Open Access Initiatives in India – An Evaluation

A Presentation

By

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Why Open Access to Indian Research?

- Contribution to a global knowledge base
- Authors lack access to international publishing avenues
- Declining journal subscriptions
- Better dissemination of research locally
- Local journals not indexed by major A & I services such as Web of Science
- OA will provide greater visibility and impact

S&T Departments

- Dept. of Science and Technology
- Dept. of Biotechnology
- Dept. of Scientific & Industrial Research
 - Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)
- Dept. of Atomic Energy
- Dept. of Space
- Dept. of Ocean Development
- Department of Agricultural Research & Education
 - Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)
- Dept. of Health and Family Welfare
 - Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)

Higher Education Structure

- Ministry of Human Resource Development
 - All educational institutions including universities and technical institutes
 - Indian Institutes of Technology
 - Indian Institutes of Management
 - Indian Institute of Science

Open Access and Developing Countries

- Chan et al. 2005. The fast track to building research capacity in developing countries. www.scidev.net/ms/openaccess
- Das et al. 2005. Collection development in digital information repositories in India. http://eprints.rclis.org/archive/00005682
- Kumari, L. Spring 2005. Global access to Indian research. Indian STM journals online. http://www.istl.org/05-spring/article3.html

Outline of study

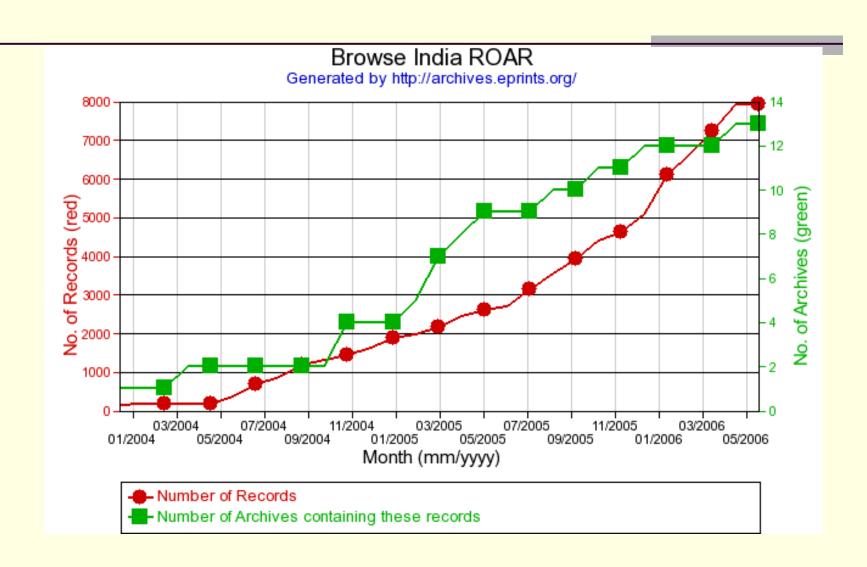
- Study Objectives
- Scope of Study
- Study methodology
- Results
- Innovative features
- Barriers to implementation
- Best practices

Study Objectives

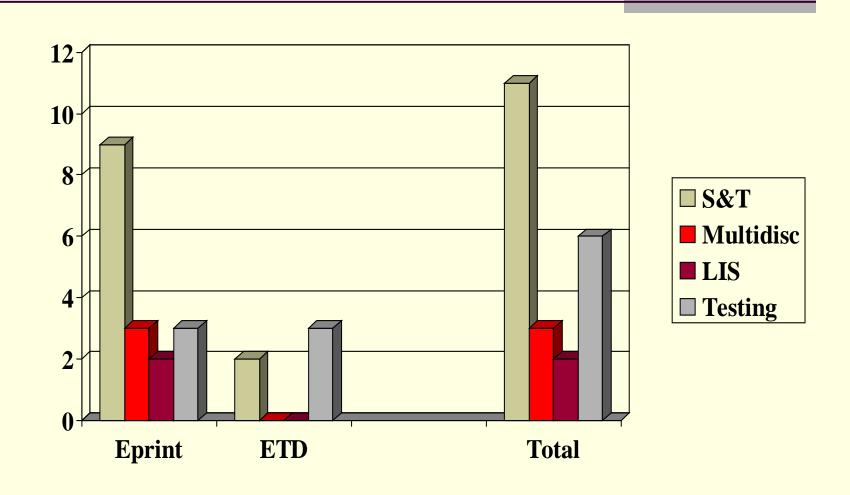
- To study recent developments in open access in India
- To evaluate underlying issues with research repositories
- To understand barriers to implementation
- To provide a list of best practices
- To promote visibility of Indian research

