NIRI (National Institutional Repository of Iims) : A Proposal For an 'IIM-IR Library Consortium'

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ABSTRACT *Intellectual output of each and every institution is worth preserving. If there is an outlet to utilize this indigenous output among the same fraternity situated across the country, then it is worth thinking. Library co-operation, resource sharing and library network and library consortia – all mean the same – sharing the resources, services and expenditure among the participating units for the mutual and maximum benefit of the users. Self-archiving, Indigenous/ local collection building and institutional repository – all mean the same – building a collection of locally generated intellectual output in a logical way to serve the users of the same campus for the maximum utilization. This paper discusses a proposal on building a national institutional repository of Indian Institutes of Managements on the lines of a library consortium. The paper proposes the formation of NIRI (National Institutional Repository of IIMs) — the planning, implementation and evaluation of an IIM-IR Consortium. (Indian Institutes of Management – Institutional Repository consortium).*

Introduction

Gathering, building, using and preserving institutional output, at part with, the information available in any other source is gaining momentum in this web 2.0 e-era. The universities, institutes of par excellence in engineering, medicine, management, agriculture, astronomy, space science etc have recognized the notability of Institutional repositories (IR) in the recent past. Thanks to the ICT tools and services made available at present, e-repositories have debuted everywhere. Pooling together these Institutaionl e-repositories to a common platform and sharing them among the institutions working under the same umbrella for their mutual advantage is the need of the hour. This IR network can be formed on a local, regional, national, or international basis; on a functional or format basis; or on a subject basis.

Consortium

A consortium is an association of two or more individuals, companies, organizations or governments (or any combination of these entities) with the objective of participating in a common activity or pooling their resources for achieving a common goal.

Consortium is a Latin word, meaning 'partnership, association or society' and derives from consors 'partner', itself from con- 'together' and sors 'fate', meaning owner of means or comrade. (Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Consortium)

Library Consortium

Library consortium is a "community (a cooperative) of two or more information agencies which have formally agreed to coordinate, cooperate or consolidate certain function" to achieve mutual objectives. It is an association of a group of library to achieve mutually the joint benefits.

"A 'library consortium' is any local, regional, or national cooperative association of libraries that provides for the systematic and effective coordination of the resources of schools, public, academic, and special libraries and information centers, for improving services to the clientele of such libraries." (US Federal Communications Commission)

Library Consortia in India

1) Library networks started with the initiatives of NISSAT in forming CALIBNET in 1986, DELNET in 1988 and other networks subsequently to promote resource sharing among libraries.
2) The UGC (University Grant Commission, India) setup INFLIBNET in 1988.
3) Many libraries in India have setup consortia among themselves for resource sharing e.g. Astronomy libraries in India. These libraries jointly formed consortia for resource sharing amongst the libraries, such as, Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) Library, Inter-university Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA) Library, National Centre for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA) Library, Nizamiah Observatory (NO) Library, Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) Library, Raman Research Institute (RRI) Library, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) Library, Uttar Pradesh State Observatory (UPSO) Library.
4) A number of library consortia have emerged in India in the recent past - INDEST-AICTE Consortium and UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium, CSIR E-journals Consortium, DAE Consortium, MCIT Library Consortium, FORSA Consortium, IIM Consortium, CeRA (Consortium of e- Resources in Agriculture), RGUHS-HELINET Consortium, DRDO E-Consortium, DeLCON, ERMED Consortia and ISRO Library Consortium.

Advantages of Consortia

Some of the important advantages of the library consortium are as following below.
- Consortia-based subscription to electronic resources provides access to wider number of electronic resources at substantially lower cost;
- Optimum utilization of funds.
- Facilities to build up digital libraries
- Helpful to provide better library services like CAS and SDI
- Cost Sharing for Technical and training support
- Electronic Journals demand neither library space nor shelling costs nor can they be stolen from the library
- The consortium have been offered better terms of licenses for use, archival access and preservation of subscribed electronic resources, which would not have been possible for any single institution; and Available 24/7.
- Less economy expansion.

Institutional Repositories

'An institutional repository is the collective intellectual output

of an institution recorded in a form that can be preserved and exploited.

"Institutional Repositories are digital archives that capture, organize, preserve and disseminate the intellectual assets of a single institution or a group of institutions by forming a global system of distributed and interoperable digital libraries."

Contents in IR
Institutional Repositories may contain a wide range of intellectual assets such as preprints, working papers, articles, course material, handouts, theses and dissertations, monographs, institute journals, standards, reports, proceedings and notes and the like. The resources could be a text document, data or multimedia.

