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Research Paper Library

Open Access Resources for College and University Libraries

* Smt. Bhavika D Modi

* Librarian, S U G College of Education, Ahmedabad

Introduction:
Open Access means something that is FREE. However, it is not only free but, available online and in an unrestricted manner. In other words, full text of research articles, conference papers, theses or dissertations for any one can use without the severe restriction imposed by publisher copyright agreements.

There are varied resources, which are available open access: Open Access e-books, Open Access Reference Tools, Open Access Journals, Open Access Repositories and Open Source Software.

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- ***Digital Book Index:*** **(http://www.digitalbookindex.org)**

Digital Book Index provides links to more than 165,000 full-text digital books more than 1800 commercial and non-commercial publishers, Universities and various private sites. About 140,000 of these books, texts, and documents are available free, while many others are available at very modest cost.

2. Some popular Open Access Reference Tools sites:
(https://www.wikipedia.org/)
Wikipedia is a Web–based, free-content encyclopaedia written collaboratively by volunteers and sponsored by the non-profit Wikimedia Foundation. It has editions in roughly 200 different languages (about 100 of which are active) including 15 Indian languages like: Sanskrit, Hindi, Bhojpuri, Kannada, Tamil, Gujarati, Marathi, Bengali, Kashmiri, Urdu, Oriya, Malayali, Punjabi, Sindhis and Assamese is in a process of creation, and contains entries both on traditional encyclopaedic topics and on almanac, gazetteer, and current events topics. Its purpose is to create and distribute a free international encyclopaedia in as many languages as possible. e.g.: (gu.wikipedia.org) for Gujarati.

3. Some popular open access E-journals :

- ***Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ):***
  (http://www.doaj.org)
  The Directory of Open Access Journal is a one stop shop for users to access several Scholarly journals and known for its visibility and ease of use.

- ***High Wire Press:*** (http://highwire.stanford.edu)
  High Wire Press is the largest archive of free full-text science articles. This is assisting in the online publication of 24, 34,604 free full-text articles and 76, 59,003 total articles. There are 33 sites with free trial periods, and 135 completely free sites. 288 sites have free back issues, and 1469 sites have pay per view facility.

- ***First Monday:*** (http://firstmonday.org)
  First Monday is one of the first openly accessible, peer–reviewed e-journal website. Since its start in May 1996, First Monday has published 1,489 papers in 231 issues, written by 2051 different authors. First Monday is indexed in Communication Abstracts, Computer & Communications Security Abstracts, DoIS, eGranary Digital Library, INSPEC, Information Science & Technology Abstracts, LISA, PAIS and other services.

- ***MERLOT Journal of Online Learning and Teaching:***
  (http://jolt.merlot.org/)
  MERLOT is a free and open resource, designed primarily for faculty and students of higher education. The MERLOT Journal of Online Learning and Teaching (JOLT) is a peer-reviewed, open access, online publication addressing the scholarly use of multimedia resources in online education. JOLT welcomes papers on all aspects of online learning and teaching. Topics may include learning theory and the use of multimedia to improve online learning, instructional design theory and application, online learning and teaching initiatives, etc.

- ***Google Scholar:*** (https://scholar.google.co.in)
  Google Scholar is a source for scholarly literature which facilitates searching across many disciplines and sources of articles, theses, books, abstracts and court opinions from academic publishers, professional societies, online repositories, universities and other web sites.

- ***NISCAIR Open Access Journals:***
  (http://www.niscair.res.in)
  National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (NISCAIR) came into existence on 30 September 2002 with the merger of National Institute of Science Communication (NISCOM) and Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre (INSDOC). NISCAIR has published 18 journals in Science and communication.

- ***Bentham Open Access:*** (http://benthamopen.com)
  Bentham Open Access publishes 230 peer-reviewed open access journals. These free-to-view online journals cover all major disciplines of science, technology, medicine and social sciences.

4. Popular Open Access Repositories:
With the advent of OA and Open Archives movement, the need for changes in Scholarly communication to remove barriers to access, and the increasing awareness that universities and research institutes are losing valuable digital and print materials have begun driving the establishment of Institutional Repositories (Irs). IRs is Web based archives of intellectual and scholarly materials created by the members of a defined institution. Some of the major Institutional Repositories are:

- E-Prints@IISc
- Dspace@IIMK
- Dspace@NITR
- ETD@IISc
- Librarian's Digital Library (LDL)
- Shodhganga

- Dspace@INFLIBNET

5. Some Popular Open Source Software:

Much ahead of the OAI like-minded computer professionals and developers united to develop software for public interest and distribute it over network in order to use it free, distribute it free, down load it free, and modify and redistribute it. In India Open Source Movement started in 2000. The advantage of such open source software is that it can be customized easily, since source code is available for download. In proprietary software, only object code is distributed, which are binary in nature and cannot be modified by a developer. Even the Libraries are going to use open source by creating digital libraries based on the open source software such as DSpace, Green Stone, E-prints etc.,

Conclusion:

Open access based resources and services are to contribute to the economy and benefit for users. Secondly these services are very precious particularly for the University and College. Since the printed sources is cost effective and not available in time. The recent wireless technique of laptop and mobile allows the users to access the information at anywhere in the world.

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