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20th T.B. Rajashekar Memorial Lecture (13 August 2025)

- Many thanks to Francis and the NCSI-NET Foundation members for the opportunity to deliver the 20th T.B. Rajashekar Memorial Lecture. **I am truly honored.**
- In this talk, I will look back at Rajashekar's work, explain what he contributed, and discuss why those contributions still matter today. To do this, I will rely on information available online (websites, digital archives, etc.), the articles and papers he wrote, and the projects he initiated.

T. B. Rajashekar

Tarikere Basappa Rajashekar, who was the Associate Chairman of the National Centre for Science Information (NCSI), Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore was killed in a road accident near Bangalore on 3 June 2005.

Raja, as he was known to his close friends, was an achiever. When many others were talking about digital libraries, he started working on building one. He was clear in what he wanted to do and went about it with dedication and commitment. What is more, he knew his limitations and never attempted to do anything in which he did not have the required expertise. He was serious about his work and would never waste time or energy in fruitless pursuits.

When new technologies came in quick succession and transformed the way we handle information, Raja was quick to learn those technologies and apply them intelligently in the areas of database management and information dissemination.

Raja's role in the creation of the nation's first computerized current awareness service in the early 1980s at NCSI is commendable. He was one of the earliest in India to use COBOL and database, in both of which he had a rich experience and knowledge, in library applications. He had an exemplary skill in programming and an innate ability to understand, apply and disseminate newer programming paradigms all the time.

Right from the early days of NCSI, Raja not only led the young team from the front with his insistence on discipline and timely delivery of quality services, but also played a key role in capacity-building. He was largely responsible for the content and curriculum of the 18-month training programme on information and knowledge management at NCSI, which is unlike any other programme taught anywhere else in India. The curriculum always reflected the most recent developments. Not only did he teach the key courses (information and knowledge organization, digital library and information services in enterprises, internet information resources and services), but also helped his younger colleagues acquire the skills to teach state-of-the-art courses. Many of the professionals trained by him occupy

important positions across the country and elsewhere, and have been contributing immensely to the growth of information science. The fact that they stayed in touch with him and continued to hold him in reverence, vindicates the fact that Raja was not only a great and inspiring guru, but also a fine gentleman. Raja had become synonymous with NCSI.



Raja set up India's first interoperable institutional open access archive, but was dismayed at the rather slow pace at which it was filling. When it was pointed out that he should be more proactive and meet with faculty and talk to them about the archive, he took the suggestion in the right spirit and at the time of his tragic death there were more than 2000 papers in the archive. He had conducted many training programmes on setting up open access archives. Raja was also largely responsible for marrying the Greenstone digital library software with an earlier version of the Eprints software (when the latter did not support full-text searching). A few months before his death he and his colleague Francis Jayakanth, in collaboration with researchers at the Old Dominion University, developed two approaches to make CDS-ISIS databases OAI compliant. Raja was also the first in India to set up an e-mail-based electronic discussion forum for the library and information science (LIS) professionals. Since its inception in 1994, he moderated the LIS-Forum democratically.

Born on 2 November 1954, Raja took his Bachelor's degree in library science from the Mysore University and the post-graduate associateship in documentation

and information science from the Documentation Research and Training Centre, Bangalore. After a few years at the National Informatics Centre, New Delhi, he had a brief stint at the British Council Library in New Delhi, where he impressed everyone with his technical savvy. Later he moved to the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, where he worked quietly and earned a reputation as a performer. Along the way he also took a doctoral degree from the Poona University.

A shy person, Raja would keep himself away from the limelight. Deeply committed to his family, when he took a sabbatical in 2000, he did not move out of Bangalore. He worked for Informatics (India) Ltd, a Bangalore-based company, and developed an excellent multidisciplinary current awareness tool, an e-journal portal and gateway called J-Gate, to aggregate thousands of journals. He also wrote a series of essays on digital libraries.

Raja was on many committees, including the CODATA, and had contributed to the development of INFLIBNET and INDEST. He was also elected Fellow of the Society of Information Science (India).

When he was on course to achieve much more, fate has snatched him away from us. The large number of condolence messages received from within the country and elsewhere is an indication of the respect he had earned. Once he remarked to his students, what mattered in life was that what one left behind for others to remember and continue. By that yardstick, he has done extremely well. The best tribute that the LIS professionals in this country could pay Raja is to set up institutional open access archives as soon as possible and fill them with papers, modernize their curricula and teach their students the values practised by him.

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SUBBIAH ARUNACHALAM and N. BALAKRISHNAN

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What's New in Computers?

Digital Libraries

T B Rajashekar



T B Rajashekar is with the National Centre for Science Information (NCSI), Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. His interests include text retrieval, networked information systems and services, digital collection development and management and electronic publishing.

Digital libraries aim to provide access to information 'on demand' regardless of the location of the computer where it is stored. In this article we examine key features of digital libraries.

Introduction

The term 'Library' usually invokes a storehouse of information in the form of print publications like books, journals, reports, etc. and newer media such as films, filmstrips, video and audio cassettes. Most of us view the library as a place where such information 'containers' are acquired, organised, shelved and retrieved. More recently, many libraries (and information centres) have begun to use online database search systems like DIALOG and connections to the Online Public Access Catalogues (OPACs) of other libraries, over telecommunication networks. Many libraries have also taken advantage of CD-ROM technology to provide users network access to large information bases. With such remote information access, the walls of the library began to be less solid.

The way we view information sources is changing due to the emergence of global computer networks. Personal computers are now usually part of a network of computers and often part of a network of networks, spanning the globe. Until recently, computers and computer networks were accessible easily only to a privileged few - computer scientists, researchers and hobbyists. For most of the others they were out of reach, both economically and practically. Now, computers are less expensive and inter connectivity is much more widespread. People are becoming more computer literate, and systems are becoming simpler and

