

Open Access Journals and its Repositories in the Web

Gitasree Kalita

Kishore Kalita

Abstract

This paper discusses the general background and basic concepts of open access resources specially open access e-journals, its different as well as its current developments. The paper also offers a constructive critique management of open access journals in the web. Open access journals have become a significant movement that libraries cannot be ignored. Libraries need to address both advocacy issues as well as objections in order to assess the contributions of open access resources to the institutions.

Keywords: Open Access, Open Access Journals, E-Journal Repositories, Library and Information Science.

1. Introduction

Developing and maintaining a good collection consisting of both print and electronic resources is a tremendous challenge for libraries facing budget constraints. It is under these circumstances that a relatively new trend of collaborative knowledge sharing has emerged, generally referred to as “open access” scholarly communication.

Open access journals is one that meets the conditions of “Open Access”- composed of free, online copies of peer-reviewed journal articles and conference papers as well as technical reports, theses, and working papers. In most cases there are no licensing restrictions on their use by readers. They can therefore be used freely for research, teaching and other purposes.

As open access, a paper (included research) is available with no payment for access, scholars in economically disadvantaged areas can also access to the newest research. The research published via

open access venue is easily discoverable by scholars and search engines such as Google.

When considering the channel of open access distributions, it (they) could be separated into two groups of publications: open access journals; and open access archives / repositories.

2. What is open Access?

Open Access is a publishing model that provides immediate, worldwide, barrier-free access to the full text of research articles without requiring a subscription to the journal in which these articles are published. In this model, the publication costs are usually covered by the author’s institution or research funds. These Open Access charges replace subscription charges and allow the publishers to make the published material freely available to all interested online readers. At the same time, authors who publish in Open Access journals retain the copyright of their article. Other than their cost-recovery model, Open Access journals are no different from traditional subscription-based journals; they undergo the same peer-review and quality control as any other scholarly journal.



Moreover, Open Access allows for maximum visibility, uptake and use of the published material.

3. Open Access Journals

Open access journals as journals that use a funding model that does not charge readers or their institutions for access. From the BOAI definition of “open access” we take the right of users to “read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of these articles” as mandatory for a journal to be included in the directory.

Open access journals are scholarly journals that are available online to the reader “without financial, legal, or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the internet itself.” Some are subsidized, and some require payment on behalf of the author. Subsidized journals are financed by an academic institution or a government information center; those requiring payment are typically financed by money made available to researchers for the purpose from a public or private funding agency, as part of a research grant. There have also been several modifications of open access journals that have considerably different natures: hybrid open access journals and delayed open access journals.

Open access journals (sometimes called the “gold road to open access”) are one of the two general methods for providing open access. The other one (sometimes called the “green road”) is self-archiving in a repository. The publisher of an open access journal is known as an “open access publisher”, and the process, “open access publishing”.

In successively looser senses, open access journals may be considered to be:

- ❖ They are scholarly;
- ❖ They utilize quality control mechanisms like those of conventional journals (e.g., editorial oversight and copy editing),
- ❖ They are digital;
- ❖ They are freely available;
- ❖ They may allow authors to retain their copyrights; and
- ❖ They may use Creative Commons or similar licenses.

4. Repositories of Open Access Journals in the Web

Now-a-days there are many repositories for open access scientific and scholarly journals available in the website for promoting their better usage. These repositories aim to be inclusive and cover all open access scientific and scholarly journals that use a quality control system to guarantee the content. In short a one stop shop for users to open Access Journals.

Following are the some open access e-journals repositories in the web which are most widely searched by the scholars. These are:

4.1. Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)

The Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) is a free service, a librarian-vetted list of over 7347 fully Open Access, peer-reviewed scholarly journals, 3511 journals searchable at article level and 708975 articles. DOAJ is growing at a rate of more than one title a day. The DOAJ home page provides an overview of the DOAJ service, an up-to-date count of journals listed in DOAJ, how many journals can be searched at the article level through

Open Access Journals and its Repositories in the Web

DOAJ, and how many articles can be retrieved through such a search. DOAJ is currently used primarily by libraries and serials support services (such as Serials Solutions, SFX, reSearcher) as a means of identifying scholarly Open access journals, and connecting people with Open Access information through link resolving services. The DOAJ Find Journals page is the primary search screen for DOAJ, and it illustrates the beautiful, clean lines and layout that make DOAJ so easy to understand and to use (Figure 1). The DOAJ interface allows users to Find Journals, Browse by Title (alphabetic), or Browse by Subject (hierarchical, discipline-based), which is likely to be very useful for academic liaison libraries. Search results appear quickly.

