INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORY FOR SUSTAINABLE ADVANCEMENT: MALAYSIAN EXPERIENCE

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ABSTRACT

The development of institutional repository (IR) in Malaysia is encouraging. It has been a gradual realization of the usefulness of IR among various institutions and are making full use of their websites either to archive or to share information. Thus, IR facilitates the availability and distribution of scholarly communication freely, as a means and effort to solve the problem of inaccessibility, primarily due to financial constraints. The library community, increasingly understood the need to intervene and to ensure IR being disseminated is managed successfully through proper description, indexing and storage for long term preservation. The correlation between research generation by academics, with output management by Librarians has created a new form of publications. With this new form of publication in repositories owned and run from within institutional, any publication has finally found its most appropriate form. Librarians should play a proactive role in the growth of collections in institutional repositories. In this spirit, our unique position as a change agents will enhance stewardship and sustainability advancement towards IR development. Therefore, the main purpose of this paper is to inform that interactivity and sharing knowledge through IR initiatives by various institutions of the country can be accelerated through collaboration and cooperation. The way forward IR is to build a single search engine via cross fertilization to unlock access of Malaysian digital content for all Malaysian and the world community. Establishing IR policy and integrated IR training of trainers (tot) expertise to help other libraries to develop their own IR.

KEYWORDS
Collaboration, Cooperation, Digital Content, Institutional Repositories, Knowledge sharing, Librarian Roles, Unlock Access
INTRODUCTION

The 20th century information explosion provided widespread technological innovation and ease of access to information and libraries become more competitive with emphasis on digital collections and electronic resources. Information technology has brought about a paradigm shift in library function, from static repositories and custodian of information into dynamic information centre. The content exchange enables libraries to aggregate their content globally in effective and efficient ways. With ICT, information that was traditionally kept in paper format can be digitized and stored in the system and made publicly available. The idea of providing and presenting information via electronics means and format truly fascinates.

Libraries are no longer confined to collecting physical copies and providing inventories. With the era of digital medium, it is now possible to develop method of cataloguing digital resources enabling keyword search in various ways unimaginable before and resources could be benefited expanded. Institutional repository (IR) is the best solution on digital surrogate current collections in a rich, interactive digital environment.

Foster and Gibbons (2005) define an institutional repository as “an electronic system that captures, preserves and provides access to the digital work products of a community”. Libraries are in a better position than individual researcher to guarantee that the material is available even after decades and that the collection is systematically maintained, for instance, to take account of changing file formats and media.

STUDY OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this paper are as follows:

a) To identify on how libraries and institutions in this country has successfully develop a knowledge repository

b) To understand about how libraries and institutions in Malaysia developed and managed their own institutional repository and how they can contribute in sharing openly the knowledge resources they have nationally and internationally.

INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORIES IN MALAYSIA

Malaysia has initiated IR for open data environment for the growing country. The academic libraries has lead the boom of IT applications for the education growth, as it evident from the open access journals and number of institutional repositories. The open access movement in Malaysia had a direct impact on the development of the IR services and in colloboration between the scholars (Abrizah, A. 2009).

In Malaysia, there are 12,724 libraries which consists of National Library of Malaysia, State Public Libraries, Universities/College Libraries, Special Libraries (Government, Private and
Semi Government), School Libraries, Rural Libraries and Community Libraries. As at the end of 2013, Malaysia had 20 public universities, 7 foreign university branch campuses, 37 private universities, 20 private university-colleges, and 414 private colleges 5 (Ministry of Education, 2013). Many of these libraries are involved in research and development (R&D) activities.

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MALAYSIA

National Library of Malaysia is a Federal Department under Ministry of Tourism and Culture. It was established under the National Library Act 1972 (Act 80) (incorporating all amendments up to 1 January 2006. The purpose and objectives of National Library of Malaysia as stipulated in Part II, Section 3 are as below:

(i) To make available for user of present and future generations a national collection of library resources;

(ii) To facilitate nation-wide access to library resources available within the country and abroad;

(iii) To provide leadership on matters pertaining to libraries

One of the initiatives introduced to promote access to information is by developing institutional repositories. The National Library of Malaysia, initiated the PERDANA System Project, which aims to develop a national system of digital libraries through the networking and collaboration of all the libraries in Malaysia. The National Library of Malaysia has developed a host of portals to increase digital content of local knowledge mainly concern the history and culture of Malaysia and Malay Manuscripts (Abdul Ghani Azmi, Ida Madieha, 2009).

