



Latest Trends of Open Access Self-Archiving a Study of E-LIS Repository: with specific Reference to Asian Countries

Ipsita Panda, Dr. Bulu Maharana

PhD Research scholar, professor & HOD

P. G. Dept. of Lib. & Info. Science

Sambalpur University, Odisha, India

*"Information, knowledge, and culture are central to human freedom and human development. How they are produced and exchanged in our society critically affects the way we see the state of the world as it might be; who decides these questions; and how we, as societies and polities, come to understand what can be done"*¹

Yochai Benkler

ABSTRACT

Recently Open Access (OA) is a widely debated issue in the scientific community as well as in the publishing industry. No doubt people in all walks of life are greatly benefitted by the OA philosophy, libraries and information centers have been the prime beneficiaries of the new model of information access and delivery. The main objective of this OA ventures is to make the recorded scholarly output freely available to all readers over the Internet. The paper is a case study of E-LIS repository which provides open access LIS spread through worldwide. In this study I try to put the lime light on the Asian countries as a good contributor in the E-LIS repository. The study found that India is the highest contributor to the repository among all the 42 Asian countries with 658 submissions as a whole.

Keywords

Open Access, Open Access Initiatives, Self archiving, Digital Repository, E-LIS

Introduction

The principle of open Access is to promote free web based access to scientific publications. It is an alternative to the subscription based model, made possible by the new digital technologies and networked communications. Of course, Open Access refers only to works that are created with an exception of direct monetary return and made available at no cost to the reader on the public internet for purpose of education and research. It should permit users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search or link to the full texts of works, crawl them for indexing, pass them as data

to software, or use them for any other lawful purpose without financial, legal or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the internet itself.(Pinfield, 2009, p.10).

Open Access

The definition of Open Access proposed by Budapest Open Access initiative (BOAI) in December 2001 states the “Free availability on the public internet, permitting any users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or the full text of these articles, crawl them for indexing, pass them as data to software, or use them for any other lawful purpose, without financial, legal or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the internet itself. Authors control over the integrity of their work and the right to be properly acknowledged and cited. The literature that should be freely accessible online is that which scholars give to the world without expectation of payment.”(Charles W.Bailley, Jr). Open Access is part of a wider Open movement to encourage free exchange of knowledge and resources in order to widen access and encourage creativity. In one line we can say Open Access is clearly means a curious minds and the world merge together. The concept of Open Access came during 1991 due to the necessity of facilitating scientific scholarly communication. Open Access to scholarly information is a burning issue in web based education and research now a days. Open Access has become increasingly important and potentially divisive issue in recent years as journal inflation rates has increased. For many librarians and scholars, journal price inflation is itself the central problem and Open Access is the ultimate solution.

Open Archive Initiative

The OAI in which Paul Ginsprag, Rick Luce and Herbert Van De Sompel says the goal of OAI as to contribute in a concrete manner to the transformation is the department of technical and supporting organizational of an open scholarly publication frame work on which both free and commercial layers can be established. Open archive initiative enabling interoperability among e-prints archives can be harvested, integrated, navigated and searched seamlessly as if they were all in one global archive.

The OAI develops and promotes an interoperability standard that aims to facilitate the efficient dissemination of content. The OAI is currently an organization and an effort explicitly in transition and is committed to exploring and enabling this new and broader range of application. (www.open archive.org).

Self-Archiving

Self-archiving is the practice of placing digital versions of scientific literature online. When any one self archive his/her paper they can make it freely available to anyone on the internet. In other words self-archiving makes your research widely visible, accessible, harvestable, searchable and useable. Self-archiving constitutes the green route to open access. It means that authors can make their research papers available and readers can access them at the free of cost. This is totally different from publishing in an open access journal such as public library science (PLOS) publications where authors pay the journal a publication fee after that the published study is made available to the public for free. Self-archiving is a clear strategy used by authors to make their scholarly works available on the open web that to provide open access.

