Topics on Cutting-Edge Technology in LIS

"Open Journals System: an INFLIBNET Initiative" is an article under the series on cutting-edge technology in LIS. This article is written by Shri Rajesh Chandrakar, Scientist B (LS) and Dr. Jagdish Arora, Director, INFLIBNET Centre, Ahmedabad. The authors explain about the initiatives taken by the Centre in open access publishing of the scholarly content especially the peer-reviewed print journals being published by the Indian universities, wherein the centre provides platform for hosting electronic version of print journals free-of-charge and encourages faculty and researchers in universities to publish new scholarly peer-reviewed online open access journals, too. Sh. Rajesh Chandrakar is looking after the Publications, Bibliographic Standards, Database Management of theses, serials, experts and research projects, Bibliometrics and Open Journals System at the INFLIBNET Centre. Dr. Jagdish Arora heads the Institution. They can be contacted at rajesh@inflibnet.ac.in and jarora@inflibnet.ac.in, respectively.

online publication and indexing of the journal articles. Through its management system, OJS seeks to improve both the scholarly and publishing quality of refereed research. It refines indexing techniques and provides context for research. OJS is open source software freely available worldwide for the purpose of making open access publishing a viable option for more journals. The open access can increase a journal's readership as well as its contribution to the public good on a global scale.

Current Indian Scenario

A number of scholarly journals are being published from India covering a wide spectrum of subjects including several journals that are peer-reviewed and are covered by premier indexing & abstracting periodicals. The current status of open access journals launched by various organisations in India is given below in the table (the table does not include the journals being hosted by the INFLIBNET Centre):

Open Journals System (OJS) is an open source solution developed by the Public Knowledge Project (PKP) through its federally funded efforts to expand and improve access to research. The OJS is designed for managing and publishing scholarly journals online. It is a highly flexible editor-operated journals management and publishing system that has been designed to reduce the time and energy devoted to the clerical and managerial tasks associated with editing a journal, while improving the record-keeping and efficiency of editorial processes. It seeks to improve the scholarly and public quality of journal publishing through a number of innovations, from making journal policies more transparent to improving indexing.

OJS provides assistance with every stage of the refereed publishing process, from submissions to
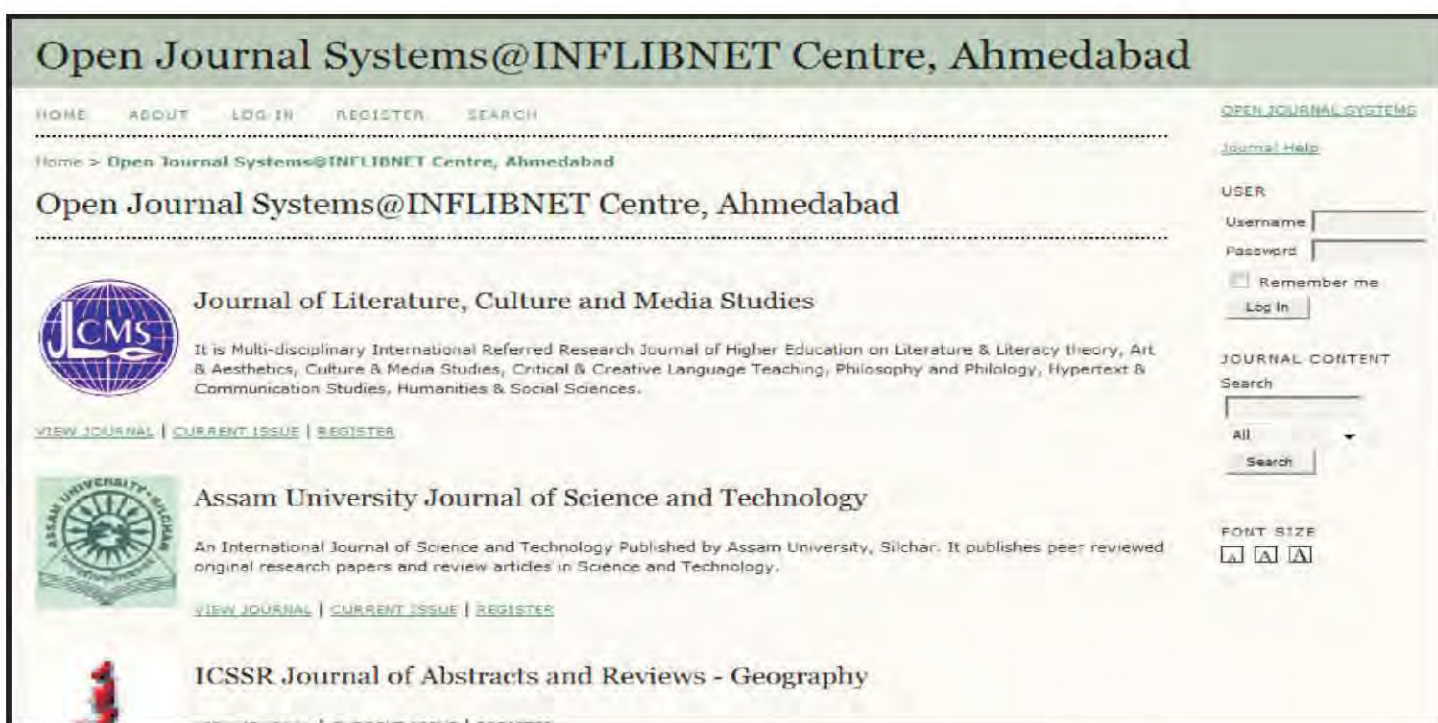
Name of the Publisher	No. of Journals hosted	Subject Coverage of the Journals
Indian National Science Academy (INSA)	3	Science & Technology (Two journals and one INSA Proceedings
Indian Academy of Sciences (IAS)	11	Science & Technology
Indian Medlars Centre, NIC, New Delhi	40	Biomedical Sciences
NISCAIR, New Delhi	17	Miscellaneous Subjects
MedKnow Publications	88	Medical Science
Indian Journals.com	Total 150 Journals 10 journals on open access	Miscellaneous Subjects
Kamla-Raj Enterprises	20	Miscellaneous Subjects

