



Research Article

ATTITUDE OF RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC COMMUNITY TOWARDS INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORY: A COMPARATIVE STUDY

*Dr. Shipra Awasthi

Assistant Librarian, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India

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ABSTRACT

A comparative study of research and academic community has been presented towards the use of the institutional repository. Various conditions have been focused in which they were willing to contribute in open access initiatives. This study also brought forward the similarity and differences in the attitude of both the community towards the institutional repository.

INTRODUCTION

An institutional repository is an important tool to make the work widely accessibly across the globe. It is the rich source of information that provides access to all the scholarly output of an organization. IR always increases the visibility and prestige of an organization. It is easier to implement an IR, but lots of efforts are required to sustain it. An IR may also serve as an indicator of the scope and extent of the university's research activities (Reitz Joan, 2004). An institutional repository is distinguished from a subject based repository by its institutionally defined scope. Institutional repositories are part of a growing effort to reform scholarly communication and break the monopoly of journal publishers by reasserting institutional control over the results of scholarship.

Objectives

The objectives of this study are:

- To compare the use of institutional repository in research and academic community
- To evaluate the view point of research and academic community on the benefits derived from the use of IR.
- To evaluate the rational conditions for research and academic community for participating in open access initiatives.
- To compare the parameter important for publication for both the community.

*Corresponding author: Dr. Shipra Awasthi,
Assistant Librarian, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India.

METHODOLOGY

Questionnaire method has been adopted to collect the data from the scientists and faculty for this study. This method of data collection is the tool that is more frequently used in mail survey research than any other method of data collection. This is the best tool for collecting information in all the areas as it covers a larger population in a shorter time.

Scope

The scope of this study is confined to the Research and Academic organizations in India successfully running the institutional repositories. Few organizations have been selected for this study.

Analysis of the study

Knowledge of Open Access Initiatives

The sample population had 72 scientists and 87 faculty and research scholars (Table1). Among 72 scientists 55 (76.38) responded positively and 16(22.22) responded negatively. Among 87 faculty and research scholars 83 (95.4) responded affirmatively and 4(4.59) answered negatively regarding the familiarity with open access initiatives. The academic community is more familiar about the concept than the research community. Large numbers of faculty and research scholars are well versed than the scientists.

Utilization of Institutional Repository

Table 2 displayed that 5 (6.94) respondents from research community responded that they use their IR every day where as from academic community 8 (9.19) responded positively. 30(41.66) respondents highlighted that the IR is being used only a few times throughout the year whereas 21(24.13) respondents from academic community answered the same. Large numbers of respondents from both the community answered the same. The reason for less use of IR might be the lack of awareness regarding archiving or downloading the full text of the articles among the respondents.

community preferred to archive the referred material and 53 (30.11) to deposit the educational material. An average number of respondents from both the academic community consented to deposit other materials like Preprints, works accepted by anybody and also other type of material.

A Large number of respondents from both the community preferred to deposit the refereed material, the reason might be the authenticity of the material. Material deposited in an institutional repository is widely accessible across the globe. So it becomes the prestige issue of an organization to archive the authentic and quality material that can assist the users.

List of the institutions

S.No	Organizations	URL
1	Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore	http://www.iisc.ernet.in/
2	Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology, Trivandrum	http://rgcb.res.in/
3	Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bangalore	http://www.iiap.res.in/
4	National Institute of Oceanography, Goa	http://www.nio.org/
5	National Chemical Laboratory, Pune	http://www.ncl-india.org/
6	Indira Gandhi Institute for Development & Research, Mumbai	http://www.igidr.ac.in/
7	Raman Research Institute, Bangalore	http://dst.gov.in/autonomous/rri.htm
8	Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi	http://www.iitd.ac.in/
9	National Institute of Technology, Rourkela	http://www.nitrkl.ac.in/
10	Cochin University of Science & Technology, Cochin	http://www.cusat.ac.in/
11	University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad	http://www.uohyd.ernet.in/
12	Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, Delhi	http://www.ipu.ac.in/

Table 1.

