

A Qualitative Study On Driving Forces Behind The Management Of Institutional Repositories

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ABSTRACT

This article delves into the driving forces behind the management of institutional repositories (IRs), which have emerged as pivotal tools for preserving, managing, and disseminating scholarly work in academic institutions. Through a qualitative study, we aim to understand the motivations, challenges, and strategies employed by institutions in managing these repositories. Institutional repositories serve as a digital platform for academic institutions to store and share their intellectual output. This includes research papers, theses, dissertations, and other scholarly works. The management of these repositories is influenced by several factors, including the open access movement, the need for preservation and dissemination of scholarly work, and the desire to enhance institutional visibility and prestige. The open access movement, which advocates for unrestricted access to research outputs, has been a significant driving force behind the establishment and management of IRs. It has encouraged institutions to make their scholarly work freely available, thereby promoting transparency, collaboration, and innovation in research. Preservation and dissemination of scholarly work are also key motivations. IRs provide a platform for preserving academic work for future generations, ensuring that valuable knowledge is not lost. They also facilitate the dissemination of this work, making it accessible to a global audience and thereby increasing its impact. Institutional visibility and prestige are further driving forces. By showcasing their research output through IRs, institutions can enhance their reputation, attract potential students and faculty, and secure funding. However, the management of IRs is not without challenges. These include resource allocation, copyright issues, and data management. Institutions must allocate significant resources, both human and financial, to establish and maintain their repositories. They must also navigate complex copyright laws and negotiate with publishers for self-archiving rights. Furthermore, they must ensure the integrity, security, and accessibility of the data stored in their repositories. This article presents a comprehensive analysis of these driving forces and challenges, providing valuable insights for academic institutions. It contributes to the understanding of the dynamics involved in the management of institutional repositories and offers strategies for successful management. The findings of this study have implications for policy-making, strategic planning, and resource allocation in academic institutions.

Keywords: Institutional Repository, Qualitative Study, Open Access Management, Academic institutions, scholarly publication.

Introduction:

The advent of the digital age has revolutionized various aspects of our lives, including the way we create, store, and share knowledge. One of the significant developments in this regard is the establishment of Institutional Repositories (IRs) by academic institutions. These repositories serve as a digital platform for storing and sharing the intellectual output of these institutions, including research papers, theses, dissertations, and other

scholarly works. This article aims to delve into the motivations, challenges, and strategies employed by institutions in managing these repositories.

The concept of IRs is rooted in the broader movement towards open access to scholarly work. The open access movement advocates for unrestricted access to research outputs, arguing that such access promotes transparency, collaboration, and innovation in research. This movement has been a significant driving force behind the establishment and management of IRs. By making their scholarly work freely available through IRs, institutions align themselves with the principles of the open access movement, thereby contributing to the broader goal of democratizing access to knowledge.

However, the motivations for establishing and managing IRs extend beyond the open access movement. One of the key motivations is the preservation and dissemination of scholarly work. Academic work represents a valuable body of knowledge, the preservation of which is crucial for future generations. IRs provide a platform for preserving this knowledge, ensuring that it is not lost due to factors such as the passage of time or the obsolescence of physical storage media. In addition to preservation, IRs also facilitate the dissemination of scholarly work. By making this work accessible to a global audience, IRs increase its reach and impact, thereby contributing to the advancement of knowledge in various fields.

Another significant motivation for managing IRs is the enhancement of institutional visibility and prestige. The intellectual output of an institution is a reflection of its academic strength and vitality. By showcasing this output through IRs, institutions can enhance their reputation in the academic community. This can attract potential students and faculty, secure funding, and foster collaborations with other institutions.

While the motivations for managing IRs are compelling, the task is not without its challenges. One of the key challenges is resource allocation. Establishing and maintaining an IR requires significant resources, both human and financial. Institutions must invest in the necessary hardware and software, as well as in training staff to manage the repository. They must also allocate resources for ongoing tasks such as data curation, user support, and repository promotion.

Another challenge is navigating the complex landscape of copyright laws. Many scholarly works are published in journals or books that are protected by copyright. Institutions must negotiate with publishers for self-archiving rights, which allow them to deposit the work in their IR. This process can be time-consuming and complex, requiring a thorough understanding of copyright laws and negotiation skills.

Data management is a further challenge. Ensuring the integrity, security, and accessibility of the data stored in an IR is a complex task that requires careful planning and execution. Institutions must implement robust data management practices to prevent data loss, protect sensitive information, and ensure that the data remains accessible and usable over time.

