

## Research Paper

## Feasibility Study of Building An Institutional Repository in College Library

Anjali M. Bhide

Librarian, S. S. Dempo College of Commerce and Economics  
Altinho – Panaji.

### ABSTRACT

*Institutional repository is a digital archive of the institution's intellectual output. Colleges produce lots of intellectual material through teaching, research and co-curricular activities which can be preserved for future use. But so far colleges are at the back foot as this is a recent development of which significance has not been noted by them. Librarian has to act as initiator as the IR relates to library. Of course IR needs to have proper planning, budget along with other requisites. Considering these preliminary requirements for IR questionnaire was designed to know librarian's awareness and willingness to participate in IR, special software, LAN, technical support, resources to be included etc in the college IR. This study tries to find out present scenario in the college libraries and whether conducive environment prevail in the colleges.*

**Keywords:** digital archive , Librarian , geographical limitations.

### INTRODUCTION

The World Wide Web, the first online repository has revolutionized the information availability through open access to the information to everyone at all times without any prejudice and without any geographical limitations. The entire human society is benefitted to a great extent which has in turn resulted in more research and creation of more knowledge. This open access concept has been a solution to shrinking budgets and rising cost of publications. Academicians in the colleges are constantly engaged in research, projects and similar co-curricular activities. Many colleges publish research journal, newsletter, magazine, souvenir, and projects etc. containing contributions from staff, faculty and the students. Alumni community of the colleges is also involved in many ways in college activities through their association. This process creates new information which is scattered in different forms & remains unorganized. There are chances that such information remains unnoticed by the members of the institutions as well as by the society. Through Institutional Repository (IR) these scholarly information can be displayed to all in organized way making its access easy. Here exposure is given to latent information without relying on any outside agencies. IR is created to manage, preserve, and maintain the digital assets, intellectual output, & histories of institution. Here librarians plays crucial role as an information professionals having skills in collecting, processing, organizing, preserving, and proving access to information. Hence Librarians should take leadership roles in planning & building the repositories.

Definitions: According to The Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SARC), "An Institutional Repository is a digital archive of the intellectual product created by the faculty, research staff, and students of an institution and accessible to end user both within & outside the institution with few if any barriers to access.

Wikipedia Encyclopedia defines IR as "An Institutional Repository is an online locus for collecting, preserving, and disseminating — in digital form — the intellectual output of an institution, particularly a research institution.

### MERITS:

1. Institutions can create their own archives.
2. Individual teacher can maintain his own publications/research work.
3. It gives global visibility for an institution's scholarly research
4. Entire institutional research output is available at a single location
5. It store and preserve other institutional digital assets, including unpublished or otherwise easily lost ("grey") literature (e.g., theses or technical reports)."
6. It is helpful in measuring the progress of the institution over the period of time.
7. It helps in developing sense of belongingness with the institution by the contributors.
8. Contributors feel proud as he is one of the contributors to the open access movement.
9. It improves image among the students, colleagues and others.
10. Society is benefitted as the research work is made open to all.

**IR in colleges:** In colleges teaching as well as co-curricular and research activities takes place simultaneously. As a result there is generation of intellectual output to a large scale. A proper planning is needed to tap and record this knowledge for future use. IR policy and its objectives should clearly accommodate all such aspects. All resources to be included in IR are generated by others and not by the librarian. Hence convincing the higher authorities and co-operation from all teachers makes a strong base for any successful IR. To begin with librarian can collect soft copies

of all college publications, question papers, brochures etc which can be made accessible through IR. Usually question of copyright is raised for archiving research articles of teachers from other publishers. One solution can be obtaining permission from the publisher for inclusion of article in IR. Another way is to preserve pre-print copy or draft copy of the paper on IR. Most important fact is the sustainability of IR without which wouldn't be able to meet its objectives and hence cannot be claimed as successful IR. Alumni, parents and industries with which college has a tie up or the placement cell link etc are outside agencies who are the stakeholders of colleges.

Technology is another crucial aspect of IR. It is not just the collection of relevant resources in the electronic form but its accessibility, preservation, storage and organization are important aspects. It requires good investment to meet hardware and software requirements. Technical assistance is again needed for the librarian for designing the IR that makes it functional.

For the academic institutions this would include materials such as research journal articles, before (preprints) and after (post prints) undergoing peer review, and digital versions of these and dissertations, but it might also include other digital assets generated by normal academic life, such as administrative documents, course notes, learning objects, vision and mission and policies, rules and regulations.

