

INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORY (IR) INITIATIVES IN COLLEGES OF GUWAHATI CITY: A STUDY

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Abstract: - *An institutional repository is a rich source of digital materials created and published by academic institutions. It is a perfect platform for information dissemination that is seamless for users to access. This paper discussed institutional repositories, the elements required, as well as the benefits of institutional repositories. This paper also aims to determine the purpose of creating institutional repositories, the present state of institutional repositories in Guwahati colleges, and the major challenges confronting college libraries.*

Keywords: Institutional Repository, DSpace, ICT, E-resource, Digital Archive.

1. Introduction:

The library system has a new solution in terms of Institutional Repository due to the rapid change of information technology. Due to the increase of information sources and the space problem for documents, the library system has a new solution in terms of rapid change of information technology. Institutional repositories help in the preservation of documents in digital format and provide digital services to users. Each institution has some unique documents, projects, expert lectures, and so on, which can be digitized for users. Academic institutions generate the most valuable information, which is typically used on

campus; however, thanks to the institutional repository system, users outside the institution can access information resources. As a result, we can easily share information resources, and we can say that institutional repositories provide a catalytic force to digital preservation, information dissemination, and resource sharing.

2. Institutional Repository:

Institutional repositories are a practical, cost-effective, and statistically significant way for academic institutions to collaborate with their faculty to advance scholarly communication. An

institutional repository provides tools to help faculty, students, and researchers share their work with audiences outside of the institution. Institutional repositories make it easier for information seekers to locate faculty and student work by organizing and indexing it, making it more visible to colleagues, financiers, and employers. Long-term preservation can be facilitated through centralized planning, support, and funding. An institutional repository collects the intellectual output of its students, researchers, and faculty members in order to demonstrate its scientific, social, and financial worth.

3. Elements of Institutional Repository:

Institutional Repositories can be any collection of digital material hosted, owned, or controlled by any institution and disseminated for any purpose. Institutional repositories can take many forms and serve a variety of functions depending on the parent institution's functions and objectives. A digital archive of an institution's intellectual product created by its faculty, research staff, and students/research scholars should be freely accessible to end users. The content of an Institutional Repository could be:

- Pre-prints of articles or research reports submitted for Publication
- The text of journal articles accepted for publication
- Revised texts of published work with comments from academic readers
- Conference papers
- Teaching materials

- Student projects
- Doctoral theses and dissertations
- Datasets resulting from research projects
- Committee papers
- Computer software
- Works of art
- Photographs and video recordings

4. Benefits of Institutional Repositories:

Institutional repositories play an important role in providing raw information to users.

- Institutional Repositories help in the centralized and long-term storage of all types of institutional output, including unpublished literature.
- Institutional Repositories provide resources for learning and teaching. Links to the virtual teaching environment and library catalogues are possible.
- Institutional Repositories allow institutions to track and analyze the performance of their research.
- Institutional repositories store and provide access to a diverse range of information materials.
- Institutional Repositories are a new and innovative scholarly communication channel.
- Institutional Repositories are beneficial to grey literature visibility.

5. Objectives of the study:

The main objectives of the study are-

- To determine the status of institutional repositories in colleges of Guwahati
- To identify the major issues faced in the establishment of institutional repositories in colleges of Guwahati.
- To determine the documents uploaded in the institutional repositories
- To determine the primary reason for establishing institutional repositories in colleges of Guwahati

6. Area and scope of the study:

The present study concentrated on the various institutional repository services; it also analyzed data collected from library authorities, primarily librarians. The major limitation of the present study is that it only looked at the colleges in the city of Guwahati. Out of 21 colleges of Guwahati city the present study covered only 09 colleges which are all using DSpace open source software for creating Institutional repositories.

