UNIT – III
DIGITAL REPOSITORIES

Dr. P.S. RAJPUT

IR: CONCEPT

- Institutional Repository is a very powerful tool that can serve as an engine of change for any institution. Institutional repository by capturing, preserving and disseminating collective intellectual capital, serves as meaningful indicator of an institution's academic quality. An institutional repository concentrates on the institutional product credited by academic or researchers of other institutions, making it easier to demonstrate its scientific, social and financial values.

- In the simplest terms, an Institutional Repository is an electronic archive of the scientific and scholarly outputs of an institution, which has been stored in a searchable digital format and which is able to be retrieved for later use internally, nationally, and worldwide.

- The term 'Institutional repositories' can be applied to a number of different digital storage initiatives, which are often referred to as, 'digital repository', 'digital archives', or 'digital libraries', although in practice each of these has slightly different functionality and underlying philosophy.

DEFINITIONS

- Crow, (2002) defines institutional repositories as "A digital archive of the intellectual product created by the faculty, research staff, and students of an institution and accessible to end users both within and outside of the institution, with few if any barriers to access".

DIGITAL LIBRARIES INITIATIVES AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

- Many large libraries throughout the world started digitizing their materials in early 1990s. In 1992 Cornell University formed the digital access to explore the use of digital imagery which is now taken up by the Cornell Institute of digital collection. Launched in 1992.

- The Yale University Open Book Project has converted its micro filmed volumes of 19th & 20th century books into digital format.

- The US Digital Library Initiative is funded by the National Science Foundation and was launched in 1994.

- In UK a series of digital library initiatives were launched during late 1990s. British library was one of the key players in development and digitization initiatives in U.K. Public libraries in U.K formed a National Grid for Learning and become important provider of electronic information.

- Among the digital library initiatives of Open Universities, the Open University of HongKong (OUHK) Electronic library and U.K. Open University (UKOU) Library are worth mentioning.

- The electronic library of OUHK provides access to electronic resources, electronic books and other reference material and can be used at any time, anywhere by its students, staff and faculty.

- The UKOU also provides access to its learners electronic resources by user name and password. It also provides links to several open access journals and reference materials. International Centre for Distance Learning (ICDL) located in the Open University's Institute of Educational Technology also has digitized library which includes information on distance education institutions, courses and literature pertaining to distance learning.

- There are number of places where appropriate research and development is being done. Few initial attempts are mentioned below:

- University of California, Berkely (http://elib.cs.berkely.edu)

- Uni. of California, Santa Barbara. The Alexandria Project (maps) http://allexandria.sdc.ucsb.edu/index.htm)

- Carnegie Mellon University. Informedia (video)(http://www.informedia.cs.cmu.edu)

- University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign

- http://dil.grainger.uic.edu/idli/idli.htm/

- University of Michigan. Intelligent Agent for information Location(http;//www.si.umich.edu/UMDL

- Standford University Infobusina (http://www.dliglib.standford.edu)

DIGITAL LIBRARY INITIATIVES IN INDIA

- In India, large volumes of cultural heritage resources (documentary) are on the verge of extinction due to lack of preservation, non-availability, rarity and natural decay. The knowledge and wisdom lost from these cultural heritage documentary resources can cause a severe vacuum in the intellectual wealth of humanity if not preserved at this critical juncture. With the emergence of successful digital library projects in more developed countries, the public institutions in the region opted for long-term preservation of this wealth of knowledge through digitization projects and digital library initiatives. Diverse multi-cultural and multilingual contents are now being documented, preserved and made available through the internationally acclaimed digital library initiatives such as:

- Digital Library of India at www.new.dli.ernet.in, http://dli.iiit.ac.in, www.dli.cdacnoida.in

- Traditional Knowledge Digital Library at www.tkdl.res.in

- Archives of Indian Labour: Integrated Labour History Research Programme at www.indialabourarchives.org

- CSIR Explorations at http://csirexplorations.com/

- Cultural Heritage Digital Library in Hindi at http://tdil.mit.gov.in/coilnet/ignca/welcome.html

- Digital e-Library (Dware Dware Gyan Sampadaa/Providing Books at Your Doorsteps) at http://mobilelibrary.cdacnoida.in

- India Education Digital Library http://www.edudl.gov.in

- Indian National Digital Library in Engineering Sciences and Technology (INDEST) Consortium at http://indest.iitd.ac.in/

- Kalasampada: Digital Library Resources of Indian Cultural Heritage (DL-RICH) at http://www.ignca.nic.in/dlrich.html

- Muktabodha: Digital Library and Archiving Project at http://www.muktabodhalib.org/digital_library.htm

- Vidyanidhi at http://www.vidyanidhi.org.in

- **Vigyan Prasar Digital Library at http://www.vigyanprasar.gov.in/digilib**