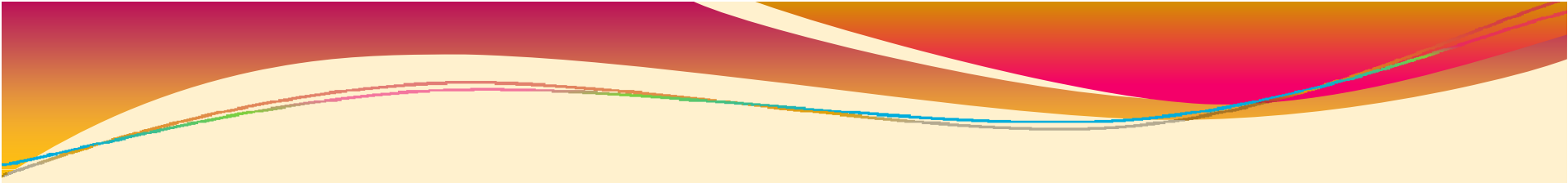




Scholarly Communication And International Access In South Asia

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Changing Nature of Global Scholarly Communication

- World-wide web has opened doors
- Digital environment facilitates creation and dissemination of information/knowledge
- Explosion of scholarly output
- Developing nations including South Asia still face challenge to provide access to global scholarly literature

Current Challenges in South Asia

- **Wide Technological Gap**
 - ✧ Digital divide due to unequal income distribution
 - ✧ Limited institutions provide resources and training
- **Lack of Affordable Access**
 - ✧ Lack of access to expensive electronic databases and peer-reviewed journals
 - ✧ Shrinking library budgets

Current challenges in South Asia cont'd

- **Low Visibility of South Asian Journals**
 - ✧ Inadequate and poor dissemination process
 - ✧ Very limited indexing and abstracting of the journals
- **Lack of Policies Regarding:**
 - ✧ Equal participation as producers and users of knowledge
 - ✧ Open Access

Current Major Initiatives in South Asia

- **Open Access Initiatives, which include:**
 - Digital library initiatives
 - Digital archives at national and institutional levels, using open source software such as DSpace and Greenstone
 - AHKRC Digital Library, Pakistan
 - Digital Library of India
 - HEC National Digital Library, Pakistan



Current Major Initiatives in South Asia

- **Open Access initiatives which include:**

- ❧ **Open Access journals**

- Six major open access journal publishers, such as:
 - Publisher: **Indian National Science Academy**
 - Journals: **Indian Journal of History of Science**
Indian Journal of Pure and Applied Mathematics

- ❧ **Institutional repositories**

- Growing number of institutions with open repositories
 - **Digital Archive of National Institute of Technology – Rourkela**
 - **Electronic Theses and Dissertations of Indian Institute of Science(ETD@IISc)**

Current Major Initiatives in South Asia

- **Open Access initiatives which include:**

- ❧ **Open course initiatives**

- Provide open access to learning resources
 - Have gained popularity in India and Pakistan
 - Egyankosh: a national digital repository
 - National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning

- ❧ **Metadata harvesting services**

- Harvests metadata from the registered open access repositories
 - Cross Archive Search Service for Indian Repositories (CASSIR)
 - Scientific Journal Publishing in India: Indexing and Online Management

Further reading for a complete list of major Open Access initiatives in South Asia:

- Das, Anup K., Bimal K. Sen, and Jocelyn Josiah. Open access to knowledge and information: scholarly literature and digital library initiatives; the South Asian scenario. New Delhi: UNESCO 2008