E-LIS: E-prints For Library & Information Science

E-Prints in library and information science (E-LIS) is an international open access repository for academic papers in library and information science (LIS). Over 12,000 papers have been archived to date. It is freely accessible, aligned with the open access movements and is a voluntary enterprise. E-LIS is the largest international open repository in the field of library and information science. It is freely accessible and users are able to search access and archive full-text documents. It is Established in 2003, E-LIS is an international, Open Access Archive related to Librarianship, Information Science and Technology, and related disciplines, in keeping with the objectives of the e-prints movement. Today, E-LIS is the biggest repository in LIS fields. The E-LIS model is based on the community standards which provide the mechanism for enforcement of proper attribution and responsible use of the published

works in line with the two above movements. On the technical level, it is based on the Open Archive Initiative (OAI) and shares its standards and Protocols. However E-LIS is the first international e-server in this area and is part of Research in Computing Library and Information science project (Medeiros, 2004).



Characteristics of E-LIS

The main characteristics of a centralized archive of the E-LIS are as follows-

- Storage and distribution of data from a single location.
- Centralized access control over the supply and re-use of data.
- According to standard criteria centralized support service for describing the contents of the data, defining the principles and practices governing the collection of data and other relevant data.
- Cataloguing of technical and substantive properties of data for information retrieval.

User support is also a main factor of E-LIS repository.

Analysis and Interpretation of data

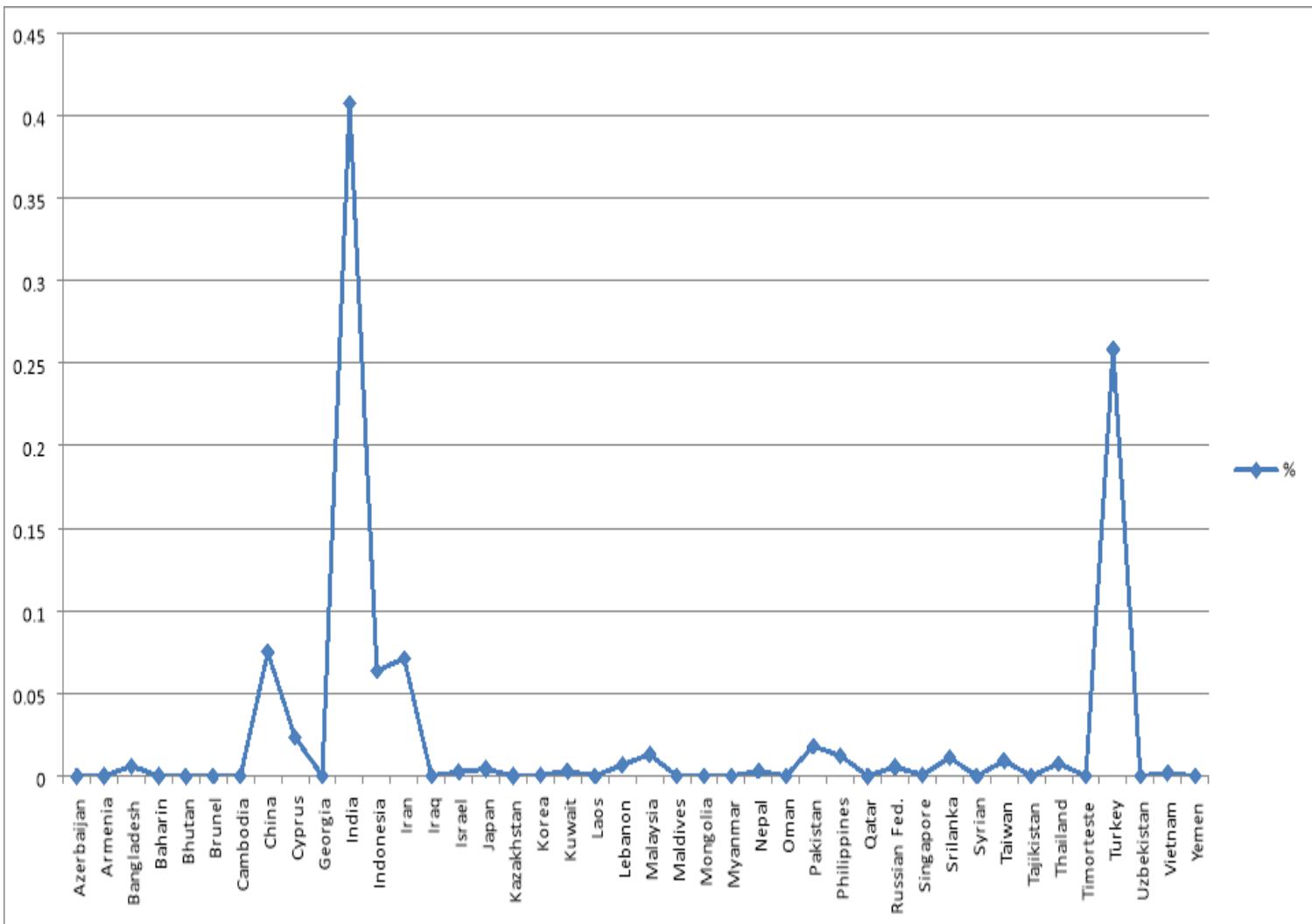
Significant Contributions to E-LIS from Asia (Countries)

