

Open access repositories: Usage

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Abstract

The present study 'Open Access Repositories: Usage' concerns about various uses of the Open Access Repositories which generally do not reach to the end user. Open Access Repository (OAR) are so much useful in modern time that it saves a lot of time and money problem of students. While conducting study, several favourable and unfavourable points came to notice, the description thereof have been enumerated in the study. However, there is lack of awareness about open access to institutional repositories specifically when the students have excellent ICT skills. Therefore, the Government/Institutions should come forward to disseminate awareness so that they can use it more and more to gain benefits in their study and for other lawful purposes. The Government should make it compulsory for colleges/universities/institutions to build their own repositories by way of their own institutional research outputs and offer such repositories available online to all the world. Lack of Awareness is the weak point. Students use 'title' search method strategy. Main purpose of using open repositories is assignment and study. Shodhganga repository is highly utilized by the students of Punjab.

Keywords: open access repositories; institutional repositories; usage of open repositories; open repository; repository

Introduction

In order to comprehend meaning of the Open Access to Repositories, first of all, we must know what the repository is. In simple words it can be described as archiving of research information by an institution and to preserve it for a long time is known as repository. Mostly repositories are Institutional. Repository (Institutional & Subject) means those digital libraries of different kind of study and research material in digital or electronic formats, such as monographs, e-print of pre-print and post-print peer reviewed research papers, digital assets generated by academics, administrative documents, learning objects, audio-videos, findings, conference papers & proceedings, thesis and dissertation, datasets, question papers, lectures, slides, articles, and publication which are created within an institution.

Generally, the objectives of different repositories vary from one institution to another and host of Open Access Institutional Repositories (OAIRs) usually take steps to ensure long-term preservation in addition to open access.

According to the SPARC (Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition) position paper on institutional repositories "an institutional repository is a digital archive of the intellectual product created by faculty, research staff and students of an institution." (Criw, 2002) [2].

As per Lynch (2003) [3] "a university-based institutional repository is a set of services that a university offers to the members of its community for the management and dissemination of digital materials created by the institution and its community members. It is most essentially an organisational commitment to the stewardship of these digital materials, including long-term preservation wherever appropriate, as well as organization and access or distribution." The author emphasises on the long term

preservation of digital information in a wide variety of formats.

According to Mark Ware (Ware, 2004) [4] an institutional repository (IR) is defined to be a web-based database (repository) of scholarly material which is institutionally defined (as opposed to a subject based repository); cumulative and perpetual (a collection of record); open and interoperable (e.g. using OAI-compliant software); and thus collects, stores and disseminates (is part of the process of scholarly communication). In addition, most would include long-term preservation of digital materials as a key function of IRs.

Mark Ware lays emphasis on the long-term preservation of digital literature, using OAI compliant software to make it cost effective.

The types of repositories, according to ROAR [5] "Research Institutional or Departmental, Research Multi-institution Repository, Research Cross-institutional, e-Journal/Publication, e-Theses, Database/A&I Index, Research Data, Open and Linked Data, Learning and Teaching Objects, Web Observatory etc."

(Mellon, 2006) [8] States that "...Repository is a networked system that provides services pertaining to a collection of digital objects. Example: Repositories include institutional repositories, publisher's repositories, dataset repositories, learning object repositories, cultural heritage repositories, etc."

The main purpose of these repositories is to disseminate, assemble, and preserve digital copies of their own research findings and provide open access to own institutional research outputs. Anybody can have open access to these institutional archives and extract the required information.

Now we should contemplate about Open Access (OA). Open Access means all the information and literature is available

free of cost, no copyright issue for the lawful purpose, no barriers of any type, everyone is free to obtain desired information quickly.

OA repositories form a permanent and critically important part of the scholarly communication process (Swan, 2005) ^[6]. Their primary role is to provide open access to research literature. Moreover, certain additional services may be added to repositories to provide extra functionality (Chan, 2004) ^[7]. Most influential definition of Open Access described by BOAI ^[1] "The literature that should be freely accessible online is that which scholars give to the world without expectation of payment. Primarily, this category encompasses their peer-reviewed journals articles, but it also includes any un-reviewed preprints that they might wish to put online for comment or to alert colleagues to important research findings. There are many degrees and kinds of wider and easier access to this literature. By "open access" to this literature, we mean its free availability on the public internet, permitting any 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. The only constraints on reproduction and distribution, and the only role for copyright in this domain, should be to give authors control over the integrity of their work and the right to be properly acknowledged and cited..."

Overall, Open Access to Repositories means that anyone can have access to desired information in OA Institutional Repositories free of cost, without hassle of copyright or legal barriers to enhance knowledge, prepare for competitive exams, conduct researches or teach students with latest sophisticated equipment and innovative concepts.

