



University Repositories and Their Significance for Scientific Research: The Case of the Repository of the Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje

EXTENDED ABSTRACT

University repositories, as a type of institutional repositories, represent electronic databases that collect and store the entire scientific research output of a university. These digital systems integrated into the e-infrastructure of the institution most often contain research articles, conference papers, book chapters, electronic theses and dissertations, research data sets, and other scholarly outputs.

Digital repositories of universities and research institutions offering open access to their scholarly output are of significant importance to academicians and researchers, especially to those located in developing countries. In the event of restricted access to traditional subscription-based scholarly and scientific journals - due to the high subscription prices on the one hand and the shrinking library and research budgets on the other hand – the role of the repositories is even more pronounced. The repositories support the principle of (Green) Open Access by offering free access (sometimes delayed by the embargo period imposed by publishers) to copies of already published research publications made available by self-archiving [1]. Open Access (OA) refers to immediate, free of cost and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions, online access to academic information – peer-reviewed scholarly publications and data [2]. The Green OA route which represents free online access to peer-reviewed (most often not published) papers and other research materials deposited by the author through self-archiving in institutional or thematic digital repositories. By enabling free access to the research items, university repositories serve as a primary basis for literature search and review as well as scholarly communication and collaboration.

The Repository of the Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje was initiated in 2017 primarily as a digital collection of records on the University's scientific work, with an aim to serve as a tool for organisation and management of the meta-data of the scientific publications of its members [3].

The Repository offers functions for collecting, indexing, storing and disseminating the available digital objects. In 2021, in the frames of the National Initiatives for Open Science in Europe (NI4OS Europe) project, an initiative for including the full texts of the doctoral dissertations defended at the Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje has been taken. The process of filling in the database of doctoral dissertations is currently in progress, in parallel with the activities to integrate historical material from the first university journals from 1948 onwards.

References

1. Abrizah, A., Noorhidawati, A. & Kiran, K. (2010). Global visibility of Asian universities' Open Access institutional repositories. *Malaysian Journal of Library & Information Science*, 15(3), 53-73.
2. Suber, P. (2012). *Open Access*. MIT Press.
3. Јакимовски, Б. (2017). Ризница на трудови и интеграција на електронските сервиси на УКИМ [Power Point Slides]. Универзитет „Св. Кирил и Методиј“ - Скопје