7. Data Analysis:

7.1 Colleges of Guwahati city:

Sl. No	Name of the Institution	Year of Establishment	Total Book (Aprox)	Print Journal	News Paper	E-Journal collection
1	Handique Girls' college	1949	48,354	19	10	N-List
2	Arya Vidyapeeth College	1958	55,400	12	15	N-List
3	Gauhati Commerce College	1962	34,500	18	14	N-List
4	L. C. B. College	1971	21,160	08	12	N-List
5	Pachim Guwahati Mahavidyalaya	1978	40,100	18	09	N-List
6	K. C. Das Commerce College	1983	27,500	22	08	N-List
7	Beltola College	1983	9,975	08	07	N-List
8	S. B. Deorah College	1984	17,000	12	10	N-List
9	Dispur Law College	1993	8,863	14	03	Manupatra

Table 1- List of Colleges of Guwahati city

7.2 Collection of books in the colleges of Guwahati city:

Sl. No	Collection of Books	No. of Colleges
1.	Below 10,000	02
2	10,001- 20,000	01
3	20,001- 30,000	02
4	30,001- 40,000	01
5	40,001- 50,000	02
6	50,001- 60,000	01

Table 2- Collection of books

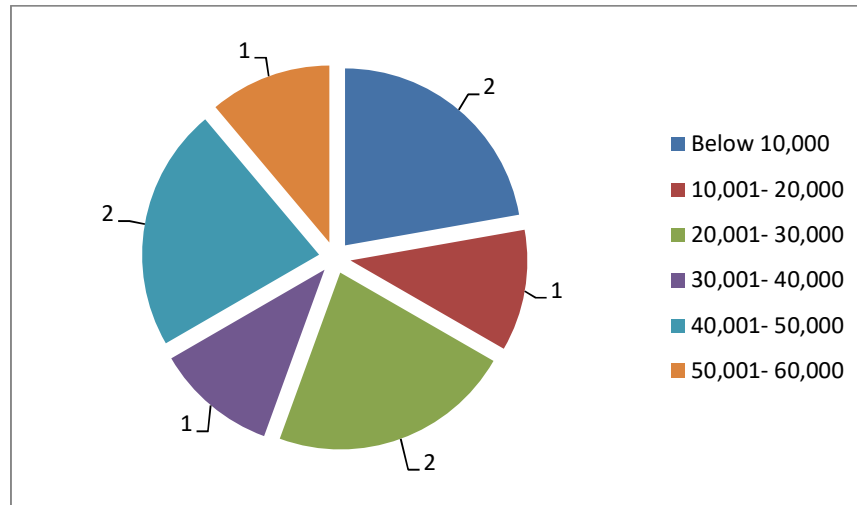


Figure- 1 Collection of books

From the above table 2 it is found that 2 colleges have bellow 10,000 book collections in library, 01 colleges have 10,001-20,000 book collection, 02 colleges have 20,001-30,000 books, 01 college having 30,001-40,000 books, 02 colleges have 40,001- 50,000 books and the highest 01 college having 50,001- 60,000 book collection in library.

7.3 Print Journal collections in library:

Sl. No	Print Journal	Number of College
1	Bellow 05	00
2	6- 10	02
3	11- 15	03
4	16- 20	03
5	21- 25	01

Table 3- Print Journal collections

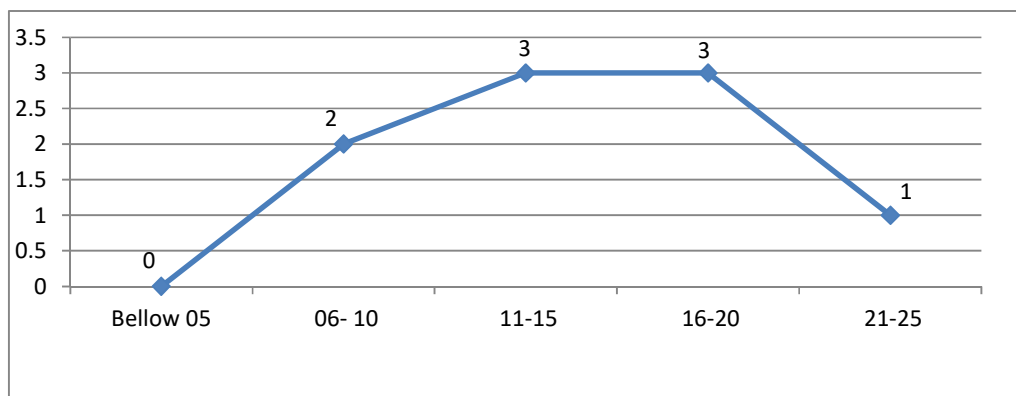


Figure- 2 Print Journal collections

The above table shows that 3 college library has 11-15 print journals, 03 college libraries has 16-20 print journals and only 01 college library having 21-25 print journal collection.