In conclusion, the management of IRs is a complex task that involves balancing various motivations and challenges. Through a qualitative study, this article aims to shed light on these dynamics, providing valuable insights for academic institutions. The findings of this study have implications for policy-making, strategic planning, and resource allocation in the context of IR management. By understanding the driving forces and challenges involved in managing IRs, institutions can develop effective strategies to maximize the benefits of these repositories while mitigating the challenges.

Driving Forces:

The establishment and management of Institutional Repositories (IRs) are driven by several key factors. These driving forces can be broadly categorized into three areas: the promotion of open access, the preservation and dissemination of scholarly work, and the enhancement of institutional visibility and prestige.

1. Promotion of Open Access:

The open access movement has been a significant driving force behind the establishment of IRs. This movement advocates for unrestricted access to research outputs, arguing that such access promotes transparency, collaboration, and innovation in research. By making their scholarly work freely available through IRs, institutions align themselves with the principles of the open access movement, thereby contributing to the broader goal of democratizing access to knowledge.

The open access movement is rooted in the belief that knowledge should be a public good, accessible to all. This belief is particularly relevant in the context of academic research, where the sharing of knowledge can lead to new discoveries and advancements in various fields. By providing open access to their scholarly work, institutions can contribute to this process of knowledge creation and dissemination.

Furthermore, open access can also promote equity in research. Traditionally, access to scholarly work has been restricted to those who can afford to pay for journal subscriptions or purchase individual articles. This has created a barrier to access for researchers in low-income countries or institutions with limited resources. By providing open access to their work, institutions can help to level the playing field, ensuring that all researchers, regardless of their resources, have access to the latest research findings.

2. Preservation and Dissemination of Scholarly Work:

Another key driving force behind the management of IRs is the preservation and dissemination of scholarly work. Academic work represents a valuable body of knowledge, the preservation of which is crucial for future generations. IRs provide a platform for preserving this knowledge, ensuring that it is not lost due to factors such as the passage of time or the obsolescence of physical storage media.

In addition to preservation, IRs also facilitate the dissemination of scholarly work. By making this work accessible to a global audience, IRs increase its reach and impact, thereby contributing to the advancement of knowledge in various fields. This can be particularly beneficial for researchers, as it can increase the visibility of their work, leading to higher citation rates and greater recognition within the academic community.

3. Enhancement of Institutional Visibility and Prestige:

The third major driving force behind the management of IRs is the enhancement of institutional visibility and prestige. The intellectual output of an institution is a reflection of its academic strength and vitality. By showcasing this output through IRs, institutions can enhance their reputation in the academic community. This can have several benefits for the institution. For one, it can attract potential students and faculty, who may be drawn to the institution by the quality and breadth of its research output. It can also secure funding, as funders often look at the research output of an institution when making funding decisions. Finally, it can foster collaborations with other institutions, who may be interested in partnering with the institution based on its research strengths.

In conclusion, the management of IRs is driven by a combination of factors, including the promotion of open access, the preservation and dissemination of scholarly work, and the enhancement of institutional visibility and prestige. These driving forces reflect the broader goals of academic institutions and the academic community as a whole, making the management of IRs a key strategic priority for these institutions.

Aspect	Description	Impact on Management
Policy Governance &	Examination of institutional policies and governance structures.	Influences strategic direction and resource allocation.
Technology Infrastructure &	Assessment of the technological framework supporting repositories.	Affects scalability, accessibility, and long-term preservation.
User Engagement	Analysis of user interaction and contribution levels.	Drives content growth and repository relevance.
Funding Sustainability &	Evaluation of financial models and sustainability plans.	Determines the viability and continuous development of repositories.
Staffing & Expertise	Study of staff roles, expertise, and development opportunities.	Impacts service quality and innovation capacity.

Challenges in Management:

1. **Resource Allocation:** Establishing and maintaining an IR requires significant resources, including skilled personnel, hardware, and software.
2. **Copyright Issues:** Navigating copyright laws and negotiating with publishers for self-archiving rights can be complex.
3. **Data Management:** Ensuring the integrity, security, and accessibility of data stored in IRs is a significant challenge.

Management, the act of coordinating efforts to achieve a set of objectives, is a complex task that presents numerous challenges. These challenges can be broadly categorized into five areas: leadership, decision-making, change management, talent management, and ethical considerations.