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Digital Librarian

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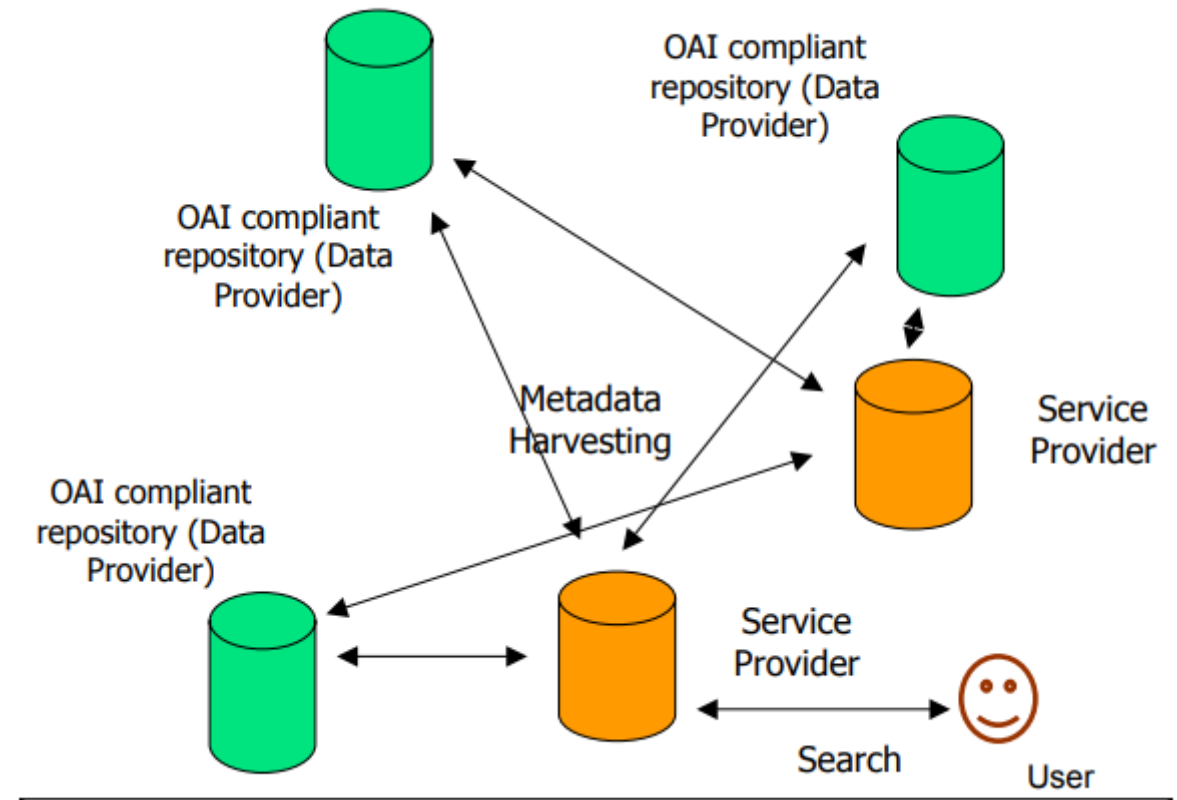
**Improving the visibility of Indian Research:
An Institutional, Open Access Publishing Model**

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(Position paper prepared for discussion in the Indo-US Workshop on Open Digital Libraries and Interoperability, June 23-25, 2003)

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The OAP system is depicted in the figure below.



OAI-PMH: Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting

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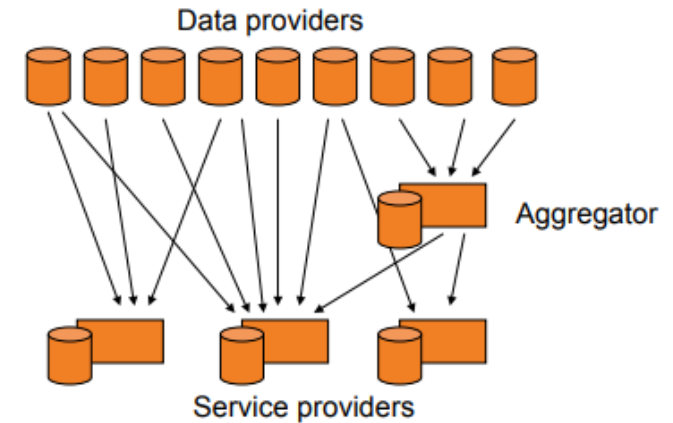
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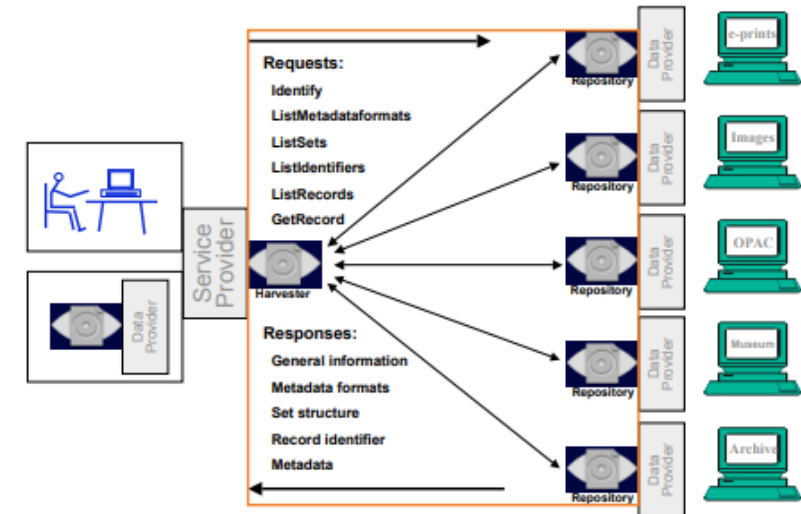
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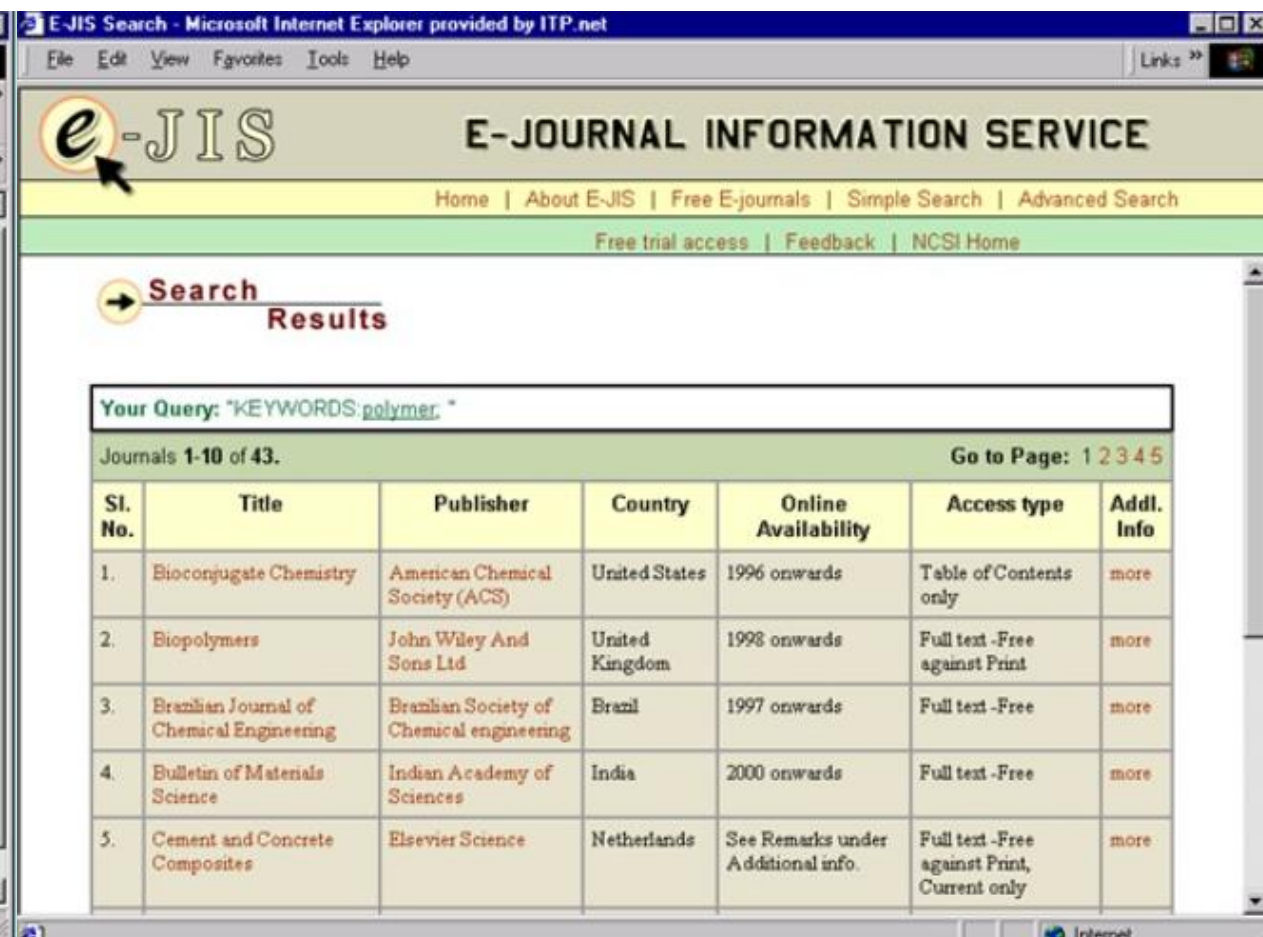
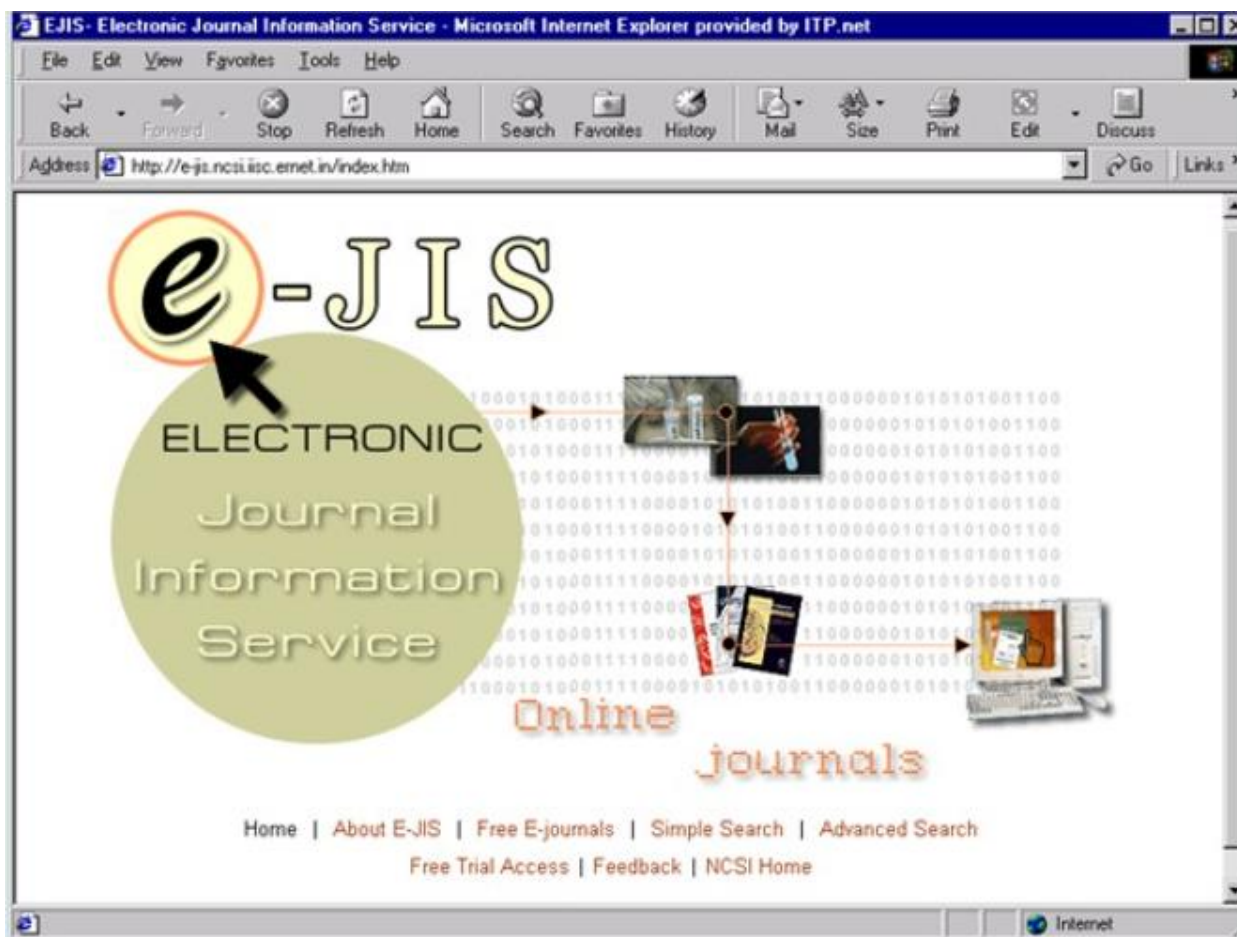
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OAI-PMH: Structure Model

