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AN ANALYTICAL STUDY OF OPEN ACCESS INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORIES IN NIGERIAN UNIVERSITIES

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Abstract

This paper analyzed the growth of open access institutional repositories in Nigeria over the last 10 years. OpenDoar website is a directory of all open access institutional repositories in the world. It is a quality-assured global directory that enables the identification, browsing and search for repositories. OpenDoar was analyzed to get statistics of institutional repositories in Nigeria based on such parameters as: Type, Status, software, total number of records, subject covered and content uploaded. The study revealed that over the last 10 years (2009-2019) a total of 25 open access institutional repositories have been created. Findings also show that a total of 68,610 items have been uploaded in the 25 open access repositories in Nigeria since their creation till date with University of Nigeria, Nsukka having the highest upload of 23,367 items. Dspace software was found as the preferred Software for most of the repositories. The study also revealed that most of the institutional repositories are multidisciplinary. The study recommended among other things that Institutional repositories should be made a prerequisite for Nigerian Universities Commission (NUC) accreditation and funding should be made available to set up functional Institutional repositories in Nigeria.

Keywords: Institutional Repositories, Universities, Libraries, OpenDoar, Nigeria, Open Access.

Introduction

Scholars in tertiary institutions and other research institutes carry out research frequently as one of the major requirements for being an academic. In most cases the research output is inaccessible, and lies dormant without being utilized to solve the problems which it intended to solve. In the same vein, there exist a lot of duplication of research because of lack of visibility and openness of already existing research findings. As a result of this, Institutional repositories become imperative to maximize the visibility and global impact of the institution's intellectual output. Furthermore, the weakness of the existing model of publishing which is rigorous, time consuming, expensive and scarcely caters for the grey materials and other local scholarship (Okoroma & Abioye, 2017). Institutional repositories have become a tool for preservation and dissemination of scholarly publications. Open access Institutional Repositories (IRs) have become the gateway through which institutional outputs are opened up to the world. The impact of these outputs enables and encourages interdisciplinary approaches to research (Dattatraya, 2019). Raym (2002) defined Institutional Repository as a Digital Archive of intellectual product created by the faculty, research staff, and students of an institution, and accessible to end users both within and outside the institution, with few, if any barrier to access. Any research that has not been disseminated for interested members of the research community cannot be said to have been significant in anyway (Asim, Idaka & Eni, 2017).

An open access repository is a database or a virtual archive established to collect, disseminate and preserve scientific output like scientific articles and dataset, and make them freely available. Repositories can be either linked to an institution or department or linked to a research field or subject, i.e. Institutional or Subject Repositories. Open access repositories are domiciled in a website known as OpenDoar.

OpenDOAR was launched in 2005. It is a quality-assured global directory of academic open access repositories. It enables the identification, browsing and search for repositories, based on some features, such as software or type of material held as well as location. OpenDOAR collects and provides information solely on sites that wholly embrace the concept of open access to full text resources that are of use to academic researchers. Sites that have any form of access control and prevent immediate access are not included; likewise sites that consist of metadata records only are also declined. Common reasons for not listing a site in OpenDOAR include (but are not limited to): Site is repeatedly inaccessible, contains no open access materials, contains metadata (bibliographic) references only or solely links to external sites; Site is actually a library catalogue or collection of locally accessible e-books; it requires authentication to access any material (gated access) even if freely offered; Site is a proprietary database or journal that requires a subscription to access (OpenDOAR, 2019).

Statement of Problem

Institutional Repositories are deployed mainly to create global visibility for scholarly and intellectual output of institutions which in return increases the recognition and prestige of the institution. In terms of webometric ranking, institutional repositories have boosted webometric ranking of some Nigerian universities locally but appears to have less or no impact at the global level. The web performance of research output in terms of presence, impact, openness and excellence of the universities is far below expectation in relation to their academic output. Hence this study seeks to analyze the growth rate of Institutional repositories in Nigeria.

