

---

## Role of Librarians in Institutional Repositories

M Arul Dhanakar

K Nithyanandam

R Pandian

V Rajasekar

### Abstract

*This paper emphasizes on Institutional Repository which includes online locus for collecting, preserving, and disseminating — in digital form – the intellectual output of an institution, particularly a research institution. For a university, this would include material such as research journal articles, before (pre prints) and after (post prints) undergoing peer review, and digital versions of theses and dissertations, but it might also include other digital assets generated by normal academic life, such as administrative documents, course notes, or learning objects. Institutional repositories have become an indispensable component for information and knowledge sharing in the scholar world. This paper discusses the role of Librarians in Institutional Repositories.*

**Keywords:** Repository, Open source Software, Digital Archive.

### 1. Introduction

Institutional Repository is for the permanent deposit of research and conference papers, e-theses, student projects and teaching and learning materials produced by our community of staff and students. Repository content can be browsed or searched through the website or through searching Google. Wherever possible, repository content is freely available for download and use according to Copyright Act.

### 2. Definition of Repository

As per the Oxford English Dictionary repository is a “vessel receptable, chamber, etc. in which things are or may be placed, deposited or stored”.

“A facility for storing and maintaining digital information in accessible form. A place where collections of digital information are stored. Also referred to as a ‘digital archive’”

### 3. Definition of IR

An institutional repository is a web-based database (repository) of scholarly material. The institutional repositories collect stores and disseminate digital resources and long term preserve these digital materials.

An institutional repository is a set of services that a institute/university offers to the members of its community for the management and dissemination of digital materials created by the institution and its community members.

#### 4. Objectives

- ◆ to create global visibility for an institution's scholarly research;
- ◆ to collect content in a single location;
- ◆ to provide open access to institutional research output by self-archiving it;
- ◆ to store and preserve other institutional digital assets, including unpublished or otherwise easily lost ("grey") literature (e.g., theses or technical reports).

#### 5. Purpose of IR

- ◆ It helps the work we do achieve a greater impact. The repository makes the University's research and teaching and learning materials more visible and widely available. Students, funding bodies and other researchers can see and have access to the work we are doing.
- ◆ It complies with funding requirements. Many of the major funding bodies worldwide now mandate that their funded research is deposited in a repository and made freely available for others to benefit from.
- ◆ It protects our work. The Intellectual property of the University, it's staff and students is maintained always available from a well-managed source.
- ◆ It provides a central system for managing the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE).

#### 6. Skills required for Librarian

1. A Repository Manager-who manages the 'human' side of the repository including content policies, advocacy, user training and a liaison with a wide range of institutional departments and external contacts.
2. Repository Administrator-who manages the technical implementation, customization and management of repository software, manages metadata fields and quality, creates usage reports and tracks the preservation issues.

#### 7. Digital Repository Softwares: Open Source

There are number of software's available for creating/developing institutional digital repositories; the brief of the some are given below;

##### 7.1 DSbase

DSpace (<http://www.dspace.org>) was developed jointly by the MIT library and HP. DSpace modestly describes itself as a groundbreaking digital repository system. It captures, stores, indexes, preserves and redistributes an organization research material formats. DSpace support institutional repositories and electronic records management. DSpace is being used worldwide to meet many digital archiving needs.

---

## 7.2 Eprints

Eprints open source software is a flexible platform for building high quality, high value repositories. It is recognized as the easiest and fastest way to set up repositories of research outputs of literature. Scientific data, theses and reports or multimedia artifacts from collections, exhibitions and performances. Eprints (<http://www.eprints.org>) is the original digital repository software developed by the University of Southampton to manage an open archive. Eprints was the Open Archives Initiative (OAI) – Complaint repository software. It typically supports collections of pre-prints and technical reports often subject based in scope. Recently this software is being used/implemented to manage multidisciplinary institutional archives.

## 7.3 Fedora

Fedora (Flexible Extensible Digital object and Repository Architecture) is a digital repository system developed jointly by Cornell University Information Science and University of Virginia Library as project. The Fedora projects goal is to provide open-source repository software and related services to serve as the foundation for many different types of Information Management system.

## 7.4 Greenstone

Greenstone (<http://www.greenstone.org>) is software for building and distributing digital library collections. This software is produced by the New Zealand Digital Library Project at University of Waikato and developed and distributed in cooperation with UNESCO. It has been issued a Open-Source, multilingual software under the GNU General Public License.

## 7.5 IR and Libraries

Librarian/information professional must be able to send/receive, store, organize and archive content. Content users, creator and managers increasingly will link, copy, move integrate, transfer, harvest and possibly even revise scholarly content in digital environments other than the contents original.