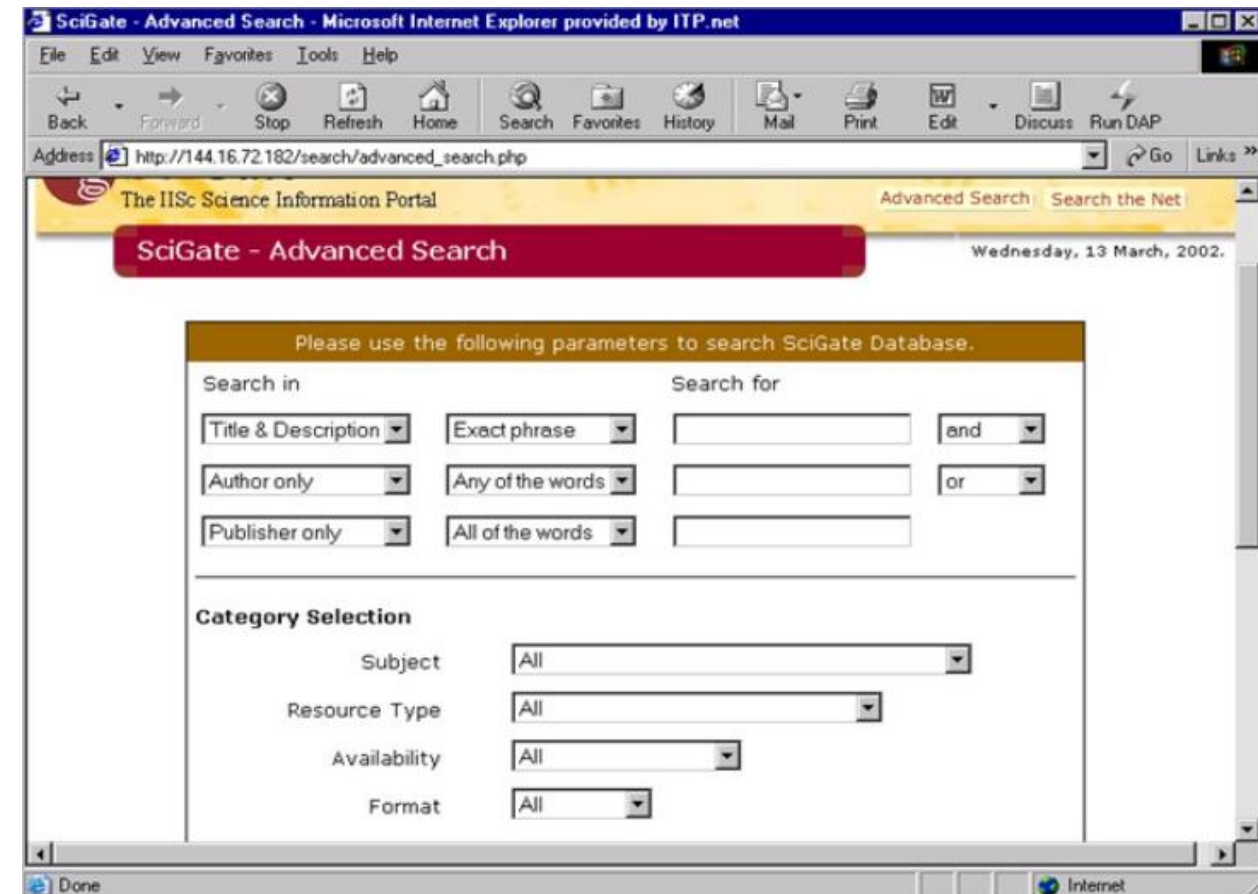
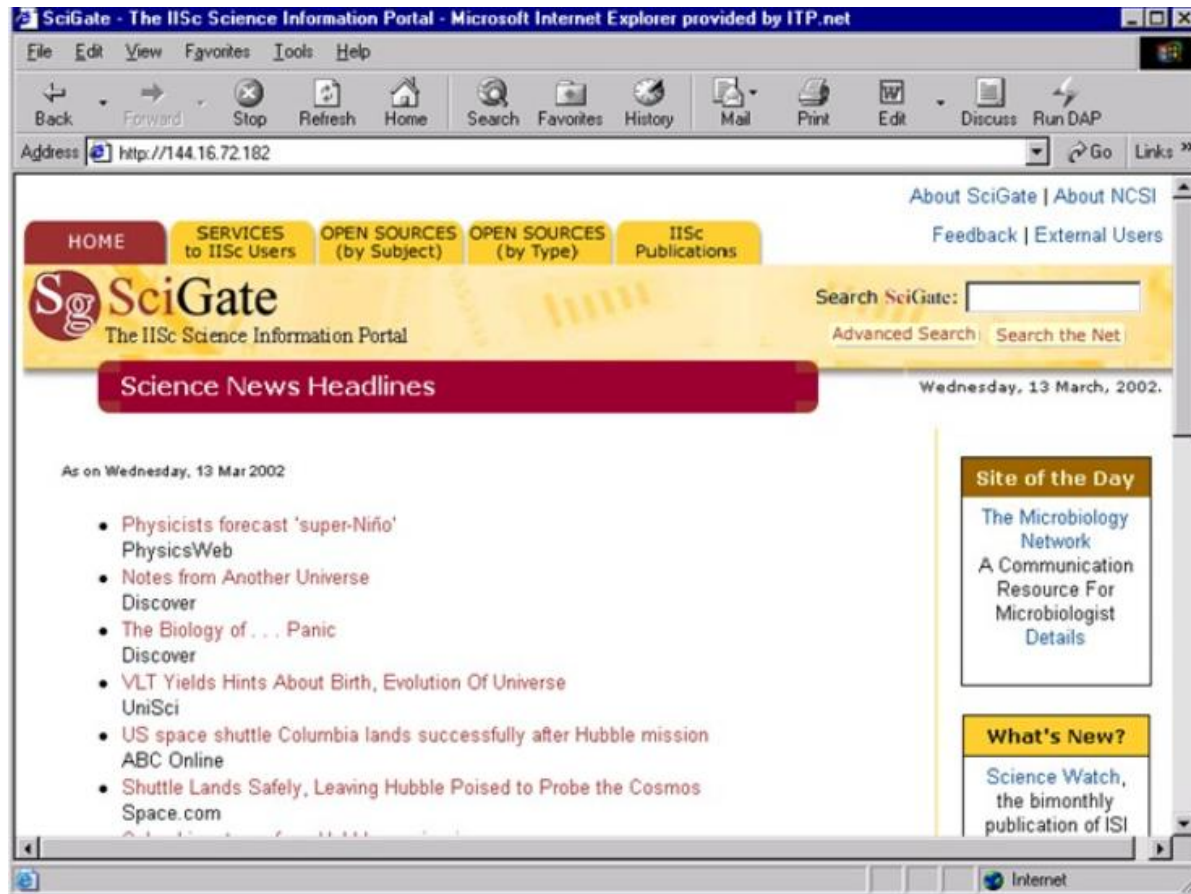


