PUBLISHING IN DIGITAL REPOSITORY: A STUDY

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Information and Communication Technology has created platform and opportunities for library and information professionals to build their libraries in a modern way with access to resources and knowledge services in this digital era. Digital libraries are the demand of the day. Each university or institution wants to build its own digital library or repository. It is the platform for the access of institutional publications. It helps to increase the web presence of the university. It is clear that digital repository is a powerful tool to provide quality institution services. The Digital Repository has been given a new role to the librarians to be a part of creation of information apart from storing and dissemination of information. This paper looks at the elaborative study on Faculty and Researcher's attitude towards depositing publications in Manipal University Digital Repository. It acts as an archive for individual author to store their achievement. General benefits provided by Digital Repository are also given in this paper.

Keywords: Digital Repository, Manipal University Digital Repository, Publications Deposition

1. Introduction

Information has become a necessary ingredient of every one's life. The proper use of information is possible only when the information is stored and processed in a professional way. With the advancement of computer and information technology, traditional scholarly communication model has gone through dramatic change, as digital form gradually replaces paper to become the preferred medium of scholarly dissemination. All institutions will aim to build their own digital library or repository. The existence of open access software for building the institutional repositories has led to the development of many such repositories worldwide, particularly among academic and research institu-

tions. Maniapl University also has built its own Digital repository which acts as a permanent archive for its re-search output. Manipal University Digital Repository (MUDR) has helped to increase the web presence of University.

2. Need for the Study

Manipal University Digital Repository (MUDR) was started in the year 2011. It is mandatory for all the faculty members to upload their articles in the digital repository. An attempt is made to upload all the faculty publications in this repository. A need was felt to assess the attitude of faculty members and research scholars towards depositing their publications in the repository. Such a study was not conducted so far. Hence

this study is conducted to get an opinion about Manipal University Digital Repository.

3. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follows:

- To identify the purpose of use of Manipal University Digital Repository (MUDR) by faculty and research scholars;

- To understand the difficulties encountered by the faculty and Research scholars in depositing their publications in MUDR;

- To understand the faculty and research scholar's attitude with regard to their willingness to publish their publications in MUDR.

4. Scope and Limitations

The faculty members and researchers of all the constituent institutions of Manipal University have uploaded their publications in Manipal University Digital Repository. But the study is limited to the following departments of KMC Manipal and MIT Manipal, the two premier institutions of Manipal University.

Table 1: Departments selected for the study

Kasturba Medical College, Manipal University, Manipal	Manipal Institute of Technology, Manipal University, Manipal
Biochemistry	Civil Engineering
Pathology	Computer Science and Engineering
Pharmacology	Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering

These departments are selected because the number of publications deposited by them in MUDR is more when compared to other departments.

5. Size of the Sample

The following table shows the detail of the sample taken for the study. Out of 219 questionnaires distributed 125 filled in questionnaires were received back with moderate response rate of 57%.

Table 2: Questionnaire distributed and returned

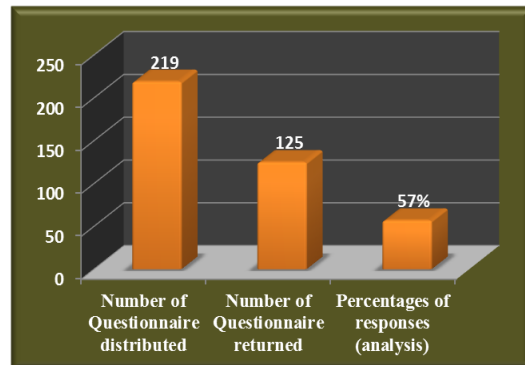| Institution/Department		Number of ques-tionnaire distributed	Number of ques-tionnaire returned
KMC	Pathology	14	05
	Pharmacology	08	06
	Biochemistry	13	06
MIT	Civil Engineering	49	24
	Computer Science and Engineering	66	43
	Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering	69	41
Total		219	125

Figure1: Questionnaire distributed and returned

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6. Methodology

A self-structured questionnaire was used to gather data required for this study covering the following areas:

- Purpose of using MUDR

- Depositing publications in MUDR

- Awareness about the use of publishing in Institutional Repository

7. Manipal University Digital Repository (MUDR)

MU Digital Repository is an institutional Repository of Manipal University institutions. This is developed by using E-Prints, an open source software. E-Prints@Manipal University repository collects, preserves and disseminates in digital format the research output created by the Manipal University faculty, students, and staff community. It enables the Institute community to deposit their preprints, post prints and other scholarly publications using a web interface, and organizes these publications for easy retrieval. While the eprints@Manipal University repository can be accessed by anybody, submission of documents to this repository is limited to the Manipal University community only.