Developing Institutional Archive - Key Steps
Some important steps involved in developing an Institutional Archive are:

• Registration
• Certification
• Awareness
• Digital preservation policy
• Archiving
• Self- archiving
• Open archives Initiative

The potential uses of an IR
scholarly communication; management and storage of learning materials, electronic publications and research collections; preservation of digital research work; building university profile by showcasing academic research work; providing an institutional leadership role for the library; research assessment; encouraging open access; and housing digitized collections (Barton and Waters, 2004).

The Indian Institutes of Management
The Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), are a group of autonomous management institutes of higher education in India. The establishment of IIMs was envisioned and initiated by the first Prime Minister of India Jawaharlal Nehru. They were set up with the objective of providing management education and to assist the industry through research and consulting services. The IIMs offer Post Graduate Diploma programmes, Fellowship programmes in Mananagement and other short-term courses

• Indian Institute of Management Calcutta was the first IIM to be set up, on November 13, 1961.
• Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad was the second IIM to be set up, on December 16, 1961.
• Indian Institute of Management Bangalore was established in 1973.
• Indian Institute of Management Lucknow is the fourth IIM to be established, in 1984.
• Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode, the fifth IIM, was established in 1996
• Indian Institute of Management Indore, the sixth IIM and the last of the first batch, was established in 1996.
• Indian Institute of Management Shillong, also known as Rajiv Gandhi Indian Institute of Management, was the seventh IIM established, following a 2005 decision by the Government of India.
• Indian Institute of Management Rohtak, the eighth IIM, was the first of the six IIMs established in 2010-2011 as part of the Eleventh Five-Year Plan,
• Indian Institute of Management Ranchi, the ninth IIM, was inaugurated on July 6, 2010.
• Indian Institute of Management Raipur, the tenth IIM, was inaugurated on October 11, 2010.
• Indian Institute of Management Tiruchirappalli, the eleventh IIM, was inaugurated on 4 January 2011.
• Indian Institute of Management Udaipur, the twelfth IIM,

started operation on July 2011 from a temporary campus at the Mohanlal Sukhadia University.
• Indian Institute of Management Kashipur, the youngest IIM, started operation in July 2011.

The IIM Consortium
The year 2000 was a landmark in the history of IIMs, with the formation of the IIM Consortia. IIM Kozhikode took leadership in the formation of the IIM Consortia, and had the first meeting in Calicut, Kerala. The objective was to ensure among the IIMs, optimum utilization and enhancement of the resources, and to minimise the expenditure by consortia based subscriptions to the commonly subscribed databases and journals. The idea was to approach publishers of CD-ROM Databases to begin with, as a consortia, for better pricing and services. Eventually, other digital databases and journals were also planned to be covered by the programme.

In the case of journals, all the six IIMs put together subscribes to over 2550 scholarly titles of which around 1200 are duplications (overlapping titles). Among these, 33 titles are being subscribed to by all the IIMs. Having convinced on the dire need for a journals consortia, major publishers such as Elsevier, Kluwer, Wiley, Blackwell and MCB University Press were approached and they all represented in the second meet which was held at IIM Bangalore in 2001. The end result has been highly praiseworthy, that over 740 E-journals IIMs are able to get online access, across all the IIMs, by paying a nominal additional amount.

Institutional repositories in IIMs
1) Scholarship Repository Dspace @ IIM Kozhikode
IIMK's institutional repository is a scholarly archiving facility for the IIMK community, using the BSD DSpace software. This service enables the Institute community to archive their preprints, post prints and other scholarly publications. In keeping with the objectives of the Open Access movement, this service is to facilitate the Institute researchers in self-archiving and long-term preservation of their scholarly publications, provide easy access to these publications world wide and improve impact of their research. While dspace@iimk can be accessed by anybody, submission of documents to this archive is limited to the IIMK research community.

2) IIM Bangalore
The library has a total collection of 2.20 lakh documents (books, back volumes of journals, government publications, technical reports, conference proceedings, non-book materials etc.).. It also receives around 200 Newsletters and has 2200 Annual Reports from public and private organizations.

3)IIM Ahmedabad
The library has over the years built a robust collection of over 1,74,543 books, 42,004 bound volumes (periodicals), 527 current subscription to Journals & Newspapers, 2,191 working papers, and many other resources like thesis (260), project reports (1709), CDs (1932) and videos (132)

4) IIM Indore
The library holds a collection of case studies (1317), working papers (1073), annual reports (325+) etc., in the area of management and related subjects.