7.4 News Paper Collections in library:

Sl. No	News Paper	Number of Colleges
1.	Bellow 05	01
2.	6- 10	05
3.	11-15	03

Table- 4 News Paper Collections

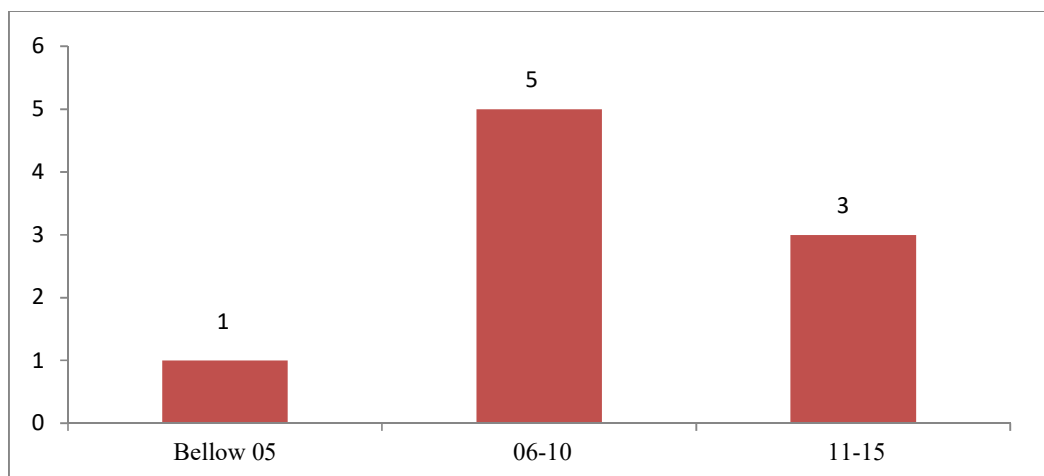


Figure 3- News Paper Collections

From the above table 4 it is found that highest 05 colleges have 6-10 news paper collections, 03 colleges have 11-15 news paper and the lowest 01 college having bellow 05 news paper collection in library.

7.5 Library Staff Details in colleges:

Sl no	Name of College	Professional Staff	Non Professional staff	Total Staff
1	Handique Girls’ college	02	02	04
2	Arya Vidyapeeth College	02	02	04
3	Gauhati Commerce College	02	03	05
4	L. C. B. College	02	02	04
5	Pachim Guwahati Mahavidyalaya	02	01	03
6	K. C. Das Commerce College	03	03	06
7	Beltola College	01	01	02
8	S. B. Deorah College	01	02	03
9	Dispur Law College	02	02	04

Table5- Library Staff Details

7.6. Status of Institutional Repository in Colleges:

Sl. No	Name of the Institution	IR Complete	IR Under Processing	Not Yet	Software used
1	Handique Girls' college	✓	-	-	Dspace
2	Arya Vidyapeeth College	✓	-	-	Dspace
3	Gauhati Commerce College	✓	-	-	Dspace
4	L. C. B. College	✓	-	-	Dspace
5	Pachim Guwahati Mahavidyalaya	✓	-	-	Dspace
6	K. C. Das Commerce College	✓	-	-	Dspace
7	Beltola College	✓	-	-	Dspace
8	S. B. Deorah College	✓	-	-	Dspace
9	Dispur Law College	✓	-	-	Dspace
Total		07	00	00	

Table 6- Status of Institutional Repository in Colleges

From the above table 6 it is found that all the colleges have completed their Institutional Repository by using DSpace software.