List of the Indian scholarly content on open access mode (As on October 2010)

OJS @ INFLIBNET

The Centre has installed and configured OJS on server at INFLIBNET to facilitate hosting of electronic version of journals into open access mode with all processes of submission, peer-reviewing, editing, layout designing and publishing built into it. The initiative called "Open Journal System @ INFLIBET Centre" encourages universities and institutions that are publishing journals in print format to use this platform for hosting electronic version of their journals free-of-cost on server at the INFLIBNET Centre. The initiative also encourages faculty in universities to start their own open access journals using the platform offered by the INFLIBNET Centre. Currently OJS@INFLIBNET hosts three journals namely

"Journal of Literature, Culture and Media Studies" published by Prof. N D R Chandra, Head, Department of English, Nagaland Central University, "Assam University Journal of Science & Technology" in two parts, namely, "Biological and Environmental Sciences" and "Physical Sciences and Technology" published by Assam University Press, Silchar under the editorial guidance of Prof. G D Sharma, Dean, School of Life Sciences, Assam University, Silchar and "ICSSR Journal of Abstracts and Reviews – Geography" published by ICSSR, New Delhi. The Centre has received a few more requests from faculty in universities. These journals are being assessed for their quality.

Screenshot of Open Access Journal at INFLIBNET's OJS Platform

OJS Features and Facilities

There are a number of journals management systems for hosting the journals on Internet. The SPARC publishing resources page at http://www.webcitation.org/5Mx98xweh lists nearly 30 different journals management systems. The Centre has chosen OJS as its journal management system keeping in view the popularity of the system and various features and facilities available with the system, as mentioned below:

➡ Highly flexible editor-operated journal management and publishing system, developed as an Open Source Software by the PKP;

➡ Extends assistance at every stage of refereed publishing process, from submissions through to online publication and indexing;

➡ Facilitates configuration of requirements in terms of sections, sub-sections, reviewing process, etc., that can be customized to suit the individual journal's need;

➡ Facilitates online submission and management of content distributed on multiple servers;

➡ Supports subscription module with delayed open access options;

➡ Supports content in multiple formats including text (structured and unstructured), audio, video, graphics and animation, etc. and reading tools for content;

- Supports email alerts and comments from readers;
- Full-text of the journal articles are indexed automatically for powerful searching;
- Provides persistence URL to each journal;
- OJS is compliant to Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting (OAI-PMH). Journals hosted on OJS are, therefore, viewed as a part of universal digital library system. Metadata (bibliographic details) from journals hosted on OJS platform is harvested by the indexing services (called service providers or specialized search engines like ARC, OAISTER, Google Scholar, etc.) so as to provide unified and organized access to digital content distributed across OAI-PMH complaint repositories; and
- Complete context-sensitive online help support.

Eligibility: Who can Publish Journals on OJS @ INFLIBNET

Faculty members in universities / colleges that are already publishing their journals in print / electronic format are eligible to publish their journals on OJS @ INFLIBNET. Proposals for starting new open access electronic-only (online) journals in different disciplines are also welcomed and encourages faculty in the universities and colleges to do so.