Librarians can enhance institutional repositories with value-added services based on

1. determine goals of the institute.
2. information needs and accordingly develop products, services and capabilities with these in mind.

The name of the few useful Library and Information Science Repositories is considered essential to mentioned here, these are;

ALIA Eprints Australian Library & Information Science E-prints. (<http://e-prints.alia.Org.an/view/year/2005.htm>)  
Archive SIC .(<http://archivessic.ccsd.cnrs.fr>)

DLIST. (<http://dlist.siv.arizona.edu>)  
DOIS. (<http://wotan.liu.edu/doi>) (<http://.dois.it>)  
METALIS. (<http://metallic.cilea.it>)

The name of few useful Indian Library and Information Science Repositories are:

ISI, Bangalore. (<http://library/isibang/ac/in:8080/dspace>)  
IIM, Kozhikode. (<http://dspace.iimk.ac.in>)  
INFLIBNET, Ahmedabad. (<http://dspace.inflibnet.ac.in>)  
IIT, Delhi. (<http://eprint.iitd.ac.in/dspace>)  
IIS, Bangalore. (<http://etd.ncsi.iisc.ernet.in/>)  
DRTC, Bangalore. (<http://drtc.isibang.ac.in>)  
NIC, New Delhi. (<http://openmed.nic.in>)

### **8.1 Role of Librarian in Building an Institutional Repository**

- ◆ Librarian has to help to create IR policies and procedures in the institutions.
- ◆ Assist in designing the IR user interface so that it is clear, easy to use, and effective.
- ◆ Help to identify current self-archiving activities.
- ◆ Promote the IR to faculties and students in their subject areas.
- ◆ Deposit digital materials for faculty in their subject areas.
- ◆ Participate in the creation of IR metadata.
- ◆ Prepare web-based and paper documents that promotes the IR publishing reform.
- ◆ Train the users in IR and searching the content.

### **8.1 Librarian's key aspects of IR**

Institutional repositories are a popular recent development for distributing and communicating research. They are a useful academic tool for administrating and publishing electronic resources produced by university members in order to increase access to these, both at an institutional and global level. However, there is still no general consensus about the characteristics of an institutional repository. What types of material are deposited? Librarian is responsible for building and maintaining a repository, how will copyright be managed, Library will cover installation and maintenance costs? However quality, integrity and preservation of the materials should be assured by the Librarian.

The technical setting up of an institutional repository is only the beginning. The quantity and quality of the electronic resources that it contains is crucial. The administrative setting of a repository will vary greatly from institution to institution. Administrative procedures to support these processes can be determined. What is important to note is that administrative processes for an institutional repository will vary greatly depending on the institution where they are held and there is no prescriptive model to describe them.

---

One of the greatest problems for institutional repositories has been to generate a significant corpus of electronic materials. Most groups responsible for implementing an institutional repository (usually the Library) have reported great difficulty in engaging active participation from the community.

## 9. Conclusion

Institutions need to set-up IR to make their knowledge output more visible to the outside world. Role of librarian in Institutional Repository is an important service in the Digital Knowledge Centre. It helps to archive articles, papers, theses etc. in the digital form. The faculty and students can contribute their intellectual works to the IR system. This service will definitely helpful for research activities in institutions. There are number of open source software available for building Institutional Repository. Librarians should play an effective role to implement IR in the libraries.

## References

1. Sharma P.L. Institutional Repositories: An Essential tool for Information and Knowledge Sharing. Proceedings of the National Conference on Future Technologies for Empowering LIS Professionals: Challenges and Opportunities. SALIS 2007, 9 – 11, August 2007 at University Library, Anna University, Chennai-600 025.
2. K.S. Sivakumaren and B. Jeyapragash, Proceedings of the National Seminar on Library Users' Expectations in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Environment on 7 – 8, September 2007, at University Library, MIT Campus, Anna University, Chromepet, Chennai-600 044.
3. <http://www.eprints.org/>
4. <http://www.webology.ir/2007/v4n1/bookreview6.html>
5. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Institutional\\_repository](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Institutional_repository)
6. <http://repository.unm.edu/dspace/handle/1928/1885>
7. <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/techdocs/repository/gengloss.html>

## About Authors

**Mr. M. Arul Dhanakar**, Assistant University Librarian, Anna University, Chennai - 600025.

**Dr. K. Nithyanandam**, Special Officer, University Library, Anna University, Chennai-600 025.

**Mr. R. Pandian**, Assistant University Librarian, Anna University, Chennai - 600 025.

**Mr. V. Rajasekar**, Library Assistant, University Library, Anna University, Chennai-600 025.