Organizations	Yes		No		No ans		Total
	F	P	F	P	F	P	
Research	55	76.38	16	22.22	1	1.38	72
Academic	83	95.4	4	4.59	0	0	87

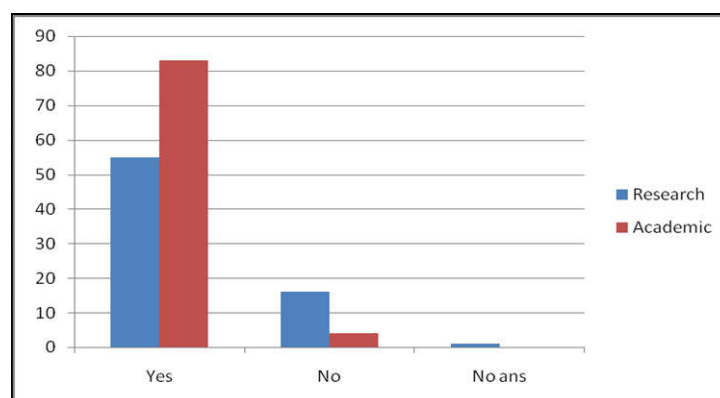


Fig. 1.

Benefits from the use of IR

Among 72 scientists 46 (63.88) believed that they had never experienced the benefits from the use of institutional repository but at the same time 15 (20.83) responded positively whereas 43(out of 87) from academic community answered negatively, and 36 (41.37) consented that they had been benefitted from the utilization of IR.

Material to be archived in an Institutional Repository

Table 4 pointed out that 48 (32.43) respondents from research community agreed to archive the refereed material followed by 43 (29.05) respondents who preferred to deposit the educational material whereas 55(31.25) respondents from academic

Nature of preferred repository

Table 5 displayed that 23 (30.66) respondents from research community answered that repository should be institutional in nature and the equal number of respondents responded that the category of repository should be disciplinary whereas in academic community 36 (40.44) consented that the category of repository should be interdisciplinary, 32(33.95) answered that repository should be institutional, and 15(16.85) responded that it should be disciplinary. Large numbers of respondents from academic community preferred that the nature of repository should be interdisciplinary where as in research community respondents preferred that it should be institutional and disciplinary in nature.

Table 2.

Organizations	Everyday		Once in a week		Appx. Every two weeks		Once in a month		Only a few times throughout the year		Never		No ans		Total
	F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P			
Research	5	6.94	5	6.94	2	2.77	8	11.11	30	41.66	15	20.83	7	9.72	72
Academic	8	9.19	15	17.24	14	16.09	15	17.24	21	24.13	10	11.49	4	4.59	87

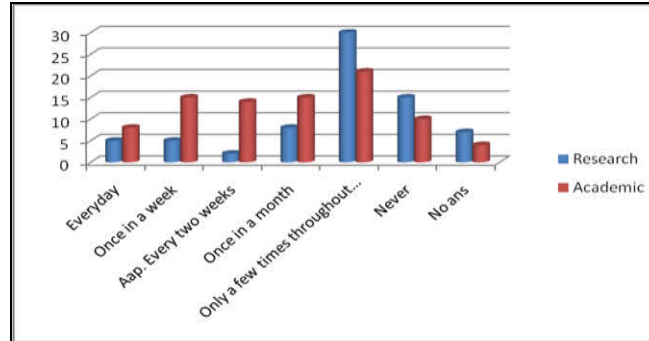


Fig. 2.

Table 3

Organizations	Yes		No		No ans		Total
	F	P	F	P	F	P	
Research	15	20.83	46	63.88	11	15.27	72
Academic	36	41.37	43	49.42	8	9.19	87

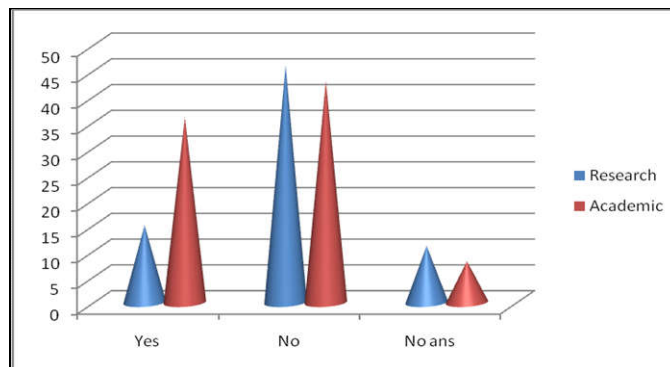


Fig. 3.

Table 4.