Scope of Study

- Repository selection from Registry of Open Access Repositories (ROAR) at University of Southampton
- Online research repositories
 - E-print archives
 - Electronic theses & Dissertations (ETDs)
 - E- journals



Subject Distribution of Archives



Open Access E-journals

- Generally e-versions of peer-reviewed print journals
- Subscription-based, no author fees
- Published by professional societies, science academies or institutes, by granting agencies such as ICMR and CSIR

E-journal Publishers

- Indian Medlars Centre (38)
- Medknow Publications (30)
- Indian Academy of Sciences (11)
- Indian National Science Academy (4)
- Indian Institute of Science Library (1)
- Indian Statistical Institute (1)
- International Assoc. of Bioinformation (1)
- Calicut Medical Journal (1)

Study Methodology

- Semi-structured interviews
- Site visits, telephone or e-mail on request
- Open-ended questions covered participants' background and expertise institutional background choice of software resource requirements repository policies feedback, promotion & advertising future plans

Participant Information

- Number of participants = 17. Key contacts facilitated by local open access advocates
- Background: librarians, scientists, physician
- Technical expertise: Computer applications, programming, GNU EPrints, DSpace training
- Listserv membership : LIS-forum, OA list and EPrints and DSpace technical lists

Institutional Background

- Research Institutes/Deemed Universities (6)
- Informatics centres (3)
- Universities (2)
- Journal Publishing Centres (4)

Choice of software

- DSpace easy installation, shell script provided, more flexibility, communities and collections, CNRI handle facility
- GNU Eprints earlier versions difficult to install, now better support
- Greenstone Digital Library software promoted by UNESCO, (prototype)
- E-journals: proprietary or in-house software

Resources Required

- Staffing: 1-2 full-time staff + student trainees for uploading documents
- Computer and networking infrastructure: high-end server and broadband Internet
- No extra funding, existing library budgets sufficient.
- For e-journals, e-versions through grants or minimal additional funds (3-5%, Medknow)

Eprints Archive Policies

- Submission policies IISc model site
- Mediated and unmediated deposit, current and retrospective material
- Common Formats: Word, PDF and LaTeX
- Copyright: SHERPA/ROMEO/ NCSI local list
- Collection policies generally understated
- Subject classification: MeSH for OpenMED

ETD Repositories

- Open access to full-text uneven
- Copyright issues, plagiarism, embargo period for publication or patent application
- No downloading allowed
- University Grants Commission regulations and guidelines for ETD preparation, DC metadata, ETD-MS
- Vidyanidhi National theses repository

E-journals

- E-versions, print is archival format
- Non OAI compliant, except 15 Medknow journals archived on Bioline Eprints archive
- Open access depends on editorial policy
- Online submission by authors for Medknow journals and IAS journal – Pramana
- Publisher owns copyright

Feedback for Users

- Access statistics not available at all sites
- Best site: Librarians' Digital Library for detailed statistics, monthly and cumulative
- E-journals: Medknow article level stats on times viewed, e-mailed, printed and cited, follows Counter Code of Practice. MedIND shows number of visitors on journal website