Objective of Study

The main objective of this study is to analyze the state of open access repositories in Nigeria. Specifically the study seeks to:

1. Know the year wise growth of institutional repositories in Nigeria.
2. Find out the type of open access Institutional Repositories in Nigeria.
3. Ascertain the software used for open access repositories in Nigeria.
4. Find out the total number of items available in the open access Institutional repositories in Nigeria
5. Identify the subject covered by open access institutional repositories in Nigeria.
6. Know the content uploaded on open access repositories in Nigeria

Research Methodology

The statistics for this study was collected from OpenDoar website (<https://v2.sherpa.ac.uk/opensoar/>) and analyzed based on the following parameters; Type, Status, software, total number of records, subject covered and content covered. Nigeria has a total of 25 open access institutional repositories which are available in OpenDoar website. All of these institutional repositories (IRs) were selected and analyzed for this study.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

Table 1: Year wise growth of IRs in Nigeria

S/N	Year	Number of OAR	Percentage
1.	2009 - 2013	5	20
2.	2014 - 2016	11	44
3.	2017 - 2019	9	36
	Total	25	100

Table 1 illustrates the growth of Nigerian open access repositories since 2009. Before 2009 there was no Institutional Repository available in Nigeria. The first Open access Institutional Repository was developed in 2009. Only 5 (20%) repositories were created between 2009 and 2013. The highest number of institutional repository constituting 11 (44%) were developed by Nigerian institutions was between 2014 and 2016; followed by 9(36%) between 2017 and 2019.

Table 2: Type of Open Access Repositories in Nigeria

S/N	Type of OARs	Total Number	Percentage
1.	Institutional	25	100
2.	Disciplinary	0	0
3.	Aggregating	0	0
4.	Governmental	0	0
	Total	25	100.00

Table 2 highlights the type of open access repositories in Nigeria. The table shows that all 25 (100%) open access repositories are institutional. No Nigerian repository is disciplinary, Aggregating or governmental.

Table 3: Open Access Repositories in Nigeria by Software Type

S/N	Name of Software	Total Number	Percentage
1.	DSpace	20	80
2.	EPrint	4	16
3.	Unknown	1	4
	Total	25	100

Table 3 reveals that open access repositories in Nigeria make use of two main softwares which are Dspace with a total number of 20 (80%) and Eprints 4 (16%). Unknown is 1 (4%).

Table 4: Subject wise distribution of open Access Repositories in Nigeria

S/N	Subject	No of OARs	Percentage
1.	Multidisciplinary	22	88
2.	Health and Medicine	1	4
3.	Social Science and Business	2	8
	Total	25	100

Table No. 4 shows the analysis of subjects listed in Institutional Repositories (IRs) in Nigeria. 22 (88 %) Institutional Repositories covers multidisciplinary subjects; 1(4%) institutional repository covers Health and Medicine alone 1 (4%); while 2 (8%) posted only Social Science and Business disciplines in their repository.

Table 5: Total Number of Items Recorded in Nigerian Open Access Repositories

S/N	Name of Repository	Total number of Items Recorded
1.	ABU Dspace	8,449
2.	Afe Babalola University Repository	471
3.	African Digital Health Library-University of Ibadan	NA
4.	Ahmadu Bello University Institutional Digital Repositories	7,970
5.	Ambrose Ali University Ekpoma Institutional Repository	NA
6.	American University of Nigeria Digital Repository	NA
7.	Covenant University Repository	8,779
8.	Federal University Ndufu-Alike Ikwo Repository Archive	256
9.	EU Space	NA
10.	Ebonyi State University Institutional Repository	814

11.	Federal University Dutsin-ma Institutional Repository	NA
12.	Federal University Lokoja Institutional Repository	89
13	Federal University Oye-Ekiti Institutional Repository	1,166
14.	Federal University of Technology Minna Institutional Repositories	4,454
15	Institutional Repository of Federal University of Technology, Akure.	2,346
16	Landmark University Repository	NA
17	Landmark University Repository	507
18	Open Resources (UNN)	23,367
19	Repository of Central Bank of Nigeria	NA
20	Theses and Dissertation	233
21	UILSPACE (UNILORIN)	734
22	University of Ibadan Repository	NA
23	University of Jos Institutional Repository	1,837
24	University of Lagos Institutional Repository	674
25	University of Nigeria Nsukka Institutional Repository	6,464
	TOTAL	68,610

Table 5 shows the total number of items recorded in each institutional repository in Nigeria. It can be deduced from the table that Open Resources Repository belonging to University of

Nigeria Nsukka has the highest number with a total number of 23,367 records since it was created, making up about 34% of the total record of all open access repositories in Nigeria. This is followed by Covenant University Repository and Ahmadu Bello University repository with a total of 8,779 and 8,449 records respectively. Federal University of Lokoja has the lowest total of 89 records only. However, quite a number of repositories do not have the record of their items visibly displayed or they have not uploaded intellectual content since it was created.

