

# OPEN ACCESS DIGITAL REPOSITORIES IN SAARC COUNTRIES

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**Abstract** *The study has been undertaken with the purpose of the growth and development of Open Access Digital Repositories in SAARC Countries. The relevant data retrieve from OpenDOAR, in the analysis cover mainly country wise, various software's, types, languages, subjects, contents, and growth of Repository. Total 132 repositories are available among SAARC countries. It found that India has the highest position with 98 repositories. Most of the repositories preferred Dspace software (84) for the creation of repositories. The English language was seen as the most common language.*

**Keywords:** OADR, Open Access, SAARC, Digital Repositories, OpenDOAR, India

## INTRODUCTION

Open access repository or open archive is the best tool for searching data, use and download of Institutional production or collection of research in a particular digital repository. "An Institutional Repository is an online locus for collecting, preserving and disseminations in digital form" (Dhanavandan, 2020). "An open access repository is defined as a collection of full-text documents available in online databases on the Internet that can be accessed freely and instantly. Institutional repositories are managed by research institutions to house their own authors' works" (Pinfield, 2005). The SAARC Stand for South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation is a political and regional organizations of South Asia. The organization, was established on December 8, 1985 SAARC has eight Members Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The headquarter and Secretariat of the Association was set up in Kathmandu capital of Nepal. "The objectives of the Association to promote the welfare of the peoples of South Asia and to improve their quality of life; to accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region and to provide all individuals the opportunity to live in dignity and to realize their full potentials" (About SAARC, 2020).

## LITERATURE REVIEW

There are various study in digital world published in different publications by researcher. The Open Access movement is gaining momentum in Asia, from 400 repositories in 2014 to 797 repositories in 2018. Asian countries seem to have understood the importance of open access as it increases the visibility and accessibility of the research output,

thereby resulting in greater impact, usage and recognition of a particular individual, organization, country or region. Repositories in Asia are mainly institutional, multidisciplinary, and English-language-based (Shah, 2019). The Asian Countries are in the second position to the availability of open access repositories in the global level. Among the Southern Asian countries, India has highest number of repositories (Dhanavandan, 2020). It is evident from analyzed data that "Europe" is the leading contributor to the largest number of repositories. For many countries in "Europe" the DRIVER (Digital Repository Infrastructure Vision for European Research) initiative was the critical stimulating activity for Open Access developments (Bashir, Mir & Sofi, 2019). The above statistics on the status of "OA" repositories in the field of Library & Information Science reveal that these repositories are found more widespread in developed countries with a maximum contribution from the United States (16) followed by the United Kingdom (12). This may be ascribed (Ganaie, Jan, Loan & Nisa, 2014).

## OBJECTIVE

The main purpose of this study to find out the situation of open access Digital Repositories among SAARC Countries in OpenDOAR Platform.

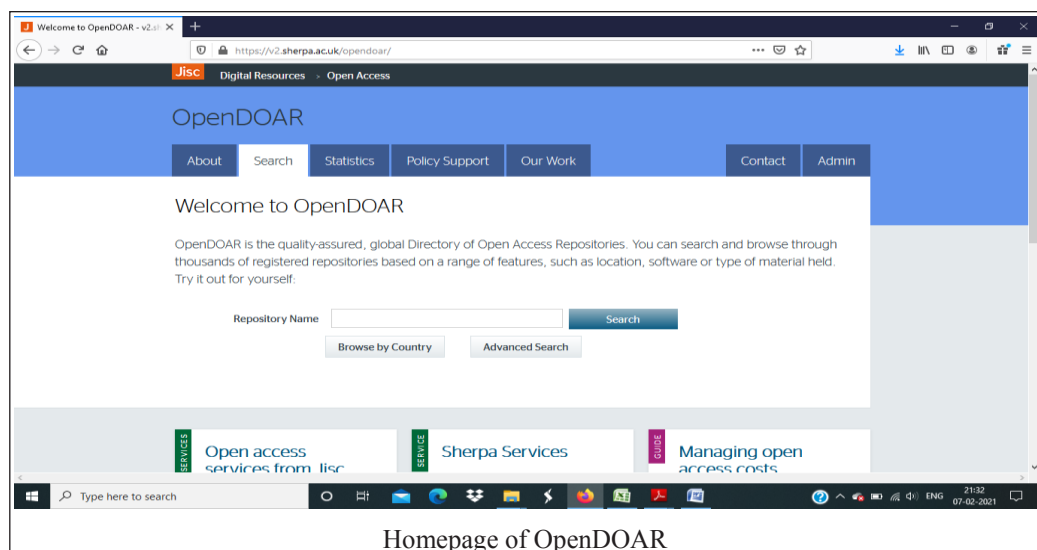
- To explore the total no. of Open Access Digital Repositories in SAARC Countries.
- To identify software used for creation of OADR.
- To examine types of open access repository.
- To make an analysis of Languages.
- To find out of Subjects.
- To study of Contents of Literature of OADR.
- To determine the year wise growth of OADR.