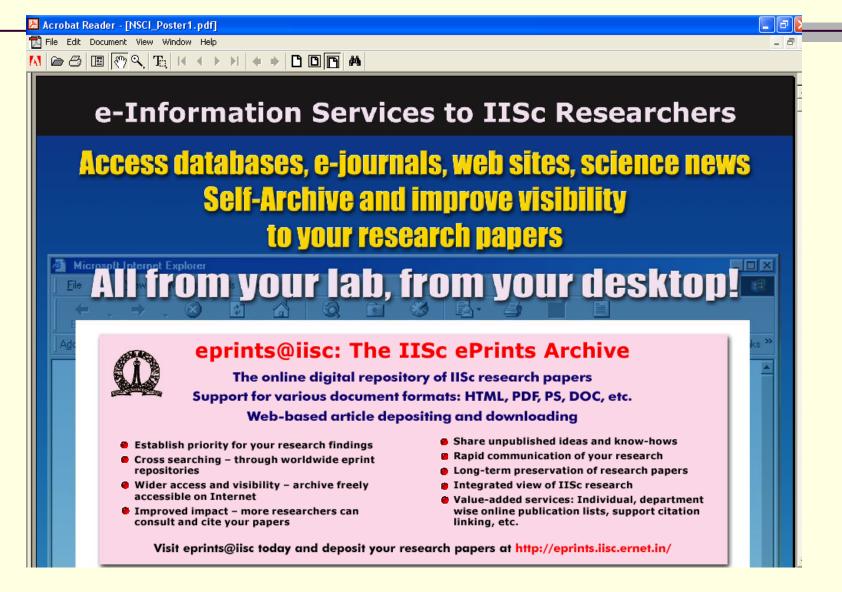
Feedback from Users

- Positive comments from repository users
- 24/7 access allows sharing information abroad, requests for collaboration
- Suggestions for additional metadata, less cumbersome deposit procedures
- Technical questions, copyright issues
- E-journals User appreciation for added functionality, requests for cross-searching, online submission

Promoting Repositories

- Top-down and bottom-up methods
- Talks, seminars, workshops, presentations
- E-mails to faculty, talks to library committees
- Enlisting support from top levels of administration
- Showing value to authors

National Centre for Scientific Information Poster



Advertising E-journals

- Talks to local and international fora
- Advertising on web and in print journal
- Announcements on listservs
- Google contacted when new journals launched by Medknow
- Medknow gets exposure through Bioline and ALPSP Learned Journals Collection

Future plans for repositories

- Filling repositories, simplifying procedures
- Providing more open access to full-text
- Diversification of content
- Adding value by customization e.g. chemistry plug-ins for molecular content, support for special characters
- Automatic extraction of metadata

Future plans (Continued)

- Expansion through INDEST Consortium
- National level harvester at NCSI
- More ETDs through UGC mandate
- More e-journals in the pipeline, including online only journal from Medknow

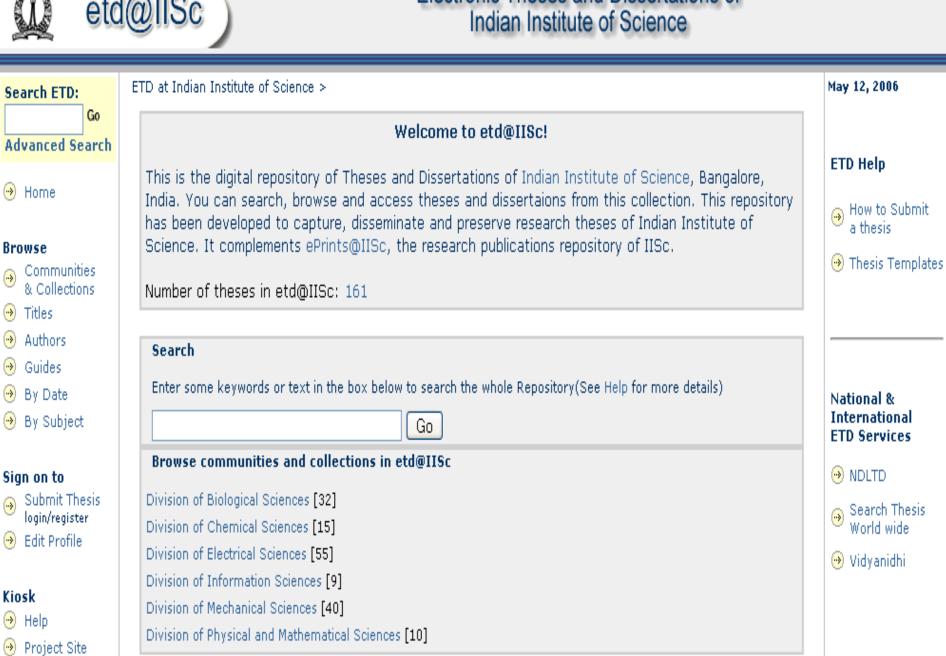
Special Features: Customization

- ETD@IISc offers thesis templates
- Browse function by guide and subject
- Display of individual collection strengths
- Dissertation Abstr. Int. classification
- Eprints@IISc >4000 publications, allows deposit by e-mail attachment



Study@IISc.

