Evolution of Institutional Repositories and Their Influence on Organizational Outcomes

Vinda Suhas Gadekar[1], Dr. Vaishali U Bhakt[2] & Dr. Carlos M. Fernandes[3]

[1]*Research Scholar, Department of Library & Information Science,*
JJT University, Rajasthan, India

[2]*Associate Professor & Research Guide, Department Library & Information Science, JT University, Rajasthan, India*

[3]*Assistant Professor & Research Co-guide , Department of Library & Information Science, Goa University, Goa, India*

Corresponding Author - Vinda Suhas Gadekar

Abstract:

This review study investigates the growth of institutional repositories (IRs) and their significant effect on organizational results in academic and research environments. This study explores important technology breakthroughs, regulatory upheavals, and academic communication trends that have affected the growth of IRs from their conception to their present condition. It also looks at the many material categories stored in IRs, such as academic papers, databases, multimedia, and grey literature. The study integrates empirical research, case studies, and critical assessments to provide a thorough picture of the many advantages that IRs provide to academic institutions. These advantages include higher research output visibility and discoverability, increased multidisciplinary cooperation, and increased information dissemination. Furthermore, the study analyses the role of IRs in supporting open access efforts and, as a result, encouraging equal access to academic knowledge. In addition to outlining the benefits, the assessment examines the obstacles that IRs confront, such as metadata standardization, copyright issues, and worries about sustainability. It also discusses upcoming trends such as integration with institutional research management systems, the use of linked data principles, and the use of novel technologies such as block chain for secure data storage.

Keywords: Institutional Repositories, Scholarly Communication, Open Access, Academic Libraries, Research Dissemination, Organizational Outcomes, Metadata Standards, Digital Preservation, Research Impact, Knowledge Management.

Introduction:

Research Background:

Institutional repositories (IRs) have emerged as pivotal platforms for the aggregation, organization, and dissemination of scholarly outputs within academic and research institutions. These repositories have evolved significantly since their inception, spurred by advancements in information technology and shifts in scholarly communication paradigms. Understanding the historical

context and technological underpinnings of IRs provides essential insights into their current role and potential future trajectories.

Research Significance:

The study of institutional repositories holds considerable significance in the contemporary academic landscape. As repositories continue to play a central role in the global scholarly ecosystem, comprehending their evolution and impact becomes imperative for academic institutions, libraries, researchers, and policy-makers. This research endeavors to shed light on the multifaceted contributions of IRs, ranging from facilitating open access to scholarly outputs to influencing organizational outcomes and shaping the broader landscape of knowledge dissemination.

Research Objectives:

Our research aims to examine the evolutionary trajectory of institutional repositories (IRs) and their impact on academic institutions. We will examine various applications of IRs in order to determine which ones are most effective for collaborating and sharing research. Our objective is for IRs to assist researchers in collaborating and sharing their work across disciplines. This will facilitate universal access to knowledge and improve the operations of academic institutions.

Academic Elitism in the Scholarly World:

The influence of the subscription philosophy on the development of the class system in academic circles is substantial. Access to scholastic content is currently subject to significant regulation by academic elitism, as subscription costs are the only means by which institutions or scholars can obtain access to the content. This results in an academic schism wherein individuals who can financially support scholastic content are segregated from those who cannot. One significant issue that emerges as a result of the subscription-based model is the reduced prominence of scholarly publications. Among the limitations of subscription-based research, restricted access is the most critical. A restricted user base for scholarly publications heightens the likelihood of diminished visibility, consequently leading to a reduced impact of research. This, in turn, inflames the sentiments of academia by establishing a unidirectional assault, particularly against the author/scholarly community. This development caused concern and discouragement among scholar's worldwide, prompting scientists to investigate alternative modalities that might eliminate the obstacles currently present in the commercial scholarly realm. An answer was discovered: a parsimonious method to commemorate the preservation of scholarly democracy that combines new technology with the longstanding tradition of scholarly communication to enable an unparalleled public good: open access (OA) to scholarly literature. The old tradition is the inclination and desire of academia to disseminate the results of their research without regard to economic constraints, combined with the new technology, namely the Internet, which facilitates the flow of scholarly works without access restrictions and with