Figure 2: Home page of MU digital repository

8. Data Analysis

The total population consisted of 210 Faculty members and 9 Research scholars of various departments of KMC and MIT. The questionnaire was distributed by using a convenience sampling method to the selected population of KMC and MIT departments. A total 219 questionnaires were self-administered to the participants.

8.1 Response Rate: Position–wise

Table 3 shows the details of the population as per as their position is concerned. The table shows that the faculties participated in the survey are more in number when compared to Research scholars, i.e. 92.8% of the respondents are faculty members and 7.2% are Research Scholars.

Table 3: Response rate: Position-wise

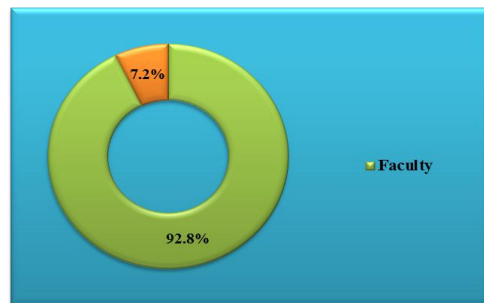| Position	Frequency	Percentage
Faculty	116	92.8
Research Scholars	9	7.2
Total	**125**	**100**

Figure 3: Response rate: Position-wise

8.2 Purpose of Using Manipal University Digital Repository

Table 4 shows that faculty members and research scholars are using Manipal University Digital Repository for different purposes. Most of them (44.8%) are using the MUDR for both purposes like depositing and retrieving. 28.8% of the respondents are using MU Digital Repository only for depositing purpose and 26.4% respondents are using MU Digital Repository only for retrieving purpose.

Table 4: Purpose of using Manipal University Digital Repository

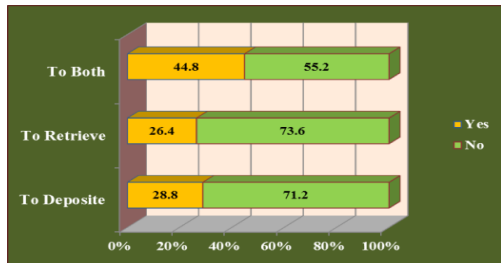| Purpose of using MUDR	Yes	No
To deposit	36 (28.8%)	89 (71.2%)
To retrieve	33 (26.4%)	92 (73.6)
To both	56 (44.8%)	69 (55.2%)

Figure 4: Purpose of Manipal University Digital Repository

8.3 Requirement of Self-Depositing the Document to Manipal University Digital Repository (MUDR)

It is important to know whether the respondents are interested in self-depositing provision or not. Most of the participant's responded that self-depositing provision is required. As per the study, 72% of the respondents felt the need for self-deposition, 7.2% of the respondents did not felt the need of self-depositing provision whereas unfortu-nately 20.8% of the participants are not sure about this.

Table 5: Requirement of self-deposition provision to MUDR

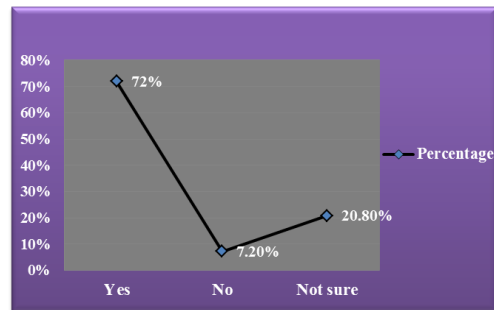| Requirement of self-depositing	No. of respondents	Percentage
Yes	90	72.0
No	9	7.2
Not sure	26	20.8
Total	**125**	**100**

Figure 5:. Requirement of self-deposition provision to MUDR

8.4 Reason for Publishing in Manipal University Digital Repository (MUDR)

The researcher has listed the following reasons for publishing in MUDR:

- Enhances the professional visibility of the faculty
- Raises the prestige of the institute

- Lowers access-barrier to scholarly works
- Author will get higher citation rates than traditionally published articles
- Acts as archive for authors
- Uploading in MUDR protects public-cations from plagiarism
- Helps to get financial benefit

The study reveals that most of the respondents either agree or strongly agree with the reasons listed. The Table 6 gives the details of the data analysis.