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## SCOPE

OpenDOAR was launched in 2005 it is the quality-assured, global Directory of Open Access Repositories. We host repositories that provide free, open access to academic outputs and resources. Each repository record within OpenDOAR

has been carefully reviewed and processed by a member of our editorial team which enables us to offer a trusted service for the community. The service launched in 2005 as the product of a collaborative project between the University of Nottingham and Lund University, funded by OSI, Jisc, SPARC Europe and CURL (OpenDOAR, 2020).



## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

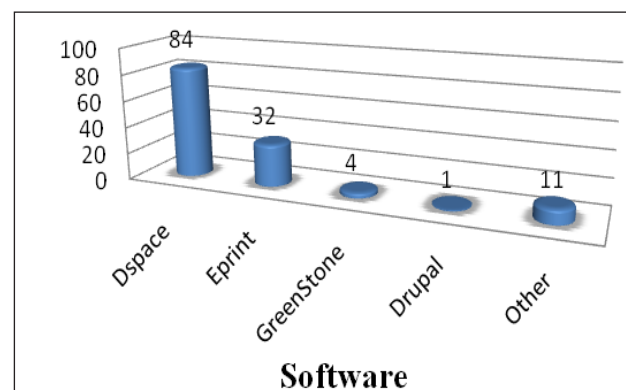
In this research work data had taken exclusively from global directory of Open Access Repositories (<https://v2.sherpa.ac.uk/opendoar/>) popularly known as Open DOAR. After that, we took the data in an excel sheet in different tabular form, summarized, analyzed and Interpretations with graphical form.

**Table 1: Country Wise Open Access Digital Repositories**

Sr. No.	SAARC Countries	No. of IRs in Open DOAR
1	India	98(72.59%)
2	Sri Lanka	16(11.85%)
3	Bangladesh	15(11.11%)
4	Pakistan	4(2.96%)
5	Afghanistan	1(.74%)
6	Nepal	1(.74%)
7	Bhutan	0
8	Maldives	0
	Total	132(100%)

Table 1 shows which country has the highest contributions to open-access digital repositories among SAARC countries, In this analysis, India emerges as a highest contributor with 98(72.59%) of open access digital repositories followed by

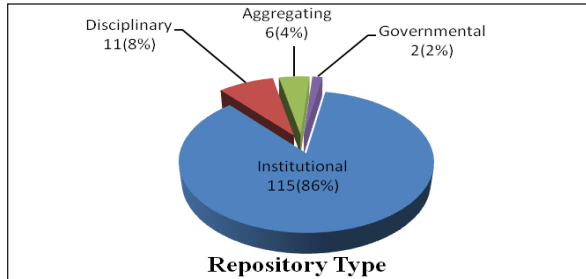
Sri Lanka second highest Contributor with 16(11.85%) of open access digital repositories, Bangladesh occupied third position with 15(11.11%), Proceed by Afghanistan 1(.74%), Nepal 1(.74%) and Bhutan and Maldives has not found any contribution of open access digital repositories among SAARC Countries.



**Fig. 2: Software Used for Creation of OADR**

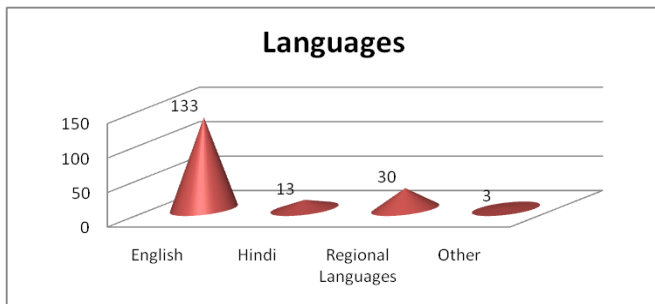
The above graph analyzing and highlight the status of software used to create an open-access digital Repository of SAARC Countries. Dspace 84(63.64%) is most favourite open source software followed by Eprint 32(24.24%) and Greenstone 4(3.03%) rest of using other software used to create an open access digital Repository. Various studies reveal that analyzing the data it was found that, Dspace (53%) is the most frequently used open source software in

Asia (Shah, 2019), DSpace (1524) is one of the foremost software used by repositories in Global level (Bashir, Mir & Sofi, 2019), “DSpace is the highly preferred software used by 41(41.41%) repositories in the field of Library and Information Science” (Ganaie, Jan, Loan & Nisa, 2014).



