

**Attitude towards Digital Library / Institutional Repository among College Librarians of NAAC Accredited Institutions.**

**A.Velayutham**

Research Scholar, Research Department of Library and Information Science,  
Chikkaiah Naicker College, Erode

**Dr. T. Magudeeswaran**

Head, Research Department of Library and Information Science,  
Chikkaiah Naicker College, Erode

**B.Sundar**

Assistant Professor, Edusys , Trichy

**Introduction**

Digital Library is a type of information retrieval system where the information is stored in digital format which can be accessed within network of computer users. It uses online repositories which can store the textual information systematically and can be accessed by users 24X7. There are various such digital repositories available, which may be open source or proprietary. The Institutional Repository (IR) concept has given a new dimension to information management in the Internet age. The introduction of an IR can help to redefine the production, dissemination, and the use of resources. (Bhardwaj, Raj. (2014).). Institutional repositories (IRs) are some of the most innovative and creative components of digital libraries. They are intended to be a showcase for the research output of an academic or research institution. (Cassella,M)

India has one of the largest and diverse education systems in the world. Privatization, widespread expansion, increased autonomy and introduction of Programmes in new and emerging areas have improved access to higher education. At the same time, it has also led to widespread concern on the quality and relevance of the higher education. To address these concerns, the National Policy on Education (NPE, 1986) and the Programme of Action (PoA, 1992) spelt out strategic plans for the policies, advocated the establishment of an independent National accreditation

(NAAC) was established in 1994 as an autonomous institution of the University Grants Commission (UGC) with its Head Quarter in Bangalore. The NAAC has the following objectives To arrange for periodic assessment and accreditation of institutions of higher education or units thereof, or specific academic programmes or projects; to stimulate the academic environment for promotion of quality of teaching-learning and research in higher education institutions; to encourage self-evaluation, accountability, autonomy and innovations in higher education etc.

**Review of Literature**

Verma, L & Kumar, N(2018) made an attempt to study on most popular open-source digital library management software such as DSpace, GSDL and Eprints. The frontend and backend of DSpace, GSDL and EPrints were analysed to find their suitability with specific requirements of an information repository. The study found that there are many more advantages in DSpace which make it a suitable choice for implementation of IR in an organisation. Hazra, U., & Das, R. (2018) have made an attempt on comparative analysis among selected online learning repositories viz., eGyankosh, ePG pathshala, MIT resources and Sodhganga. The study was based on some analytical parameters, like generic, content related, retrieval related, post processing, interface related, etc.

**Abstract**

**Digital Library / Institutional Repositories (IRs)** are established mainly to provide access to information resources which are otherwise not easily accessible in digital format. Many institutions across the world and particularly in India have successfully developed their own IRs but have not attempted to assess their importance and impact on the Users. The present study aims to find out the attitude towards Digital Library/Institutional Repository among Library and Information Science Professionals of NAAC Accredited Institutions.)

**Keywords :** Digital Library, Institutional Repository, NAAC

**Andayani, Ulpah (2017)** founded that Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University has initiated the development of institutional repositories since 2010, and right now has become one of the biggest repositories among the Islamic universities in Indonesia. **Ulum and Setiawan (2016)** analyzed the content availability and access policies defined by the University of Surabaya repository providing services to the academic community and external users.

**Pérez-Montoroa, M., and Nualart, J (2015)** observed that Journals and digital library portals are the information systems quently for undertaking and disseminating their academic work.

**Omer Hassan (2017)** found that repository of University of Khartoum constituted the largest collection graduate theses and dissertations constitute and that there was a high degree of institutional support for the repository and revealed that a mandatory deposit policy has been introduced by the University of Khartoum administration to enrich the repository with staff publications, but there is a need for more advocacy and awareness raising programmes targeting the University academic community

**Oleksyuk and Oleksyuk (2014)** analyzed the concepts associated with the processes of integration of software for the learning. The article contained ways of the integration institutional repository into educational environment of the universities. It described the experience of integration of DSpace system with the popular learning tools such as CMS Joomla!, LMS Moodle, UFD «Library». Integration of the specified tools is possible at the level of content and unification of access for users. It is provided effective use of DSpace system at scientific and research work of students

**Georgina A. Torres-Vargas, G.A (2013)** presented the link between a theoretical model of an academic digital library and the design of this library at the Institute of Library Research and Information of the National Autonomous University of Mexico. The resulting digital library may be applied in the development of digital libraries in different Mexican universities

**Anuradha, Sivakaminathan and Kumar (2011)** made an effort to enable full-text search features in the widely used open-source library automation package Koha, by integrating it with two open-source digital library software packages, Greenstone Digital Library Software (GSDL) and Fedora Generic Search Service (FGSS) independently. The implementation is done by

making use of the Search and Retrieval by URL (SRU) feature available in Koha, GSDL and FGSS. The full-text documents are indexed both in the library automation package (Koha) and digital library software (GSDL, FGSS).

