

Open Access to Grey Literature: Challenges and Opportunities in India

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Introduction

- Grey literature includes an extensive range of material that cannot be found easily through conventional channels such as publishers but which is frequently original and usually recent.
- It is produced more quickly and has greater flexibility. Grey Literature comprises news letters, theses, project reports, bulletins and so.
- It has tremendous importance in all fields of the universe of knowledge but it is particularly significant in the field of science and technology .

Strength of Banaras Hindu University

- Three Institutes, 14 Faculties, 124 Departments, 14 Disciplinary centers
- 15000 students and 2000 teachers
- Library collections
 - 8,39,920 books
 - 1,09,186 (bound volumes) journals
 - 1362 Current journals
 - 9250 Ph.D Theses
 - 7201 manuscripts
 - United Nations, Government publications,
 - staff publications, rare and out of print books, local History collections

What is Gray Literature

- Material which might not be formally published, such as institutional reports
- Working documents, pre-prints, research papers, statistical documents, and other difficult-to-access materials that are not controlled by commercial publishers.

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- Non-conventional literature (NCL, also called 'grey literature') comprises scientific and technical reports, patent documents, conference papers, internal reports, government documents, newsletters, fact sheets and theses, which are not readily available through commercial channels

Institutional Repository

- The Institutional Repository, as a concept, is to capture and make available as much of the research output of an institution (i.e. a university) as possible.
- In the first instance this might include material such as research papers and electronic versions of documents such as theses, but may also include many of the digital assets generated by normal campus life, such as administrative documents, course notes, or learning objects. etc

Enabling Technologies for OAP

- Intel/Pentium server
- Leased line 512KBS for internet connection
- Open source DL/repository software
- GSDL, eprint.org, DSpace, CDSWare (OAI compliant)
- Open source software for online journals and conference publishing
- JS of PKP project (OAI compliant)
- Metadata schemes, name spaces, vocabularies
- OpenArchives – Interoperability framework (OAI-PMH Protocol for metadata harvesting)
- XML – information structuring / exchange

Submission of documents

- ✓ **Registration of institutional users (authors)**
 - For document submission and other privileged use.
 - User authentication.
 - Profile set up.
- ✓ **Documents file format**
 - PDF
 - HTML
 - JPEG
 - GIF

Accessibility

- Access will be provided to the documents over the web.
- Requirements

Hardware

Computers with Internet connectivity

Software

Operating system software

Application software

OAP and India

- Open access examples:
 - 11 journals of the Indian Academy of Sciences
 - UDL project - IISc
 - Vidyanidhi – theses – University of Mysore
 - Data sets – NCL, Pune
 - 4 journals from INSA
 - Metadata: INDMED, INFLIBNET
- OAI-compliant repository
 - eprints@iisc – IISc

Challenges

- Development of national level harvesting services
- Preservation for long term access
- Essential and desirable features of repository software, infrastructural requirements
- Technology Obsolete
- Administration and Maintenance

Opportunities

- It puts together research output of the institution.
- It provides accessibility and visibility to the institution's research output.
- It provides accessibility to important raw data, preliminary findings-Grey literature which is otherwise difficult to obtain.

Continued

- It facilitates instant global communication of research work done at the institution.
- It facilitates preservation of Grey literature, research results for posterity.
- It bestows improved research and development (R&D) productivity.

Conclusion

- Grey literature has lot of significance for academic and research community
- It can significantly contribute to the quality of research output
- Setting up of institutional repositories and providing Open Access to Grey Literature can really be a big and productive step in this direction