There are about forty two countries in Asian continent with a total of 1615 submissions from 22 different countries; the following table has been developed, to show the countries in descending order of their submissions.

Table-1: Contributions to E-LIS from Asian Countries

Sl.No	COUNTRY NAME	TOTAL SUBMISSION	% of Submission
1	INDIA	658	40%
2	TURKEY	417	26%
3	CHINA	121	8%
4	IRAN	115	6%
5	INDONESIA	103	5%
6	CYPRUS	38	2%
7	PAKSTIAN	29	2%
8	MALASIYA	21	1%
9	PHILIPINES	20	1%
10	SRILANKA	18	1%
11	TIWAN	15	1%
12	THILAND	12	1%
13	LEBANON	11	1%
14	BANGLADESH	10	1%
15	RUSSIAN Fed.	9	1%
16	JAPAN	7	0.143%
17	NEPAL	5	0.142%
18	KUWAIT	5	0.142%
19	ISREAL	4	0.141%
20	VIETNAM	3	0.140%
21	SINGAPORE	1	0.111%
22	KOREA	1	0.111%

The submissions from India constitute 40% of the total submission from Asian countries as a whole. The five major contributors to E-LIS are India, Turkey, China, Iran and Indonesia who have jointly contributed about 85% of the total contributions from Asia. It is evident that Indian authors are highly influenced by the open access philosophy.



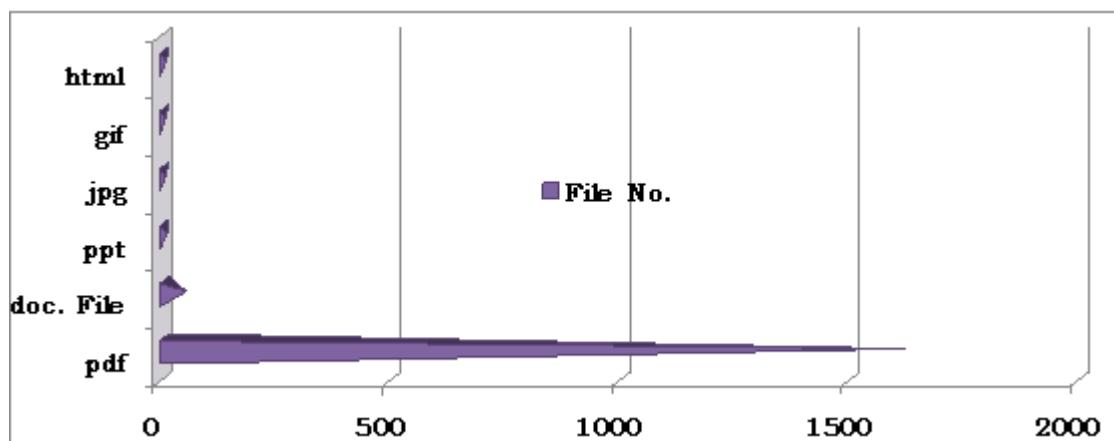
Graph-1 Submissions of Asian countries to E-LIS (in Percentage)

Type of files submitted to E-LIS in Asian countries

Papers in varieties of file formats are submitted to E-LIS. However the majority of files are in pdf format. The submission to E-LIS has an inbuilt mechanism of converting the submissions in pdf unless the authors desire the original file format to remain unchanged. The following table depicts the file formats of E-LIS submission from Asian countries.

