

Table 3. Top five journals by highest increase/decrease in IF

Journal	Difference from 2014
Increase	
<i>Episodes</i>	1.263
<i>IETE Technical Review</i>	0.416
<i>Energy for Sustainable Development</i>	0.386
<i>Indian Journal of Experimental Biology</i>	0.33
<i>Range Management and Agroforestry</i>	0.329
Decrease	
<i>Journal of Food Science and Technology-Mysore</i>	-0.962
<i>Journal of Biosciences</i>	-0.645
<i>Contributions to Indian Sociology</i>	-0.641
<i>Conservation and Society</i>	-0.613
<i>Annals of Thoracic Medicine</i>	-0.568

Table 4. Top five journals by highest and lowest IF growth

Journal	Growth in percentage from 2014
Positive growth	
<i>Range Management and Agroforestry</i>	530.64
<i>Himalayan Geology</i>	366.67
<i>Journal of the Anatomical Society of India</i>	247.62
<i>Journal of Agrometeorology</i>	148.96
<i>Indian Journal of Gender Studies</i>	131
Negative growth	
<i>Journal of Camel Practice and Research</i>	-70
<i>Contributions to Indian Sociology</i>	-69.90
<i>Journal of Astrophysics and Astronomy</i>	-53.73
<i>Indian Journal of Cancer</i>	-46.13
<i>Journal of Food Science and Technology-Mysore</i>	-43.67

Table 5. Top Indian journals (C 2015 \geq 2000)

Journal	No. of citations
<i>Current Science</i>	8289
<i>Indian Journal of Medical Research</i>	4522
<i>Bulletin of Materials Science</i>	3264
<i>Indian Journal of Experimental Biology</i>	2872
<i>Journal of Food Science and Technology-Mysore</i>	2849
<i>Journal of Biosciences</i>	2353
<i>Indian Journal of Pediatrics</i>	2172
<i>Indian Journal of Chemistry, Section B</i>	2112
<i>Indian Pediatrics</i>	2085

45 journals (top five journals in each case are provided in Table 3). Only one

journal, i.e. *Indian Journal of Orthopaedics* had the same IF. The IF of the jour-

nal *Episodes* increased by 1.263, i.e. almost 65%.

In terms of growth in IF, 59 journals showed positive growth between 1.38% and 530%, while 45 journals had negative growth between -70% and -0.69% (top five journals in each case are provided in Table 4). The IF of *Range Management and Agroforestry* increased from 0.062 in 2014 to 0.329 in 2015, almost five times.

Among the 107 journals, only nine received more than 2000 citations in 2015 (Table 5). *Current Science* was the top-ranked Indian journal¹ with IF 1999 = 0.567. Even though the journal received the highest number of citations ($n = 8289$) in 2015, it is ranked 21st among Indian journals in terms of IF (IF 2015 = 0.967). This can be attributed to the fact that *Current Science* focuses only on publications related to India or Indian science² and 85% of publications were contributed by Indian authors during 2005–2014 (ref. 3).

Compared to the earlier study¹, the number of Indian journals in SCIE has been doubled from 47 (0.84%) in 1999 to 100 (1.14%) in 2015. The present study provides a clear picture on the performance of Indian journals and may be useful to decision-makers of the concerned journals.

1. Jain, N. C., *Curr. Sci.*, 2000, **79**(11), 1513–1514.
2. Ifremova, O., Das, D. and Kozak, M., *Curr. Sci.*, 2016, **110**(8), 1414–1418.
3. Parameswaran, R., *Am. Int. J. Res. Hum., Arts Soc. Sci.*, 2015, **12**(2), 179–182.

BAKTHAVACHALAM ELANGO

*IFET College of Engineering,
Villupuram 605 108, India
e-mail: elangokb@yahoo.com*

Open access repositories in India: a lost opportunity?

In the last week of May 2016, the European Union ministers of science, innovation, trade, and industry in a meeting agreed that by 2020 all scientific papers should be freely available¹. And in early 2016, it was reported that a consortium of higher education institutions in the

Netherlands has negotiated agreements with major publishers including Elsevier to make all Dutch scientific publications available in open access domain². Both these important developments aim at barrier-free access to scholarly information and have been generally welcomed. But

some noted open access evangelists are of the view that this road taken to open access by negotiating deals with publishers that involves paying article processing charges (APCs) is only flipping the payment model. These advocates of open access believe that Green

Table 1. Status of Indian open access repositories

Repository status	No. of repositories
At least one item added every month	12
Not a single item added during the 12-month period	17
Irregularly adding items	40
No. of items added in a month	
>100	19
>50 < 100	7
<50	43
Platform	
DSpace	46
Eprints	22
Others	1

Table 2. Number of items added during the year in Indian open access repositories

