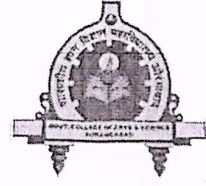Government of Maharashtra

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Index of Research Paper

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Role Of Open Access Tools In Learning Resource Development In Academic Libraries

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Abstract :

Academic libraries are hub of knowledge and hence are considered as integral parts of academic life. Today, libraries especially academic libraries can build their collection without huge investment by using open access resources. This paper attempts to profile some of the important internet gateways which provide collection of open access resources useful for academic libraries to build learning resources to ensure effective and efficient library and information services to the students, research scholars, faculty, scientists and other stakeholders of Higher education system in the networked digital environment.

Keywords

Academic libraries, Open Access Resources, E-Books, E-journals, ETDS, Learning Resources Development

Introduction :

Academic libraries are hub of knowledge and hence are considered as integral parts of academic life. Academic libraries have been in existence for over 500 years and are still very useful today to all educational institutions. The advent of Information and Communication Technology has led to the use of electronic resources in libraries. Libraries especially, academic libraries have the responsibility of building a good collection of knowledge resources to cater to the ever increasing information requirements of its stakeholders consisting of students, research scholars, faculty and scientists. But, in reality, most of the academic institutions in India funded by state central government are finding it very difficult to fund for their infrastructure development. In most of the cases, library is the

first unit affected by the budget cut. Librarians are well aware of the budget cuts as well as the high subscription rates serials and other scholarly publications. In this context, the advent of Internet changed the scenario. Today, libraries especially academic libraries can build their collections without huge investment by using open access resources.

UNESCO has defined Open Educational Rsources as "any type of educational materials that are in the public domain or introduced with an open license. The natue of these open materials means that anyone can legally and freely copy, use, adapt and re-share them. OER range from textbooks to curricula, yllabi, lecture notes, assignments, tests, projects, audio-video and animation".(UNESCO 2016).

Electronic Resources :

e-Books :

Historically, the libraries have only printed books. Today, academic libraries are having e-books in their collections in addition to their printed books. E-books can be anything from the digital version of a paper book, to more interactive content that includes hyperlinks and multimedia. Libraries can download thousands of e-books which are freely available on the Internet or they can provide web links to the web directories of gateway sites which provide access to free e-books. Some of the important e-book directories which provide access to a huge collection of e-books are listed with a brief description and uniform resource locator (URL) for use by the libraries.

Free eBooks Gateway Sites

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High Wire Press is a leading ePublishing platform. HighWire Press partners with independent scholarly publishers, societies, associations, and university presses to facilitate the digital dissemination of 1335 journals, reference works, books, and proceedings, HighWire also offers a complete manuscript submission, tracking, peer review, and publishing system for journal editors, Bench Press. HighWire provides outstanding technology and support services, and fosters a dynamic and innovative community, enhancing the strengths of each of its members. It is available at **http://highwire.stanford.edu**

Some more gateway sites and directory sites which offer free access to open access electronic journals are furnished in Table 1.2 with. URLs. Academic ltbrarians can browse these gateway sites and direGtories and select the open access journals of their choice and provide web links to the selected electronic journals from their library portal. If the institute has Intranet facility, then the library portal or Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) can be hosted on the Intranet IP so that all the departments and units connected with the Intranet can tnalce use of the e-journals.

Table1.2

Gateway Sites / Directories provid access to free e-journals

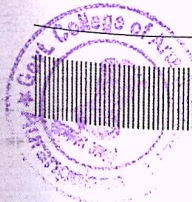| S.N.	Name	URL
1.	Open Science Library	www.opensscience directory.net
2.	OpenMED@NIC	http://openined.nic.in
3.	Geoscience e-Journals	http://wwwtinp.brest.fr/ geosciences/e-journals
4.	Oxford Open	http://www.oxfordjouma 1d.org/oxfordopen/
5.	Public Library of Science	http://www.pl os.org
6.	Bioline International	http://www.bio1ine.org.br
7.	Scientific Journals	http://www.scientificioui mals.ortt

e-Theses and Dissertations

Theses and dissertations are known to be the rich and unique source of information, often the only source of research work that does not find its way into various publication channels. Theses and dissertations remain an un-tapped and under-utilized asset, leading to unnecessary duplication and repetition that, in effect, is the anti-theses of research and wastage of huge resources, both human and financial.

Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) are the most frequent document type found and consulted for use in the Digital Era. During the last decade, their growth globally has been increased tremendously among universities and other organizations. Moreover, there is an increase in ETDs Initiatives and ETDs Collections. Open access and open source technologies seems to help ETDs and other research material repositories to be developed. ETDs can play an important role in research by adopting knowledge organization system (KOS) architecture to enhance information retrieval (IR) systems and their performance.

In an Indian scenario, the study by Das and others (2007) indicates that the national ETD initiatives are still in developmental phase where more action plans are needed. The stakeholders are mostly aware of the implications of open access, but are awaiting for some concrete policy frameworks by the

national accredited and granting agencies. Open access to scholarly literature in India helps rather to produce social goods and social applications, than merely to provide research degrees to the beneficiaries

Here, we will see some of the important gateway sites where we can access and download full-text ETDs.

Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (NDLTD)

The Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (NDLTD) has contributed to research over time and collaboration by identifying and aggregating digital repositories of theses and dissertations.Probably, the NDLTD is the first and foremost digital repository of ETDs.