Organizations	Refereed Material		Educational		Preprints		Works accepted by a body		Other		All		No ans		Total
	F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P			
Research	48	32.43	43	29.05	26	17.56	26	17.56	3	2.02	0	0	2	1.35	148
Academic	55	31.25	53	30.11	20	11.36	39	22.15	3	1.70	2	1.13	4	2.27	176
Total	103	63.68	96	59.16	46	28.92	65	39.71	6	3.72	2	1.13	6	3.62	324

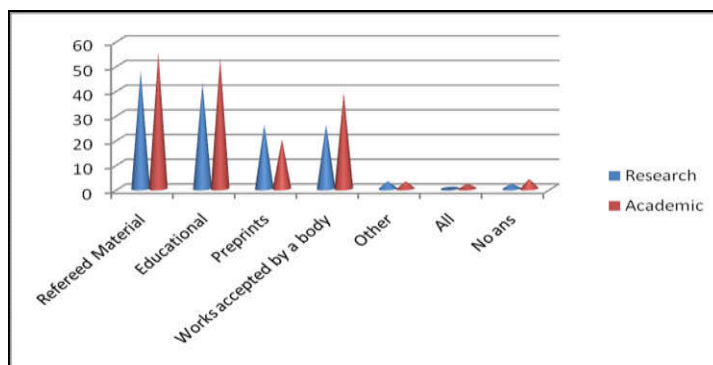


Fig. 4.

Table 5.

Organizations	Institutional		Disciplinary		Interdisciplinary		All		No ans		Total
	F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P	
Research	23	30.66	23	30.66	20	26.66	5	6.6	4	5.33	75
Academic	32	35.95	15	16.85	36	40.44	5	5.61	1	1.12	89

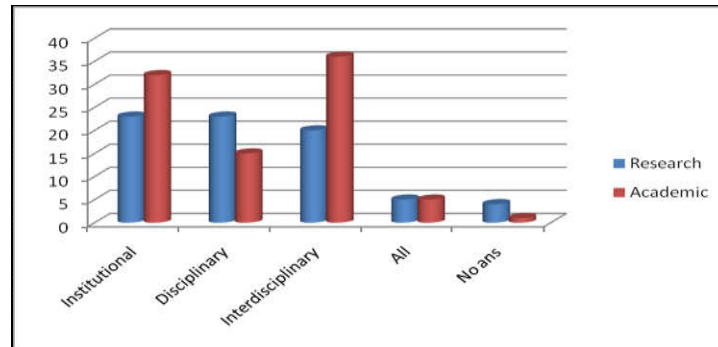


Fig. 5.

Table 6.

Organizations	Unconditional		No alterations		Can also be published in Journal		Protection from plagiarism		Permanent storage		Inclusion in indexes		Assurance of interoperability		No ans		Total
	F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P			
Research	11	5.39	36	17.64	36	17.64	45	22.05	19	9.31	35	17.41	20	9.80	2	0.9	204
Academic	26	12.93	23	11.44	40	19.90	39	19.40	22	10.94	28	13.93	22	10.94	1	0.49	201
Total	37	18.32	59	29.08	76	37.54	84	41.45	41	20.25	63	31.34	42	20.74	3	1.9	405

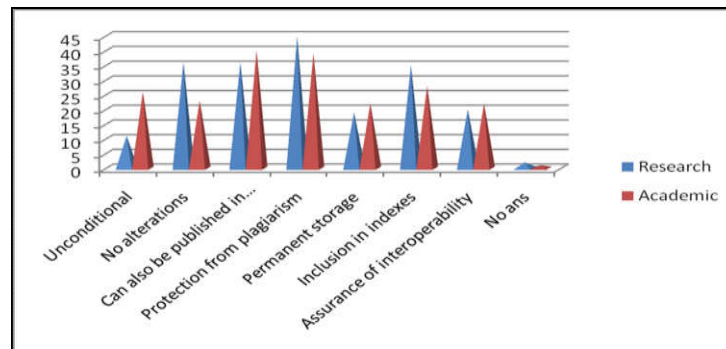


Fig. 6.

Table 7.