What the general user can gain from the OA repositories can be categorised as below:-

1. The primary type of content in OA repositories is the peer reviewed journal literature.
2. A collection of the research articles published from an institution.
3. OA Repositories permit authors to archive their post-print in an institutional repository.
4. OA Repository publishers allow authors to deposit a copy of their published paper into a repository.

Literature Review

A detailed study has been undertaken by the author pertaining to the Open Access to Institutional Repositories. Invariably, a tremendous treasure concerning OAIRs is available through articles of prominent researchers, research journals and college/universities institutional repositories where the open access to these IRs is available. However, to endorse my point of view, I quote from the definition of Bangibola, 2014 ^[9] vide which he mentions "the level of awareness about the IRs by faculty members is increasing; however, there was variation in the level of awareness across agriculture disciplines."

(Haldar & Chandra) ^[10] In the paper also describes the potential role of institutional repositories and its easiness and simplicity of use were attracting more patrons in the use of institutional repositories.

The study (Allan, 2005) ^[11] described the Awareness of Open

Access amongst humanities academics is very low.

The research findings (Barwick, 2007) ^[12] showed 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.

(Sharma, 2015) ^[13]: The research revealed that Users' majority of using information is for the teaching purpose. It is appreciable that users prepare the lectures consulting open resources.

(Erickson *et al.*, 2008) ^[14] Identified that the humanities and social science researchers are found to have a low level of awareness of repositories but are interested in contributing their research work to the university institutional repository.

The study (Ratanya, 2017) ^[15] revealed that majority of the academic staff at the Egerton University are still not aware of the existence of the IR.

(Dutta & Paul, 2014) ^[16] Finds in the research Lack of awareness and confusion about copyright issues are the major barriers for faculty participation in it.

The study (Sharma, 2016) ^[17] describes that PG students overwhelmingly utilise OAJs only for study purposes.

Research Objectives

The objective of this study is to answer two questions;

1. What is the purpose of using repositories?
2. What search method/technique is adopted for using repositories?

To know these answers, the study tested and attempted to hypothesise.

Hypothesis

1. There is excellent Information communication technology skills among users.
2. There is good awareness about repositories among users.
3. Users used or heard the name of Shodhganga repositories more than other open repositories.
4. "Title" search method is preferred than other method among users to search desired information about repositories.
5. Users are using repositories mainly for study & assignment as compared to other purposes.

Methodology

The present study took the form of a descriptive survey, gathering information about the respondents' perspectives on Open Access Repositories. The questionnaire was framed around the following elements: user profile, ICT knowledge, awareness about Open Repositories, purpose of using, preferred search method.

Scope, Limitation & Sample size of the study

The study focused on the Students of the Punjab and is confined to 1123 students from 26 colleges of Punjab. While conducting this study, data gathered from all the 26 colleges of Punjab. A Sample questionnaire was supplied and whatever replies received from respondents was taken into account as a sample size. The study is limited to open access relating to e-repositories only.

Data Analysis

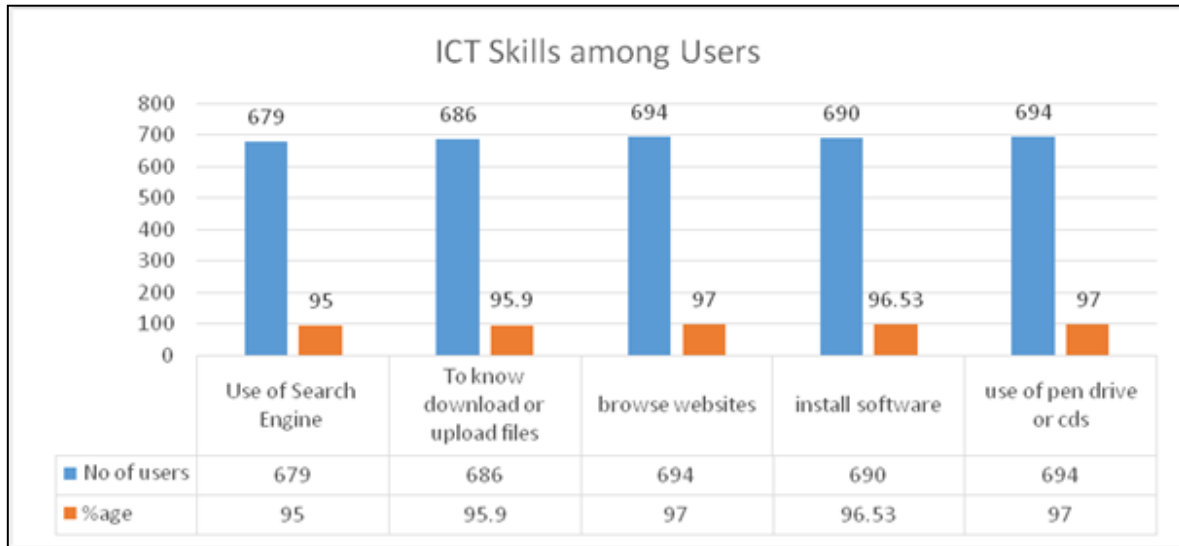
Table 1

Distributed Questionnaire	Replied
1123	716 (63.76%)