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Abstract

The very insightful Trivers-Willard hypothesis, proposed in the early 1970s, states that females in good physiological conditions are more likely to produce male offspring, when the variance of reproductive success amongst males is high. The hypothesis has inspired a number of studies over the last three decades aimed at its experimental verification, and many of them have found adequate supportive evidence in its favour. Theoretical investigations, on the other hand, have been few, perhaps because formulating a population-genetic model for describing the Trivers-Willard hypothesis turns out to be surprisingly complex. The present study is aimed at using a minimal population genetic model to explore one specific scenario, viz. how is the preference for a male offspring by females in good condition altered when 'g', the proportion of such females in the population changes from a low to a high value. As expected, when the proportion of such females in good condition is low in the population, i.e., for low values of 'g', the Trivers-Willard (TW) strategy goes to fixation against the equal investment strategy. This holds true up to g_{max}, a critical value of 'g', above which the two strategies coexist, but the proportion of the TW strategy steadily decreases as 'g' increases to unity. Similarly, when the effect of well-endowed males attaining disproportionately high number of matings is more pronounced, the TW strategy is more likely to go to fixation. Interestingly, the success of the TW strategy has a complex dependence on the variance in the physiological condition of females. If the difference in the two types of conditions is not large, TW strategy is favoured, and its success is more likely as the difference increases. However, beyond a critical value of the difference, the TW strategy is found to be less and less likely to succeed as the difference becomes larger. Possible reasons for these effects are discussed.