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unrestricted access for all academics and others interested in learning. Eliminating access barriers is a proactive measure to advance research, improve education, facilitate the exchange of knowledge between affluent and impoverished populations, unlock the complete potential of research, and establish a forum that connects humanity in the pursuit of knowledge and academic discourse

Institutional Repositories (IRS) and Their Development:

OARs manifest themselves as Institutional (managed by research or academic institutions), governmental (managed by national governments and government-sponsored agencies), aggregating (content harvested from other sources) or disciplinary (designed to serve communities in specific disciplines, Every OAR, whatever may be the type, is a treasure trove to the vast and seamless array of resources that act as essential elements for decision-making and research progression. Though every type of OAR holds importance in disseminating the open content, IRs hold a significant role in highlighting the institutional scholarly output (journal articles, books, book sections, conference proceedings, datasets, etc.) to the global researchers. More and more academic institutions are creating their own IRs. Academic/university libraries have been greatly benefitted by the OA movement when the concept of IRs was brought to light. Academic institutions, particularly universities through the establishment of the IRs, are academically more competitive now as their hidden research treasure is glorified

through the open activities of self-archiving. They have become a platform to view the academic performance of the research output stemmed by the researchers (Dawson and Yang, 2016). The research that gathered dust over time has been given new wings, thus shedding the characteristics of inaccessibility and unavailability.

Challenges and Opportunities:

The evolution of institutional repositories (IRs) has brought about several challenges and opportunities for organizations. These repositories serve as digital collections of scholarly work and other intellectual outputs produced by a particular institution, such as universities, research centers, or libraries. Understanding the impact of this evolution on organizational outcomes is crucial for institutions seeking to maximize the benefits of their IRs. Here are some challenges and opportunities associated with the evolution of institutional repositories.

Challenges:

Content Management and Curation: As the volume of digital content increases, managing and curating the materials within the IR can become a significant challenge. Ensuring that the content is accurate, up-to-date, and properly categorized requires dedicated resources and expertise.

Technology Infrastructure and Maintenance: Maintaining a robust technological infrastructure for the IR, including servers, storage, and software, can be resource-intensive. Organizations need to invest in reliable systems to ensure

the long-term sustainability and accessibility of the repository.

Copyright and Licensing Issues: Clearing copyright and licensing hurdles for the content within the IR can be complex, especially when dealing with various types of media and multiple rights holders. Institutions must navigate legal frameworks to ensure compliance.

User Engagement and Adoption: Encouraging researchers, faculty, and students to contribute their work to the IR and promoting its use within the institution can be a challenge. Overcoming resistance or inertia requires effective communication and outreach strategies.

Interoperability and Integration: Ensuring that the IR can seamlessly integrate with other systems and platforms within the organization (such as institutional websites, library catalogs, or research information systems) can be a technical challenge.

Opportunities:

Increased Visibility and Impact: An IR can significantly enhance the visibility and impact of an institution's research outputs. By providing open access to scholarly work, institutions can reach a global audience, potentially leading to increased citations and collaborations.

Knowledge Sharing and Collaboration: IRs facilitate knowledge sharing among researchers and scholars within the institution, fostering a collaborative research environment. This can lead to interdisciplinary collaborations and the generation of new ideas.

Preservation and Access: Institutional repositories play a vital role in preserving and providing long-term access to the intellectual output of an institution. This ensures that valuable research is available for future generations.

Compliance with Funding Mandates: Many funding agencies require grantees to make their research outputs openly accessible. An IR can help institutions comply with these mandates, potentially leading to increased funding opportunities.

Analytics and Usage Statistics: IRs often come with built-in analytics tools that allow institutions to track the usage and impact of their research outputs. This data can inform strategic decisions about research priorities and resource allocation. Showcasing Institutional Excellence: An effectively managed IR can serve as a showcase for an institution's intellectual contributions, highlighting its areas of expertise and excellence.

