Scenario of University Libraries Initiative Towards Institutional Repositories in Nagpur Region: An Analysis of University Library's Webpages

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Abstract

Universities are enriched with its resources like thesis and dissertations. These unpublished research materials do not have a digital platform to share them to the users who need information on topic of their research.Unless they visit the library; they will not get access to these dissertations in physical form. Users may get access to digital thesis of universities through the repositories of the universities. The study is based on analysis of the websites of universities and institutions.The study discussed and focused on the present status of the universities in Nagpur Region whether these universities are having institutional repositories and how these could be accessible to the users. The study also finds out whether any other institutions other than universities are having institutional repositories in this region. It was concluded that lot many efforts must be taken, to show case the universities own published material as well as thesis and dissertations through institutional repositories. If university libraries will provide soft copies of these research reports through institutional repositories, then only the world-wide researchers will get access to them. The research institutions are also having institutional repositories in this region and having rich resources in the digital form.

Keywords: Dissertations, Institutional Repositories, Nagpur Region, Theses, Universities

1. Introduction

An institution of Higher Learning is incomplete without teaching, learning and research. University encompasses the 'Universe of Knowledge' and caters to teaching, learning and research-all less than one roof. The Quest for deeper knowledge and research brings the learner acquiring higher education closer to the subject, subject experts, and various aids of learning like Reference books, Journals, and other knowledge resources.

The focus therefore shifts from textbooks to reference books, periodicals, research projects and the E-resources like databases, Dissertations, Thesis etc. It is only at the University level that a student is given liberty to explore subject of his interest from the pool of Knowledge. The information search becomes more and more specific as one steps up from Under Graduate to Post Graduate and then to doctorate level.

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The library sources and services also become extensive at university level in terms of quantitative and qualitative collection development, reference and referral services and provision of supportive online resources. As the universities encourage the patrons to inculcate self-study approach, the later establishes a closer association with the library resources and services.

The University libraries are undoubtedly the largest academic libraries in the given geographic area with comprehensive collection of all types of printed and online information resources including Post-Graduation Dissertation Project Records and Doctoral Theses as well. The Research Journals also finds its actual use during preparation of research articles, thesis, and dissertations. Access to various online resources like E-books, E-Journals, and databases are the value-added services provided at university level. The Library Consortium initiatives ensure resource sharing within universities at national as well as international level.

The real assets for any University library are research theses and dissertations. These unpublished research documents were not provided a digital platform for resource sharing and patron had to visit the library in search of topic. The only way to make available the research output of any University was to build an Institutional Repository so that worldwide researchers can have ready access to it.

The university libraries are now transforming into digital form to provide better services to its users. Previously users come to libraries in search of information. Now libraries provide desk top, mobile information services with the help of digital libraries and e resources to its users.

Those college libraries, which are totally computerized, are being transferred to Digital library wherein digital library technologies & infrastructure are being developed. Some of these libraries are considering launching digital repositories called "Institutional Repositories," wherein digital content is produced and maintained by the relevant academic institutions. The data stored on IR's server will be made available to the campus community via the University Intranet, to all universities and institutions in the country, and maybe to the general public via the Internet. (Khan, 2023)

2.   Objectives of the Study

This study is based on to find out whether the universities should have their own repositories, which contains thesis and dissertations submitted to those universities. If yes then which kind of software used to form a repository. How many types of documents were explored to the users? The subject coverage of them, languages used, period of the documents considered, distribution of documents in institutional repositories. The various kinds of other documents are found on website in different format. The study is limited up to the universities in Nagpur Region.

❖   To find out Institutional Repositories in Nagpur Region

❖   To know the various resources included in Institutional Repositories.

❖   To get know the software used for it.

❖   To know the accessibility of these IR

3. Methodology

The study is limited up to the universities in Nagpur region, there are four universities in this area, among them one is conventional university and remaining three are special universities based on subject/ language etc. All these universities are having their own website which is holding the library webpage. This library page contains the information regarding the digital library, institutional repository, e resources and databases. The data will be collected from these library webpages of the respective universities. The analysis was done based on various aspects, factors which will fulfill not only the objectives of the study but to find out another major factor covered. Survey of these websites will be done and interpretation will be done based on available data collected from these university websites. The telephonic talk with university officials helped to get some extra inputs in case of lack of information availability on the website. the conclusions and results were drawn out based on information collected. Other institutional websites were also searched to find out whether those are having any kind of electronic publications repositories at their institutions.

4. Review of Literature

The review of literature was taken into consideration while in search of more information from related completed work. This search analyses that institutional repositories have in its initial stage in India. Mostly national level institutions have started this as their regular wok in India.