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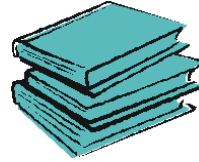
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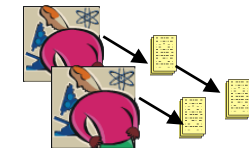
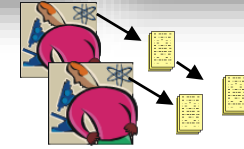
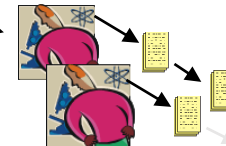
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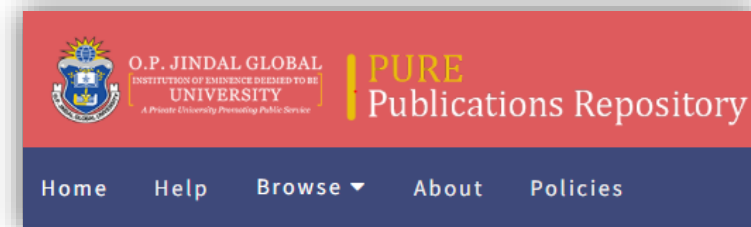
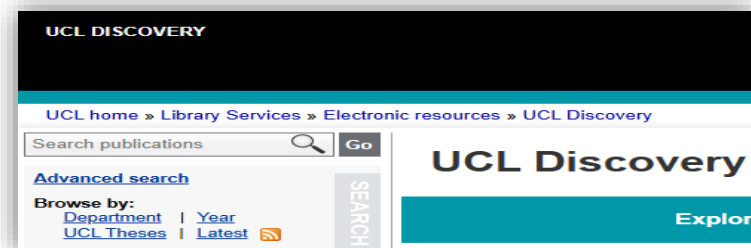
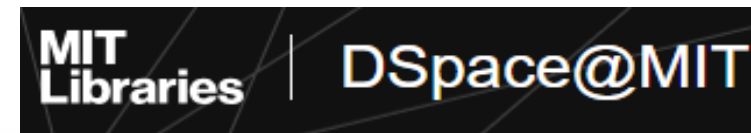
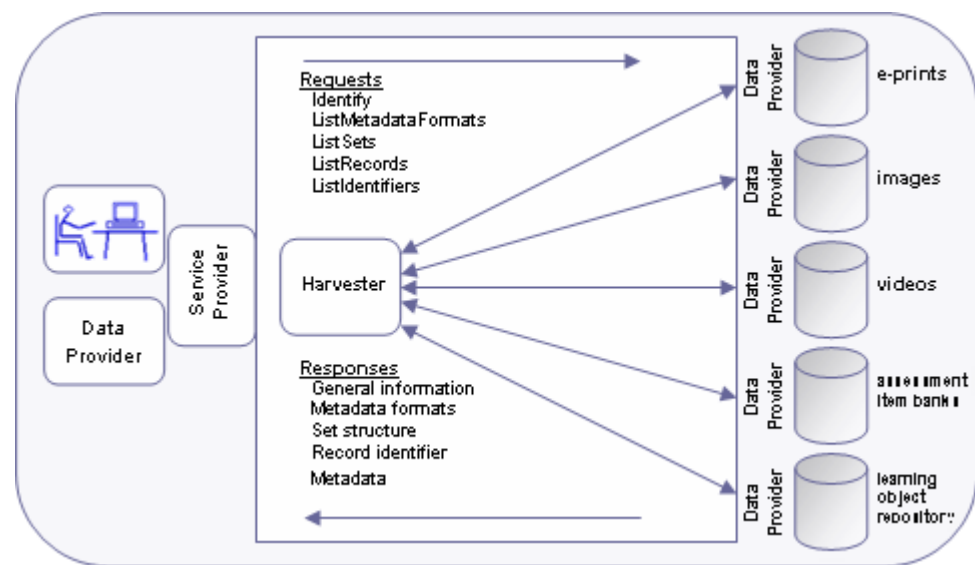
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August 02, 2017

Elsevier Expands Footprint in Scholarly Workflow

Elsevier's acquisition of Bepress's institutional repository platform is heralded as a smart move for the publisher, but not all of Bepress's customers are impressed.

By [Lindsay McKenzie](#)

<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2017/08/03/elsevier-makes-move-institutional-repositories-acquisition-bepress>

O.P. JINDAL GLOBAL
INSTITUTION OF EMERGING LEADERS TO BE
UNIVERSITY
A Private University Promoting Public Service

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Title

Author

Abstract

Year

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Repository Statistics

Origin of downloads

Access Type

Most downloaded items

1. Separation of Powers in India	38,369
2. Karl Marx's theory of alienation	13,985
3. Globalization and its impact on human rights	8,772
4. Public interest litigation: Under Sec 91&92	6,472
5. Environmental impact assessment in	

Top Authors

1. Mukhopadhyay, Roudro	13,985
2. Mahaseth, Harsh	9,565
3. Mehrotra, Abhinav	7,769
4. Mohan, Deepanshu	7,290
5. Bhardwah, Rishabh	6,472

10 25 50 all

From kta@ncsi.iisc.ernet.in Sun Dec 17 15:38:30 2000
Date: Thu, 14 Dec 2000 10:52:59 +0530 (IST)
From: K.T Anuradha
To: lis-forum@ncsi.iisc.ernet.in
Subject: [Lis-forum] "Workshop organised by NCSI"

[The following text is in the "X-UNKNOWN" character set.]
[Your display is set for the "US-ASCII" character set.]
[Some characters may be displayed incorrectly.]

Dear Madam/Sir,

NCSI is conducting a workshop on Content Creation and Web-Enabling Database(CCWED). Please find details of the workshop.

Since there is postal strike, kindly mail your registration details through private courier or e-mail to help@ncsi.iisc.ernet.in.

Workshop on Content Creation and Web-Enabling Database (CCWED)

January 16-20, 2001 (Basic Course)
January 22-26, 2001 (Advanced Course)

Internet School, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore 560 012

Contents :

1. Outline and Objectives
2. Topics Covered
3. Course Organisation
4. Eligibility criteria
5. Accommodation
6. Course Fee
7. Deadlines
8. Application Form

From raja@ncsi.iisc.ernet.in Fri May 23 21:12:32 2003
Date: Thu, 8 May 2003 11:10:03 +0530
From: Dr. T.B. Rajashekar
To: Lis-Forum
Subject: [LIS-Forum] NCSI Workshop on Greenstone Digital Library Software (GSDL)

Dear All

We are pleased to announce:

Workshop on Developing Digital Libraries using Greenstone Digital Library Software (GSDL)

2.6.2003 to 4.6.2003

INDEST-NCSI workshop on Institutional Repositories

This message: [[Message body](#)] [More options (top, bottom)]
Related messages: [[Next message](#)] [[Previous message](#)]

- *Contemporary messages sorted:* [[by date](#)] [[by thread](#)] [[by subject](#)] [[by author](#)] [[by messages](#)]

From: Dr. T.B. Rajashekar <raja_at_ncsi.iisc.ernet.in>
Date: Thu, 17 Jun 2004 22:38:58 +0100

A three-day workshop "INDEST-NCSI workshop on Institutional Repositories" will be organized at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, India, during 27-29 July 2004. The workshop is organized by the National Centre for Science Information (NCSI), IISc, in association with the Digital Library Research Group, Computer Science Department, Old Dominion University, Virginia, USA. The workshop is sponsored by the INDEST Consortium (Indian Digital Library for Engineering, Science and Technology <http://panit.uitd.ac.in/indest/>). The workshop is aimed at setting up inter-operable e-print archives at core INDEST consortium member institutions covering Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT's), Indian Institutes of Management (IIM's), and National Institutes of Technology (NIT's). The e-print archive set up at IISc is a pre-cursor to this national level effort (<http://eprints.iisc.ernet.in>).

This workshop is an extension of the initial focus of the INDEST consortium to provide licensed/shared access to a large number of e-journals and databases.

More details of the workshop is available on the INDEST website mentioned above (first item in 'What's New' box).

This is for your kind information.