**Wei, Z (2011)** discussed a general history and description of open source software. This paper described about three most popular open source digital and institutional repository viz., Greenstone, E-Prints and Dspace. This paper also highlighted OSS Software Licences Issues and recommended that in the implementation of OSS, attention should be paid to aspects such as comparative study of license, the rule of license usage, the importance of standardization as well as ways of managing the legal risks

### Research Question

What is the attitude of Library and Information Science professionals towards Digital library/Institutional Repository?

### Objective of the Study

To examine the attitude of Library and Information Science Professionals towards Digital Library / Institutional Repository.

### Methodology

Simple random sampling technique was adopted to collect, to select the samples from Library and Information Science Professionals of NAAC Accredited (A & above A Grade) Higher Educational Institutions in Tamil Nadu. The Questionnaire was adopted as a tool for data collection. A total of 251 questionnaire were distributed out of which 173 fully complete questionnaires were received

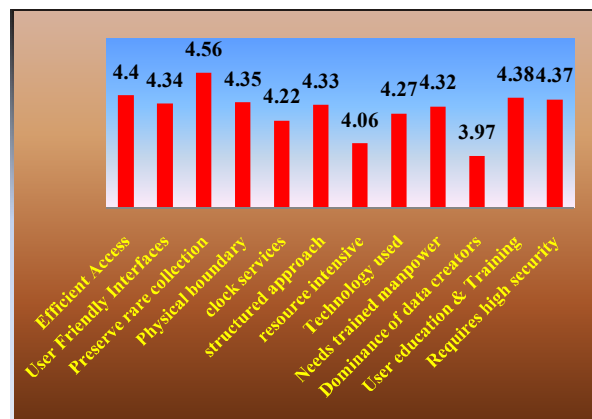
## Analysis and Interpretation

Table 1

## Attitude towards Digital Library and Institutional Repository

S. No	Description	SD	DA	UD	A	SA	M	Std	R
1	Offers efficient access.	0.0%	2.0%	1.5%	109 55.6%	84 42.9%	4.40	.56	2
2	Offers user friendly interfaces.	1.5%	0.0%	0.0%	125 63.8%	70 35.7%	4.34	.53	6
3	Helps to preserve rare collection through digitization.	0.0%	1.5%	9.6%	65 33.2%	121 61.7%	4.56	.60	1
4	Does not have physical boundary.	4.2%	1.5%	18.2%	71 36.2%	102 52%	4.35	.83	5
5	Offers round the clock services.	2.1%	2.1%	15.7%	107 54.6%	70 35.7%	4.22	.71	10
6	Has a structured approach	1.5%	1.5%	14.1%	96 49%	84 42.9%	4.33	.67	7
7	Is expensive and resource intensive.	0.0%	14.1%	25.8%	92 46.9%	65 33.2%	4.06	.86	11
8	Technology used is more dynamic (Keeps on changing)	0.0%	8.1%	9.6%	100 51%	79 40.3%	4.27	.73	9
9	Needs trained manpower.	0.0%	9.6%	13.6%	80 40.8%	94 48%	4.33	.79	8
10	Dominance of data creators and e-publishers.	4.2%	11.5%	24.2%	103 52.6%	54 27.6%	3.97	.89	12
11	Utilization requires proper user education & training.	0.0%	1.5%	19.7%	79 40.3%	97 49.5%	4.38	.68	3
12	Requires high security against hacking & sabotage.	0.0%	10.1%	9.6%	74 37.8%	103 52.6%	4.37	.79	4

Figure 1 : Attitude towards Digital Library and Institutional Repository



The mean values of all twelve variables were taken up for study and it ranges between 3.97 to 4.56. It is found that 'Helps to preserve the rare collection through digitization', occupied the first rank, it is followed by 'Offers efficient access', and 'Utilization requires proper user education and training', which ranked second and third respectively. It is observed that 'Dominance of data creators and e-publishers', occupied the last rank. In general, it is observed that 80.2% to 94.9% of the College librarians emphasized that they have positive attitude towards Digital Library and Institutional Repository.