Table-2: Types of files format submission from Asian Countries

Type of Files	File No.	% of files
pdf	1615	95%
doc. File	47	4%
ppt	5	0.35%
jpg	1	0.20%
gif	1	0.20%
html	3	0.25%



Graph-2

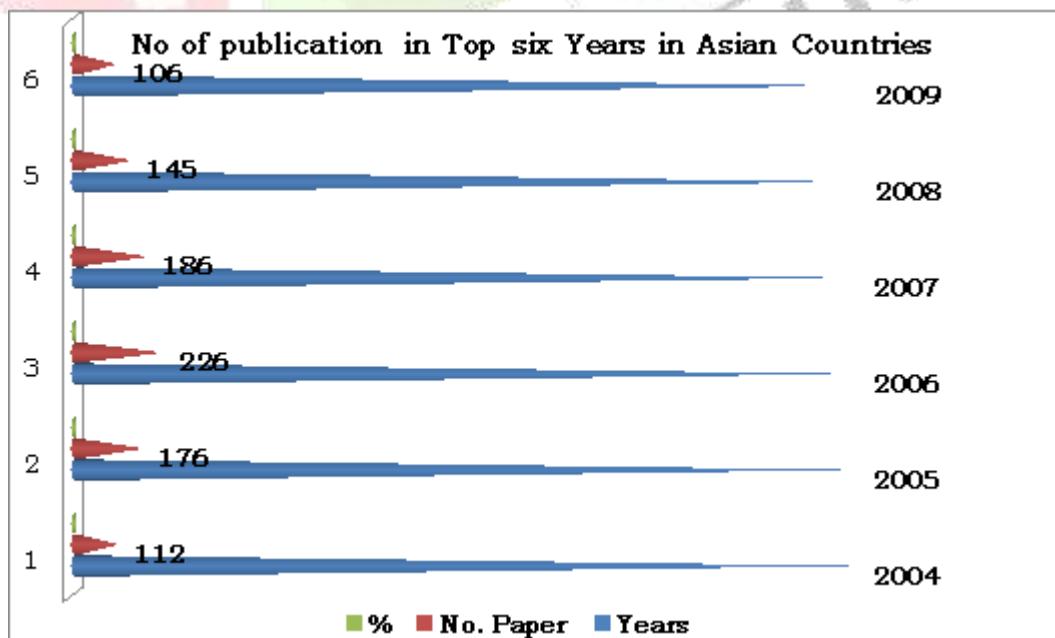
Table-2 presents the analysis of types of files in Asian countries. The maximum numbers of files are pdf that is 1615(95%) and only a few of them are the jpg, gif, html, ppt etc.

Years with major submission in E-LIS from Asian Countries

This table below estimated the year wise submissions of papers in E-LIS repository with major submissions from Asian countries, started from 2004 to 2009.

Table-3: High Years with Major Submissions

Years	No. Paper	%
2004	112	14%
2005	176	18%
2006	226	21%
2007	186	19%
2008	145	16%
2009	106	12%