Regards

Rajashekar

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National Centre for Science Fax: +91-80-23601426, 23600683
Information (NCSI) E-Mail: raja_at_ncsi.iisc.ernet.in
Indian Institute of Science URL: <http://144.16.72.189/raja/>
BANGALORE-560012 (India)

by:
Centre for Science Information (NCSI), Indian Institute of Science,

SI, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore

participants: 20

Workshop:

...e software is a key requirement for successful development and
...t of digital libraries. Though it is possible today to create
...gital libraries using prevailing Web and database technologies, it
...e lot more effort to develop software that integrates functions
...etadata, full text search and retrieval, multilingual support,
...nagement, and support for multiple document formats. Greenstone
...a suite of software for building and distributing such digital
...ollections. It provides a new way of organizing information and
...g it on the Internet or on CD-ROM. Greenstone is produced by the



IR@NABI

Open Access Institutional Repository
National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute
Department of Biotechnology
Ministry of S & T, Government of India



IR@NBRC

Open Access Institutional Repository
National Brain Research Centre
An Autonomous Institute of Department of Biotechnology
Ministry of S & T, Government of India
(Deemed University)

IR@NCCS

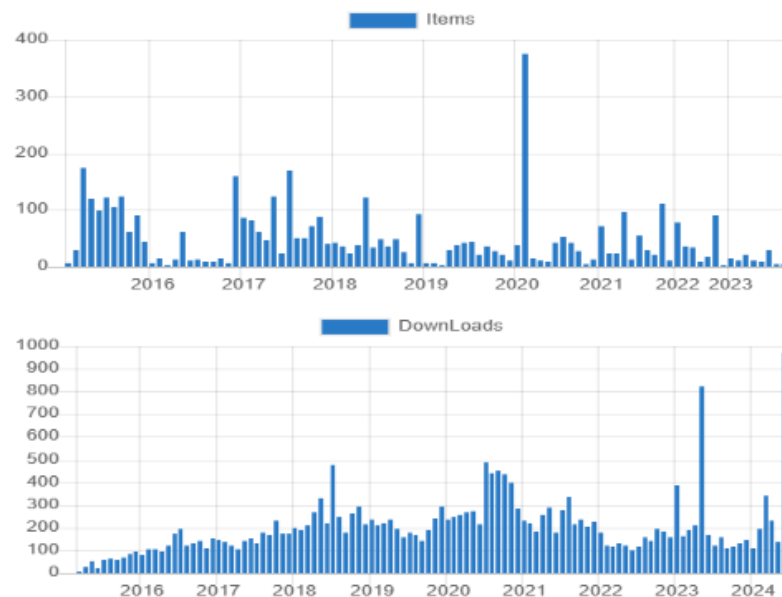
Open Access Institutional Repository
National Centre for Cell Science
An Autonomous Institute of Department of Biotechnology
Ministry of S & T, Government of India



IR@NIAB

Open Access Institutional Repository
National Institute of Animal Biotechnology
Department of Biotechnology
Ministry of S & T, Government of India

Statistics



About SCIENCE CENTRAL

SCIENCE-CENTRAL is a Centralized Institutional Repositories Hosting Service for DST-DBT Labs along with a Harvester Service for all the DST-DBT Institutional Repositories.

Individual OAI-PMH Compliant Institutional Repositories have been set up, configured and customized on a central server namely CSIR CENTRAL for each of the DST-DBT labs which do not have Institutional Repositories in their own data centre. A centralized harvester is used to regularly harvest data of all institutional repositories of DST-DBT labs. This value added service enables the research community to search and view the R & D literatures from different DST-DBT Institutes through a single console.

The sciencecentral.in is a main domain under which sub domains for each laboratory's IR are created. At present there are 17 Institutional Repositories hosted at the science central, while 42 institutional repositories are regularly harvested on the same.

The science central server is setup, configured, hosted and maintained by CSIR-Unit for Research and Development of Information Products (URDIP), Pune in its data centre.



IR@AMPRI

CSIR - Advanced Materials and Processes Research Institute

Open Access
Institutional
Repository



IR@CECRI

CSIR - Central Electrochemical Research Institute

Open Access Institutional Repository

<https://csircentral.net/>



IR@CEERI

CSIR - Central Electronics Engineering Research Institute

Open Access Institutional Repository



IR@CGCRI

CSIR - Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute

Open Access Institutional Repository



Open Access Institutional Repository

IR@CIMFR

CSIR - Central Institute of Mining and Fuel



IR@CMERI

Open Access Institutional Repository

CSIR-Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute

Central Institutional Repository Hosting

Hosting Platform for IRs of CSIR Labs

[Explore Repositories](#)



IR@IHBT

Open Access Institutional Repository

CSIR - Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology



IR@IIIM

CSIR - Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine

Open Access Institutional Repository



IR@NEIST

CSIR - North East Institute of Science and Technology

Open Access Institutional Repository



IR@NEERI

Open Access Institutional Repository

CSIR - National Environmental Engineering Research Institute

Current open access initiatives in Japanese libraries

- **Institutional Repositories** are being built at **666 universities** / 816 universities in Japan¹⁾
- **Transformative Agreement** have been concluded at **103 universities**²⁾

In February 2024, the "National Policy on Promoting Open Access to Publicly Funded Scholarly Publications and Scientific Data"³⁾ was announced

- Some competitive grants newly solicited in FY2025
- Immediate OA for papers & evidence data

1) Science Information Infrastructure Statistics of Colleges and Universities 2024–2025, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. <https://www.e-stat.go.jp/stat-search/files?tclass=000001227043&cycle=0>.

2) Survey of Transformative Agreements (FY2024), Japan Alliance of University Library Consortia for E-Resources (JUSTICE), <https://contents>

3) National Policy on Promoting Open Access to Publicly Funded Scholarly Publications and Scientific Data (Provisional translation) Integrated https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/oa_240216_en.pdf.

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-024-01493-8>

<https://coar-repositories.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/3.1-Current-State-of-OA-in-Japan.pdf>

Kyoka Miyai, University of Tokyo Fumi Kaneko, Kyushu University Asuka Muranishi, Nagoya University May 13, 2025 COAR ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025

Japan's push to make all research open access is taking shape

Japan will start allocating the ¥10 billion it promised to spend on institutional repositories to make the nation's science free to read.

By [Dalmeet Singh Chawla](#)



The Japanese government is pushing ahead with a plan to make Japan's publicly funded research output free to read. In June, the science ministry will assign funding to universities to build the infrastructure needed to make research papers free to read on a national scale. The move follows the ministry's announcement in February that researchers who receive

■ Preprint Platform

- China has established several preprint platforms and formed the **Preprint Platform Development Alliance**. Member platforms share metadata.
- An innovative Academic Communication Model of '**preprint-open peer review-publication**' has been recognized by academic community.

Members of Alliance	Organiser
The National Preprint Platform	Institute of Science and Technology Information of China(ISTIC)
ChinaXiv	National Science Library, Chinese Academy of Sciences (NSLC)
Scienceaper Online	China Ministry of Education Science and Technology Development Center
biomedRxiv	Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences

 国家预印本平台	2.7 million preprints
 ChinaXiv 中国科学院科技论文预印平台	37 institutions 240 journals 19 subject-specific preprint sub-platforms
 预印本联盟 哲学社会科学预印本 PREPRINT AND SOCIAL SCIENCES PREPRINT	450 social science journals

www.las.

■ Institutional Repositories

- China has established **three major institutional repository consortia** targeting universities, the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), and Public National Foundation outcomes.