Table 2

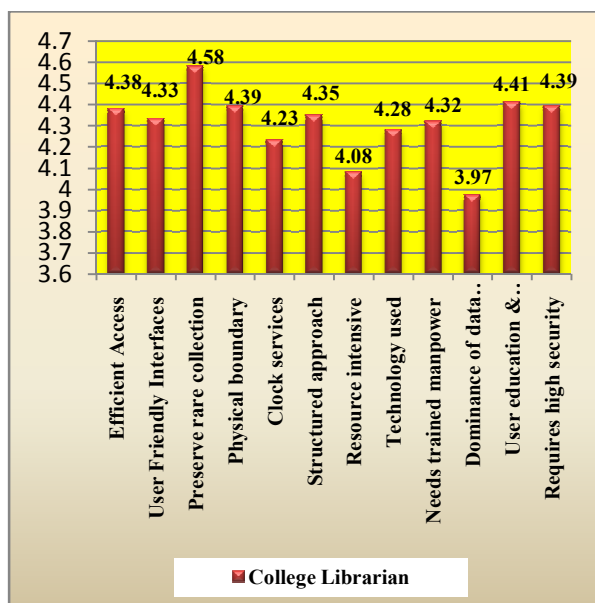
## Attitude towards Digital Library and Institutional Repository based on College Librarians

S. No.	Description	College Librarian (n=173)					
		SA	A	UD	DA	SD	M
1	Offers efficient access.	0.0%	2.1%	1.6%	99 57.2%	71 41%	4.38
2	Offers user friendly interfaces.	1.6%	0.0%	0.0%	111 64.2%	61 35.3%	4.33
3	Helps to preserve rare collection through digitization.	0.0%	1.6%	5.2%	50 28.9%	113 65.3%	4.58
4	Does not have physical boundary.	4.2%	1.6%	6.9%	61 35.3%	95 54.9%	4.39
5	Offers round the clock services.	1.2%	1.2%	6.4%	96 55.5%	62 35.8%	4.23

S. No.	Description	College Librarian (n=173)					
		SA	A	UD	DA	SD	M
6	Has a structured approach	1 .6%	0 .0%	12 6.9%	83 48%	77 44.5%	4.35
7	Is expensive and resource intensive.	0 .0%	12 6.9%	20 11.6%	83 48%	58 33.5%	4.08
8	Technology used is more dynamic (Keeps on changing)	0 .0%	7 4%	7 4%	89 51.4%	70 40.5%	4.28
9	Needs trained manpower.	0 .0%	8 4.6%	11 6.4%	71 41%	83 48.0%	4.32
10	Dominance of data creators and e-publishers.	4 2.3%	10 5.8%	21 12.1%	90 52%	48 27.7%	3.97
11	Utilization requires proper user education & training.	0 .0%	1 .6%	15 8.7%	68 39.3%	89 51.4%	4.41
12	Requires high security against hacking & sabotage.	0 .0%	9 5.2%	6 3.5%	65 37.6%	93 53.8%	4.39

(M=Mean; Std = Standard Deviation, R=Rank)

**Figure 2 : Attitude towards Digital Library/ Institutional Repository**



Majority of the College Librarians were of the opinion that attitude towards Digital Library and Institutional Repository would 'Helps to preserve rare collection through digitization' and is ranked first 'Utilization requires proper user education & training' and 'Does not have physical boundary' to be the second and third rank respectively. It is inferred that through the Digital Library and Institutional Repository, the college librarians are utilizing Digital Library and Institutional Repository to preserve rare collection through digitization. In general, it is observed that 79.7% to 94.2% of the College Librarians had the positive attitude towards Digital Library and Institutional Repository.

### Findings, Conclusion and Suggestion

Digital libraries are organizations that provide the resources, including specialized staff, to select, offer intellectual access to, interpret, distribute, preserve the integrity of and ensure the persistence over time of collections of digital works so that they are readily and economically available for use by a defined community or set of communities. In general, it is found that 80.2% to 94.9% of the College librarians emphasized that they have positive attitude towards Digital Library and Institutional Repository. Based on findings, it is suggested that policy makers, authorities of educational institutions to come forward to improve the improve the digital library and institutional repository services.

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