IR has broadened the scope of library services extended the services to the users from all corners. Library is not only the manager of the resources but also can produce or design the information resources in single package which would otherwise left scattered with different people and in different types of material in different forms, at one place in open access environment. The beauty is it can be accessed 24x7 anywhere. This will help in maximizing the utility of the information. The retrieval is also effective as it will be processed using professional skills. However challenges like copyright, digitization problem, and lack of awareness, lack of expertise, non-cooperation from faculty, staff, and lack of initiative and lack of funding, non availability of infrastructure are common in such initiatives.

#### OBJECTIVES

1. To know the awareness of IR among the college librarians
2. To know the availability of ICT infrastructure in the college libraries
3. To know the awareness about the open source software for IR
4. To know the type of material to be included in IR
5. To learn about the existing IR in the colleges if any.
6. To know the willingness of the librarians to take initiative for having IR

**Research Methodology:** Questionnaire method was followed for collecting relevant information. Structured questionnaire is designed in tune with the objectives of the study. As the Librarian has to take lead in developing the IR the questionnaire was circulated among the librarians in Goa and also to all the participants of the Refresher course held at Academic Staff College of Goa University. The data collected through the questionnaire was then analyzed and the results are presented in the form of generalization.

**Scope and Limitations of the Study:** This study is confined to librarians in Goa and the participants of the Refresher Course in Library Science held at Academic Staff College of Goa University. Questionnaire was distributed among 38

librarians. An attempt is made to ascertain the awareness about the IR and the availability of the basic ingredients in developing IR by the colleges. Colleges are engaged in organizing various activities through which lot of information is generated in the form of publications, projects, notes, presentations etc. UGC has been generous in supporting various co-curricular activities and faculty improvement programs. Also in NAAC guidelines for the libraries IR is included. Hence this study is taken which will reveal the present scenario about IR in various colleges.

#### FINDINGS AND OBSERVATIONS:

1) Awareness about the concept of IR among the librarians: It is observed that 34 librarians out of 38 i.e. 89% of the librarians are aware of concept of IR. This shows that librarians are keeping track of new developments in the field.

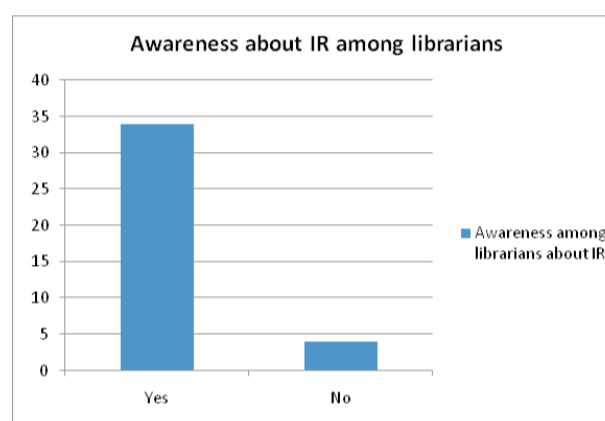


Figure 1: Awareness about IR among librarians

2) Availability of basic infrastructure in the library: For building IR computer, internet connection, server and scanner are the basic infrastructure required to start the project. In this survey it is seen that all libraries have computer and the internet connection in the library. This is a good sign that librarians are using internet for accessing the information. But libraries are not well equipped with server and scanners required for adding archival material in the IR. Only 16% libraries have server for the library that means 84% of the libraries are without the server. Only 1 library has scanner in the library.

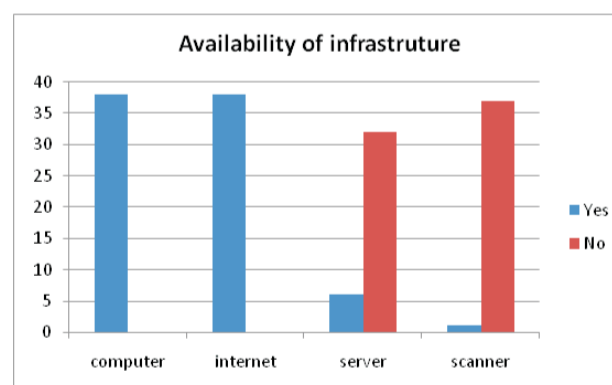


Figure 2: Availability of basic infrastructure

3) Availability of technical support from the institution:

Technical support here is the in-house support to check any error in the software or assistance for any hardware query, installation of software, maintenance of software and the entire system etc. Most of the Librarians know to use computer and library software. But they are not experts in installation of software and setting full system or networking etc. which needs computer hardware and software knowledge. They are not fully confident with lack of this basic knowledge. Hence technical support is essential and important factor in using any information technology. Only 6 libraries have technical support from the institution. In other words as many as 84% of the libraries do not have technical support.