Alliance of Institutional Repositories	Objective
CAS Institutional Repository Grid	CAS and its affiliated research institutes
The University Institutional Repository Alliance	China primarily targets universities
Basic Research Knowledge Base	National Fund outcomes

The CAS Institutional Repository Grid provides **114 research institutes** with support of the establishment of institutional repositories. (CAS-GRID)



Liu-Xiwen

National Science Library, Chinese Academy of Sciences 2024.12

<https://doasummit.uct.ac.za/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/5.-Dr-Liu-Xiwen.pdf>



Steering Committee

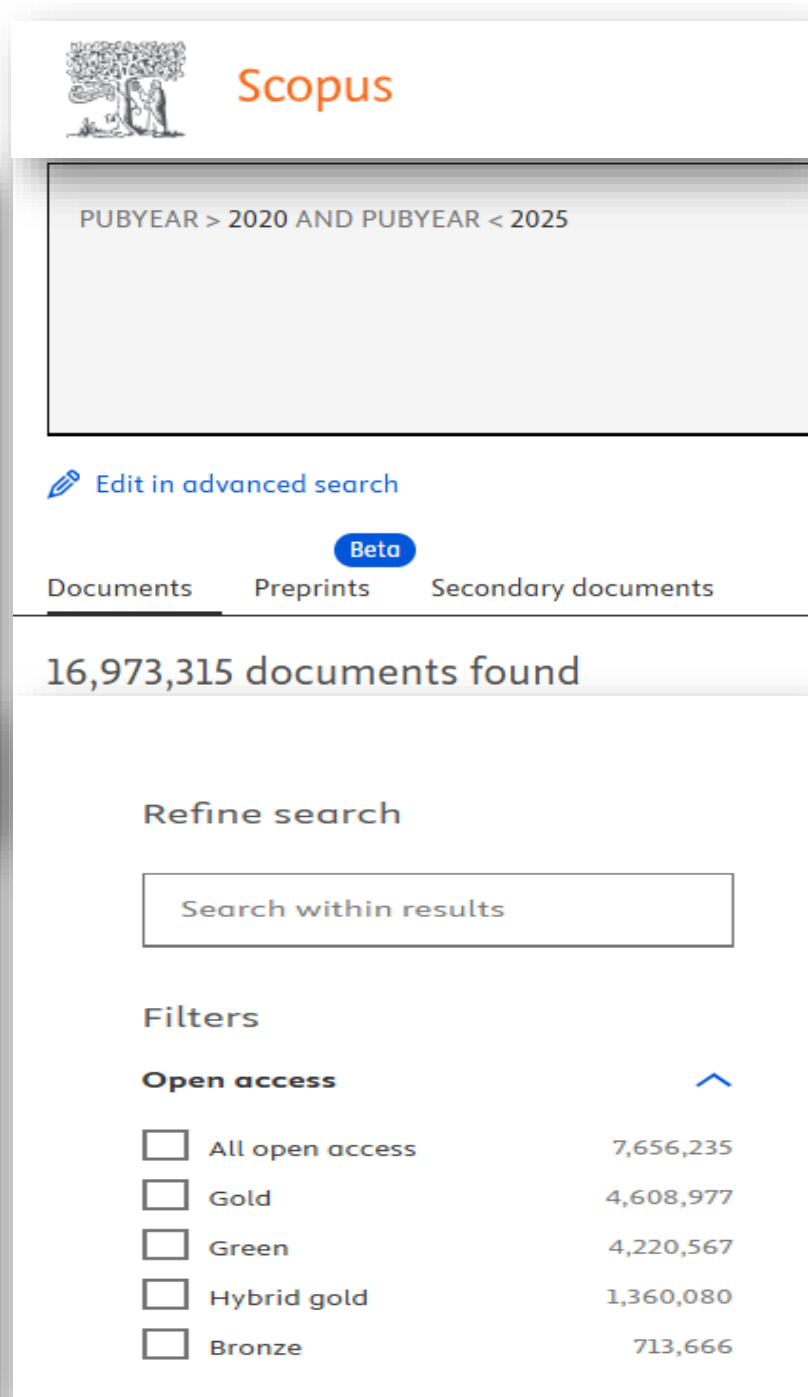
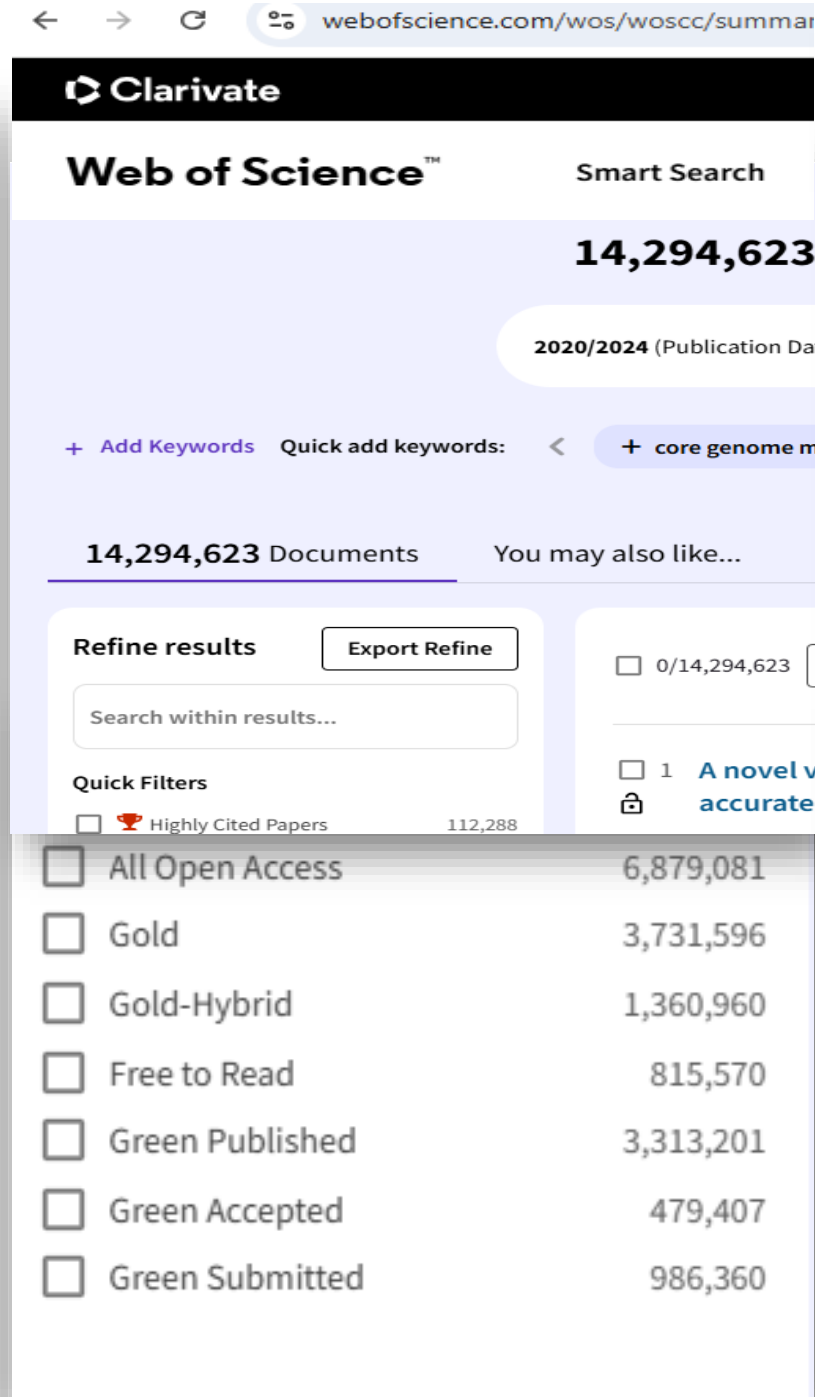
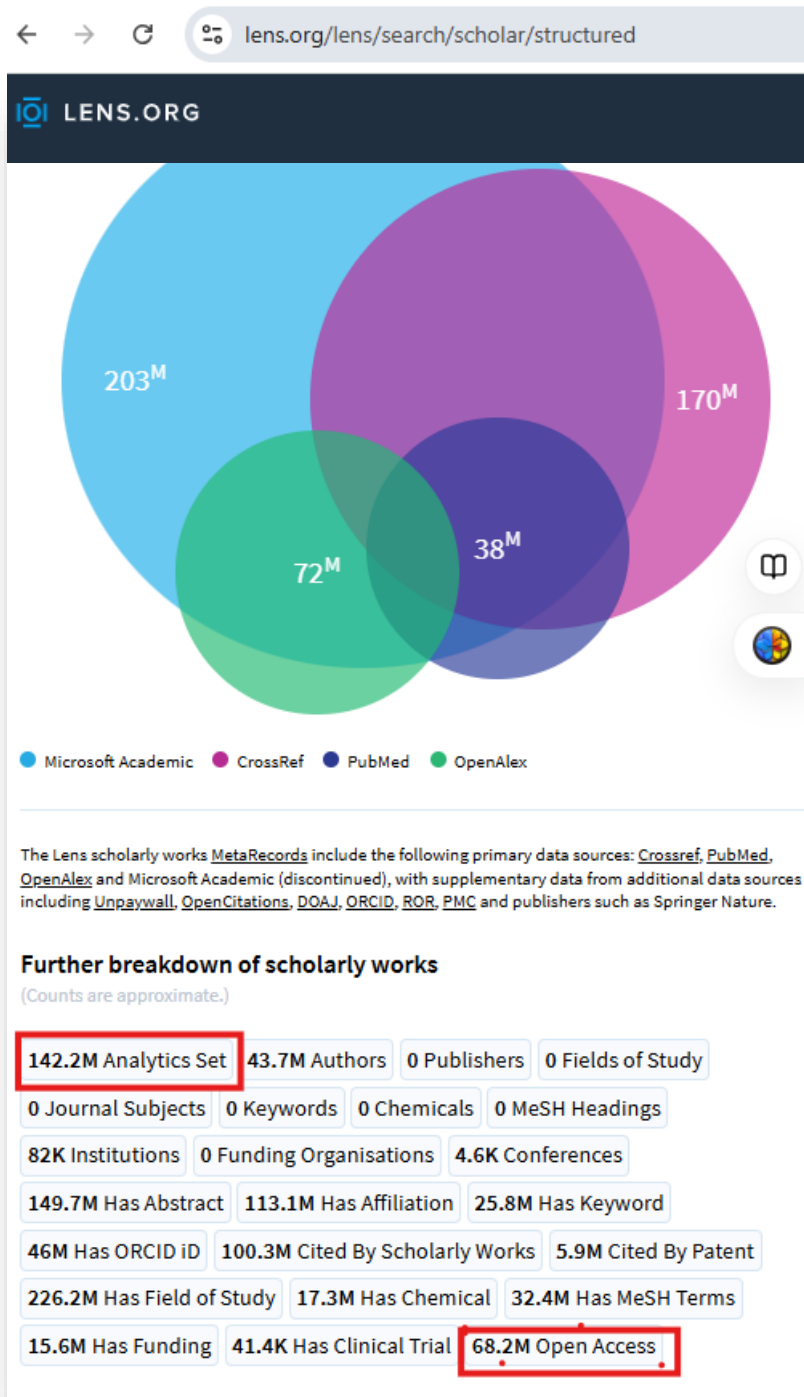
Steering Committee Standing Members