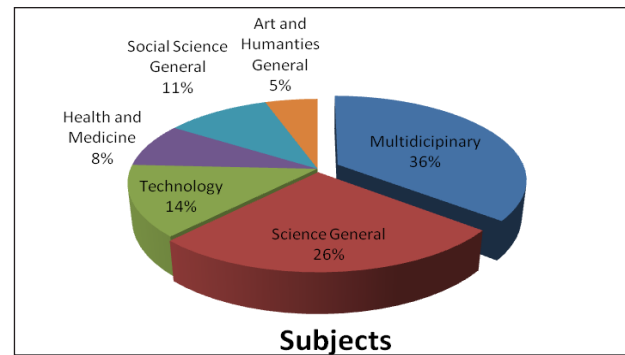
**Fig. 2: Types of repository**

Fig. 2 on the basic of Study it is found that most of the open access digital repositories of SAARC Countries which is registered in OADR Platform are Institutional 115(86%), followed by Disciplinary 11(8%) and 6(4%) repositories respectably while least amount of repositories are Governmental 2(2%). Various studies have been done on these topics, which conclude that the Institutional Repository is the highest. According to this paper on Global Landscape of Open Access Repositories Institutional (2952) followed by Disciplinary (305), Aggregating (107), and Governmental (19) (Bashir, Mir & Sofi, 2019).



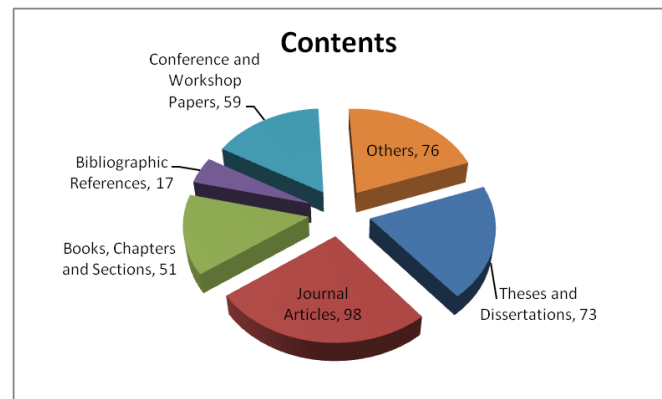
**Fig. 3: Language**

Fig. 3 the study revels among all English (133) is the most prominent language in the repository of SAARC countries Hindi (13) language is also being widely used in content formation followed by regional languages (30) and other languages (3) used in repository of SAARC countries.



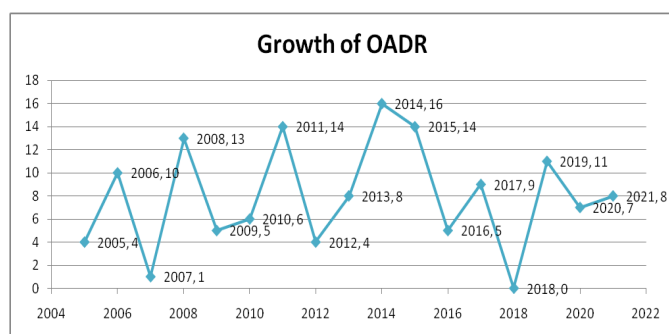
**Fig. 4: Subjects**

Fig. 4 shows the analysis and interpreted of subject wise Open Access Digital Repositories in SAARC Countries. It was observed that most of the Repositories deal with multidisciplinary subjects (36%) followed by Science General (26%), Technology (14%), Social Science General (11%), Health and Medicine (8%) and Art and Humanities General (5%) respectively.



**Fig. 5: Contents**

Fig. 5 shows the Contents of Open Access Digital Repository in Open DOAR. The notable attribute of the study of that the majority of repository hold contents Journal articles 98(26.20%) followed by Theses & Dissertations 73(19.52%), Conference & workshop papers 59(15.78%), Books Chapters & sections 51(13.64%), Bibliographic Reference 17(4.55%) and Others content that different types of documents 76(20.32%) respectively.



**Fig. 6: Growth of OADR**

Fig. 6 describes the year wise growth of OADR in SAARC Countries. It has been analysis and found that from the beginning of 2005 to 2021 in the graph, data has been going up and down. There were 4 OADR in 2005 and the highest ranks in 2014 with 16 Open Access Digital Repositories followed by (2011 & 2015, 14), (2008, 13), (2019, 11) and (2006, 10) only 1 repositories found in 2007, year 2021 is going on to increase & develop more repositories among SAARC countries.

## FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The above statistics on the status of Open Access Digital Repositories among SAARC Countries. OADR is play vital role to academic community to provide information on right time to their users with digital environment. India emerges as a highest contributor followed by Sri Lanka which uses Dspace software & Eprint software for creating

& develops repositories. The English & Hindi language is the most used in these repositories. It seems that there are two types of repositories Institutional & Disciplinary which are deal with multidisciplinary & Science including Journal articles, Theses & Dissertations. The study found that year 2014 highest 16 repositories developed among SAARC Countries. On concluding note it can be that 2021 is going on more repository will be increase & develop Repositories.

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