The NDLTD is a collaborative effort of the NDLTD, OCLC, VTLS and Scirus. The NDLTD Union Catalog contains more than one million records of electronic theses and dissertations. For students and researchers, the Union Catalog makes individual collections of NDLTD member institutions and consortia appear as one seamless digital library of ETDs. The NDLTD provides free resources to contribute any institution's metadata. The resources are available at **http://www.nd1td.org**

Shodhganga : is the name coined to denote digital repository of Indian Electronic Theses and Dissertations set-up by the INFLIBNET Centre. The word "Shodh" originates from Sanskrit and stands for research and discovery. The "Ganga" is the holiest, largest and longest of all rivers in Indian subcontinent. The Ganga is the symbol of India's age-long culture and civilisation, everchanging, ever-flowing, ever-loved and revered by its people, and has held India's heart captive and drawn uncounted millions to her banks since the dawn of history.

Shodhganga stands for the reservoir of Indian intellectual output stored in a repository hosted and maintained by the INFLIBNET Centre. Shodhganga provides a platform for research scholars to deposit their Ph.D. theses and make it available to the entire scholarly community in open access. The repository has the ability to capture, index, store, disseminate and preserve ETDs (Electronic Theses and Dissertations) submitted by the researchers.

Vidyanidhi (Meaning 'Treasure of Knowledge' in Sanskrit) is India's premier Digital library initiative to facilitate the creation, archiving and accessing of doctoral theses.

Vidyanidhi is an information infrastructure, a digital library, a portal of resources, tools and facilities for doctoral research in India. Vidyanidhi is envisioned to evolve as a national repository and a consortium for e-theses through participation and partnership with universities, academic institutions and other stake holders. Vidyanidhi enhances access to Indian theses and enlarges the reach and audience for Indian doctoral research works.

It is available at **http://www.vidyanidhi. org.inetd@IISC** is the digital repository of Theses and Dissertations of Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India. We can search, browse and access theses and dissertations from this collection. This repository has been developed to capture, disseminate and preserve research theses of Indian Institute of Science. It is available at **etd.iisc.ac.in**

The following table 1.3 provides some of the important web sites where we can access and download ETDs of various universtties and research institutes.

Table1.3
Gateway Sites / Directories provid access to free fulltext ETDs

S.N.	Name	URL
1.	IIT, Hydrabad	http://raiith.ac.in/view/type/thesis.html
2.	IIT, Delhi	http://eprint.iitd.ac.in/dspace/handle/2074/378
3.	NIT, Rourkela	http://ethesis.nitrkl.ac.in/
4.	CSIR	http://eprints.csirexplorations.com/
5.	Sourashtra University	http://etheses.saurashtra-university.edu/
6.	Aligarh Muslim University	http://ir.amu.ac.in/view/type/
7.	Indian Institute of Science (IISc)	http://etd.ncsi.iisc.ernet.in/
8.	Mahatma Gandhi University	http://mgutheses.org/
9.	Krishikosh	http://krishikosh.egranth.ac.in
10.	Goa University	http://irgu.unigoa.ac.in
11.	Cochin	http://dyuthi.cusat.ac.in/xmlui/communit
12.	Florida University	http://etd.1ib.fsu.edu
13.	University of Pittsburg	http://www.pitt.edu/-graduate/etd/
14.	Canada Portal	http://www.collections-canada.gc.ca/thesescanada/-index-e.html
15.	Cyber Theses (France)	http://www.cybertheses.org

Conference Proceedings

Seminar / Conference papers are the papers presented at a conference by individual 'speakers. Researchers often use conferences to present their research findings to their peers. When all the papers are made available from a particular conference, this collection of papers is referred to as the Proceedings from that particular conference. conference proceedings are playing a vital role in academic and research.

Now a days, due to the skyrocketing printing charges, they serve a copy only to the participants and deposit one or two copies to their library only. So, access to conference proceedings is very much limited. But, the conference proceedings are prepared using computers and an electronic version of the same is available with the organizers. So, they can deposit the electronic version to concerned repositories so that the rich information will be made available in the public domain. Conference proceedings and papers may be published in various ways: as separate, one-time publications; as serials; or as special issues in journals.

Sometimes only the abstract is published; sometimes the paper may be obtained only by contacting the author or society; sometimes the full text is on the web. Occasionally the papers are never published but may be cited by authors who attended the meetings.

As a result of these variations, locating conference proceedings can be complicated. In this context, some of the important gateway sites where conference proceedings can be accessed are furnished in Table1.4.

Table 1.4
Gateway Sites / Directories provid access to Conference Proceedings

S.N.	Name	URL
1.	Science Conference Proceedings	http://www.osti.gov/-scienceconferences/
2.	OCLC Proceedings First	http://www.oclc.org/support/documentation.firstsearch/databases/dbdetails/details/proceedings.htm
3.	Current Melvyl	http://melvyl.cdlib.org
4.	IATUL	http://www.iatul.org/conferences/pastconferences/
5.	USENIX	http://www.usenix.org/-publications/library/-proceedings/
6.	AIP Conference Proceedings	http://www.apiscitation.org
7.	SCOPUS Indexed Conference Proceedings	http://www.scholar.google.-co.in
8.	ACM Conference Proceedings	http://www.acm.org
9.	Procedia Conference Proceedings	http://elsevier.com.>procedia
10.	IEEE Conference Proceedings	http://www.ieee.org

Conclusion :

Academic libraries can better utilize the internet to build the digital collection using open access resources. Libraries can design portal and provide web links to gateway sites and directories which are offering access to free full text, ebooks, ejournals, ethesis and dissertations, e-conference proceedings etc., So, it is the proper time for academic librarians to come forward and to make the use of these invaluable resoureses available under Open Acess.

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