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USERS' ATTITUDES TOWARDS INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORY IN JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY: A CRITICAL STUDY

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines the user-aware of institutional repositories in Jadavpur University. The main objective of this study is to investigate the awareness of Institutional Repository (IR) in an academic institution and different aspects associated with it, such as, software, sources for user's awareness, motivators for developing a repository, demand of the users in changing paradigms from traditional to digital environment, etc. In the present days, libraries are also adopting the latest technologies to provide best possible services in user friendly form. This paper also describes the potential role of institutional repositories and its easiness and simplicity of use are attracting more patrons in the use of institutional repositories. Only a wide range of user awareness is needed for proper usage of its beauty. Entirely this paper is based on a critical study, which measures the utility of institutional repositories in users' point of view.

Key Words: Institutional Repositories, Institutional Repository Software, Jadavpur University

INTRODUCTION

An institutional repository is a set of services offered by a university or group of universities to members of its community for the management and dissemination of scholarly materials in digital format created by the institution and its community members, such as e-prints, technical reports, theses and dissertations, data sets, and teaching materials. Stewardship of such materials entails their organization in a cumulative, openly accessible database and a commitment to long-term preservation when appropriate. Some institutional repositories are also used as electronic presses to publish e-journals and e-books. An institutional repository is distinguished from a subject-based repository by its institutionally defined scope. Institutional repositories are part of a growing effort to reform scholarly communication and break the monopoly of journal publishers by reasserting



institutional control over the results of scholarship. An IR may also serve as an indicator of the scope and extent of the university's research activities (Reitz Joan, 2004). Permanence, policy of granting agencies and publishers, timeliness, registration are the reasons for using a digital repository. The most popular IR software platforms are DSpace, ePrints.org, Fedora. According to Wikipedia (2012) the four main objectives for having an institutional repository in an institution are as given below:

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

Jadavpur University is a renowned educational institution in India. It comprises two campuses - the main campus at Jadavpur and the new campus at Salt Lake in Kolkata. The main campus of Jadavpur University is adjacent to research institutes like the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, Indian Institute of Chemical Biology and the Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute. The University Grants Commission has identified Jadavpur University as one of the first five universities in the country with Potential for Excellence ([Wikipedia the free encyclopedia., 2012](#)). Electronic publishing, institutional repositories and other new technological innovation have changed in academic publishing. One effect has increased the. Electronic publishing, institutional repositories and other new technological innovations have changed the academic publishing. One effect is the increased accessibility of research output. The delivery technique for scientific publications has changed rapidly; the economic complications have not changed much. The open access movement was triggered by the journal crisis due to an exorbitant price increase of the publications ([Manjunatha and Thandava, 2001](#)). At this point of view, an exhausted study is necessary to facilitate a practical discussion on institutional repository of an institution. Thus, decision makers can be able to realize management issues amongst operational services.

Objectives

The present study is undertaken to fulfil some objectives, by means of users' awareness towards institutional repository in Indian perspective are summarized hereinafter:

- To determine the awareness about institutional repository;
- To determine the awareness about the institutional repository software;
- To know the sources from where users are aware about institutional repository;
- To assess the academic publishing in institutional repository;
- To know different types of institutional repositories;
- To know the motivators for developing institutional repository;
- To assess user's attitude towards institutional repositories.



REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

Allen (2005) compared the attitudes and behaviors of academics from different disciplines towards depositing their work in institutional repositories. The study revealed that the number of humanities documents in institutional repositories is currently far lower than that in STM disciplines. Awareness of Open Access amongst humanities academics is also low. However they perceive many advantages to depositing their work in institutional repositories, especially for the reader, not for themselves. The experiences of Barwick (2007) highlighted some of the challenges involved in setting up an institutional repository. The work gives a direct insight into the different types of work involved in the setting up of an institutional repository and is an example of a system set up outside the boundaries of project funding. Other research findings show a steady increase in the usage of the repository for archiving and sharing digital resources, and an item-tagging scheme that suggests user preference of the resource as a platform for enhancing professional rather than personal interests. User interactivity by way of textual scholarly discussions on the repository platform is however almost nonexistent (Asunka *et al.*, 2011). Erickson *et al.* (2008) have investigated ways to apply basic techniques to the problem of identifying and harvesting related materials from other, heterogeneous sources such as external blogs, wikis, and web sources, and combining them with methods for managing the publication and sharing of research artifacts within the individual's scholarly network. Manjunatha and Thandava (2001) artifacts within the individual's scholarly network. Manjunatha and Thandavamoorthy (2001) identified that the humanities and social science researchers are found to have a low level awareness of the institutional repository but are interested in contributing their research work to the university institutional repository and have a positive attitude towards providing free access to scholarly research results of their University. Therefore, there is a scope to study the users' awareness of institutional repositories to measure local scenarios.

