

Institutional repository in K.J.Somaiya Institute of Technology: a sample case study in Somaiya University Repository

Abstract :

Title - Institutional repository in K.J.Somaiya Institute of Technology: a sample case study in Somaiya

University Repository

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This article pertains to case study of Institutional repository in K.J. Somaiya Institute of technology a case study. Since inception of the Institutional Repository using an open source software till the actual usage of the repository by patrons is a marvellous journey. Users were very desperate get knowledge resources during CORONA period. The Somaiya management had just approved for installation of Dspace software for creating the institutional repository. The article elaborates upon the hurdles faced while installation till the end user feedback. The new education policy (NEP) focuses upon use of open education resources. Article explains hurdles faced while establishing the repository. It also elaborates the contents of the repository. The Somaiya repository is open for all. In a way it is contributing for nation's open and free education movement.

Key words – Institutional repository, Dspace, NEP, Open Educational Resources

Introduction

Repository – It is broad term for collection of resources. The traditional repositories do collection, preservation and dissemination of information using physical modes. Certainly it has its own benefits and own shortcomings. Benefits include keeping the sources limited for its own patrons and keeping them private. But it lacks flavour of globalization. One more shortcoming is limited access. In the current scenario when the world is trying to get more and more connected, there arise need of online access and availability of worldwide access.

Institutional Repository (IR) – Intellectual content of every institute carries its own weightage. It gives high value to the institute as well as to the contributors. An institutional repository basically means repository of the intellectual production of any institute. An institute may be having world famous authors and researchers, but if the writings by these personalities are not centralized under a single roof, they may get scattered. Apart from this, the institute where these personalities observe personal growth remains unnoticed. There comes the concept of institutional repository. (IR).

An IR has following advantages

- 1) The brain children of the employees of an institutions get a single roof as custodian.
- 2) The brain children get good publicity.
- 3) The brain children in return give a fame to the institute.

K.J. Somaiya Institute of Technology (KJSIT) is an engineering college established in 2001 and giving quality engineering education since then. It has received academic autonomy in 2021. The academic autonomy increases responsibility of the academicians of the institute. It is expected to take rigorous efforts by academic fraternity for inclusion of knowledge about latest developments in the curriculum. The curriculum is expected to be updated. Apart from this it is essential to keep the curriculum updated at regular intervals. With this motto, the Central Library of K.J. Somaiya Institute of Technology took this responsibility as challenge under guidance of higher authorities. The Somaiya management is always supportive for new initiatives taken in interest of overall development of students. The concept of establishing institutional repository with the help of Dspace software was already approved by management and it was in its primitive step. The IT department was keen in setting up all the help required for the establishment. The Somaiya Repository was developed after overcoming all hurdles. Despite of all the odds and even environment, KJSIT library staff started working on actual project.

Implementation of IR

The support from IT team made it possible to begin the work of uploading data on the repository. Necessary servers were installed. The regular working of the institute was not feasible due to surrounding condition. However, library staff kept working seamlessly from home and from office. Gradually the KJSIT page on Somaiya repository started taking shape.

Hurdles -

Network problem while working from home caused problems sometimes. Institute allowed for high speed purchase for this work. It was required to scan the hard copy of the documents available in college. This

required constant usage of scanner. It caused hanging of scanners sometimes. However, other departments helped with their scanners to overcome the problem.

Network issues in institute were sometimes chronic as few staff members allowed to be in the institute. The network administrators gave whole hearted help to fix the issues time to time.

All's well that ends well. The issues were in bundle however the moral of the library staff was high. This finally ended up in establishing in a good promising institutional repository. Somaiya University proudly started saying we are making open education available for all.



Fig.1 Somaiya repository website

Contents of the repository –

- 1) Faculty publications – The intellectual output of faculty of any institute has a crucial importance. The availability of the papers in repository helps other researchers and students for getting updates in their fields.
- 2) Video lectures – Video lectures on important topics play vital role in academics as it helps thorough understanding of topic.
- 3) Question papers – As an aid for Preparation for upcoming exams to students, the past question papers carry important role. Students refer the old question papers and get idea about paper pattern, frequently asked questions etc.

