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## OPEN ACCESS INITIATIVES IN INDIA WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO INFLIBNET

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### **ABSTRACT:**

Open Access (OA) movements promotes free access to scholarly Publications over the internet. Open Access provides widest dissemination of research without the hindrances of the price and permission of the researchers and Publishers. In country like India open access initiatives works as the bridges of social divides and provides access of research to research community at National and International level there are many open access initiatives working at National as well as international level. The present study highlights some of the issues related to open access journals Initiatives in India, Open Course Ware, open access trainings and role of librarians for open access also discussed in this paper.

**Keywords:** *Open access initiatives, open access journals, digital divide, digital contents, Shodhganga, Shodhgangotri.*

### **INTRODUCTION:**

With the advent of ICT there occurs exponential growth in scholarly literature. It is not possible to any library to keep all the literature published in a single library to provide access to such a vast research output or knowledge is a huge problems two face the Libraries and Information Centers. The concept of open access initiatives came into existence to overcome this problem and to provides global access to research output. Open access initiatives (OA) promotes free exchange to scholarly literature over internet so that ensures widest dissemination of scholarly literature among the research community without financial, technical and legal barriers.

**OPEN ACCESS (OA):**

Some of the definitions of Open Access are given below.

The Budapest Open Access (2002) Initiative defines open access as “free availability on the internet, permitting users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of these articles, crawl them for indexing, pass them as data to software, or use them for any other lawful purpose, without financial, legal or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the internet itself.”

According to Suber (2006) Open Access to scientific article means online access without charge to readers or libraries. Committing to open access means dispensing with the financial, technical and legal barriers that are designed to limit access to scientific research articles to paying customers.

From the above definitions it is clear that Open Access means the free access of scholarly literature over the internet without the barrier of price and permission of the publisher end users can disseminate that research output.

Various Indian R&D organizations, leading scientific research institutions such as Indian Institute of Science, IITs, ISI, institutes under the CSIR and Indian Council of Medical Research etc.) are now taking part in the open access movement by establishing institutional and digital repositories to provide worldwide access to their research literature. Several Indian publishers have already adopted the open-access philosophy for the electronic versions of their journals. Unlike some open-access journals in other countries, in which authors pay to publish their papers, Indian open-access journals use government grants and subscriptions to their print version to cover publishing costs.

In India there are various R&D organizations as well as Information centers which are actively working in this directions and Provides free scholarly Communication of research output. Some of the open access initiatives in India are Indian National Science Academy, Indian Academy of science, Indian Medlars centre, MEDKNOW Publications etc.

**INDIAN NATIONAL SCIENCE ACADEMY (INSA): (<http://www.insa.ac.in>)**

It is established in January 1935 for the promotion of scientific knowledge and its practical application to the problem of National Welfare. In July 2002, INSA started e-journal@insa Project to facilitated the conversion of INSA from print to digital format and provide the output on online basis. All INSA journals available in full text and in PDF files in open access basis from the common journal gateway. INSA open access journals provides National program for the national scientist to publish their research work and provide opportunity for the exchange of their ideas and brings out proceedings and monographs.

**NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE, INDIA: (<http://www.nasonline.org/>)**

This Academy started from 1930. It provides International forum for the publication of research by Indian scientist and also provides opportunity for the researcher to exchange their research ideas.

**INDIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE (IAS): (<https://www.ias.ac.in>)**

IAS Publishes total 11 scientific journals. Text is available in PDF format. It includes journals like current science, Sadhana, Parmana, journal of Biosciences etc. Back volumes of these Journals are available on open access.

**INDIAN MEDLARS CENTER:**

It is database of Biomedical Journals of Indian Peer reviewed journals. National Information Centre has initiated two projects.

**1. INDMED@NIC: (<http://indmed.nic.in>)**

This project indexes 70+ prominent biomedical peer reviewed Journal from India from 1985 and onwards database is Available online and works as a prominent source for Biomedical literature.

**2. MEDNID@NIC: (<https://medind.nic.in>)**

It is Open Access Initiative of National Information Centre which provides access to Indian Biomedical Journals.

## OPEN COURSE WARE (OCW):

Open Course Ware OCW supports for e-learning at global level. First effort for this is done by UNESCO in 2002 which supports open education resources worldwide. India also marching towards the open course ware initiatives. In India open course ware services of MIT gaining excellence the MIT providing web-based e-publishing. MIT runs 1400 courses with 35 Plus disciplines. In India IGNOU, NCERT, and Inflibnet are providing course materials and educational resources at open access basis.

## INFLIBNET Open Access Initiatives in India:

INFLIBNET, the Inter University Centre of University Grant Commission (UGC) which supports Open Access Movement in India by hosting 5 projects namely Shodhganga, Shodhgangotri, IR@INFLIBNET, INFOPORT and OJAS.

### 1. ShodhGanga:

ShodhGanga: Reservoir of Indian Theses and Dissertations started in 2010 by INFLIBNET. In 2009 UGC made regulations about submission of Theses and Dissertations made it mandatory to submit the thesis to Shodhganga of INFLIBNET Repository. INFLIBNET has the capacity to capture, index, store and disseminate and preservation of thesis submitted from the universities in India. It provides access to full text Indian Theses and dissertations submitted by Indian Universities.