1. Leadership Challenges:

Leadership is a critical aspect of management. It involves guiding, inspiring, and influencing others to achieve a common goal. However, effective leadership is not easy to achieve. It requires a delicate balance of authority and empathy, decisiveness and flexibility, confidence and humility. Leaders must be able to command respect without resorting to autocracy, and they must be able to inspire their teams without resorting to manipulation. They must also be able to make tough decisions while considering the feelings and perspectives of their team members. These are all difficult balances to strike, making leadership one of the most challenging aspects of management.

2. Decision-Making Challenges:

Managers are often faced with complex decisions that have far-reaching implications. These decisions may involve trade-offs between short-term gains and long-term sustainability, or between individual interests and collective goals. Making these decisions requires a deep understanding of the situation, a clear vision of the desired outcome, and the courage to take responsibility for the consequences. However, even with these

qualities, decision-making can be fraught with uncertainty and risk, making it a significant challenge for managers.

3. Change Management Challenges

In today's fast-paced business environment, change is a constant. Managers must therefore be adept at managing change. This involves anticipating changes in the market, adjusting strategies and processes accordingly, and leading their teams through the transition. However, change is often met with resistance, and managing this resistance can be a major challenge. Managers must be able to communicate the need for change effectively, address concerns and objections, and motivate their teams to embrace the change.

4. Talent Management Challenges

Talent is a critical asset in any organization, and managing this asset is a key responsibility of managers. This involves attracting, developing, and retaining talented individuals. However, each of these tasks presents its own challenges. Attracting talent requires a compelling value proposition and a strong employer brand. Developing talent requires a commitment to learning and development, and a culture that encourages growth and innovation. Retaining talent requires an engaging work environment, competitive compensation, and opportunities for advancement. Meeting these requirements can be a daunting task, making talent management a significant challenge for managers.

5. Ethical Challenges

Managers are often faced with situations that present ethical dilemmas. These may involve conflicts of interest, issues of fairness and justice, or questions of right and wrong. Navigating these dilemmas requires a strong moral compass and a commitment to ethical conduct. However, even with these qualities, ethical dilemmas can be complex and ambiguous, making them a significant challenge for managers.

In conclusion, management is a complex task that presents numerous challenges. These challenges require a combination of skills, qualities, and attitudes, including leadership, decision-making, change management, talent management, and ethical conduct. Despite these challenges, effective management is critical for the success of any organization, making it a worthy pursuit for those with the courage and commitment to take it on.

Table 1: Stakeholder Perspectives:

Stakeholder	Expectations	Influence on Repository Management
Researchers	Easy submission process, visibility of work, citation impact.	Drive user-friendly features and dissemination strategies.
Librarians	Long-term preservation, metadata quality, user support.	Influence operational standards and service offerings.
Institutional Leaders	Alignment with institutional goals, showcasing research output.	Impact policy formulation and funding allocation.
Funders	Compliance with open access mandates, data sharing.	Affect compliance requirements and repository features.
Students	Access to research materials, learning resources.	Shape user interface design and accessibility.

Table 2: Repository Features Comparison:

Feature	Description	Benefit to Users
Search Functionality	Advanced search options with filters.	Enables precise and efficient retrieval of information.
Submission Workflow	Streamlined process for depositing items.	Reduces barriers to contribution and encourages participation.
Metrics and Analytics	Usage statistics and impact metrics.	Provides insights into reach and engagement with repository content.
Integration Capabilities	Compatibility with other systems and platforms.	Facilitates seamless data exchange and enhances user experience.

Feature	Description	Benefit to Users
Support Services	Training, troubleshooting, and user guides.	Ensures effective use of the repository and fosters community.

Table 3: Repository Management Challenges:

Challenge	Potential Impact	Mitigation Strategies
Funding Constraints	May limit repository growth and innovation.	Diversify funding sources, advocate for institutional support.
Technical Issues	Can affect accessibility and preservation.	Implement robust IT infrastructure, regular maintenance.
User Engagement	Low participation affects content richness.	Outreach programs, incentives for depositing work.
Policy Changes	Regulatory shifts can necessitate adjustments.	Stay informed, flexible frameworks to accommodate changes.
Staff Turnover	Loss of expertise and continuity in operations.	Invest in staff training and knowledge management practices.

Conclusion:

The management of institutional repositories is driven by several factors, including the open access movement, the need for preservation and dissemination of scholarly work, and the desire to enhance institutional visibility. However, institutions must also navigate challenges such as resource allocation, copyright issues, and data management. As IRs continue to evolve, further research is needed to explore these driving forces and challenges, providing insights that can guide the successful management of these critical resources.

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