5) IIM Calcutta
The library has a large collection of government reports. It also has a large collection of annual reports of various companies, summer project reports done by students of earlier batches, working papers and research reports from various institutes.

6) IIM Lucknow
Digital Knowledge Repository consists of huge collection of seminar and conference proceedings, project works done by students and investigations / researches done by the faculty members etc.

A consortium for the Institutional repositories of IIMs – A Proposal

Why a consortium for Institutional Repositories?
- Resource Sharing among IIMs
- Speedy delivery of indigenous intellectual output among IIMs
- Avoiding duplication of research/projects in IIMs
- Supplementing the information already available in other IIMs
- Keeping all IIMs abreast of new developments
- 365 X 24 X 7 availability of IR of all IIMs

Mission Statement
A Consortium by the IIMs, for the IIMs and of the IIMs.

What are the stages?
1. Planning
It involves all the pre-launching activities which may include: What to include, who will include, which model of consortium to follow, which personnel to do what work, where to have the server, which software to use, which scheme of classification to use, access pattern, what kind of training is needed etc.

2. Pilot-run
Once the IIM-IR consortium is ready, it is to be pilot-tested to check for the problems, areas need to be strengthened, ideas to be incorporated, fix the issues etc. before the final show to go.

3. Implementation
The real operation of the consortium in full swing is to take place next.

4. Evaluation
When the IIM-IR consortium goes on, periodical evaluation should be taken up by the way of user surveys, utility surveys, feedback analysis and user statistics, so as to enable the authorities concerned to take corrective promotional steps at the earliest.

Model Recommended
- National, Closed Group, shared budget discipline model.
- The proposed IIM-IR consortium will be a national level resource-sharing programme.
- It will be a closed group model i.e. the access to the documents available in this consortium will be restricted to the library users of the member IIMs.
- It is a shared budget model wherein the member libraries come together to establish the consortium and will share the expenses.
- It is a discipline-oriented approach i.e. the IR in the subject Management and related areas alone will be covered.

Members
These are the members of the proposed IIM-IR Lbrary Consortium :

1. The Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIMA),http://www.iimahd.ernet.in
2. Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB), http://www.iimb.ernet.in/
3. Indian Institute of Management Calcutta (IIMCAL), http://www.iimcal.ac.in
4. Indian Institute of Management Indore (IIMI), http://www.iimidr.ac.in
5. Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode (IIMK), http://www.iimk.ac.in
6. Indian Institute of Management Lucknow (IIML), http://www.iiml.ac.in

Requirements
1) Agreement of Mutual Consent

A MOU will be signed by all the Six IIMs giving their consent on sharing their IR on a common platform among IIMs. This will include all the terms and conditions of the consortium.

2) Common Server / Hired Server
The NIRI needs either to install a common server at IIM Bangalore or any one of the IIMs with high end speed and memory or hire a powerful server from the reputed web hosting services.

3) Open Source Institutional Repositories Software
There are various types of Digital Library softwares available e.g., 1. DSpace (Digital Space), 2. GSDL (Green Stone Digital Library), 3. eprint Archive, 4. Fedora: An Open Source Digital Repository Management (Fedora Itore), 5. Ages Digital Libraries Software (My Ages), 6. AGES Software, 7. CDSware: The CERN Document Server Software, 8. Dienst, 9. First-Search, 10. Ganesha Digital Library version 3.1 (GDL), 11.Libronix Digital Library System, 12. Roads, 13.ETD-db (Electronic Theses and Dissertations database), 14. LOCKSS (Lots of Copies Keep Stuff Safe), 15. CLOCKSS

A software from the aforesaid list can be selected to be used in common by all the IIMs in assigning metadata for the inputs and in deciding upon various searching utilities like search indexes, search methods, browsing classifiers etc.

4) Standard folksonomy by the faculty and students of IIMs
Since the fraternity of management is the target audience of the proposed IIM-IR consortium, the students, faculty, visiting professors and library staff of the member IIMs may be asked to create tags for various digital contents. Even the project is on, the participating unit can be encouraged in collaborative-tagging – the scheme allowing many users to create tags for the digital contents placed in a single platform.

8) Classification Scheme
It is proposed to use UDC special classification scheme on Management Sciences. The IIM Technical Experts Committee may design its own classification scheme too.

9) Copyright Policy
A clear cut copyright policy is to be laid down. It should indicate what are the copyright issues in IR, how these issues will be handled in IIM-IR Consortium, who posses copyright, breach of copyrights etc.

