Research Output Management through Open Access Institutional Repositories in Palestinian Higher Education / ROMOR

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Overview

• The visibility of research output in PS HEIs is limited
  • primitive current practice of research output management in PS HEIs
  • researchers' abilities in publishing and accessing scientific research

• The ROMOR Project (3 years)
  • building capacity on research output management in 4 PS HEIs
  • establishing Open Access Institutional Repositories (OAIRs)
  • training required to design, implement, manage, and populate OAIRs
  • establishing mechanisms to assist proactively other institutions in setting up and managing repositories
• Digital collections of outputs created within university, to provide Open Access to the institution’s research output

• Repositories adhere to an internationally-agreed set of technical standards that means that they expose metadata of each item in their contents on Web in the same basic way

• ‘Interoperable’: common protocol to which they all adhere is called the Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting (OAI-PMH)

• Support archival and preservation principles

• Contents of repositories are then indexed by Web search engines such as Google and Google Scholar, creating online Open Access databases of freely-available global research

• As authors deposit their work in repositories, Open Access corpus will represent an increasingly large proportion of the scholarly literature
Advantages of OAIR

• Opens up outputs of university to world
• Maximizes the visibility and impact of these outputs as a result
• Collects and curates digital outputs
• Manages and measures research and teaching activities
• Provides a workspace for work-in-progress, and for collaborative or large-scale projects
• Enables and encourages interdisciplinary approaches to research
• Facilitates the development and sharing of digital teaching materials and aids
• Supports student endeavours, providing access to theses and dissertations and a location for the development of e-portfolios
Statistics on OAIR in Palestine

• Registry of Open Access Repositories (ROAR: http://roar.eprints.org/)
• Directory of Open Access Repositories (OpenDOAR http://www.opendoar.org/)
• Repository66 (http://maps.repository66.org/)
• Ranking of Web Repositories (http://repositories.webometrics.info/en/aw/Palestinian%20 Territories)

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ROMOR Objectives

Main Objective:
sustainably enhance the practice of research output management in the PS HEIs through enabling OAIRs as well as the advocacy in support of Open Access to research outputs

Specific Objectives:
• map current status of research dissemination in 4 PS HEIs and to identify needs
• prepare training and teaching material meeting local needs for building capacity in implementing OAIR
• build capacity needed for building, managing and sustaining OAIR
• design and build 4 OAIRs in partner PS HEIs that interface with outputs such as journals, books, conference proceedings, theses, and research data
• investigate key issues in populating and maintaining collections
• scale-up the IUG IR to serve as a national OAIR
• share widely the skills gained and to assist non-partner PS HEIs in setting up their OAIR
• raise the awareness and promote collaborating and sharing of experience with different non-HEI stakeholders
ROMOR Main Partners

IUG

Birzeit Univ.

Alquds Open Univ.

Palestine Technical Univ.

Vienna Univ of Tech.

Univ. of PARMA

Univ. of Brighton

Univ. Of Glasgow
ROMOR Associate Partners

- **AQAC**: evaluating the project as external partner
- **MHE**: recommendations for policies for institutional repositories; accelerating the advocacy activities
- **EIFL (Lithuania)**:
  - 15 years works with libraries to enable access to knowledge in developing countries
  - build capacity by organizing training events, developing tools and resources, and providing up-to-date information on issues that affect access to knowledge
  - supported creation of the PALICO, uniting libraries in both West Bank and Gaza
  - In ROMOR, they will participate in workshops for accelerating the advocacy activities for open access, and copyright issues awareness raising
ROMOR Stakeholders

- End-user vocational Training
- Academic courses (IT students)
- Pilot study experimental data

Local Researchers & Students

- Vocational training (technical)

IT Center

- Vocational training (technical)
- Repository policies

Scientific Research & Graduate Studies

- Vocational training

Global Researchers

- Awareness raising workshops

Library

- Vocational training (copyright issues)
Stakeholders at IUG

- Faculty of Information Technology (students and staff members)
- Environment Department (with Prof Samir Afifi)- Faculty of Science (Pilot Study)
- Scientific Research and Graduate Studies (vocational training)
- Library (vocational training)
- Information Technology Center (vocational training)
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<td>WP7: development of a D&amp;E plan applicable during the Project and after its lifetime, dissemination activities</td>
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<td>WP2: prepare education material for building capacity in implementing and managing OAIR</td>
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Research Data Pilot Study

Part of WP4

• **Pilot study (with Prof. Samir Afifi)** to identify the requirements for sharing environmental research data and experiments

• Environment labs at PS partners have massive amounts of data related to Gaza and West Bank study site and many experiments conducted on this data

• Data consists of geological data (soil), hydrological data (e.g. water), meteorological data (e.g. rainfall), and control points and coordinates.

• Challenges:
  1. diversity of forms and formats of environmental data
  2. environmental data often comes in raw formats
  3. massive amounts of environmental data
Main Outputs

• vocational training material and academic teaching material for partner PS HEIs in both languages English and Arabic;
• OAIRs models, policies and preservation plans developed in partner PS HEIs; research data pilot study on environmental data
• production OAIRs implemented in partner PS HEIs; Populated institutional repositories, populated national institutional repository at partner PS HEIs
• populated ROMOR platform with training material, tools, information, as well as means for information exchange
Mobility Strand

• In ROMOR we propose to establish research groups (RGs) in digital curation and preservation by end of project
• RGs will carry out research on DCP and will customize/develop tools for the local needs
• capacity for efficiently and effectively carrying out these highly technical and scientific tasks is required
• exchange of students and staff in ICT-related programs between partner PS HEIs and partner EU HEIs
• proposed mobility activities designed as a long-term strategic investment by partner PS HEIs
• Joint research activities between academic staff will help to strengthen and broaden the beginning cooperation between partner PS HEIs and EU partner
• Mobility Strand for IUG: 16 students (4 students/EU partner), 8 staff members (2 staff members/EU partner)
Project Management
Thank You