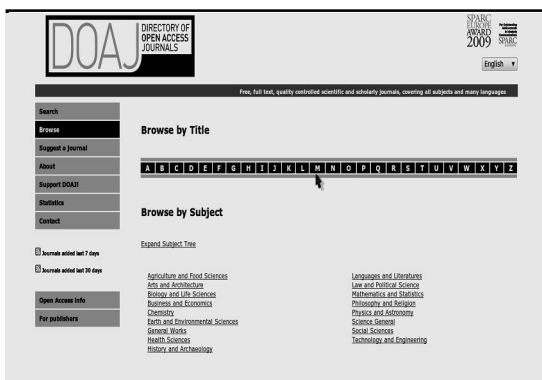


Figure: 1

Coverage in DOAJ:

- ❖ All scientific and scholarly subjects are covered
- ❖ Scientific and scholarly periodicals that publish research or review papers in full text.
- ❖ Academic, government, commercial, non-profit private sources are all acceptable.
- ❖ The target group for included journals should be primarily researchers.

- ❖ A substantive part of the journal should consist of research papers. All content should be available in full text.
- ❖ All languages

The Directory of open Access Journal can be accessed from the URL www.doaj.org

4.2. Open-J-Gate

The open access movement which is gaining importance among scholars across the world get further boost when Open J-gate (Figure-2), the world's largest open access e-journals portal was launched on 27th February 2006 at New Delhi by Bangalore-based Informatics (India) Ltd as a free service for anyone across the globe. Hundreds are available from various publishers and societies from across the globe free on the internet. But all of them are widely scattered and searching the articles and getting to them is a very cumbersome job for researchers.

Open J-Gate is also a database of journal literature, indexed from 9732 open access journals, with links to full text at publisher sites. It gives access to over a million articles published in 2000+ peer-reviewed research journals in addition to articles from over 1000 trade and professional journals. The database can be accessed at the URL www.openj-gate.com.



Figure: 2

4.3. The Free Library

Since 2003, The Free Library (Figure-3) has offered free, full-text versions of classic literary works from hundreds of celebrated authors, whose biographies, images, and famous quotations can also be found on the site. Recently, The Free Library has been expanded to include a massive collection of periodicals from hundreds of leading publications covering Business and Industry, Communications, Entertainment, Health, Humanities, Law, Government, Politics, Recreation and Leisure, Science and Technology, and Social Sciences. This collection includes millions of articles dating back to 1984 as well as newly-published articles that are added to the site daily.

The Free Library is an invaluable research tool and the fastest, easiest way to locate useful information on virtually any topic. Explore the site through a keyword search, or simply browse the enormous collection of literary classics and up-to-date periodicals to find exactly what you need. The database is available in the internet site www.thefreelibrary.com.

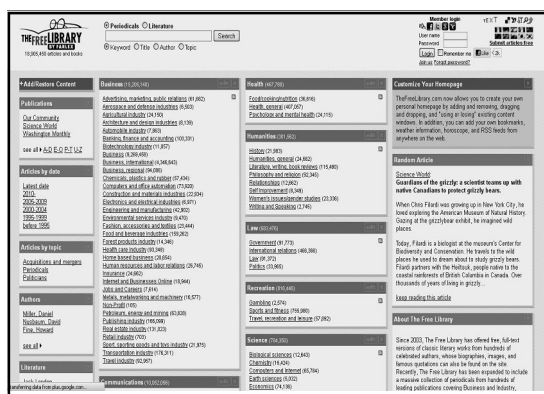


Figure: 3

4.4. Hindwai Publishing

Hindawi Publishing Corporation (Figure-4) is a commercial publisher of peer-reviewed journals covering a wide range of academic disciplines. Founded in 1997, Hindawi currently publishes 300+ open access, peer-reviewed journals. Hindawi's journals maintain the highest standards of peer review, with more than 20,000 internationally-recognized Editors serving on the Editorial Boards of Hindawi's journals. In addition, a number of Hindawi's journals are published in association with a scholarly society. The majority of Hindawi's journals are included in one or more of the leading abstracting and indexing databases, including the Science Citation Index, Scopus, PubMed, INSPEC, Mathematical Reviews, and Chemical Abstracts. Hindawi is a member of several industry organizations including the Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers (ALPSP), the International Association of Scientific, Technical and Medical Publishers (STM), the UK Serials Group (UKSG), the Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association (OASPA), and the International Digital Publishing Forum (IDPF). Hindawi was also an early member of CrossRef, the scholarly DOI linking organization. Moreover, all of Hindawi's content is archived in Portico, which provides permanent archiving for electronic scholarly journals, as well as via the LOCKSS initiative. In December 2006, Hindawi was certified with the ISO 9001:2000 quality management system by TÜV Rheinland. This database is available in the URL www.hindwai.com

