

Availability of Electronic Resources in Select Economics IRs: A Comparative Study

Suboochi Siddiqui

Paramjeet Kaur Walia

Abstract

The huge growth of the fast rate of the change of the web makes it really hard to retrieve information relevant to specific user's needs. Electronic resources are becoming increasingly important to libraries of all types and sizes. Addresses the development of an electronic information resources collection development policy to guide the librarians at Penn State Harrisburg in the selection of electronic reference resources. Journal articles were the important content type of IRs, while working papers, thesis and conference papers were the next common. Other categories, conference proceedings, and conference papers also exhibited a high growth rate.

Keyword: Electronic Resources, Institutional Repositories, IRs, Economics.

1. Introduction:

Information exists on a continuum of reliability and quality. The web has become the largest available repository of multimedia information. There is a vastly wide variety of material on the internet, ranging in its accuracy, reliability and value. The huge growth of the fast rate of the change of the web makes it really hard to retrieve information relevant to specific user's needs. Web data are typically heterogeneous, unlabelled, time varying, and distributed. Utilising the web technologies that are becoming available the world over, various organisations are developing and maintaining websites providing access to the information generated/collected by them in the form of online databases, online publications, and also providing other information services and products such as institutional repositories or subject repositories. Internet information resources can be defined as resources that include both documents and non-documents in electronic or e-formats that provide information or a pointer to the information and can be accessed via internet.

2. Publishers of E-Resources

There are a mixed bunch of players in the market who publish electronic or e-information resources. These include traditional players offering electronic versions of their resources as well as several new enterprises offering new products and services that are born digital. Besides, there are others also, such as subscription agents in their new role in the e-environment as electronic aggregators, institutions of higher learning and the like. (Jones, 1999).

2.1 Importance of E-Resources

Electronic resources are becoming increasingly important to libraries of all types and sizes. Addresses the development of an electronic information resources collection development

policy to guide the librarians at Penn State Harrisburg in the selection of electronic reference resources. The general collection development guidelines for electronic information resources include relevance and potential use of the information, redundancy of the information contained in the product, demand for the information, ease of use of the product, availability of the information to multiple users, stability of the coverage of the resource, longevity of the information, cost of the product, predictability of pricing, equipment needed to provide access to the information, technical support, and availability of the physical space needed to house and store the information or equipment. (White, 1997)

3. What are Institutional Repositories?

Institutional repositories, online archives of locally produced scholarly works for the purpose of preserving and disseminating research, are a relatively new activity for higher education institutions. The development of repositories follows the development of the Internet and the World Wide Web. (Joan, 2011). A university-based institutional repository is a set of services that a university offers to the members of its community for the management and dissemination of digital materials created by the institution and its community members (Lynch, 2003)

3.1 History of Institutional Repositories

Discipline archive launched in 1991 was the physics repository now known as arXiv. The physics repository, begun by Paul Ginsberg, started as a server for articles on theoretical physics. As the Internet developed, the archive grew and expanded to include other areas of physics, math, and computer science. Other early repositories included EconPapers, CogPrints, and PubMed Central. In 1999, the framework for developing interoperable archives was developed and became the Open Archive Initiative. In 2001, the University of Southampton launched EPrints, a software package supporting open access deposit of research materials. Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) followed in 2002 with the launch of DSpace to manage self-archiving of research articles by MIT faculty. Commercial products and additional open access systems followed as libraries and universities became more interested in the idea of creating repositories for faculty work (OARiNZ, 2009).

4. Objectives of the Study

1. To do a content analysis of the Select Economics IRs.
2. To identify the availability of Electronic Resources in select Economics IRs
3. To compare the select Economics IRs in terms of electronic information resources.

5. Methodology and Scope of the Study

Methodology adopted for the study is based on the online study of the select IRs and the availability of electronic resources in Economics. With the help of Registry of Open Access Repositories and Directory of Open Access Repositories (OpenDOAR), Five Economics IRs are randomly selected from five different countries to analyse the availability of e-resources in

Economics and a comparative analysis is thus made. The select Economics IRs are listed as below:

S No	Institutional Repository	Type	Software	Country
1	Centre for Economic Research Working Papers	Institutional	Wildfire	Netherlands
2	Cracow University of Economics Repository	Institutional	DSpace	Poland
3	Hiroshima University of Economics Academic Repository	Institutional	Earmas	Japan
4	DSpace@GIPE	Institutional	DSpace	India
5	Economics Network Online Learning and Teaching Materials	Disciplinary	UNSPECIFIED	United Kingdom

Source: OpenDOAR Table:1 Economics Institutional Repositories

6. Discussion

6.1 Content Analysis

Content types of IR may be varied from institution to institution. However, the major types of contents that may be included in IRs are: peer-reviewed journal articles; preprints; theses and dissertations; working papers; research reports; monographs; technical reports; conference proceedings; newsletters; news-clippings; bulletins; memorandums; technical documentation; statistical reports; bibliographic references; patents; book chapters; audio/video; and so on. (Mukhlesur and Muhammad, 2014).

Henry, 2007; Mukhlesur and Muhammad, 2014) pointed out ten major issues relating to establishing IRs. Those are:

1. resource discovery;
2. sustaining the service;
3. engaging the community;
4. guaranteeing quality of service;
5. defining the collection;
6. research reporting and compliance;
7. the repository and research;
8. skills and staffing;
9. technology; and
10. the regulatory environment: copyright and digital rights management.