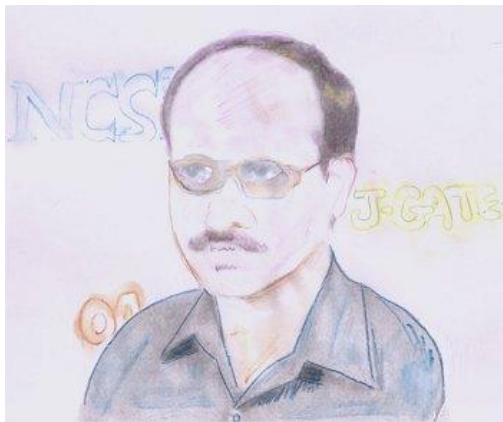
1. Emily Bongiovanni (Carnegie Mellon University) 2022-2025
2. Kathryn Cassidy (Digital Repository of Ireland – Trinity College Dublin) 2019-2025
3. Will Fyson (University of London, Co-Sector) 2022-2025
4. Ilkay Holt (British Library) 2021-2027, Vice Chair
5. Liz Krznarich (University of Wisconsin-Madison) 2021-2028, Chair
6. Jessica Lindholm (Chalmers University) 2020-2025
7. Lazarus Matizirofa (University of the Witwatersrand), 2024-2027
8. Nora Mulvaney (Toronto Metropolitan University), 2024-2027
9. Tuelo Ntlotlang (Botswana International University of Science and

Future Conferences

Open Repositories 2026. Online 21st International Conference on Open Repositories. Week of 8 June 2025

Previous conferences





<https://kamat.com/vikas/blog.php?BlogID=850>

COAR IRD Repository Browser About IRD

Continent

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Africa (296) | ☐ Global (539) |
| ☐ Antarctica (1) | ☐ North America (1410) |
| ☐ Asia (1646) | ☐ Oceania (139) |
| ☐ Central America (51) | ☐ South America (796) |
| ☐ Europe (2691) | |

Country

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| ☐ Afghanistan (1) | ☐ Guatemala (2) | ☐ Palestine (10) |
| ☐ Albania (2) | ☐ Honduras (6) | ☐ Panama (9) |
| ☐ Algeria (41) | ☐ Hong Kong (13) | ☐ Papua New Guinea (2) |
| ☐ Antarctica (1) | ☐ Hungary (57) | ☐ Paraguay (3) |
| ☐ Argentina (101) | ☐ Iceland (4) | ☐ Peru (177) |
| ☐ Armenia (2) | ☒ India (119) | |

To truly honor the vision of Rajashekar, we must take decisive steps to strengthen the open access infrastructure ecosystem in India:

- **Form a national collective** that brings together universities and institutions to ensure each one maintains an interoperable institutional repository—a connected platform populated with research papers authored by their scholars.
- **Adopt a standard metadata schema** across all Indian repositories, ensuring that every platform incorporates the essential technical features needed for long-term preservation, discoverability, and seamless data exchange.
- **Make Indian repositories visible** to the world by integrating our repositories with international harvesters, directories, and aggregation initiatives, so that our scholarly output flows into global knowledge networks and reaches secondary services for indexing, citation, and analysis and eventually the **'users'**.

It has been more than 20 years since Rajashekar passed away, yet (in retrospect) the envisioned changes and initiatives for Institutional Repositories, whether as a tribute to his memory or as part of the broader professional context, remain incomplete.