Electronic Theses and Dissertations of



OpenMED, medIND and IndMED



Indian Medlars Centre

A Centre jointly setup by NIC and ICMR to cater to the information needs of medical community of India.

IndMED: A Bibliographic database of Indian biomedical journals

Search IndMED



- --HELP: Use Boolean Operators in your query.
- --Know about Full Text Icons displayed in references.

OpenMED@NIC: Open Access Archive for Bio-Medical and Allied Sciences.

medIND: Fulltext of 38 Journals Indexed in IndMED.

MetaMED: - A meta-search tool to search IndMED and PubMed with single click.

Union Catalogue: A database containing journal holdings of major medical libraries of India.

Other Links: Other important Services and Resources.

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Contact us

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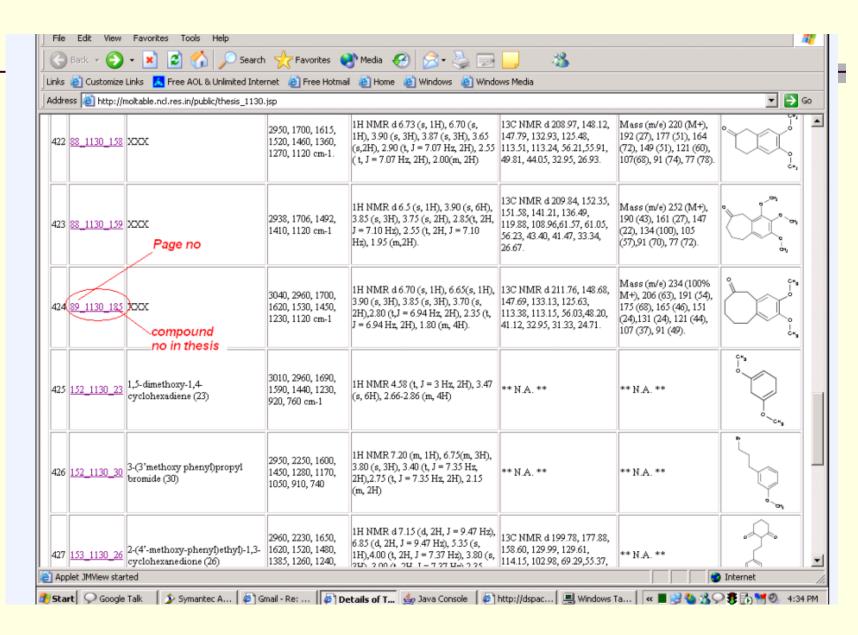
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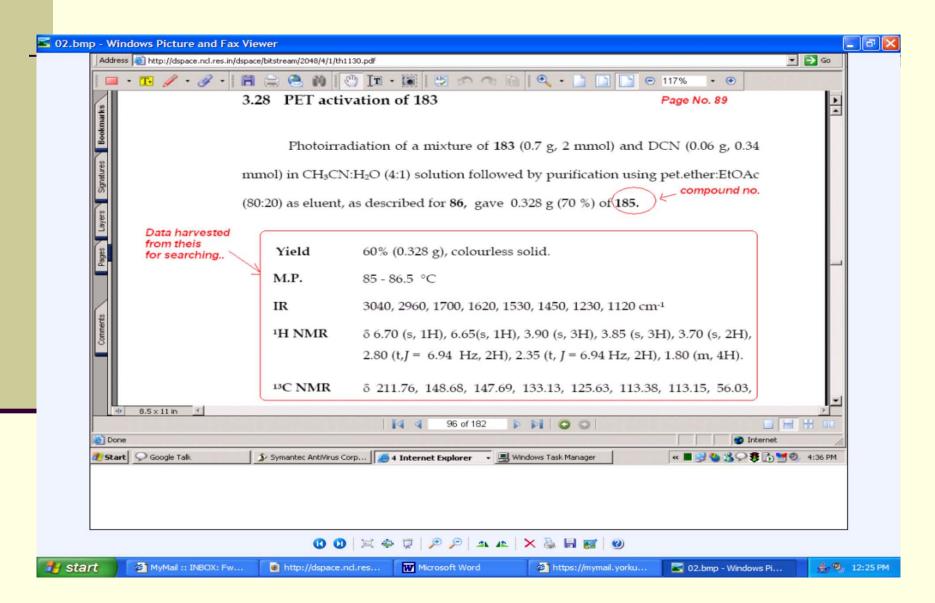
NCL Open Access Initiatives