Pai and Parmar in their study have discussed the importance of institutional repository. They have highlighted the contents of institutional repositories through which how they have covered all types of research work done by the professionals of Manipal University. This study covers all the institutions those have their own institutional repositories and affiliated to Manipal University. They conclude that librarians should spread awareness for the use of institutional repositories among staff members. (Pai & Parmar, 2014) Hulagabali, S in his study on IR of IITs and IIMs find out that out of 16 IITs only eight IITs have IRs and out of 13 IIMs only three have their own IRs. This study was done in the year 2015. That was the initial stage year of IR in India. The paper discussed about the documents included in these IRs. The software they used, use of NDL platform to create IR and to bring IR in public domain.(C & K.C., 2019) Shajitha, C and Abdul Majeed K C in their study about Cochin Science and Technology University's repository it is named as Dyuthi which contains all the intellectual output of institution. The objectives of this study to know about use and satisfaction of the faculty members awareness towards the IR (Dyuthi). (C. S. & K.C., 2019)

In the study of Javed Ahmed Wani which was specifically based on open access thesis and dissertations repositories those are available globally. It mentions the subject covered, software used and content types those are included in this repository. (Wani, 2019)

This study was done by Wani, J, Khan, U G and Hafiz, A on selected open access repositories, findings was drawn on the basis comparative study done and concluded that there are various types of documents covered by these IRs but the scope of improvement is also there. (Wani, et al., 2019) In this study the authors discussed about open access repositories movement in the context of India. It also discussed the

problems faced while development of the repositories. It also suggested the recommendations and suggestions for the establishment and development of IR in India. (Roy et al., 2018)

In this study the Indian institutional repositories which are reflected in DOAR and how these repositories will get accessed through DOAR were discussed. The study also focused on the document type, language, software, subject covered. It concluded the importance of open access documents. (Kuri & Singh, 2020)

5. Institutional Repository Scenario at Nagpur Region

Many institutional websites were searched to find out whether they are having institutional repositories, like universities, research institutions, national institutions, etc.

Nagpur city in Maharashtra provides higher education facilities through four State Universities namely 1. Rashtrasant Tukdoji Maharaj Nagpur University 2. Kavikulguru Kalidas Sanskrit University 3. Maharashtra Animals and Fishery Sciences University &   4.Maharashtra National Law University,

There are many colleges of Engineering and Technology, there are three Central Government Institutes, State Government run institutes; Universities managed Institutes, Autonomous Colleges,and Non-Autonomous Colleges. Apart from these, there are colleges imparting education in the field of Law, Polytechnic, Arts, Science, Commerce, Management, and Medicine & Architecture.

Nagpur city is also a house of some esteemed research institutes of National Cadre like Central Citrus Research Institute, Central Institute for Cotton Research and National Environmental Engineering Research Institute – to name a few.

Besides these universities and research institutions the national institutions like AIIMS and VNIT are also esteemed institutions in Nagpur.

The current study was mainly focused at studying Institutional Repository Initiatives at four State Universities mentioned earlier.

5.1 Rashtrasant Tukdoji Maharaj Nagpur University: (RTMNU)

Established in the Year1923

This is one of the oldest universities in India. The university is celebrating its centenary year (1923-2023). The university signed its MOU in the year 2018 with Shodhganga. There are some initiatives taken to form repositories of electronic thesis and dissertations but it is not yet accessible or found on university website.

5.2 Kavikulguru Kalidas Sanskrit University (KKSU)

Established in the Year 1997

The Kavikulguru Kalidas Sanskrit University was established by Govt. of Maharashtra on 18th September 1997 in the name of Great Sanskrit Poet Maharshi Kalidasa. Spread across area of over 10 acres at Ramtek,

the University imparts education in and of the most ancient language which is rich in values and modernity in contents and technology.

This was established on 18 September 1997. It is named to pay rich tribute to Legendary Sanskrit Mahakavi Kalidas. KKSU is an institution dedicated to the advanced learning of Sanskrit. It is located at Ramtek which falls under Nagpur District, the second capital of Maharashtra. KKSU is the First Sanskrit University of Maharashtra.

5.2.1 KKSU Institutional Repository

The Knowledge Resource Centre at KKSU is a member of INFLIBNET & E-ShodhSindhu project sponsored by UGC. All the library operations are fully computerized with OPAC as well as Internet facility. Library has signed MOU with INFLIBNET for Shodhganga and Shodhgangotri. Library uses Anti-Plagiarism software for testing of Ph.D. &M.Phil Thesis.