7.7 Documents Uploaded in IR:

Sl. No	Name of the Institution	Question Paper	College Magazine	Research Paper	Publications	Rare Document	Study Materials
1	Handique Girls' college	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-
2	Arya Vidyapeeth College	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓
3	Gauhati Commerce College	✓	✓	-	✓	-	-
4	L. C. B. College	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	-
5	Pachim Guwahati Mahavidyalaya	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
6	K. C. Das Commerce College	✓	✓	-	✓	-	✓
7	Beltola College	✓	✓	-	✓	-	✓
8	S. B. Deorah College	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
9	Dispur Law College	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Total		09	09	04	09	04	03

Table 7- Documents Uploaded in IR

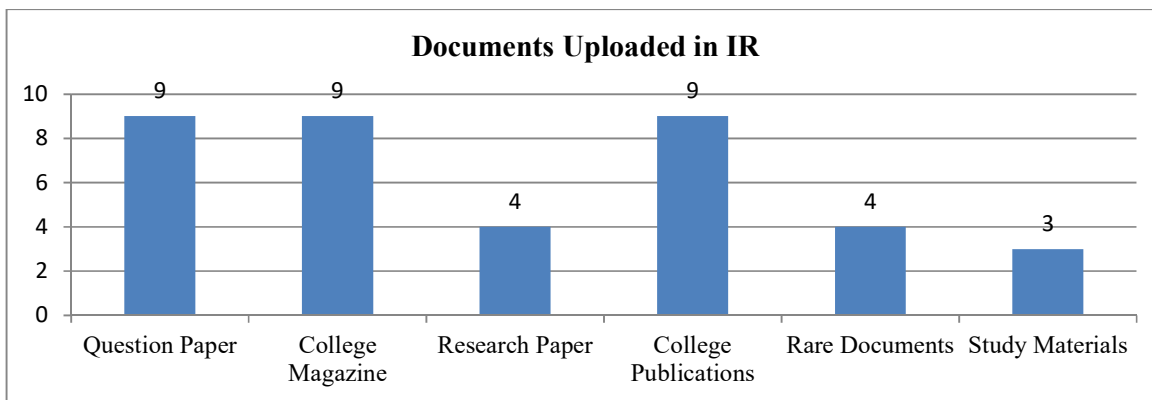


Figure 4- Documents Uploaded in IR

The above table 7 shows that all colleges have uploaded question papers, college magazines, and institutional publications. Four colleges have made available faculty research papers. Only four colleges uploaded rare documents, while only three uploaded study materials.

7.8 Purpose of creating IR in colleges:

Sl. No	Purpose	No of Respondent
1.	Increased accessibility of Research Output	03
2	Access to Grey Literature	08
3	Increased chances of promotion at work	06
4.	Faster Publication of Research material	04
5	Long Term Preservation	09
6	Saved time and cost of publishing	08

Table 8- Purpose of creating IR in colleges

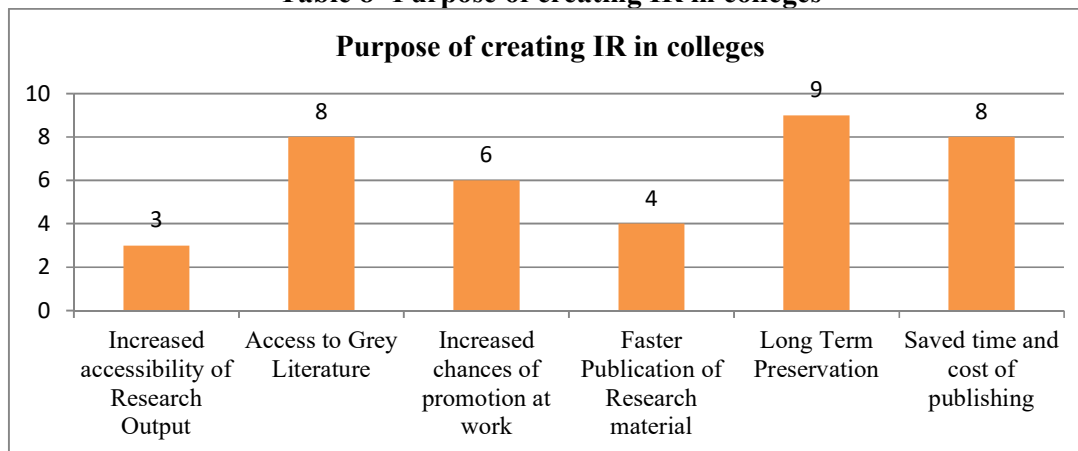


Figure 5-Purpose of creating IR in colleges

According to the above table 8, the purpose of creating IR is for long-term preservation of valuable documents in all colleges, 03 colleges have responded to increase accessibility of research output, 08 colleges have responded to provide access to grey literatures, and 08 colleges have responded to save time and cost of publishing through IR.