Table 6: Content uploaded on open access repositories in Nigeria

S/N	CONTENT TYPE	TOTAL NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
1.	Journal Articles	6	24
2.	Theses and Dissertations	1	4
3.	Conference and Workshop papers/Theses and Dissertations	2	8
4.	Journal Articles/Theses and Dissertations	8	32
5.	Journal Articles, Theses and Dissertations, Books Chapters, and Sections. Multimedia and Audio Visual	2	8
6.	Journal Articles, Conference and Workshop papers/Theses and Dissertations	5	20
7.	Journal Articles, Unpublished Reports and	1	4

	working papers		
	TOTAL	25	100

Table 6 shows an analysis of the content type. A total of 8 (32%) open access repositories upload journal Articles/Theses and dissertations only. While a total number of 6 (24%) open access repositories upload only journal articles. Others included conference papers, unpublished reports, multimedia and audio visuals to their journal articles/theses/dissertations in their upload.

Discussion

From statistics made available by federal ministry of Education, Nigeria has a total of 170 Universities with 43 federal, 48 state and 79 private universities. The findings of this study reveal that it has taken a span of 10 years (2009-2019) to create a total of 25 institutional repositories in Nigeria. This corroborates the findings of Oguche (2018) who disclosed that it took Nigeria almost a decade to register 23 repositories from 2009 till date even though there are very many higher institutions in Nigeria.

The findings also revealed that most of the institutional repositories are multidisciplinary with just two subject specific ones.

Findings also show that Dspace software is the most preferred software for open access repositories in Nigeria. This also tallies with a study by Velmurugan (2013) that Dspace software platform serves a variety of digital archiving needs. Research institutions worldwide use Dspace

to meet a variety of digital archiving needs which includes: Institutional Repositories, learning objectives, E-thesis, Electronic Record Management, Digital Preservation, and publishing.

The study also reveals the total number of items recorded in each repository. A total of 8 repositories do not have any recorded item. This may be due to the fact that these repositories were created in 2019 and are yet to upload content. Openness and visibility of intellectual content can only be achieved when these contents are uploaded.

The type of content uploaded in open access repositories in Nigeria fall under several categories. Some upload only journal articles, others upload theses and dissertations. Some others upload conference and workshop papers, Book chapters and sections, Multimedia and Audio Visuals, Unpublished reports and working papers. In all the institutions, theses, dissertations and journal articles have the highest number of uploads. This corroborates the findings of Adam and Kaur (2018) that repositories accessed deposited 21,642 theses and dissertations; 20,256 journal articles; 239 books; 776 seminar and conference papers; 2,152 other resources; 45 videos and 1 image. Other resources include: lectures, lecture notes, course outlines, speech, question papers, newspapers.

Conclusion

This study is an eye opener to the fact that there is a very slow growth rate of open access repositories in Nigeria. For Nigeria to take its place in the intellectual environment, its intellectual content must be made open and visible online.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made:

1. Institutional Repositories should be made a very important prerequisite for Nigerian Universities Commission's (NUC) accreditation of Universities.
2. Librarians should be trained to possess ICT skills so that they do not only upload content but also provide ICT support when needed without consulting the ICT department.
3. Institutions should also ensure that the standard of their theses and dissertations is not compromised so that it can be easily uploaded without fear of plagiarism.
4. Regulatory bodies of Library and information Science such as Librarians Registration Council of Nigeria should establish and implement policies concerning Institutional Repositories in Nigeria.
5. Institutions should ensure that ICT facilities are put in place to ensure the smooth running of institutional repositories.
6. Funds should also be made available by institutions because setting up and running a functional institutional repository is capital intensive.

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