Organizations	Yes, willingly		Yes, if supported by the organizers		Need further information		No, prefer someone else to archive		No ans		Total
	F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P	
Research	26	36.11	24	33.33	6	8.33	12	16.66	4	5.55	72
Academic	51	58.62	25	28.73	4	4.59	7	8.04	0	0	87
Total	77	94.73	49	62.06	10	12.92	19	24.70	4	5.55	159

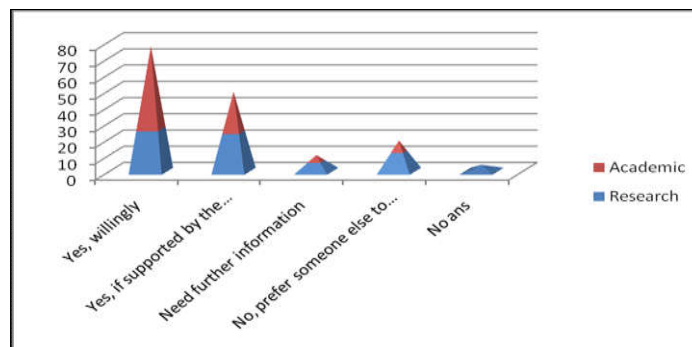


Fig. 7.

Table 8.

Organizations	Impact Factor		Target audience		Speed of publication		Open access status		All		No ans		Total
	F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P	
Research	46	41.44	37	33.33	21	18.91	0	0	4	3.60	3	2.70	111
Academic	57	49.56	25	21.73	24	20.86	6	5.21	2	1.73	1	0.8	115
Total	103	91	62	55.06	45	39.77	6	5.21	6	5.33	4	3.5	226

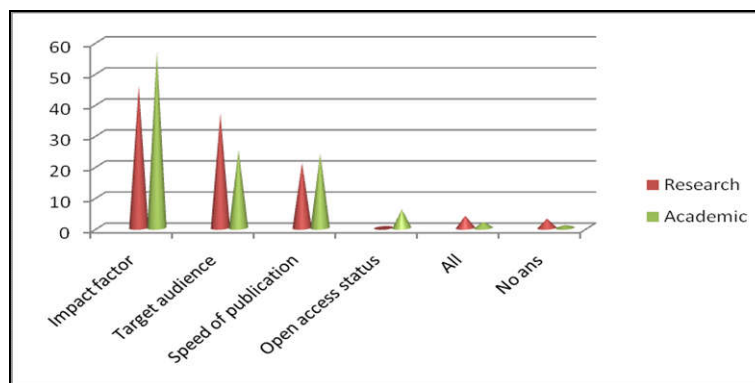


Fig. 8.

The order of preference of the respondents is because they might think that from the institutional repository they will only get to know the intellectual output of an organization irrespective of the discipline. In disciplinary repository, respondents can collect the information related to their fields and disciplines. The interdisciplinary repository will provide the information not only related to their disciplines but also cover the related disciplines. So the users will be greatly benefitted from an interdisciplinary repository.

Conditions for participating in an Open Access Initiatives

Table 6 pointed out that from research community 45(22.05) responded that their work should be protected from plagiarism whereas 39 (19.40) answered the same from the academic community. Scientists were more concerned about protecting their work from getting it plagiarized whereas faculty and researchers were more concerned about publishing their articles in the journal.

11(5.39) respondents from research community agreed unconditionally to participate in open access initiatives whereas 23 (12.93) respondents from academic community consented for the same. Scientists are more involved in research work so their major issue is to preserve their ideas from getting it illegally used by others whereas faculty believed that if the idea is being published in journals that can be protected from the same.

Eager to self-archive

Table 7 highlighted that 26(36.11) respondents from research community answered affirmatively and 24 (33.33) agreed but with proper assistance where as 51 (58.62) respondents from academic community reacted positively and 25 (28.73) consented but with support from the administrators. Respondents might think that archiving in the repository is a tedious and lengthy process.

Average numbers of respondents from both the community reacted negatively and wished that someone else should archive their research output.

Aspects for publication

Table 8 displayed that 46 (41.44) respondents from academic community answered that impact factor is a significant aspect for publication whereas 57 (49.56) respondents reacted the same. Average numbers of respondents from both the community believed that target audience and speed of publication is also an important parameter for the publication. The impact factor is important for both the community as it indicates the quality and authenticity of an output.

Conclusion

The major findings of the study are:

- Large numbers of academicians are familiar about the concept than the scientists.
- Respondents from both the community reacted that they make use of institutional repository only a few times throughout the year.
- No benefits had been experienced by the scientists and faculty by the use of the institutional repository.
- Both Scientists and faculty preferred the refereed and educational material to be archived in the institutional repository.
- Scientists preferred the institutional and disciplinary nature of repository where as faculty favored only the institutional archive.
- The research community is more concerned about protecting their works from plagiarism where as the academic community is more anxious about the publication in journals.
- Both research and the academic community were willing to self-archive their scholarly output.

- The impact factor of journals is an important aspect of publication for both the community.
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