ACADEMIC LIBRARIES IN MALAYSIA

A few research universities in Malaysia have established IR services with the aim to enhance the visibility and the impact of the research generated within that university. The development of the IR services is related to the open access movement in Malaysia, which seeks to make valued research outputs openly available by encouraging academics to place their publications into repositories, enhancing the availability and visibility to the global academic community and increase the chances for use and exchange of ideas among scholars within similar disciplines (Abrizah et al, 2007).

In 2005, all the Head of University Libraries and Director General, National Library of Malaysia (PERPUN) has set up Malaysian University Libraries and National Library Network (MyUninet). PERPUN is a forum of cooperation towards collaboration dan networking among academic libraries and National Library in Malaysia. MyUninet is the headstart towards establishing IR. MyUninet can be accessed at http://perpun.upm.edu.my/myuninet/?page_id=83
MyUninet portal consists of:

(i) MYTO (Malaysian Theses Online) – lists of theses collection compiled from public universities and universities colleges and selected private universities

(ii) MALRep (Malaysian Academic Repository) – repositories include published and unpublished resources produced by universities, academicians and personnel such as books, conference and seminar papers, journal articles, working papers, magazine newsletter, newspapers, statistics etc to serve as Malaysian academic repository for universities in Malaysia

(iii) MyUShare (Malaysian Gateway to the Internet Resources) – an inter library loan system specifically cater for inter-library loan services

(iv) MALCat (Malaysian Academic Library Union) – union catalog of all the public universities libraries and government link corporation universities library registered with Ministry of Higher Education
Fig 1: Institutional Repository List in Malaysia, MyUninet Portal
Source: http://perpun.upm.edu.my/myuninet
<table>
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<th>ranking</th>
<th>World Rank</th>
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<th>Size</th>
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Fig 1: Performance of Malaysian IR in world rank
LIBRARIAN’S ROLES

Creation of digital content to archive and preserve is known as a role of librarian. Library and information professionals have key roles to play in managing IR. Development of IR has become a duty of librarians in the 21st century. Traditionally everyone knows the library as preserver of scholarly literatures (Cervone 2004). Librarians are professionals, trained to create metadata and content organization. They are conscious of the preservation of digital materials and self archiving techniques (Ware 2004). As a technology hub, is the reason to confirm why the library should be in charge of IR and community look to the library as a leader on information technology tendency (Phillips et al. 2005). There is an awareness to make valued research outputs openly available to enhance visibility and provide access to the global community.

Development of the IR and populating community with contents requires hard effort. Reference and subject librarians are familiar with different library culture and environments. They will be the best option to encourage authors to submit their work into IR. Providing training sessions were the most significant ways for promoting IR. The overall collection is also growing. Promotion IR activities, including roadshows, encouragement during information skills sessions, and by researchers doing self-archiving.

Future plans call for increasing the visibility of IR and improve the repository ranking among libraries in the country as well as internationally. Among the challenges are the technical aspects and increasing the copyright clearance of some items. In reflecting upon the development of the IR, one factor that can enhance the growth of the IR is the need for a top-down approach, where a specific mandate should be made to ensure community contribute to IR.

To enhance unlock access of Malaysian content, libraries in Malaysia should formulate policies, systems architecture and other elements shall be determine and will depend on institutional context, the scope and purpose of the repository. Each institutions defines its own policies dealing with access to and use of materials because not all materials can be made available freely. Copyrighted materials may carry a variety of restrictions. Key issues to consider establishing and developed IR are the institutional culture, the scope of the repository, content, access levels, legal aspects, standard, sustainability and funding. Although libraries in Malaysia has seen growth in infrastructure and services, the technical know-how and personnel need to be strengthened. Developing technologies and software for localizing information resources to unlock local content seems to be the pressing need. In pursuing these key issues, IR in Malaysia can be sustainable and the way forward is to build a single search engine can be achieve. Librarian’s role as change agents could resolved collection management and stewardship of collection, understanding of software and giving training to authors, established a standard metadata and comprehensive catalogue system, review submission for quality of content, persuading authors to contribute with self archiving, training users search technique in IR, promotion and marketing (Katayoon Kamraninia and Abrizah A., 2010).
CONCLUSION

IRs in Malaysia are helping libraries reinvent. The benefits to the IR in Malaysia that they are positioning to pursuing collaborative partners to manage the digital intellectual. Librarians now realize that to gain support for their IRs they must assertively pursue new content as well as new customers and continue to provide new services and the technologies to support them. Thus, it will involve skills such as ability to create metadata, integrate information systems, ability to promote IR. Active engagement through collaboration, cooperation, knowledge sharing will built good partnership and lead to sustainable advocacy among libraries in Malaysia. Whatever challenges the libraries and librarian shall face, there will always opportunity to fulfill the needs and aspirations of the people by working together on transforming Malaysia into a creative, innovative and knowledge based society in line with vision 2020.
REFERENCES


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