Open access repository	Organization (in India)	URL	No. of items added (during the year)*	Type of items
ShodhGanga: A Reservoir of Indian theses	Information and Library Network Center (INFLIBNET)	http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/	53,495	Theses and dissertations
KrishiKosh	Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi	http://krishikosh.egranth.ac.in/	3955	Books, research papers and Articles, theses, reports, journals, proceedings, multimedia documents, etc.
DSpace@GIPE (DSpace@Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics)	Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics (GIPE), Pune	http://dspace.gipe.ac.in/xmlui/community-list	3535	Annual reports, books, journal articles, photographs, Ph D theses, videos, project reports, GIPE publications
Institutional Repository @VSL	Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad	http://vslir.iimahd.ernet.in:8080/xmlui/	3085	Annual reports, conference proceedings, faculty collections, theses and dissertations, research paper and articles, multimedia documents
KrishiPrabha	ICAR, New Delhi	http://14.139.232.167:8080/equesthesis/	2536	Doctoral theses/dissertations
NOPR (NISCAIR Online Periodical Repository)	National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (NISCAIR)	http://nopr.niscair.res.in/	2471	Journals
Open Access Repository of IISc Research Publications (ePrints@iisc)	Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru	http://eprints.iisc.ernet.in/	1824	Preprints, post-prints and other scholarly publications
ShodhGangotri: Repository of Indian Research in Progress	INFLIBNET Centre, Gandhinagar	http://shodhgangotri.inflibnet.ac.in/	1371	Synopses/research proposals of Ph D
NEHU Digital Repository	North-Eastern Hill University, Nehu, Shillong, Meghalaya	http://dspace.nehu.ac.in/jspui/	1280	Theses and dissertations, journals, etc.
Dspace at IIT Bombay (DSpace@IITB)	Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IITB)	http://dspace.library.iitb.ac.in/jspui/	1076	Full-text of book chapters, conference/proceeding papers, technical reports, journal pre-prints and post-prints, working papers, Patents, annual reports, etc.

open access that requires research output to be deposited in institutional repositories should be the path to open access as against the Dutch initiative of going with the Gold OA (APC model).

In India, the umbrella institutions such as CSIR, DBT, DST and ICAR have open access policies that clearly mandate depositing research papers in institutional repositories. Higher education institutions such as IITs, IISc and many universities have also set up institutional repositories. There are a number of studies that have analysed the Indian institutional repositories. These studies give the number of items in the repositories at the time of study. We wanted to look at how often are Indian open access repositories updated with new items.

Between the Directory of Open Access Repositories (DOAR)³ and Registry of Open Access Repositories (ROAR)⁴, there are 69 open access repositories from India listed in them. During the one year period, July 2015–June 2016, we visited each of the repository websites on the last date of each month and noted the number of items in the repository.

Table 1 gives some key statistical data about the open access repositories. Out of 69 repositories, just 12 repositories

added at least one item during a month. And there were 17 repositories that did not add even a single item during the 12-month period. The rest of the 40 were irregular in adding items to their IRs. The most active institutional repository was ShodhGanga@INFLIBNET Centre, which added the most number of 53,495 items during the year. ShodhGanga is a theses repository. And a majority of the repositories were created by the DSpace open source software.

Table 2 gives the repositories that added at least one thousand items during the 12-month period. As can be seen, some of the repositories are not truly IRs that host research papers, pre-prints or post-prints. Some of them are theses and dissertations (ShodhGanga), journals platform (NOPR) and so on.

Clearly, Open access institutional repositories are lagging despite the availability of mandates and policies. Researchers and scientists continue to surrender complete copyright to journals and are not seemingly enthusiastic about depositing pre-prints or post-prints in institutional repositories. Increasingly they prefer to publish in APC-based open access journals⁵. Even after more than a decade of being around, open access

repositories have not caught on in India yet. It is about time we do whatever it takes to get authors to deposit their research papers in open access repositories. Or it would remain a lost opportunity to provide barrier free access to our scholarly information.

1. <http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2016/05/dramatic-statement-european-leaders-call-immediate-open-access-all-scientific-papers>
2. Butler, D., *Nature*, 2016, **529**, 13; doi:10.1038/529013a
3. <http://www.opendoar.org/>
4. <http://roar.eprints.org/>
5. Muthu, M., Kimidi, S. S., Gunasekaran, S. and Arunachalam, S., *Curr. Sci.* (in press); <http://www.currentscience.ac.in/php/forthcoming/18652.docx>

VIJENDRA KUMAR*
G. MAHESH

*National Science Library,
CSIR-National Institute of Science
Communication and Information
Resources,
14, Satsang Vihar Marg,
New Delhi 110 067, India
e-mail: vijendrakumar@live.com