

institutional materials. By understanding the value of visibility to local research, in 2011 National Digitization Project was launched by the National Science Foundation (NSF) in Sri Lanka. It was coupled with the National Network of Institutional Repositories project which was operated across academic, research and related institutions. Through this project it was able to explore the scholarly literature of local scholars and to have convenient online access to the entire documents. According to the National Science Foundation of Sri Lanka, from 2012 to 2017 it was able to benefited 32 research institutions and universities under this project. In parallel with this innovation some institutions also taking steps to create their institutional repositories to showcase their academic and intellectual output to the wider community without hindrance. With this technological advancement, Kotelawala Defense University also realized the value of having its own repository. The task has been taken by the library of General Sir John Kotelawala Defense University and project proposal was prepared to develop the institutional repository (IR) in parallel with the KOHA library management system. The project was started to initiate in year 2015 onwards. In order to initiate the project, the project proposal was tabled at the Library Committee Meeting and got the approval to proceed with the project. Subsequently KDU library reserved the responsibility in establishing, collaborating, managing, maintaining and disseminating the intellectual and research output of KDU.

This study is an effort to share the summary of experiences of setting up an institutional repository at General Sir John Kotelawala Defense University (KDU IR), aiming some key issues to consider and make suggestions to overcome the challenges for sustainability of the repository. In this effort, the study depict the methodology and tools used for developing the KDU institutional repository. The paper is organized in different sections which summarizes the history of the KDU IR, a description of the process followed to design and implement the repository, types of the content hosted, repository policy framework, authority control, copyright issues, difficulties faced in managing KDU IR and future plans were discussed.

Objective

The prime objective of this study is to discuss the experiences of setting up an institutional repository at General Sir John Kotelawala Defense University and make suggestions to overcome the challenges. Further to discuss future plans for the sustainability of the repository.