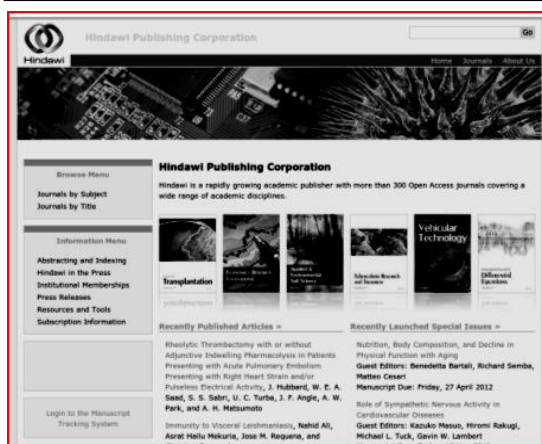


Figure: 4

5. Open Access e-resources in Library and Information Science

There were few open access archive/repositories (subject archives/repositories) in library and information science that are well-known among scholars; dLIST, E-LIS, Australian Library & Information Science Association, LDL (Librarian's Digital Library), and OCLC Research Publications Repository. Even though lack of number of subject OAA/OAR in library and information science, but users can retrieve the information in the subject from plenty of multi-disciplinary archives/repositories by open access search engine (such as DL-Harvest, OAIster, Google/Google Scholar, Citebase, SHERPA Search, and METALIS).

6. Conclusion

Besides above mentioned databases there are many more open access e-journal repositories available in the internet. The ultimate purpose of open access is to make scholarly information more accessible and affordable. Open access is a successful model of resource sharing in cooperative collection development due to its widely collaborative

institutional efforts. While technology facilitates information dissemination by converting print materials to digital works, it has posed significant challenges to non-profit institutions in terms of meeting increasing subscription costs, and managing difficult negotiations with publishers, particularly when these publishers monopolize the intellectual market and tighten copyright limitations. Universities and libraries need to assess institutional needs and priorities based on the strengths and weaknesses of the open access initiative in their decision-making process. They must decide whether they should reject the open access model, adopt a full open access model, or attempt a mixed publishing model consisting of both open access and commercial publishers. For now, open access and commercial publishing should be able to coexist on the basis of healthy and constructive competition. In light of the urgent budget crunch, it is imperative that libraries should experiment and adopt a cost-efficient publishing model in order to expand the scope of scholarly communication.

References

1. BAILEY, C. W. (2007b). What is open access? Available at <http://www.digital-scholarship.com/cwb/WhatIsOA.pdf> (Accessed on 28/12/2011)
2. BYRD, Gary D., Bader, Shelley A. and Mazzaschi, Anthony J. The Status of Open Access Publishing by Academic Societies. 2005. 93(4). p. 423-24.
3. <http://www.doaj.org/doaj?func=browse&uiLanguage=en> (Accessed on 27/12/2011)

4. <http://www.hindawi.com/journals/> (Accessed on 27/12/2011)
5. <http://www.openj-gate.com/Search/QuickSearch.aspx> (Accessed on 27/12/2011)
6. Open access journal, available at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open_access_journal (Accessed on 27/12/2011)
7. SANGAM, S.L., Prakash, K. Improving access to open access journal: abstracting, indexing and Citation sources available at <http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/dxml/bitstream/handle/1944/1319/406-417.pdf?sequence=1> (Accessed on 28/12/2011)

8. THAPOTI, Laksana. Impact of Open Access Resources on LIS Scholars in Thailand, Asia Pacific Journal of Library and Information Science, 2011, 1 (1), p. 43-57
9. WONG, Yi-Ling. Open access in libraries, Library Student Journal (January 2009)

About Authors

Mrs. Gitasree Kalita, Assistant Librarian, Royal Group of Institutions, Guwahati.

E-mail: gitasree.kalita@gmail.com

Mr. Kishore Kalita, Assistant Librarian, Assam Legislative Assembly Secretariat, Dispur.

E-mail: kklibsc@gmail.com