7.9 Problems faced for creation of IR:

Sl. No	Problems	No of Respondent
1.	Lack of interest of parent institution	02
2	Lack of infrastructure in library	03
3	Lack of Fund	02
4.	Copyright Act policy	08
5	Internet Connectivity	06
6	Lack of trained staff	09
7	Other problem	06

Table 9- Problems faced for creation of IR

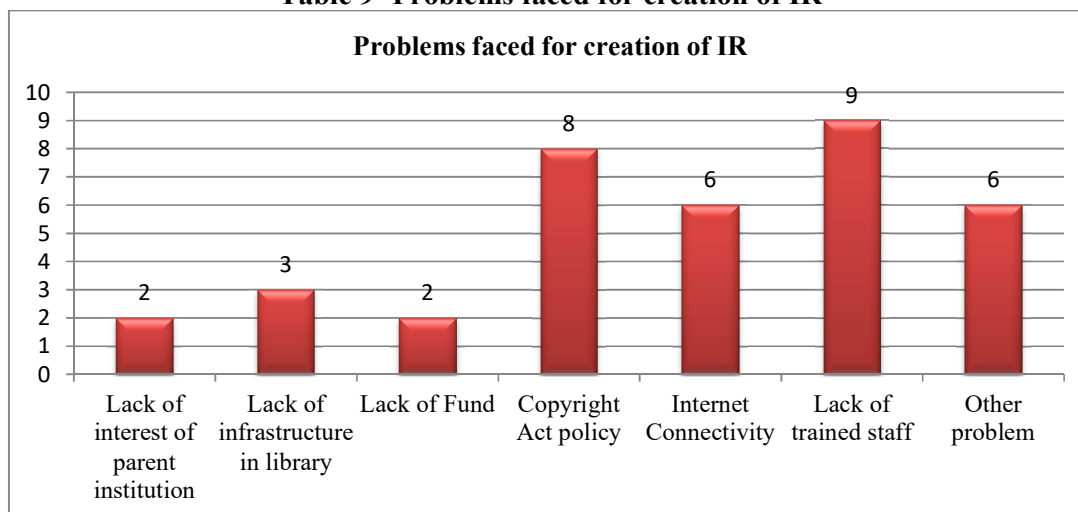


Figure 6- Problems faced for creation of IR

From the study, it is found that due to some reasons the institutional repositories are not properly working in the colleges of Guwahati city. The major problems like trained staff and the colleges of guwahati face copyright act policy. Then the colleges face a problem with the lack of infrastructure in the library. There are lots of problems faced by the colleges to run institutional repositories in college libraries.

8. Findings:

The major findings of the study are given bellow-

- According to the present study, all colleges create IR in their libraries.
- For creating IR in the library, all colleges used Dspace software.
- All colleges have uploaded college magazines, old question papers, and college publications.
- The maximum number of colleges uploaded important documents for long-term preservation.

- The main issue in creating and managing IR is a lack of trained staff in the library.
- There is no proper copyright act policy for IR.
- Infrastructure is another major issue for creating IR in some colleges.
- Some colleges are also experiencing issues with internet connectivity.
- Almost all the colleges using N-List for accessing e-resources.

9. Conclusion:

According to the findings of the present study, all the colleges of Guwahati face some common challenges in the creation and management of institutional repositories. The parent organization and library professionals should collaborate to improve the form of institutional repositories provided by college libraries. Academic and research institutions should use institutional repositories to make their research output widely available and accessible to interested users. When institutional repositories function properly and with full value, the society will gain numerous benefits.

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