Overview of the Evolution of Open Access Repositories (OARs):

The concept of Open Access Repositories (OARs) has experienced substantial development since its inception. They arose as a reaction to the increasing demand for scholarly information that was readily accessible and cost-free. Initial endeavors were frequently grassroots musings of academic institutions or individual researchers attempting to disseminate their work outside the confines of conventional publishing channels. A significant increase in the creation of open access resources (OARs) occurred during the late 20th and early 21st centuries, propelled by progress

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in digital technology and the burgeoning open access movement. During this time, innovative OARs were established in numerous academic fields to advance the principles of transparency, knowledge exchange, and accessibility. With the increasing popularity of OARs, there was a noticeable expansion in the variety of content they could host. This expansion extended beyond peer-reviewed articles to encompass a vast array of scholarly outputs, such as datasets, preprints, multimedia materials, and grey literature. The enlargement significantly enhanced the reach and practicality of OARs, rendering them essential repositories for an extensive variety of research outputs. Furthermore, OARs have developed in tandem with the evolution of academic communication practices. Interdisciplinary research centres have evolved into essential elements of institutional and disciplinary ecosystems, facilitating collaboration, the exchange of knowledge, and interdisciplinary research. Furthermore, open access resources (OARs) have been instrumental in bolstering the implementation of open access policies and mandates by funding agencies and academic institutions across the globe. Recent technological developments, such as the implementation of block chain technology and the incorporation of linked data principles, hold the potential to further improve the security and functionality of OARs. These advancements are positioned to tackle enduring obstacles, including the standardization of metadata, concerns related to copyright, and the preservation of data.

Indicators of Hidden Institutional Research:

Hidden institutional research refers to research activities that may not be readily visible or accessible to the wider academic or public community. These activities may be deliberately kept confidential or not actively promoted. Here are some indicators of hidden institutional research:

Limited Publication or Dissemination: When an institution conducts research but does not actively publish or disseminate the findings through traditional academic channels such as journals, conferences, or public reports.

Restricted Access: Research that is conducted within an institution and is not made available to external stakeholders or the wider academic community. This could be due to proprietary or sensitive information.

Non-Disclosed Funding Sources: When the funding sources for research projects are not openly disclosed or are kept confidential. This can sometimes indicate a desire to keep the research activities low-profile.

Related Work:

Saimah Bashir (2021) This article aims to provide light on the development and conceptual framework of institutional repositories, as well as their influence on academic and intellectual communities via increased exposure, a broader audience, and early communication of research. The qualities linked with the institutional

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repositories are also emphasized, which helps them stand out from the throng in the family of open access academic platforms. The research relies on a thorough analysis of literature covering a wide range of topics about institutional repositories, from their history to their general academic acceptability. Two of the most popular indexing/abstracting databases of scholarly literature were used to conduct an initial search of institutional repositories: Clarivate Analytics' Web of Science and Elsevier's Scopus. Search terms like institutional repositories, institutional research output, open access repositories, green open access, open access, open access publishing, open access initiatives, digital libraries, directory of open access repositories, open DOAR and scholarly communication were run across the databases for article retrieval, and the relevant studies were extracted accordingly. The research cited by the retrieved papers were also reviewed to ensure the study was as up-to-date and thorough as possible. The research demonstrates that the advantages associated with institutional repositories are diverse. They provide users with data that would otherwise be inaccessible due to factors such as paywalls/subscription models adopted by commercial channels of scholarly communication or the lack of supplementary information (such as unpublished reports and working papers, multimedia and audiovisual items, learning objects, other special item types, bibliographic references, datasets, lecture notes, and so on).

Aasif Ahmad Mir (2021) in this study the need is to emphasize the common awareness about the concept and benefits of open access and institutional repositories to promote the culture of open access so that the research output of an institution can be accessed online at a single-window by creating the institutional repositories which enhance the visibility and impact of institutional knowledge and helps to elevate the impact and ranking of the institution. Theses and dissertations are one of the essential types of grey literature, so by archiving these in open access intuitional repositories, these can be exposed to the global audience by which the visibility, accessibility, and impact will be enhanced that can be highly beneficial for the authors as well as intuitions.

