Developing an Academic Institutional Repository: a Case at the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University

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Abstract

An institutional repository is defined as an online locus for collecting, preserving, and disseminating the intellectual output of an institution in digital form, particularly a research institution (New World Encyclopedia, 2018). Generally it includes materials such as journal articles, conference papers, peer reviews, electronic versions of theses and dissertations from an academic institution. The main purpose of this study is to share the experiences of setting up an institutional repository (IR) at General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU) and make suggestions to overcome the challenges for sustainability of the repository. Empirical method is used with the participatory approach in this study. Furthermore, the study focuses on some key issues to be considered when developing the repository. The institutional repository of KDU library network has developed by using D-Space software and running with a separate internal server. Formulating repository policy framework, authority control, copyright issues and persuading the academic staff to deposit their publications were considered as major challenges in this study. In order to encourage research scholars to deposit their publication, librarians should follow the marketing strategies to emphasize the impotence of the institutional repository.

Keywords: Institutional repositories, University libraries, D-Space, Open access, Kotelawala Defence University, Copyright issues

Introduction

In recent years, the way of scholarly communication has been changed due to technological advancement. Due to this, institutional repositories (IRs) has been emerged as an alternative channel for dissemination and communication research findings. Therefore institutional repositories are fast becoming significant players in the provision of scholarly communication and information resources as well (Tapfuma & Hoskins, 2019). As defined by Lynch (2013), a university-based institutional repository is "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". Especially it will include the intellectual works of the university including research and teaching materials, and also documentation of the activities of the institution itself (Lynch, 2003). In Sri Lanka, most of the government universities and research institutions have explored the benefit of developing their institutional repositories to archiving the intellectual output of their faculty members and their