Scope

The present study covers users study in Jadavpur University main campus only. Jadavpur University is a premier educational and research institute in India. It is located at Jadavpur in Kolkata, West Bengal. Jadavpur University has been accorded the highest grading and rated as a "Five Star University" in India by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). Jadavpur University Library was started along with the establishment of the University in 1955 in order to cater the academic and research needs of the faculty, research scholars, students, officers and non-teaching staff. Since then, the University Library has gone from strength to strength to live up to the expectations of its immediate clientele. It is one of the best-equipped libraries in the country.



Methodology

The survey method was employed to collect the required data. A detailed questionnaire was prepared for this purpose and in order to enhance the validity and reliability of the questionnaire, experts in the field of library science, psychology and statistics were consulted and were requested to review the questionnaire critically. A questionnaire was revised based on their suggestions. Total 200 questionnaires were distributed to collect the primary data. After all, total 170 filled in questionnaires were collected. Finally collected data were analyzed, tabulated and presented in reasonable form.

Analysis of Data

Structured questionnaires were distributed among the selected group of 200 users. In this regards, stratified sampling method was followed. Total 50 users were selected from teachers, 50 users were selected from staff and 100 users were selected from students. Since current date, total 170 questionnaires were received from the respondents. Among the filled in questionnaires 45 respondents are from teacher, 40 respondents are from staff and 85 respondents are from the students' community including research scholar (Table -1).

Table-1. Distribution of questionnaire

Particulars	Teacher	Staff	Student	Total
Number of questionnaires distributed	50	50	100	200
Number of questionnaires received	45	40	85	170

Faculty awareness about institutional repository was found so high, i.e. 93.33% of teachers correctly identified that the repository hosted by the Jadavpur University Library. Table 2 represents that the awareness of institutional repository among the stakeholders of the university. It reveals that 93.33% of teachers, 62.50% of staff and 76.47% of students are aware about institutional repository in Jadavpur University.

Table-2. Awareness of Institutional Repository

Awareness of IR	Teacher	Staff	Student
Yes	42 (93.33%)	25 (62.50%)	65 (76.47%)
No	0 (00.00%)	9 (22.50%)	15 (17.64%)
No Opinion	3 (06.67%)	6 (15.00%)	05 (05.89%)

On the other hand, some people, i.e. 22.50% staff and 17.64% students do not know what the institutional repository is; Rest of the people (06.67% of teachers, 15.00% of staff and 05.89% of students) under investigation do not give any opinion due to lack of awareness.



There are a number of open-source software packages available for running an institutional repository including DSpace, Eprints, Fedora and also proprietary software services, including Digital Commons, Simple, etc. Jadavpur University uses DSpace as an institutional digital repository software.

Table-3. Awareness of Institutional Repository Software

Awareness of IR software	Teacher	Staff	Student
Yes	44 (97.77%)	29 (72.60%)	70 (82.35%)
No	0 (00.00%)	8 (20.30%)	13 (15.29%)
No Opinion	1 (02.23%)	3 (07.10%)	02 (02.36%)

Table 3 shows the awareness of institutional repository software among the stakeholders of Jadavpur University. Result sketches that among the respondents, 97.77% teachers, 72.60% staff member and 82.35% of the students' are aware about the institutional repository software. But, unfortunately 20.30% Staff and 15.29% Students are not aware about institutional repository software. Few people, i.e., 02.23% Teachers 07.10% Staff and 02.36% students have not given their opinion on the institutional repository software.

It is most important to know that the sources from where the users' community is aware of the institutional repository and its usability. Table 4 displays that the sources from where user's awareness of institutional repository is generated. Maximum number of the teaching faculties (i.e. 31.11 %) said that they are known about institutional repository from their colleagues or friends. Side by side 21.17% of students' responds saying that they are headed this from their friends.