Process for Publishing Journals on the OJS @ INFLIBNET

- The INFLIBNET Centre seeks print copies of issues of journals published by the universities/colleges/institutions with a request to publish the journal in Open Journals System @INFLIBNET Centre;
- The Centre evaluates the content of journal on a number of criteria including evaluation of the issue of the journal by subject expert(s);
- On receipt of satisfactory evaluation report from the subject expert(s), publisher / editor of the journal are asked to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the INFLIBNET Centre;
- Soon after signing the MoU, publisher / editor is asked to submit the electronic version of the issue(s) along with the print issue(s) of the journal to the Centre;
- Issue(s) of the journal are uploaded on the OJS server @ INFLIBNET and publication of the journal in open access is announced through INFLIBNET Website, listservs, blog as well as on other fora;
- Publisher of the journal (preferably the Chief Editor) is invited to the Centre to get first-hand training on OJS enabling him / her to use all features of OJS and handle the online editorial process of the journal; and
- All available back-files of the journals are uploaded on the OJS platform so as to provide access to all published issues of the journal.

Benefits of Publishing on OJS @ INFLIBNET

Users, authors and universities as publishers, as stakeholders in scholarly publishing, stand to benefit from publishing on OJS @ INFLIBNET. The benefits of publishing on OJS @ INFLIBNET in open access to different sets of stakeholders are as follows:

Users

- get access to full-text of journals and its back-files 24x7x365 on desktop;
- access, search and browse the content in a variety of ways, from specialized search engines like ARC, OAISTER and Google Search; and
- get e-alerts for new content on desired subject keywords.

Researchers and Faculty as Author

- Empower the Indian academic community to publish their research articles online and reach-out to wider academic community through specialized search engines like ARC, OAISTER and Google Search;
- increases visibility, use and citation through open access to scholarly articles to the academic community world-wide;
- publish in peer-reviewed open access journals and get online comments on your article from academic community;

Universities / Editors as Publishers

- free hosting service on dedicated servers, available 24x7x365, hosted at the BSNL Hosting Service with 10 Mbps Internet Bandwidth;
- Collaborate with INFLIBNET, an organization well-known to the academic community in India;
- free, unrestricted access to OJS platform for online editorial processing of articles;
- scholarly content are made accessible on long-term basis with lifetime archiving;
- multiple number of journals and their content are hosted on a single platform;
- facilitates wider exposure to journals to the higher education community world-wide; and
- Research output of the universities gets exposed to the global community in open access environment since content from open access journals are indexed by various indexing systems.

Who can Access Journals hosted on OJS @ INFLIBNET?

Journals hosted on OJS @ INFLIBNET are accessible to all users world-wide without any restrictions. Metadata (bibliographic details) from journals hosted on OJS @ INFLIBNET is harvested by the indexing services or specialized search engines like ARC, OAISTER, Google Scholar, etc. Users may use such specialized search engines to get more comprehensive results to their search queries.

Summary

The scholarly journals are available in electronic formats for more than 20 years. The first open access journal was a 'Medical Education Online' (http://www.med-ed-online.org). The opportunity for faculty and researchers to publish in open access is scarce especially in the state government funded academic universities due to the lack of funding, technology awareness and skilled manpower. As such, this initiative of the INFLIBNET Centre successfully fulfills the gap and provides opportunity to faculty and scholars to publish in open access and increase their visibility. Hosting at OJS@ INFLIBNET on open access provides benefits to users, universities and faculty members; thus the overall benefit is extended to the academic community of the country and especially the higher education of the country when the articles get citation internationally, researchers get recognition globally and the journals get high impact factors with the open access publishing. IN

Link

- Indian National Science Academy (INSA)
  http://www.insa.ac.in
- Indian Academy of Sciences (IAS)
  http://www.ias.ac.in/pubs/journals
- Indian Medlars Centre, NIC, New Delhi
  http://medind.nic.in
- NISCAIR, New Delhi
  http://www.niscair.res.in/sciencecommunication/ResearchJournals/ rejour/rejour1.htm
- MedKnow Publications
  http://www.medknow.com
- Indian Journals.com
  http://www.indianjournals.com
- Kamla-Raj Enterprises
  http://www.krepublishers.com

Name of the Database	No. of Records	No. of Institutions
Books	1,18,10,898	123
Theses	2,38,495	237
Current Serials	22,471	205
Serials Holdings	1,16,174	112
Subject Experts	16,100	500
Subject Experts (NISSAT)	24,300	715
Research Project	13,459	UGC, CSIR, ICAR, DST, ICMR and DBT.

Database Status