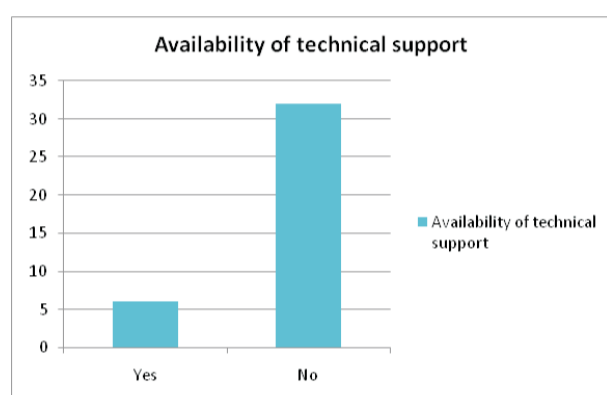


Figure 3: Availability of technical support

**4) Availability of LAN in the college and whether library is a part of LAN:** LAN is a computer network where computers within the limited area are interconnected. In colleges LAN is network of computers within the college campus. Transmission of data is done automatically with speed among all the computers. 42% of the colleges have LAN on the campus whereas 58% of the colleges are without LAN. From 42% of the colleges with LAN only 7 (18%) libraries are connected to college LAN. 9 (24%) libraries are not connected to LAN of the college.

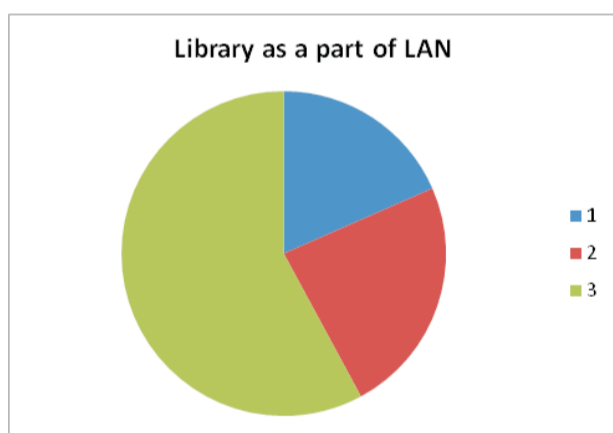


Figure 4: Availability of LAN and library as a part of LAN

**5) Awareness about special software required for building IR:** Various special software has been developed for building IR and they are available as an open source free of charge. It is found that librarians know the names of special software which are in use for building IR in universities and other institutions. 'D-space' is more popular as 82% of the

librarians know this name. 'GSDL' name is familiar to 74% where as 55% have heard about 'E-print'. 'Any other' choice was available for this question. But no one has mentioned any new name in the list.

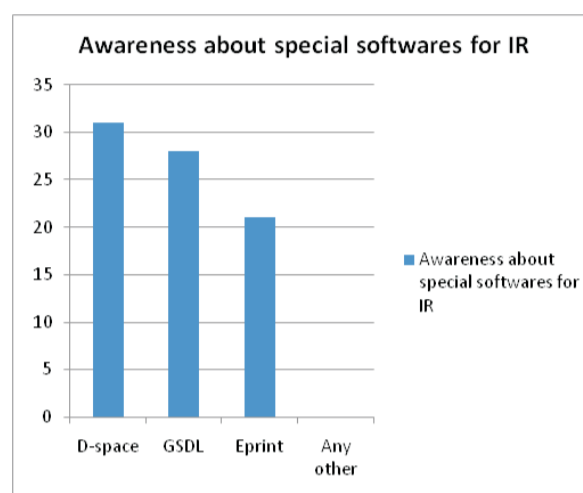


Figure 5: Awareness about special software for IR

**6) Type of material that would be included in IR:** IR main objective is to preserve history and culture and intellectual product of the institution. Hence type of material to be selected for inclusion in IR varies from one institution to another. In this questionnaire first three choices were articles published by the faculty; research Journal of the college and the question papers given. These three types of materials are common to all colleges. All librarians have selected first three options given in the question. Any other choice was kept open to include uncommon literature/products produced by individual colleges. Here answers included students projects (selected), annual college magazine, presentations, syllabus, lecture series, important circulars and selected photos, newspaper clippings.