- Chemoinformatics initiative single point access to molecular data and information harvested from Internet
- Biodiversity Informatics Portal, Indian biota directory
- Linking database of chemical information from theses to DSpace providing access to original thesis data

Thesis Database

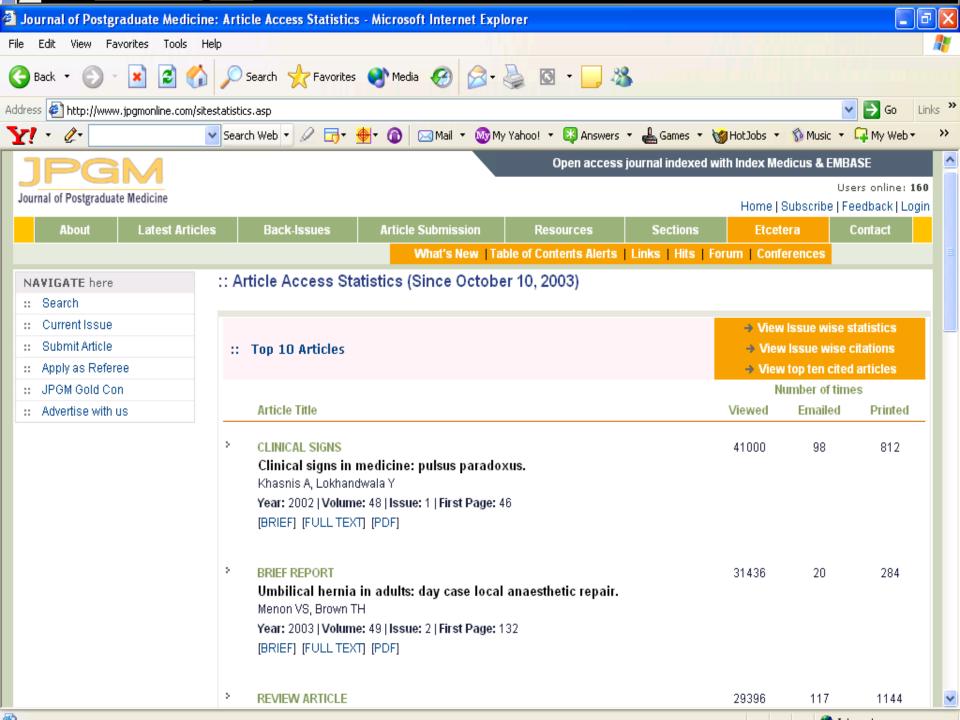


Thesis Page



Journal of Postgraduate Medicine

- Indexed by PubMed and EMBASE
- Archived on Bioline Eprints archive
- Online submission for authors
- Follows Counter Code of Practice
- Value-added searching and linking
- Increase in international author submissions
- Increase in subscriptions (Sahu, D.K. Open Access: Boon for journals from India, 2006)



Barriers to Implementation of Repositories

- Author noncompliance
- Lack of institutional commitment
- Intellectual property issues
- Lack of leadership/infrastructure in universities
- Need for hands-on training

E-journal publishing barriers

- Non OAI compliant journals
- Dependence on Editor or governing body, liable to changes in policy
- Print remains archival format
- Copyright resides with publisher

Best practices

- Show value to authors, show citation value, use repository to prepare publication lists and webpages
- Get support from the top
- Create public opinion for mandating deposits
- Increase training opportunities
- Register with ROAR/OpenDOAR and OAlster

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