### Homepage of Shodhganga



Source: Inflibnet.ac.in

## 2. Shodhgangotri:

Repository of Indian research in progress Repository consists of approved synopsis of research proposal in Indian universities. Open access helps the researchers to know about the ongoing research so that to avoid the duplication in research across the various Indian universities.

### Homepage of Shodhgangotri

The screenshot shows the homepage of Shodhgangotri. At the top, there is a logo for 'Shodhganga' with the tagline 'Indian Research in Progress'. Below the logo, there is a search bar with the text 'Search Shodhgangotri' and a 'Go' button. To the left of the search bar, there are navigation links: 'Home', 'Browse', and 'Top Contributing Universities'. The 'Browse' section lists categories like 'Universities & Departments', 'Issue Date', 'Researcher/Guide', 'Title', 'Keywords', and 'Universities'. The 'Top Contributing Universities' section lists 'Shri Jagdishprasad Jhabarmal Tibrewala University 11060+1'. The main content area features a heading 'Shodhgangotri: Repository of Indian Research in Progress >' and a sub-heading 'Shodhgangotri: Repository of Indian research in Progress with MRPs/PDFs/ Emeritus Fellowship'. Below this, there is a section titled 'Shodhgangotri: Repository of Indian Research in Progress details (Synopsis/Research Proposals for PhD programme with MRPs/PDFs/ Emeritus Fellowship)'. A Shodhganga logo is displayed, followed by a link 'For Fulltext thesis submission please click..'. A paragraph explains the origin of the word 'Shodh' and 'Gangotri'. At the bottom, it states that research scholars are requested to deposit electronic versions of approved synopses.

Source: Inflibnet.ac.in

## 3. IR@INFLIBNET:

It is an Institutional Repository contains contents from proceedings of the national and international conferences of INFLIBNET. Research papers from proceedings of CALIBER (Convention on Automation of Libraries in Education and Research Institutions) and PLANNER (Promotion of Library Automation and Networking in North Eastern Region) and publications from INFLIBNET staff, Workshop material and newspaper clippings are also available on IR@INFLIBNET Institutional repository. Institutional Repositories serves as archive of all articles accepted by CALIBER and PLANNER conventions of INFLIBNET.

## 4. OJAS (Open Journal Access System):

It is the facility provided by INFLIBNET center which provides the facility to provide print journal in open access mode. This facility of online

publication of research articles helps the research community. Journals can be access by OJAS@INFLIBNET.

#### **5. INFOPORT:**

It is launched by INFLIBNET on 2012. It is subject gateway to all Indian scholarly content this gateway works with the librarians, and scholars of colleges and Universities in the process of identification and selection of resources. Universe knowledge is classified by Dewey Decimal Classification System.

#### **OA TRAINING PROGRAMS:**

In India open access initiatives like open journals, open course ware, digital library, Institutional Repositories are excellence by providing free resources to the research community. Many R&D organizations provides open access training by organizing workshop by funding of agencies like IDRC, CSIR, British council and OSL. The Purpose behind the workshop is to provide Indian scientist to gain adequate knowledge about scientific and scholarly publications of open Access as well as to provide technical knowledge about set up and maintenance of open access institutional archives.

Aims of these types of trainings are to increase the awareness of the open access policy and organizational requirement for preservations of sustainable archives.

In India, Institute of Management (IIMK), Kozhikode conducted free workshops on institutional repositories. DRTC- Bangalore, INSA-New Delhi, Inflibnet-Gandhinagar DELNET-New Delhi, NIC-New Delhi, University of Mysore and many other University and institutions regularly organizers workshop and training programs to provide the knowledge about open access and how to setup open access archives.

#### **OPEN ACCESS AND ROLE OF LIBRARIANS:**

Open access movement gained excellence from last decades. It is beneficiary for researchers for scholarly communication. Due to rapid advantage of the scholarly literature many opportunities and challenges stands before the

researchers and librarians. The actively involvement of librarians should be needed for creation and dissemination of research literature. New Skills Technology and competency have to be acquired by librarian and adequate infrastructure for research publishing and archiving should be developed.

Librarian can be support open access in following ways.

- 1) By Providing access to open access literature by providing services like SDI, article alert service and aware their student for searching and using open access resources.
- 2) By promoting to publishing the research work in Open access resources. Librarian can promote by identifying the potential of student and faculties for open access Publishing.
- 3) By arranging various activities like short orientation, seminars workshops etc. librarian can promote users for open access.
- 4) By building institutional repository so that the use of research output of own institutions can be increases and will be open to all research community which will help to increase the quality of research.

## **CONCLUSION:**

Open Access Initiatives are gaining important value at National and International level. At National level many Open Access Initiatives are working. As Open Access Initiatives provides free and uninterrupted access to scholarly communication It will enhance the quality and standard of research as well as bridging the digital divide. To know the importance of OA many research organizations are building their Institutional repositories and supports for open access publishing and open access archiving.

In India UGC supports Open Access Initiatives and promotes open access via its Inter University Center, INFLIBNET. ShodhGanga, Shodhgangotri, Institutional Repository, e-PG pathshala are the some initiatives of INFLIBNET need arises to get maximum support by UGC for the capturing and disseminating research output from universities.

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