10) Metadata Standards
The way the digital content is going to be described in the collection, what values are to be assigned to the content etc. need to be decided here. There are many metadata standards available in the market. The one being suggested for IIM-IR consortium is DC (Dublin Core) Metadata Standard. Even the 15 core (primary) elements will be sufficient to begin with.

Other areas of Concentration
1) Mode of Input and Output
It is recommended to follow INIS mode i.e. decentralized input and centralized output. The data will be fed into the database by the individual IIMs and will be made available at a centralized pooled platform. The data can be viewed and downloaded by all the users. But the addition, modification and deletion need to be done only at individual IIMs by the Project co-ordinator. Anyhow, the withdrawal of an item from the core database needs an authentication by a member of the NIRI Coordination Council.

2) Management Pattern
- One IIM library to act as the central co-coordinating agency.
- NIRI co-ordination council to look after the overall management of the IIM-IR. This will be a national level council.
- The head of NIRI will be the chief-librarian of IIM on rotation.

- There will be an In-charge project co-ordinator in every IIM.
- There will be a Technical Expertise Crew – to take care of the technical issues and challenges in building and maintaining the consortium.
- There can be a separate Finance Crew consisting of members drawn from all the six IIMs to handle the financial issues.

3) Grouping the IR sources subject-wise

The grouping may be done on the basis of major branches of management such as financial management, marketing management, human resource management, strategic management, production management, operations management, service management, agri-business management, hospital management and information technology management.

The second grouping can be the related areas of management such as Accounting/ Banking, Business, Computer/ Information Technology, Economics, Environmental Management, Marketing, Operations Management, Organizational Behaviour, Psychology, Quantitative Methods and Social Sciences.

4) Collections that can be include in each Group

The hierarchical tree structure can be adopted in presenting the contents to the users community. Under each grouping - done based on the branches of management and other allied areas - the content to be placed under each group will be based on the format / form of digital content.

The format can be text file, pdf file, image file, access file, excel sheet, ppt/pps file, html file, rtf file etc. The form can be Book Reviews, Conference proceedings, Interviews, Journal articles, Working papers, term reports, thesis, holiday projects, main projects, brochures, newsletters etc.

5) Access Pattern

All the 06 participating IIMs will be given a unique username and password. They, in turn, will assign usernames and passwords to their respective users' community. The access is password protected. Restricted access is suggested.

What needs to be done at individual IIM Level?

The consortium is based on the principle of co-operation and co-ordination. All for one and One for all is the mission statement of the consortium. So, every IIM will have to plan and execute the following tasks in a meticulous way.

Step 1: Gather

The member units have to identify the items to be included in the consortium. Only those documents which fulfill the agreed upon conditions need to be added.

Step 2: Digitize

The item to be added to the collection may be born digital or born print. If it is born print, then the item concerned is to be digitized using any OCR scanner so as to make the content searchable.

Step 3: Enrich

The item is to be assigned with necessary metadata elements using Dublin Core Meta Data Set.

Step 4: Build

It is the process of finally adding the digital content to the common database by the member units from their respective workstation.

Step 5: Update

The member libraries have to update their collections regularly. Whenever any conference/ seminar/ workshop is over, whenever a term is getting finished, whenever an article of the student / faculty is getting published, the same is to be made available into the common database at the earliest.

Step 6: Weed out

A well laid weeding out (de-selection) policy will guide the libraries to remove the digital contents which have become irrelevant, out-dated and meaningless in the course of time in the lights of time.

Future of IIM-IR consortium

1. It can be extended to include other 07 IIMs in near future.
2. It can be converted into open group model, making the content visible to anybody on the web, if the Consortium decided to adopt open archives initiative.
3. Libraries of other national and regional level management institutes can be made as participating units

Conclusion

"Coming together is a beginning.
Working together is progress
Keeping together is success"
        - Hendry Ford

The success of any consortium depends on the commitment of the individual members. If everybody participating unit works to her best, the total out put of such a project will be productive and outbreaking. NIRI (IIM-IR consortium) is the blend of two hot topics of the day i.e. Consortium and Institutional Repositories. This blend will sure light many more such blends to flourish in library arena. This proposed consortium will definitely play a commendable role in improving the academic output of IIMs and increasing their research productivity, proving that IIMs stand next to none in Management teaching and research. Let's remember that sustenance is the key issue which will decide the potential and benefits of such an initiative. The role of librarians of Indian institutes of management would become more dynamic and significant in this web 2.0 e-era.

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