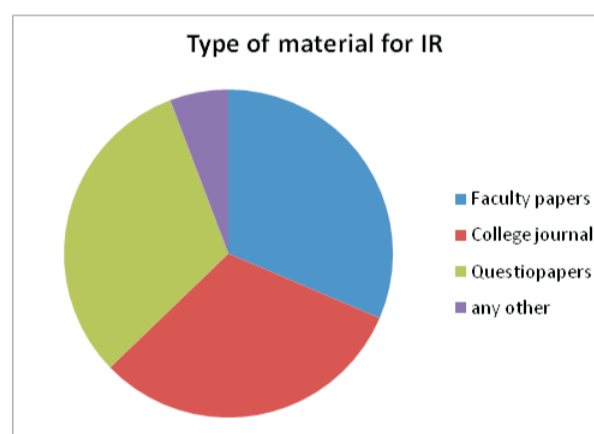
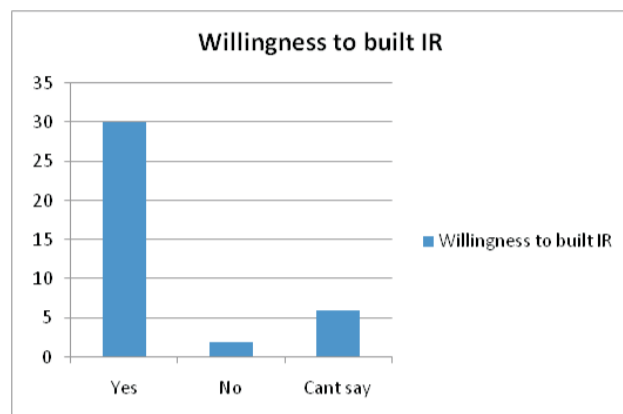


Figure 6: Type of material to be included in IR

**7) Willingness of the librarians to participate in building IR:** Positive approach and desire to do the work is the first step required to start any new service in the library. Hence willingness of librarians to participate in building IR is questioned. 79% of the librarians are willing to participate in the process. 5% are not interested in IR whereas 16% of the

librarians are not able to take any decision over their participation in the IR.



**Figure 7: Willingness of the librarians in building IR**

To summarize, there is great awareness about the IR among the college librarians. Also they are very well aware about the open source software for developing the IR. But libraries are not well equipped with other infrastructure like server, scanners etc. required for archival material. This is a very costly affair. In majority of the colleges technical support is not available. This acts as a stumbling block for the librarian to take leadership in any such kind of new endeavor. It is also observed that the librarians are interested in including articles published by the faculty, research journal of the college & question papers of the institution. Very few have given attention to college magazines

Conclusion: From this study it can be said that librarians are well aware of the new developments in the field. They know the material to be included in the IR of their institution. Documentation of all important activities and its preservation is a need of an hour. The librarians should put forward the concept of IR before the authorities. The institutional head could be convinced to draft a policy about developing IR which will take care of infrastructure, technical support, training, document selection etc. But actual process needs big investment on infrastructure and maintenance of entire system. Technology also keeps changing which may or may not be favorable for colleges to bear the cost. Other doubts like sustainability, success, response etc is unpredictable. Right now in the present situation IR in the colleges is like a sweet dream. But in future, just like website, all institutions would be interested in developing their IR. Hence librarians should be optimistic. They can initiate the process of collecting prospective current material in soft copy form. This will reduce the scanning work in future. Collection and organization of selected printed documents which may find place in IR should be undertaken by the librarian. At present not a single college among those who are studied has taken any initiative of developing IR. But still the scene is very promising with the attitude and awareness among the librarians about the significance of IR in future.

#### REFERENCES:

- 1.Camfield, Graham. Resource Discovery Services at London School of Economics Library. 7th International CALIBER-2009, Pondicherry University, Puducherry, February 25-27, 2009, 366-370
- 2.Satyabati, T, et al. Institutional Repository of INFLIBNET

Centre Using DSpace. PLANNER 2004. Manipur University, Imphal, 2004, 44-51.

3.Thoudam, Suleta and Keisham, Sangeeta. Institutional Repositories: a gateway for knowledge revolution. 4th Convention PLANNER -2006, Mizoram Univ.,Aizawl, 2006, 161-165

4.Shinde, Ganapathi. Development of Institutional Repositories in Academic and Research Universities in India. 6th Convention PLANNER - 2008, Nagaland University, Nagaland, 2008, 354-358

5.www.cni.org