The contents of institutional repository – A steady growth were maintained in uploading documents on IR portal.

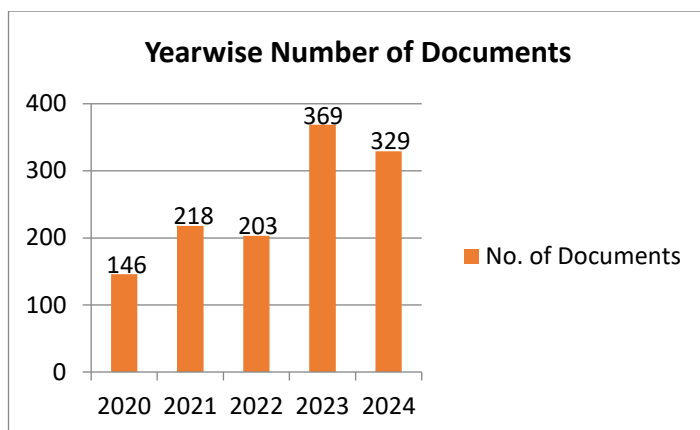


Fig 2 – Year wise document statistics

Efforts taken for increasing usage – The optimum usage of every resource is essential. Some necessary actions are required for increasing awareness about the repository. The library staff has taken various steps for this.

- a) During library orientation, the working of repository is explained to all students. Students are given live demo of the repository. Hands-on experience helps them understand searching on the site during orientation.



Fig 3 – Publicity of IR

Usage report graph – The usage report of the IR indicates maximum usage during the examination period. This shows popularity of IR. The richness of resources in IR will surely ensure good amount of usage. The Open Educational Resources thus enables to achieve education for all as mentioned in National Education Policy. (NEP)

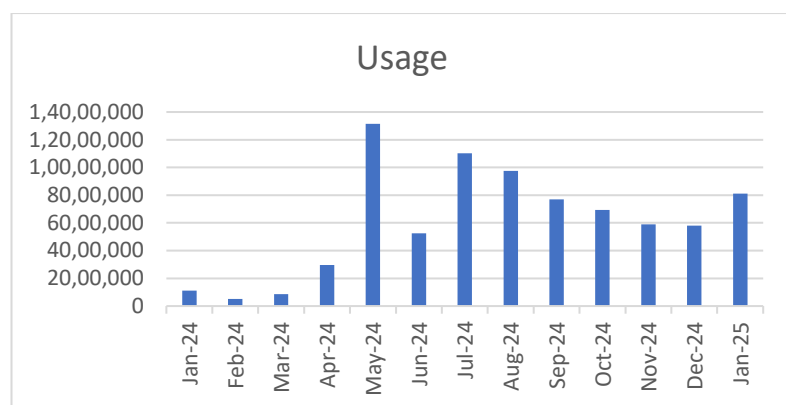


Fig 4 – Usage report

Question paper usage comparison in print format and soft format –

During COVID period, the conduction of exams was in online mode. At that time, huge response was received from students for the question papers on repository. This habituated them for usage of question papers in online form.

You tube video by teacher usage –

While browsing the question papers, students started noticing about the youtube links of video lectures by the institute professors. This gave a boost for their usage and helped students prepare for exams.

Faculty publications –

The faculty publishes their research in renowned journals. But earlier students or other faculty members were not aware as they remain unnoticed. However the availability of faculty publications on IR gave the publications wide publicity. Also it benefitted students get extra knowledge apart from their curriculum.

Conclusion – The establishment of an Institutional repository (IR) adds glory to the institute's intellectual property. When it is developed using Open Source software, it enables flexibility for adding new features to IR . The goals of providing open educational resources can be fulfilled.

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