6.2 Collection Type

1. Repository Name: Centre for Economic Research Working Papers (CCSO Working Papers) [English]

Repository Type: Institutional

Description: A subject based institutional repository which forms part of the University Digital Archive of the University of Groningen.

Repository URL: <http://ccso.eldoc.ub.rug.nl/>

OAI-PMH URL: <http://ccso.eldoc.ub.rug.nl/oai/>

Software Name: Wildfire

Languages: English

Content Types

- Unpublished Reports and Working Papers
- Other Special Item Types

Subjects: Social Sciences General > Business and Economics

Record Count: Metadata: 107

2. Repository Name: Cracow University of Economics Repository [English]

Repository Type: Institutional

Description: This repository hosts the research output of the institution. The interface is available in Polish and English.

Repository URL: <https://r.uek.krakow.pl/>

Software Name: DSpace

Languages: Polish

Content Types

- Journal Articles
- Conference and Workshop Papers
- Theses and Dissertations

Subjects: Social Sciences General > Business and Economics

3. Repository Name: Hiroshima University of Economics Academic Repository [English]

Repository Type: Institutional

Description: This is the institutional repository of Hiroshima University of Economics.

Repository URL: <http://harp.lib.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/hue/>

OAI-PMH URL: <http://harp.lib.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/hue/oai/request>

Software Name: Earmas

Languages

- Japanese
- English

Content Types

- Journal Articles
- Conference and Workshop Papers
- Theses and Dissertations
- Unpublished Reports and Working Papers
- Books, Chapters and Sections
- Learning Objects
- Other Special Item Types

Subjects: Social Sciences General > Business and Economics

Record Count

Metadata: 1585: Full Text: 1407 [Data provided by CORE]

4. Repository Name: DSpace @ Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics (DSpace@GIPE) [English]

Repository Type: Institutional

Description: This site provides access to the digitised collections of the institution. Users may set up RSS feeds to be alerted to new content. The interface is available in English.

Repository URL: <http://dspace.gipe.ac.in/>

Software Name: DSpace [version 5.4]

Languages: English

Content Types

- Unpublished Reports and Working Papers
- Books, Chapters and Sections
- Multimedia and Audio Visual

Subjects: Multidisciplinary

Record Count Metadata: 25449

5. Repository Name: Economics Network Online Learning and Teaching Materials [English]

Repository Type: Disciplinary

Description: This site is a subject based repository providing access to the learning and teaching materials of the relevant discipline.

Repository URL: <http://www.economicsnetwork.ac.uk/links/othertl.htm>

Languages: English

Content Types

- Learning Objects
- Multimedia and Audio Visual
- Other Special Item Types

Subjects: Social Sciences General > Business and Economics

Record Count: Metadata: 986

S.No	Repository	Collection Type	Source
1.	Centre for Economic Research Working Papers (CCSO Working Papers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Working papers• Journals• Software components• Books• Book chapters• JEL classification	http://ccso.eldoc.ub.rug.nl/
2.	Cracow University of Economics Repository	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scientific articles [PJ]• Doctorates [PJ]• Books / chapters [PJ]	https://r.uek.krakow.pl/

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching materials [PJ] • Conference materials [PJ] • Unpublished materials [PJ] 	
3.	Hiroshima University of Economics Academic Repository	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Journal Article (36 Items) • Thesis or Dissertation (8 Items) • Departmental Bulletin Paper (1494 Items) • Conference Paper (3 Items) • Presentation (3 Items) • Book (33 Items) • Technical Report (0 Items) • Research Paper (0 Items) • Article (3 Items) • Preprint (0 Items) • Learning Material (0Items) • Data or Dataset (0 Items) • Software (0 Items) • Others (11 Items) 	http://harp.lib.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/hue/
4.	DSpace @ Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Reports [48] • Census Documents [432] • Digitised Books [19039] • Dissertations and Ph D Theses [342] • Faculty Publications [326] • Journal - Artha Vijnana [1199] • Lecture Series [76] • Newspaper Clippings [88] • Photo Gallery [41] • Studies and Publications [293] • Video Gallery [36] • Working Papers [42] • Workshop / Conference / Seminars [30] • Gopal Krishna Gokhale Collection [106] • Library Science Collection [10] • SIS Annual Reports [89] • Servants of India, Annual Reports • SIS Newsletters [1109] • अर्थ :Artha (Marathi Weekly Journal) [1531] • माणूस मराठी साप्ताहिक([1056] 	http://dspace.gipe.ac.in/
5.	Economics Network Online Learning and Teaching Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online Text and Notes 344 links • Assessment Materials 168 links • Video and Audio Lectures 142 links 	https://www.economicsnetwork.ac.uk/links

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture Slides 109 links • Curricula and Syllabi 61 links • Video and Audio Clips 54 links • Interactive Tutorials 53 links • Handbooks and reading lists 53 links • Worksheets and Projects 32 links • Glossaries of Economic Terms 32 links • Software 30 links • Simulations 23 links • Case Studies 20 links • Tutors' Guides 13 links • Sources of Advice on Teaching and Learning 10 links • Discussion & Opinion 1 link • Online Sources 	
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Table 2: Type of Collections in Economics Repositories

Findings

Journal articles were the important content type of IRs, while working papers, thesis and conference papers were the next common. Other categories, conference proceedings, and conference papers also exhibited a high growth rate. The present study revealed that most of the repositories are collecting Working papers, Journals, Software components, Books, Book chapters, Discussion & Opinion, Video and Audio Clips, while most used software is DSpace followed to create the repository.

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