Marios Zervas (2019) There are several advantages to converting Ktisis into a CRIS system using DSpace-CRIS. To begin, the system offers a configurable data model that describes all of the things that occupy the study environment as well as their relevant relationships. DSpace-CRIS is open-source, and it offers technology that enables us to remain independent of suppliers while evolving our system to meet the demands of our community. Our publications are still maintained securely and simply, but now we can connect them to important data such as authors, projects, metrics, networks, statistics, and so on. We now have an institutional repository that can gather, organise, preserve, and communicate data regarding our university's research and performance. The supply of permanent IDs is one of the

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most significant advantages of employing DSpace-CRIS in our system. The software's flexible data architecture uses permanent identifiers wherever feasible to construct relationships between all items in the system, such as a researcher's ORCID and a project ID. We also make extensive use of the software's capacity to import records from other databases such as Web of Science, Scopus, and others. This compatibility saves a significant amount of time while populating the system. Overall, the transformation of Ktisis into a CRIS system has provided our university's academic community with numerous benefits and functionalities that allow researchers to keep track of their work while also allowing them to build a complete academic profile that will aid them in their assessment process. As previously stated, we will continue to work on adding new capabilities to the system, providing all of the essential technologies and behaviours for the repository to be designated a Next Generation Repository. Our Library team is committed to giving the necessary time and keeping up with new relevant technology.

A.Kaladhar (2018) This paper discusses about the overall features of Institutional Repositories (IR) like what is IR, its content, challenges, benefits its future and how an institutional repository can be treated and converted as service. It aims to show how the IR can empower, elevate and enhance the intellectual efforts of an institution. It also deals with access management of the IR in terms of security aspects. This study mostly concentrated on research activity of the institution and to

what extent it is helpful, assists in sharing and learning, improving knowledge in an institution. Institutions are spending so much of money on subscribing to e-resources like e-journals, e-books, online services, databases and web portals. It is the duty of the librarian to minimize the cost and to maximize the accessibility of e-resources. Integration of scattered information within the institution is most appropriate method to be applied and adopted to make the library resourceful and visible. As the exponential growth of Information systems could also leads to offer electronic information services.

Research Gap:

Existing studies generally highlight the benefits of institutional repositories (IRs) in academia, emphasizing improved research exposure and accessibility. They do, however, neglect a critical study gap concerning the difficulties in adopting IRs, including technological and legal constraints. Furthermore, there is a need for in-depth research on practical tactics for effective IR implementation, including metadata management and user involvement. Furthermore, assessing the long-term effect of integrated information systems inside institutions is an uncharted territory. In conclusion, research should address IR implementation issues, provide practical recommendations, and analyses the long-term effect of integrated information systems.

Future Research:

The growth of IRs in institutional settings with the introduction of OA has

opened up new dimensions in the research world by making previously unseen research public and readily available to target audiences. Seeing the expansion and potentialities of IRs, one may predict a bright future for them since they study and unlock the cocooned research that previously had no place in the research world. Institutions all around the world will welcome this green path to OA since a university's research prestige and effect are strongly associated with the material mounted via an IR. Future research might delve into studying the usage, effect, and infrastructural aspects of IRs. Furthermore, one might investigate the evaluative element of IRs by concentrating on geographical dispersion in order to identify the open intellectual gap between the developed and developing worlds.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, the evolution of institutional repositories has significantly impacted organizational outcomes across various sectors. As we have traced the journey from their early inception to their current sophisticated state, it is evident that these repositories have become invaluable assets for organizations in managing and disseminating their intellectual capital. They have not only facilitated greater accessibility to knowledge resources but have also fostered collaboration, innovation, and productivity within the organizational ecosystem. The establishment and development of institutional repositories have played a pivotal role in enhancing visibility, reputation, and impact of organizations,

especially in academic and research settings. By providing a centralized platform for archiving and sharing scholarly works, these repositories have expanded the reach of knowledge dissemination, allowing for a wider audience to benefit from the collective expertise of the institution.

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