Total 1123 questionnaire were distributed among PS students out of which 716 means 63.76% responded. This figure is deemed adequate to arrive at a conclusion.

Hypothesis: 1

There is excellent Information communication technology skills among users.



Multiple answers were permitted

Fig 1

ICT skill among users is really praiseworthy. The participants browse websites as well as use pen drives to the tune of 97% (694) each, whereas users who have installed software are 690 or say 96.53%. Those who prefer download or upload material are 686 (95.9%) and using Engine search method are 679 (95%). Students of the Punjab has ICT skills above the 95%. It

indicates good ICT skill and proves the “*there is excellent Information communication technology skills among users*” is accepted.

Hypothesis 2

There is good awareness about repositories among users.

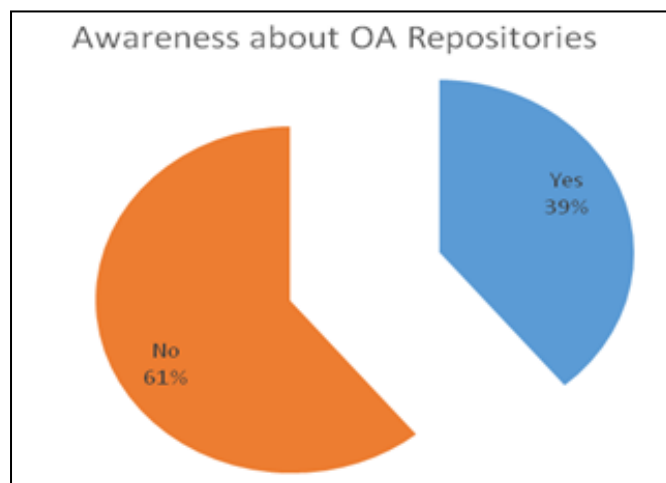


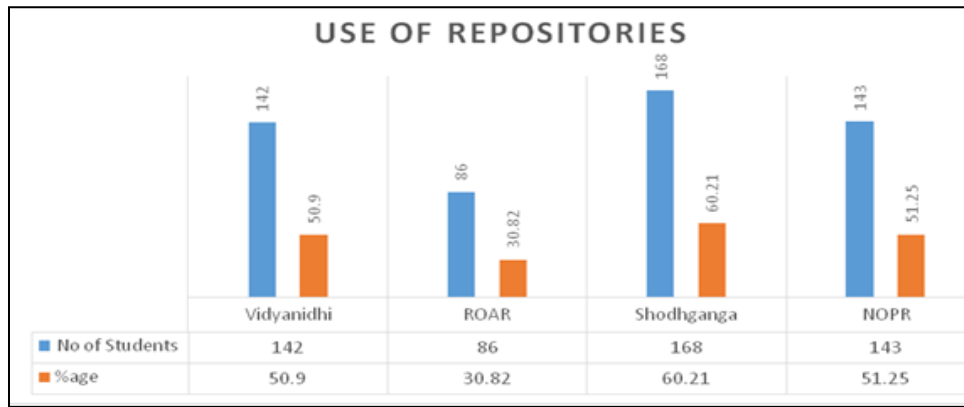
Fig 2

Users are not so aware about the Open Access Repositories that we can say that good awareness of OAIRs i.e. 279 (39%) whereas the numbers of users 437 unaware about the OAIRs i.e. 61% (% in round). only 279 (39%) users will be accounted for analysing the data of study. So we can say that there is lack of awareness. The hypothesis “*there is good awareness*

about repositories among users” is rejected.

Hypothesis 3

Users used or heard the name of Shodhganga repositories more than other open repositories (i.e. ROAR, Vidyanidhi, NOPR, Shodhganga).



