

National Workshop on Managing Repositories begins at KU Institutional repositories hold promise for preservation of scholarly works: VC

Srinagar KU, June 28: Vice Chancellor University of Kashmir, Prof Riyaz Punjabi Monday said knowledge repositories held the promise of providing fairer, more equitable and efficient system of scholarly communication and could also serve the international research community due to its lower cost, greater accessibility and better prospects of long term preservation of scholarly work.

He was speaking at the inaugural session of a 5 day National Workshop on 'Building and Managing Institutional Repositories' organized by Department of Library and Information Sciences, University of Kashmir in collaboration with Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET), Ahmadabad at *Ibn e Khaldoon* Auditorium of Allama Iqbal Library, University of Kashmir.

"We are in a phase of transition because role of libraries is changing and presently emphasis is on availability and access to information" said Prof Punjabi. Stressing on need to popularise and strengthen open access repositories to check plagiarism and copy rights violations VC said repositories can help us identify copyright violation.



While spelling out the initiatives taken by the university in this context, Prof Punjabi said, "We have made a beginning in our state by developing a digital repository, a unique one in bringing premiere institutes like University of Kashmir, SKAUST – Kashmir, and SKIMS on the map to aggregate research contributions. Within a short span of time, it has accumulated in research contributions and we at KU look forward to make it more inclusive" hoped VC.

Making references to his dream project of e-governance for University and its affiliated colleges, VC said that completion of phase 2nd of the e-governance project would help the

varsity to be in touch with 40 valley colleges and this will help make Kashmir a Knowledge society in the practical sense.

Noted academician and expert on library sciences Prof W A Alwi, while delivering keynote address said that growing consciousness about use of information had given rise to movements such as universal availability of information, right to information, global sharing of information and automation of information generation, access and control. "Institutional repositories have the potential to serve as tangible indicators of a University's quality and to demonstrate the scientific, societal, and economic relevance of its research activities" he added. Prof Alwi said that such steps would definitely increase the institution's visibility, status and public value. "They also serve as marketing tools" he asserted. Highlighting benefits of collaboration through consortium, Prof Alwi said that it reduces costs for each member through resource sharing while expanding access to digital materials.

Dean Academic Affairs, Prof A R Yousuf while appreciating role of repositories said they could play a vital role in Knowledge Society promotion. He also expressed concern about dangers that availability of information on the internet posed and said many researchers were misusing such information and misleading institutions. "Plagiarism" he said "is a challenge and while moving forward, we must develop a mechanism to stop it".

While welcoming delegates, dignitaries and participants in the workshop, Head Department of Library and Information Sciences, Prof S M Shafi said that the workshop would prove to be a milestone in sensitizing professionals in developing, customizing and managing institutional repositories of research contributions, course wares besides cultural assets. "It equally offers challenges but throws open new pastures for different stake holders and professionals" he said. He asked information and library professionals not to shy away from such learning opportunities and hoped they would come forward to learn new techniques, skills and innovations and make themselves ready for being stake holders of knowledge society, e-learning, e-resource management.

On the occasion, resource persons from INFLIBNET, Ahmadabad, NISCAIR, New Delhi, Registrar University, Prof S Fayyaz Ahmad besides senior officers of the Varsity were present at the session.

During the course of the workshop, experts will be training participants in DSpace – an Open Archive Initiative (OAI) compliant open-source software for archiving e-prints and other kinds of academic content; its installation and administration, besides in depth deliberation on digital preservation strategies and a case study of Knowledge repository Open Network (KNoor).

Prof Shabir Ahmad, Dept of LIS proposed vote of thanks at the session.

