

Open Access Research Output of the University of Kashmir

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Abstract

Purpose: Open Access has come up with a promising future of making the scholarly content free of cost available to everyone. It has widened the information exchange market and is becoming a worldwide effort to provide free online access to scientific and scholarly research literature in diverse formats including open access journals. The present study attempts to provide an overview of open access publishing in the University of Kashmir.

Design/Methodology/Approach: The study is based on the data extracted from SCOPUS, leading Science, Technology and Medicine (STM) citation database of world leading publisher, Elsevier.

Findings: The study reveals that OA publishing is gaining popularity in the whole university with substantial amount of research publication already available through OA journals.

Keywords: Open Access (OA); Open Access Publishing; University of Kashmir

Paper Type: Survey

Introduction

Association of Research Libraries (ARL) refers open access to any dissemination models created with no expectation of direct monetary return and which makes works available online at no cost to the readers (ARL, 2008). In India, poor access to international journals and the low visibility of papers are main problems faced by researchers. OA is viewed as a solution to these problems. OA signifies the democratization of knowledge and supports socially responsible way to distribute knowledge. OA makes the same knowledge and information available to scholars in wealthy, first world nations, in developing ex-communist, second world nations, and in under-developed third world nations (Ylotis, 2005). So, open access has proved a blessing to the scholars in one or the other way. Whether, the scholar is an author or the user of scholarly content, it has democratized them in a real sense. OA to scholarly articles can be achieved through two main ways: by being published in an open access journal, or by being deposited in an open access repository (OAR) and open access archives (OAA) respectively (Fernandez, 2006; Chan & Costa, 2005).

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The open access journals make their quality controlled content freely available to all corners of the world, using a funding model that does not charge readers or their institutions for access. There are several operational models in place, the simplest one being where the journal is set up and run by the university department, published electronically using only the institutions server space and edited and administered, including peer review, by interested scholars. A modification of this is where the journal receives some funding, either by grants or sponsorship, to support some of the editorial or management cost (**Correria & Jeixeria, 2005**).

Scholars all over the globe are actively involved with the open access publishing process. Because of innumerable benefits adhered to open access, scholarly networks all over the globe are adding their scholarly content to it. Whether the scholars are from the developed world or developing world, they have somewhat a common story to say. Scholars have contributed to open access journals as they provide a better and healthy platform to them. The present study attempts to ascertain the trends in open access publishing at the University of Kashmir.

Objectives

Objectives of the study are

- To assess the OA research output of University of Kashmir
- To assess the growth and trends of OA publications
- To gauge the geographical scattering of OA articles.

Problem

The elements associated with University of Kashmir have been active elements right from its inception. They have also contributed towards OA movement. The present study tries to explore the level of OA contribution from the University of Kashmir.

Methodology

Elsevier's Scopus database was used to identify the research contribution from the University of Kashmir. Scopus claims to be the world's largest abstract and citation database peer-reviewed literature and quality web resources. After ascertaining the journals in which the authors have made their contribution, the titles were further checked with the OA journal list maintained at the databases of Directory of Open Access Journals and Open J-Gate.

Scope

The study was confined to the publications that have been published during the last 11 years from 2000 to 2010.

Literature Review

Arunachalam (2008) stresses the need of OA mandate by various research organizations in India for their own research output and of projects funded by them. **Herb and Muller (2008)** discovered that the scientists after becoming familiar with open access services use them to a greater extent. **Haider (2007)** considers open access as a way to connect the developing world to the system of science, by providing access as a way to connect the developing world. **Mcculloh (2006)** observes that open access initiative is dramatically transforming the process of scholarly communication, bringing great benefits to academic world.

Prosser (2004) believes that OA journals and institutional repositories hold out the promise of providing a fairer, more equitable and more efficient system of scholarly communication and can better serve the international research community. **Chan & Costa (2005)** argues that OA enriches the global knowledge base by incorporating the missing research from the less developed world and improves the south-north and south-south knowledge flow. **Falk (2004)** observes that open access is gaining momentum with very broad support from library and professional groups, university faculties and even journal publishers. **Lawrence (2001)** demonstrates that open access articles can substantially increase their impact implicitly and the impact factor of the source journals.

Results and Discussions

Open Access Publication Status

During the study period, a total of 448 articles have been published of which only 137 (i.e., 30.58 per cent of the total) are of open access nature. Contribution to open access publications at the University of Kashmir is gaining momentum as the no. of OA articles goes on increasing with every passing year. However, the percentage of OA literature was mostly produced in 2010 in which 44.04 per cent of the total output was of OA nature, followed by 34.24 per cent of the total output in the year 2008 (**Table 1**).

Table 1: Open Access Publication Status

Year	Total Publications	Open Access Publication
2010	84	37 (44.04)
2009	87	21 (24.13)
2008	73	25 (34.24)
2007	60	17 (28.33)
2006	43	14 (32.5)
2005	29	6 (20.6)
2004	32	8 (25.00)
2003	20	7 (35.00)
2002	5	1 (20.00)
2001	5	0 (0.00)
2000	10	1 (10.00)
Total	448	137 (100)

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage

Preferred Open Access Journals

The authors have made use of 56 different journals to make their scholarly content freely available on the public web. Among these, authors have published a maximum of 22 articles *Indian Journal of Pure and Applied Physics* followed respectively by 5 articles each in *Current Science*, *Pakistan Journal of Biological Sciences*, and *Journal of Inequalities in Pure and Applied Mathematics*. **Table 2** shows the top 12 OA journals in which authors have made maximum contribution.

Table 2: Preferred Open Access Journals

Journal Title	No. of Papers
Indian Journal of Pure and Applied Physics	22
Current Science	5
Pakistan Journal of Biological Sciences	5
Journal of Inequalities in Pure and Applied Mathematics	5
Indian Journal of Animal Sciences	4
Indian Journal of Medical Microbiology	4
Pakistan Journal of Nutrition	4
Asian Journal of Plant Sciences	4
International Journal of Botany	4
Library Philosophy and Practice	4
Pharmacology online	4
Tropical Ecology	4

Geographical Pattern of Publications

The authors have OA scholarly work available in journals published from 23 different nations. From Table 3, it is clear that a maximum no. of 49 are published in 11 Indian journals, followed respectively by 26 publications in 9 Pakistani journals. On the other extreme, one article was published each in journals from Chile, China, Germany, Hungary, Romania, South Korea and United Kingdom.

Table 3: Geographic pattern of publications

Country	No. of Journals	No. of articles
India	11	49
Pakistan	9	26
United States	6	14
Thailand	3	3
Iran	3	3
Serbia	2	5
Nigeria	2	4
Turkey	2	3
Brazil	2	3
Poland	2	2
Croatia	2	2
Australia	1	5
Italy	1	4
United Arab Emirates	1	3
Taiwan	1	2
Netherlands	1	2
United Kingdom	1	1
South Korea	1	1
Romania	1	1
Hungary	1	1
Germany	1	1
China	1	1
Chile	1	1

Conclusion

Open access has come up with a promising future of making the scholarly content free of cost available to everyone. It has widened the information exchange market and is becoming a world wide effort to provide free online access to scientific and scholarly research literature in diverse formats including open access journals. Open access is found to be much

popular in University of Kashmir. It is hoped that with the benefit of OA becoming clear day by day, more publications from University of Kashmir will be available through open access channels. The different stakeholders like library professionals and open access advocates also have a key role in bringing the benefits of open access to the notice of researchers by extension and awareness programs.

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