

Abstract
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Open Access: current developments in India

India is emerging as an important player in the global economy and geopolitics and is seen as an emerging scientific power. Universities like Harvard and Oxford are setting up new programmes on Indian studies and journals like Chemical & Engineering News are devoting special sections on science in India and its implications for the world. But for Indian science to really have global impact, it is important for Indian scientists to have much better access to worldwide S&T information than is currently available and for Indian research work to reach a much larger audience than is happening now. Thanks to advances in technologies, especially the Internet, World Wide Web and broadband connectivity, both of these are well within the realm of possibility. But translating what is possible into the realm of reality seems to pose problems.

In this talk I will list the major achievements so far and give my own views on how to go forward to fulfill the tremendous promise of OA in India. Thanks to proactive advocacy by a few, India has held many workshops and hands-on training programmes on setting up OA repositories and OA archiving software. Following the example set by the Indian Institute of Science, about twenty archives have been set up, although most of them are filling up rather slowly. Among the success stories are two central archives, OpenMED of the National Informatics Center for biomedical research and the repository for Library & Information Science set up at the Indian Statistical Institute, Bangalore, and Vidya Nidhi, a repository for dissertations set up at the University of Mysore, and the institutional archives at the National Institute of Technology, Rourkela, National Chemical Library at Pune, the Raman Research Institute, Bangalore, the national Aerospace Laboratories, Bangalore, and Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode. The Indian Institutes of Technology at Bombay and Delhi, have also set up institutional archives, and the IIT at Madras will soon have its own archive. The team at IISc, Bangalore is now crawling all OA archives in India and are making them accessible through a single window.

In the first week of January, a special session on OA was organised as part of the annual session of the Indian Science Congress Association, where developments in India were reported and the participants came up with a recommendation that all papers resulting from publicly funded research should be made available through OA journals or archives.

About a month ago an Indian company had come out with a free OA search service called Open J-Gate for OA journals, and it covers more than 3,000 serials, about half of which are peer-reviewed STM journals.

The most serious problem India faces today is author/institutional/policy maker indifference. There is a great need for continued advocacy and training programmes.