A study on Open Access Repositories in Bangladesh

Bulletin Desk  In a recent study done by Md. Hasinul Elahi and Muhammad Mezbah-ul-Islam indicates the present scenario of Open Access Repositories (OARs) in Bangladesh. The study published as article on IFLA journal volume 44 number 2, June 2018 issue. The data was collected from OpenDOAR (Directory of the Open Access Repositories) database. Number of Open Access Repositories from Bangladesh indexed in OpenDOAR was the scope of the study.

The study shows that in Asia, Japan has the highest number of Open Access Repositories with 217 in number, where India has 79, Turkey 75, Indonesia 69, Taiwan 69, and China 40 respectively. In this scenario the number of Open Access Repositories in Bangladesh is only 12.

In Bangladesh the first OA initiatives was taken by icddr,b (International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh) back in 1997 by making their research journal (Journal of Diarrhoeal Diseases Research) publicly available.
In OpenDOAR there are five types of repositories namely, (i) Undermined, (ii) Institutional, (iii) Disciplinary, (iv) Aggregating and (v) Governmental. Among these there are mainly three types of repositories available in Bangladesh i.e. Institutional, Disciplinarily and Government. Institutional repositories are the dominant type of OAR in BD covering 10 out of 12 total repositories.

- Bangladesh has only 12 Open Access Repositories.
- Most of the repositories are institutional in nature.
- Maximum repositories are small in terms of collection.
- Need to generate public awareness regarding the concept of Open Access Repositories.
- The researchers used quantitative method and the study period was August 20 to 29, 2017.

Speaking on repository size the study indicate only three repositories (ICDDR, B Digital Repository, BRAC University Institutional Repository and Knowledge Repository, ICDDR, B) which have collection more than 5000 records. A large number (6) of repositories have records limited within 100-1000.

Greenstone and DSpace is the highly used software when it comes to OARs in Bangladesh. Out of 12 repositories 11 are fully functional in terms of access and service delivery.

Journal articles, theses and dissertations (23%) are the common content type in these repositories. Other contents include unpublished reports and working papers (20%) and conferences and workshops (11%). Most of the OARs in Bangladesh chose multidisciplinary subject approach with 26% of the total repositories.

The paper suggests some recommendations to change OAR scenario including huge publicity regarding OARs advantages to encourage scholars and institutions, eliminating negative concepts regarding OARs, open minded institutions, identifying predator OARs and ban them, inception of award system for repositories with excellent contents and positive philosophy of information professionals.

Read the full article on [https://www.ifla.org/publications/node/1691](https://www.ifla.org/publications/node/1691)
400,000 Scientists All Over the World Have Been Published in Fake Journals

Journalists investigated widespread fraud within the scientific publishing community.

In collaboration with reporters from 18 news outlets all over the world, German newspaper Süddeutsche Zeitung examined 175,000 scientific articles published by five of the world’s most prominent pseudo-scientific publishing platforms. The result? The collaboration found that some 400,000 scientists worldwide have been published in these journals since 2013.

Predatory publishers target individual scientists by email, charge high fees in exchange for publication, and forego international peer-review standards to publish quickly and frequently.

Though universities and research institutes warn scientists to steer clear of these publishers, many were shocked by their widespread, rapid growth. According to the report, Süddeutsche Zeitung and German broadcasters NDR and WDR found that over 5,000 German scientists alone have been published in such journals.

The publisher in question, OMICS, is currently under investigation by the Federal Trade Commission for fraud, according to The India Express. The Express also discovered that the 300 plus predatory publishers in India charge rates from $30 to $1,800 for article publication. •motherjones.com

Image: daily dot. com
Science journals end open-access trial with Gates Foundation

Pilot experiment has seen 26 papers published under open-access terms so far and should yield a report by the end of the year.

The publisher of Science last month ended a pilot partnership that allowed open-access (OA) publishing for researchers funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The trial was an effort to accommodate a policy clash between the Gates Foundation, which has enforced strict OA demands since 2017, and publishers that run subscription journals which don’t comply with those terms. So far, 26 papers in Science and four sister subscription journals have been published under the 18-month experiment, and more may appear, says Meagan Phelan, a spokesperson for Science’s publisher, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in Washington DC.

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Under the contract, the Gates Foundation paid the AAAS a lump sum of around US$100,000 for a trial first year, when 16 papers appeared. The two organizations then extended their partnership for another six months, and continued their contract on “similar terms”, but have agreed to keep the extra amount paid confidential, says Bryan Callahan, an external-relations officer at the Gates Foundation.

Neither Gates nor AAAS commented on why the deal ended, but Phelan says the pilot was "planned for a duration that would allow both organizations to closely explore what researchers need and value from journal publications and related services. The two organizations expect to publish a report on their trial by the end of this year, including results from an open-access survey conducted of Gates-funded authors. • Nature.com
National Academies present a guide for “open science”

A recent report urges development of new incentives for researchers to make their data and tools widely available.