9. Findings of the Study

9.1 Purpose of Use of Manipal University Digital Repository (MUDR) by Faculty and Research Scholars

The respondents of the survey are faculty members and research scholars of KMC and MIT, Manipal. The study found that majority of faculty members and research scholars are using Manipal University Digital Repository for both depositing their publications and for retrieving the necessary information. Some of the respondents are using MUDR for depositing purpose only whereas very few respondents are using MUDR for retrieving purpose only. So, we can summarize that MUDR plays a key role in the overall development of a faculty member/research scholar.

9.2 The Level of Comfort with the Search Interface of MUDR

It is observed that many of the respondents are comfortable in searching through the Manipal University Digital Repository interface. This is because the software used (ePrints) for building MUDR is very user-friendly and popular. The library staffs are guiding the faculty and research scholar with regard to the

Table 6: Reason for publishing in (MUDR)

Reason	Strongly agree	Agree	Uncertain	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Enhances the professional visibility of the faculty	48 (38.4%)	72 (57.6%)	4 (3.2%)	1 (0.8%)	0 (0.0%)
Raises the prestige of the institute	63 (50.4%)	47 (37.6%)	13 (10.4%)	2 (1.6%)	0 (0.0%)
Lowers access barriers to scholarly works	29 (23.2%)	64 (51.2%)	23 (18.4%)	9 (7.2%)	0 (0.0%)
Author will get higher citation rates than traditionally published articles	18 (14.4%)	53 (42.4%)	40 (32.0%)	13 (10.4%)	1 (0.8%)
Acts as archive for authors	38 (30.4%)	74 (59.2%)	12 (9.6%)	1 (0.8%)	0 (0.0%)
Uploading in MUDR protects publications from plagiarism	26 (20.8%)	63 (50.4%)	29 (23.2%)	7 (5.6%)	0 (0.0%)
Helps to get financial benefits	22 (17.6%)	41 (32.8%)	48 (38.4%)	9 (7.2%)	5 (4.0%)

search facility available in MUDR. Discussions among the colleagues within the department are also found to be helpful.

9.3 Difficulties Encountered by the Faculty and Research Scholars in Depositing their Publications in MUDR

At present the faculty / research scholar has to deposit their articles in Manipal University Digital Repository through library. But most of the respondents are of the opinion that self-deposition should be allowed. This will help in saving their time and the works like filling the template and sending mails to library can be avoided.

9.4 The Faculty and Research Scholars' Attitude with Regard to their Willingness to Publish their Publications in MUDR

Most of the respondents are willing to publish in Manipal University Digital Repository as they agree that publishing in MUDR enhances the professional visibility, protects their publications from plagiarism, helps to get financial benefits, raises the prestige of institute and lowers access barrier to scholarly works. Some of them are uncertain about getting higher citation rates than traditionally published articles.

10. Conclusion

A digital repository centralizes preserves and makes accessible the knowledge generated by academic institutions. Suc-cessful digital repositories would elevate the libraries visibility and importance not only at the institutional level, but also at the national and global levels. It is clear that the digital repository is a very powerful tool to build quality institutions of higher education, and more broadly for the scholarly enterprises that they support. At present Manipal University Digital Repository hosts a collection of more than 11,600 documents and has become a search spot for many researchers. It acts as an archive for individual authors to store their achievement. As it is accessible through internet it has helped the authors to get more citations and a high h-index. The visibility of Manipal University has gone up because the documents uploaded in M-UDR are indexed by search services like Google/Google scholar. The availability of huge number of documents in a short period reveals the success of MUDR.

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