

In India, some best educational and research institutes such as Indian Statistical Institute, some CSIR Laboratories, IITs, IIMs etc. started building institutional repositories, and a few Universities for example Central University of Hyderabad, University of Delhi. University Grant Commission already developed a policy document on building University level Institutional Digital Repository (http://www.ugc.ac.in) in India. India has adopted the Open Access much ahead of other developing countries. In India a number of scientific research institutions, universities and corporate R & Ds produce high quality research accompanied by innumerable scholarly communications published by national and international journals and conference proceedings. More than 31 academic and research institutions have set up their Institutional Repositories as directed by ROAR (Registry of Open Access Repositories) viz., IISc, IIMK, ISI, NCL, NIO, RRU, NAL, NIT and so on.

In India three kinds of repositories are developed:

1. Designed for specific in-house scholars

2. Designed for specific subjects
3. Designed for specific documents

Institutional Repositories in India are rapidly growing with the help of open source software like DSpace, GNU EPrints, Greenstone Digital Library software etc.

Conclusion: -

The Institutional Repository is a great idea that can serve as an engine of change for institutions of higher education, and mostly for the scholarly enterprises that they support. If Institutional Repository is properly developed, it advances a surprising number of goals, and addresses an impressive range of needs. Some of the result seem clear, though there are also likely to be any number of unexpected consequences. This is an area where most of the education institutions need to invest aggressively, but where they also need to implement thoughtfully and carefully.

The open source movement, coupled with greater network collaboration among researchers, should give rise to discipline-specific federated repositories hosted by institutions, research projects, or professional associations.

Institutional Repositories are partly linked to the notation of a digital library. Developing the institutional repository is a significant contribution in making digital India

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