Scientific journal publishing, academic reward systems, and the lack of a common, interoperable data infrastructure are some of the obstacles that stand in the way of “open science.” So says a new report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, which examined free access to all the products of research, including scholarly publications, the data that result from research, and the methodologies, including algorithms, that were used to generate the data.

The committee that wrote the report, chaired by Alexa McCray of Harvard University, started with the assumption that open access from the outset of the research process is the most desirable state. The entirety of the research process, from its beginning through archiving of results, data, and tools used, should be made more open—a concept the report calls “open science by design.”

Some progress has already been made toward open science. New standards for data and code sharing in biomedical research and psychology are making it easier for researchers to reproduce results.

ASCO journals now offer open access for publications of industry-sponsored research

ASCO (American Society of Oncology) has now extended open access options for all of its journals including J Clin Oncol, Journal of Oncology Practice, Journal of Global Oncology, JCO Clinical Care Informatics and JCO Precision Oncology. Until now, open access was only offered for publications of research funded by academic institutions, not-for-profit organisations, philanthropic foundations, and government agencies. This has now been expanded to include research funded by for-profit companies, which can now be published under a CC-BY-NC-ND 4.0 license. This license allows free access and redistribution of the publication and non-commercial use with proper attribution, but does not permit derivative works or commercial uses.

The move is welcomed by open access advocates and it is hoped that other publishers will now follow suit.

Source: the publication plan.com
University of British Columbia: Recognizing Open in Promotion and Tenure

Last year, the University of British Columbia (UBC) made a giant leap in the support of open education: the inclusion of language recognizing open educational resources (OER) in the institution’s "Guide to Reappointment, Promotion and Tenure Procedures at UBC." Driven by effective student government advocacy, this change highlights the importance of tenure and promotion as a way for institutions to incentivize open practices and will hopefully provide a model for others to follow.

Daniel Munro, former associate vice president, Academic and University Affairs, at the Alma Mater Society of UBC Vancouver (AMS), led the charge. The idea to include open education in UBC’s promotion and tenure guide came from trying to figure out how UBC could incentivize faculty to adopt open practices.

It was essential to the AMS that advocacy come primarily from students, since it could be seen as self-serving to come from faculty already engaged in open education. They wanted to show that students themselves see open education as an extremely important way to improve learning.

The University of British Columbia is paving the way for other institutions and demonstrating a strong commitment to open education. Among the informal scholarly culture of teaching and learning, junior faculty will hopefully now be encouraged to explore open educational practices and senior colleagues may look for this type of evidence when assessing the quality and impact of others’ teaching.

• educause.edu

The Council of Australian University Librarians (CAUL) and the Council of New Zealand University Librarians sign up as sustainable funders promoted by SCOSS

CAUL is the peak leadership organisation for university libraries in Australia. The Council of New Zealand University Librarians (CONZUL) is a Committee of Universities New Zealand whose objective is to act collectively to improve the access for students and staff of New Zealand universities. Both organization is signed up as sustainable funders promoted by SCOSS (Global Sustainability Coalition for Open Science Services). These two new additions enlarge the list of institutions who have committed funds to support DOAJ and Open Access. At least thirteen CAUL member university libraries and one Council of New Zealand University Librarians (CONZUL) member library have pledged €42,000 to date in support of the SCOSS crowd-funding program to improve the ongoing sustainability of the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). • DOAJ blog
Microsoft Research Open Data is a data repository that makes available datasets that researchers at Microsoft have created and published in conjunction with their research. You can browse available datasets and either download them or directly copy them to an Azure-based Virtual Machine or Data Science Virtual Machine. To the extent possible, they follow FAIR (findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable) data principles and will continue to push towards the highest standards for data sharing. They recognize that there are dozens of data repositories already in use by researchers and expect that the capabilities of this repository will augment existing efforts. Datasets are categorized by their primary research area. You can find links to research projects or publications with the dataset.

Try it out https://msropendata.com/

DI4R2018 will be held from 9-11 October in the beautiful city of Lisbon!

The third edition of the annual Digital Infrastructures for Research (DI4R) conference will be held this year at the University of Lisbon campus in Lisbon, Portugal from 9-11 October. Jointly organised by EOSC-hub, GÉANT, OpenAIRE and PRACE, the event will bring a packed programme of sessions, posters and networking opportunities to Europe’s researchers, developers and service providers – leading to brainstorming and discussions on how best to serve the user base.

This year’s co-chairs will be Volker Guelzow (from DESY) and Sinéad Ryan from (Trinity College).

Registration is open on https://www.digitalinfrastructures.eu/