Multiple answers were permitted

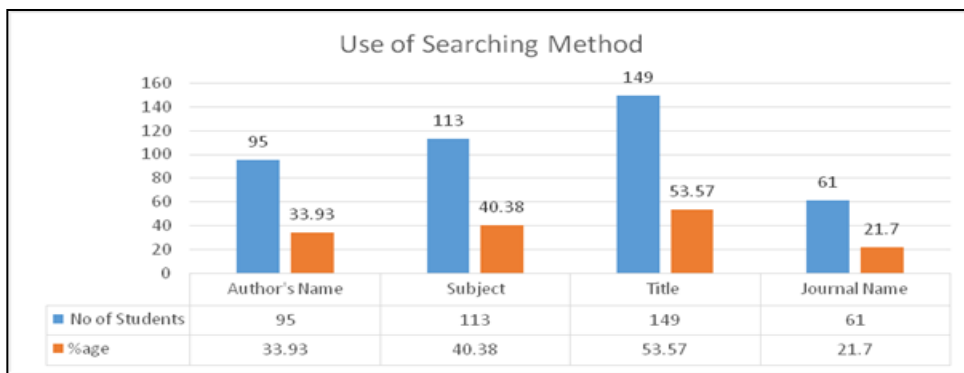
Fig 3

The above table indicates that users have either heard the name or used the Repository. It was noticed that 168 (60.21%) respondents showed inclination for 'Shodhganga' whereas the least heard/used ROAR say just 86 (30.82%). The other repositories in preference was NOPR and Vidyanidhi which accounted for 143 (51.25%) and 142(50.9%) respectively. Shodhganga is used highest among users. It indicated that the

hypothesis “Users used or heard the name of Shodhganga repositories more than other open repositories (i.e. ROAR, Vidyanidhi, NOPR, Shodhganga)” is accepted.

Hypothesis 4

“Title” search method is preferred than other method among users to search desired information about repositories.



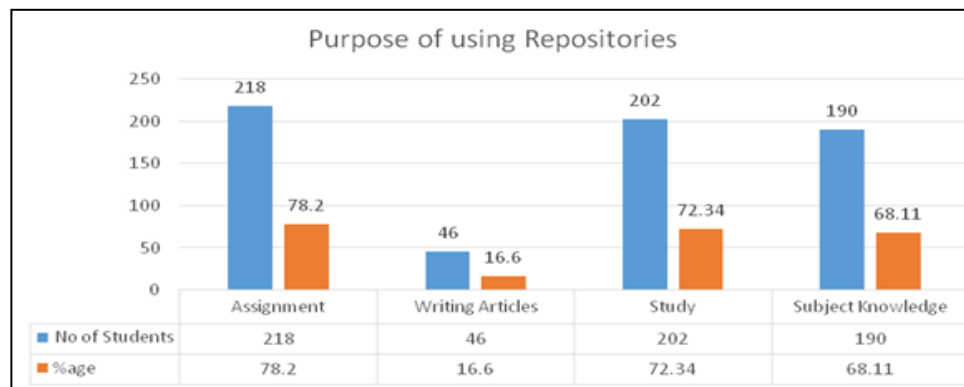
Multiple answers were permitted

Fig 4

Searching method adopted by participants is "Title" most favoured whereas the least adopted is by Journal Name to the tune of 149 (53.57%) and 61 (21.7% respectively. By "subject" and "Author's name" it was 113 (40.38%) and

95(33.93%) respectively.

Hypothesis: 5: Users are using repositories mainly for study & assignment as compared to other purposes.



Multiple answers were permitted

Fig 5

The purpose of using the repositories among respondents was highest for preparing Assignment to the tune of 218 (78.2%) and they used least for writing Articles; say only 46(16.6%). For study purpose, it was found 202 (72.34%) and 190 (68.11%) for 'subject knowledge'. It indicates that hypothesis “Users are using repositories mainly for study & assignment as compared to other purposes” is accepted.

Findings

1. There is excellent ICT skills among the students of Punjab.
2. There is Lack of Awareness about the Open Access Repositories.
3. Shodhganga repository is highly used by the students.
4. ROAR is the directory of repositories but students used the ROAR very least.
5. “Title” search method strategy highly used for using repositories whereas Journal name search method strategy is least used.
6. Main purpose of using Open Repositories was preparing assignment & Study among users.

Suggestions & Recommendations

There is lack of awareness about open access to institutional repositories specifically when the students has excellent ICT skills. Therefore, the Government/Institutions should come forward to disseminate awareness so that they can use it more and more to gain benefits in their study and for other lawful purposes. The Government should make it compulsory for colleges/universities/institutions to build their own repositories by way of their own institutional research outputs and offer such repositories available online to all the world.

Conclusion

Users have good ICT skills. Lack of Awareness about Open Repositories is the main weak point on part of the institutions. Students use 'title' search method strategy for searching their desired information. Main purpose of using open repositories was found for preparing assignment and study among students. Shodhganga repository is highly utilized by the students of Punjab.

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