



IRs Gone Social: Then comes along Social iR

Keita BANDO

Digital Repository Librarian and Coordinator for Scholarly Communication, MyOpenArchive



Abstract

MyOpenArchive [1] is an Open Access Repository that was created for researchers at an institution that did not have an Institutional Repository (IR). After the first 3 years of its launch, we can safely assume that the efforts have been yielding positive results in Japan. [2] In November 2011, we redeveloped the project on Amazon Web Services. The aim was to develop Social iRs (“individual” rather than “institutional” repositories) because we wanted to combine social media such as Twitter, Facebook, and Scribd.

Recently, there has been a growth in the number of social network sites (SNSs) for researchers, for example, academia.edu, ResearchGate, and Mendeley. Thus, researchers appear to have successfully embraced social media on a large scale. However, we cannot conclude that IRs around the world have successfully utilized SNSs and social media. We fear that there is a block preventing the development of a new scholarly communication model. While SNSs and social media will be extensively employed by researchers, more importantly, rapid development should urge researchers to create a new scholarly communication model by using social media for IRs. Besides, we hope that open access can be synthesized with self-archiving. As developers of MyOpenArchive, we believe that our efforts should be focused on SNSs and social media. “Plan, Act, Evaluate” will be effective in the case of Social iR only when we challenge the evolution of IR and scholarly communication.

References:

[1] MyOpenArchive <http://myopenarchive.org/>

[2] Keita BANDO. MyOpenArchive, an “individual” rather than an “institutional” Open Access Repository, and initial responses. Open Repository 2011 <https://conferences.tdl.org/or/OR2011/OR2011main/paper/view/362>

Introduction

The BOAI proposed two road maps for the Open Access Movement: the gold road and green road. These two road maps led to the creation of PLoS ONE, Scientific Reports, SAGE Open, and several Open Access Journals (OAJs). Besides, DSpace, Eprints, and some IRs are currently being developed based on the Platform. In this paper, we discuss mainly the green road (self-archiving) in order to share our open access proposal based on social media relationships.

Status

According to 5 years research, there has been a tremendous growth in the number of IRs around the world. However, Japan has only 125 university IRs, that is, only 16% of the 773 universities in the country have IRs. Thus, the adoption rate is clearly not adequately high. While there are some issues with government subsidies, we would also like to cite the following reasons: (1) universities lack adequate budgets; (2) few librarians have proper experience in library science. Although the growth in the number of OAJs is high enough for open access to be considered a favorable option, the repositories of institutions often lack the infrastructure to make the Open Access Movement a success.

Background

With the increasing popularity of Twitter and Facebook, academia has also begun employing these social networking tools. For example, academia.edu, ResearchGATE, Mendeley, and several academic social media are undergoing rapid development. It was in this context that background alt-metrics were created (the fourth impact factor). As mentioned, the use of social media has gained general acceptance in academia. DSpace, which is employed by a major share of IRs, is seeking cloud optimization for their system in order to promote the next generation of IRs. PeerEvaluation, FigureOut (OpenDate optimized), and other data sharing services signal the beginning of a new era of the Open Access Movement (especially IRs).

Proposals



1. Sign in with Twitter or Facebook / 2. Upload your docs under Creative Commons Licenses / 3. Publish and share them on social medias

Given this background, we propose to introduce iR (not IRs). An iR is available to anyone, regardless of their institutional affiliation and free of charge. MyOpenArchive is an example of self-archiving. The first prototype was created within a limited period of time and with a limited development cost. Using social media APIs and cloud services, MyOpenArchive was launched in 2007 through the efforts of some Japanese individuals. During the experimental phase from 2007 to 2010, the Japanese version gained some recognition. At the end of 2010, the English version was released with changes to the whole interface, features, and infrastructure. Phase 2 of MyOpenArchive is ready to be launched in the near future. MyOpenArchive aims to break the law of “no IRs, no self-archiving” and to propagate the Open Access Movement. The volunteer project also suggests solutions for gray literature (documents which are not easily accessible) so that scientific research can be easily published and shared. MyOpenArchive features OAuth by Twitter and Facebook, which are currently the most popular social networking media and have a large number of users. Account registration is completed in 2 clicks, and user verification is extremely simple. Also notable is the fact that the two services promote the culture of real user names. Both specialists and amateur researchers can easily and speedily publish their research. No knowledge of IR or OpenAccess is required. As for licenses, a Creative Commons (CC) License is available. The data accumulated over the last 3 years indicates that we need to enhance the usability of the CC license in order to propagate the Open Access Movement and start a revolution in the sharing of scientific research. By entering a simple verification and obtaining a license with general recognition, a person can share his or her work with followers and friends. MyOpenArchive gives people the freedom to share their work...the convenient iR (not an institutional but an “individual” repository) experience is here.

Future

iR is not opposed to IRs. Rather, the two types of repositories will support and complement each other. We expect Simple Web Service Offering Repository Deposit (SWORD), which is currently at the experimental stage, to be adopted. SWORD is supported by the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC). MyOpenArchive will promote these efforts by joining forces with IR providers so that we can achieve the ultimate goal of enabling researchers to undertake self-archiving without librarians.

About MyOpenArchive

MyOpenArchive, founded in September 2007, is an international nonprofit organization created through the efforts of a university staff member who wished to set up a repository for himself. The service was developed by Japanese individuals who had no professional knowledge of IR inventory.

We draw mainly on the principles of Open Access Repositories for individuals, especially researchers who lack the assistance of institutions or library staff. Among the literature available on the web, we advocate the use of open access especially for gray literature, which has recently started to receive general acceptance as a term that refers to academic resources without repositories. Gray literature can comprise technical reports, conference papers, and theses, and can be defined as “documents that are difficult to access because they have not received large-scale publication or circulation.”



Digital Repository Librarian and Coordinator for Scholarly Communication

Keita BANDO (@keitabando)



Engineer

Hisaaki ITO (@de_12345)



Designer

Sotaro OMURA (@omoon)

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