It has built up an Institutional Repository of published books on Kalidasa, KKSU published books, Theses, Manuscripts, Newspaper clippings using D-Space Software.

1.   Document wise Collection of KKSU Institutional Repository is given below:-

Table 1

Sr.	Documents	Collection
1	Books	208
2	Kalidasa Repository	13
3	KKSU Journals	16
4	KKSU Newsletter (Vaidarbhi)	808
5	KKSU Videos	95
6	Manuscript Repository	09
7	Newspaper Clippings	42
8	Old Books	57
9	Other Important Publications	03
10	Faculty Publications	217
11	Question Papers	02
12	Reports	06
13	Research Project	11
14	Theses	89

This table shows the university publications and the publications written by the faculty members of the university. These documents were uploaded electronically in this institutional Repository. This repository is created using D Space Software.

5.3 The Maharashtra Animal and Fishery Sciences University (MAFSU)

Established in the year 2000

The MAFSU has it headquarter at Nagpur. The University has been carved out of the four Agriculture Universities in the state by transferring five Veterinary Colleges, one Post Graduate Institute of Veterinary & Animal Sciences and one Dairy Technology College. Although the University is in its infancy, the constituent colleges were quite old. The University has a well-developed Students Welfare Section, University Library, Bio-informatics Centre and training and placement centres. With the new concepts of research and extension responsibility, the University plans to initiate and coordinate research projects with the other Universities, institutions of ICAR.

Considering the need for information seekers working in the field of university Jurisdiction, University Library and Information Centre was established with the mission to acquire information resources, organize, and make it available for users and preserve for the future. University library renders the services and to Six Veterinary College, Two Colleges of Fishery Science, Two Colleges of Dairy Technology, and One Post Graduate Institute of Veterinary Science.

The MAFSU website has a separate dedicated library webpage which provides links to E-resources like E-Books, E-Journals, and various useful databases in the field of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences. There is no separate link for Institutional Repository as it is under process, but the links for MAFSU Publications, Research Projects are given under the link 'Extension'. The in-house publications under this heading include:

1. MAFSU Varta
2. Annual Report
3. Yearly Calendar
4. Success Stories
5. Folders
6. MAFSU at a Glance
7. Extension Publications

Moreover, the publications of ten affiliated colleges from Maharashtra are accessible under the category 'College Publication' directly through MAFSU website.

5.4 Maharashtra National Law University (MNLU), Nagpur

Established in the year 2014

MNLU, Nagpur is established by Maharashtra Government by way of enactment known as the Maharashtra National Law University Act (Maharashtra Act No. VI of 2014) and is the Nineteenth National Law University in the country. The University is making rapid progress in the field of legal education under the

able guidance and supervision of its founding members, visionaries, well-wishers, and members of different statutory bodies of the University.

Presently, The MNLU website provides a 'Quick Link' access to University Publications, Annual Reports, Newsletter and so also to online databases, but the Repository building initiative is not indicated yet.

6.   Research Institutions in Nagpur Region

The research institutions are playing equally rather more important role in the publication of research reports in the form of, research articles, research papers, patents, etc.

There are research institutions in Nagpur, NEERI is one of major CSIR national research institute and is having its own Institutional Repository.

6.1 National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI)

The CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI) is a research institute created and funded by Government of India. It was established in Nagpur in 1958 with focus on water supply, sewage disposal, and communicable diseases and to some extent on industrial pollution and occupational diseases found common in post-independent India.

NEERI is a pioneer laboratory in the field of environmental science and engineering and is constituent laboratory of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). NEERI has five zonal laboratories at Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Mumbai. NEERI comes under the Ministry of Science and Technology (India) of central government.

6.1.1 NEERI Institutional Repository

Knowledge Resource Center (KRC) at NEERI falls under special research library in environmental science and engineering providing access to bibliographic and full text digital and printed information resources. The KRC has a specialized collection of 48000 information resources comprising books, reference resources, conference documents, reports and 200 international and national peer reviewed current periodicals on environmental science and engineering and related disciplines, CD resources and audio-visual films.

 Apart for Information Resources Development, the library provides some specialized services like Current Awareness Services, Information Consolidation and Repackaging, OPAC, Document Supply, Access to inhouse library databases using Libsys and CDS-ISIS bibliographic database soft wares, Research Output Information &Bibliometric Analysis.The Digital Library at NEERI provides online access tojournals, databases, and CD resources for the scientists of the Institute.

It has built up an Institutional Repository and contains Books, Journal Articles, Conference papers, Theses & Dissertations, etc. using E-Prints Software. The entire IR collection can be browsed through different search points i.e. 1. Year of Publication, 2. Subject, 3. Division, 4. Author and 5. Type of Documents.