Table-4. Sources for User's IR Awareness

Sources For User's IR Awareness	Teacher	Staff	Student
With Colleague/Friends	14 (31.11%)	10 (25.00%)	18 (21.17%)
From Teacher	11 (24.44%)	12 (30.00%)	32 (37.65%)
Through Library website	8 (17.77%)	8 (20.00%)	16 (18.84%)
From Bulletin Board	7 (15.56%)	6 (15.00%)	9 (10.58%)
Through Internet	5 (11.12%)	4 (10.00%)	10 (11.76%)

Table 4 reveals that the teachers are playing a great role to make awareness of users on IR. Among the students 37.65% express that teachers aware them how to use IR. In the same way 30% staff

also learned from teaching faculty of the university. The library website is another source to learn about IR. Among the respondents, 17.77% of teachers, 20.00% of staff and 18.84% of students said that the library website is their sources for IR awareness. Besides these, few people conveyed that their main sources of awareness about institutional repository are the library bulletin board or internet.

Consequently, Table 5 discloses one of the most important results, which is nothing but the reasons for developing an institutional digital repository.

Table-5. Reasons for Developing a Repository

Reasons for developing institutional repository	Teacher	Staff	Student
Response to administrative interest	3 (06.68%)	2 (05.00%)	7 (08.23%)
To provide open access to materials	8 (17.77%)	8 (20.00%)	16 (18.84%)
To preserve scholarly material on campus	14 (31.11%)	11 (27.50%)	25 (29.41%)
To participate in the scholarly communication process	6 (13.33%)	5 (12.50%)	9 (10.59%)
Response to requests from faculty	2 (04.44%)	4 (10.00%)	10 (11.76%)
To support the Archives	7 (15.55%)	7 (17.50%)	9 (10.59%)
To develop collaborative workspace/file sharing space	2 (04.44%)	2 (05.00%)	5 (05.88%)
To increase the visibility of the institution	3 (06.68%)	1 (02.50%)	4 (04.70%)

Above table 5 reveals that according to 6.68% teaching faculties, 5% staff and 8.23% students' respondents, the main reason for developing an institutional digital repository is only administrative interest. On the other hand, 17.77% teaching faculties, 20.00% staff and 18.84% students said that the reason is to provide open access to materials. But, highest number, i.e. 31.11% of teaching faculties, 27.50% staff members and 29.41% of student's respondents' point of view the main reason is to preserve scholarly material on campus. Side by side, 15.55% of teaching faculty, 17.50% staff and 10.59% students' point of view, the main reason for developing an institutional digital repository is to support the archives. To increase the visibility of the institution widely is another reason for developing an institutional digital repository said few people in this university (i.e. 6.68 % teaching faculties, 2.5% staff and 4.7% students). Therefore, the above mentioned points are the important reasons for developing an institutional digital repository.

Table-6. User's Feedback

User's feedback	Teacher	Staff	Student
Satisfied	40 (88.88%)	30 (75.00%)	67 (78.82%)
Not satisfied	2 (04.45%)	8 (20.00%)	14 (16.47%)
No Opinion	3 (06.67%)	2 (05.00%)	4 (04.71%)

Since conflict is seemingly unavoidable, particularly in a scholarly setting, it is obviously necessary for administrators know that recognize conflicts can have both positive and negative effects on management to know that recognize conflicts can have both positive and negative effects on management (Adebile Olukayode and Ojo Thompson, 2012). Hence, Table 6 represents a user's feedback on institutional repository services provided by the Jadavpur University. Maximum users, i.e., 88.88% teaching faculties, 75.00% staff and 78.82% student respondents are satisfied with the service provided by the Jadavpur University. But, 04.45% teaching faculties, 20.00% staff and 16.47% of students are not satisfied with this service provided by the university. Due to lack of awareness few people, i.e., 6.67% teaching faculties, 5.00% staff and 4.71% students have not given their opinion whether they are satisfied or not.

CONCLUSION

An institutional repository centralizes preserves and makes accessible the knowledge generated by academic institution. Successful Institutional repositories would elevate the libraries visibility and importance not only at the institutional level, but also at the national and global levels. These are the key to the ability of institutions to respond to future needs for more dynamic cross boundary communications services. It is clear that the institutional repository is a very powerful idea that can serve as an engine of change for our institutions of higher education, and more broadly for the scholarly enterprises that they support. If properly developed, it advances a surprising number of goals, and addresses an impressive range of needs. In India, the apex bodies like the University Grant Commission (UGC) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) have to take initiatives to build up institutional repositories at higher education level. University libraries also have to play a major role in developing successful repositories in institutional level. Thus, the landscape of scholarly communication will bring a new era of information science. Entire study reveals that the large numbers of people in Jadavpur University have conflict in awareness of the institutional repository, IR software and reasons for developing an institutional repository. Nowadays, IR system provides access to scholarly content at least possible time and even from remote places. Its easiness and simplicity of use are attracting more patrons to use of institutional repositories. Only a wide range of user awareness is needed to proper usage of its beauty.

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