Document wise Collection of CSIR NEERI Institutional Repository is given below: -

Table 2

Sr.	Documents	Collection
1	Research Articles	714
2	Book Chapters	30
3	Monograph	01
4	Conference Papers	16
5	Books	07
6	Patents	07
7	Other	04

This table shows the institutional publications and the publications written by the researchers and faculties of the institute. These documents were uploaded in electronic form in this institutional Repository.NEERI's repository uses E Print software.

7. Analysis

7.1 KKSU's Repository The repository is holding most of the collection in Sanskrit language. The subject covered are sahitya, darshan, yoga and related with Sanskrit language. Some of the thesis and articles are in Marathi and English language but the most preferred language is Sanskrit.

7.2 NEERI's Institutional Repository is holding allthe collection related on environmental science and technology. The common language English is used for all the documents. Some articles may be found in Hindi.

Comparative Statement of two institutional repositories

Table 3

Sr No.	Availability and Status	KKSU	NEERI
1	Research Articles	Yes	Yes
2	Book Chapters	Yes	Yes
3	Monograph	No	Yes
4	Conference Papers	Yes	Yes
5	Books	Yes	Yes
6	Patents	No	Yes
7	Thesis	Yes	No
8	Dissertations	No	No

From the above comparative table, it was observed that there are many common publications uploaded in IR in these institutions besides the different nature., it was also found that some different kind of published, unpublished and important documents were also digitized for the convenience of the users.

Software used for: KKSU's Repositories is created using D Space Software.

Whereas NEERI's repository uses E Print software.

8. Findings

Though the study was based on universities website analysis for repositories, due to lack of information the study was extended up to the national institutes as well as research institutes.

It was found that there are links for publications were given on the home pages of the institutional websites. The publications are accessible openly through these links given on the websites. The links for open learning resources were also provided through these websites other than their institutional publications.

It was found that KKSU's repository is not openly accessible.

The members of university library could only get access of it.

It was found after analysing NEERI's repository that it is openly accessible for all but the papers which are having publishers copyright could not have full paper access.

It was found that every university is having its own publication like, annual reports, newsletters, research journals etc. these publications are accessible through the website of the respected university.

The links for these publications are provided through the websites' homepages.

The research institutions which are not having their own built repositories, shared the links of their publications with the head institutions' website. So that they could get accessible easily.

9. Conclusion

It is concluded that there is a need of electronic thesis and dissertations institutional repositories at the level of universities. This will help researchers to find out the various research trends to follow and to review for their research. Preservation of dissertation and thesis in electronic will help to find out the hidden or unpublished literature of the university, which are the true assets and intellectual properties of these universities.

However, it was found that only one KKS University has successfully built an I.R. whereas, the other three Universities are at developing stage. The Knowledge Research Centre of NEERI (CSIR) research library shows a well-developed I.R. with ample collection of digital resources. Remaining two university library webpages contains e resources available with the institution and their publications in the electronic form. The universities are having vast collection of research reports in the form of thesis and dissertations. Those

are submitted in the form of hard copies from many years to these universities. Those could not be accessed without refereeing them in hard copy. of remaining t

Two universities are having only publications of their institutions and the subscribed open access e resources are displayed on their respective university websites. KKSU is having institutional repository and another one preserves its publications in the form of archives on the website of university.

It is the need of the hour that university libraries should equip themselves with strong Institutional repository to enable its users to have easy and ready access to research output of its alma mater.

Electronic thesis and dissertations institutional repositories at the level of universities, will help researchers to find out the various research trends to follow and to review for their research.

Preservation of dissertation and thesis in electronic will help to find out the hidden or unpublished literature of the university, which are the true assets and intellectual properties of these universities.

The universities are having vast collection of research reports in the form of thesis and dissertations. Those are submitted in the form of hard copies from many years to these universities. Those could not be accessed without refereeing them in hard copy.

Initiatives must be taken into action to build the institutional repositories by all types of educational as well as research institutions. Through which the researchers or users will get know about the relevant resources.

Also it will show the research out put from this area. Which indicates the efforts has been taken to complete research and compete with other institutions.

10. Suggestions

Shodhganga provides national platform to the electronic thesis submitted to universities at national level. This is one of the most convenient ways to deposit all the theses to this major national project of INFLIBNET center. Which is enriched with thesis of all the universities and national level institutions in India. If these institutions do not initiate to build the repositories and deposit their thesis and dissertations into it then these institutions must have to send theses of their respected universities to the Shodhaganga project, so the theses will get national level acceptance and could get accessible to anyone through this national repository of thesis.

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