Graph-3

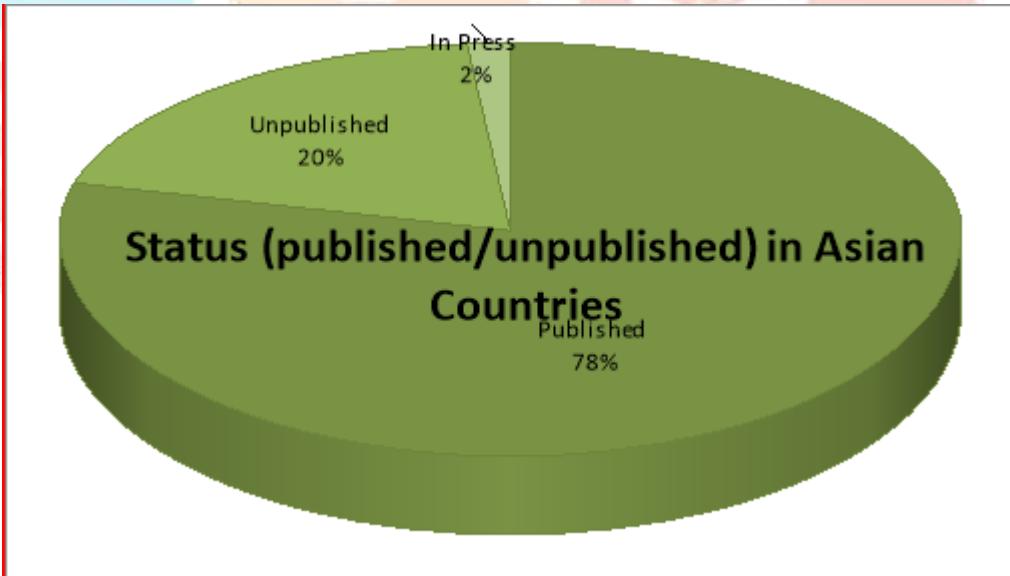
It is clearly indicated in the table that 2006 is the year with highest submissions of 226(21%) papers followed by 2007 with 186(19%), 2005 with 176(18%), and 2008 with 145(16%) papers. It is indicated from the above table that the submission of papers are generally over a period of 5/6 years since the date of its publications.

Status (Published/Unpublished) of Documents submission from Asian countries

This Table-13 demonstrates the publication status of submitted papers in the E-LIS repository. It contains published, un-published and in press data. Among the submissions by Asian countries to E-LIS, published documents 1229 (78%) is the highest among types of documents which include un-published 309(20%) documents and 29(2%) of the documents are in press.

Table-4: Status of Documents submission from Asian countries

Status	No	%
Published	1229	78%
Unpublished	309	20%
In Press	29	2%

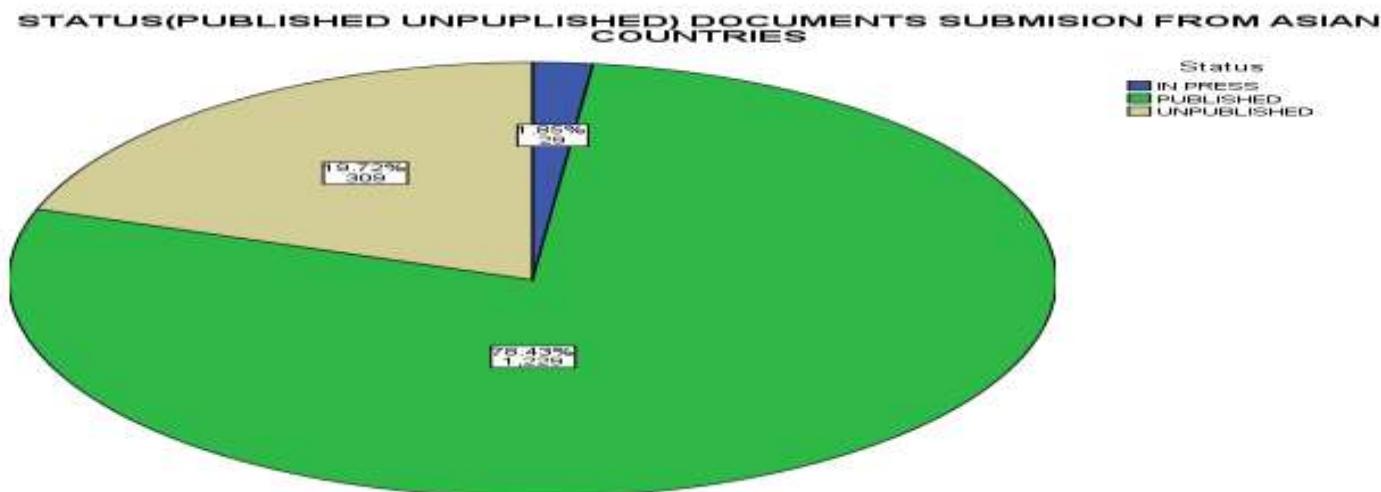


Graph-4

Statistical Analysis of Table – 4

Statistical Analysis done: Pie Chart and Test of proportion

In order to analyze the status (published/unpublished) documents submission from the Asian countries a Pie chart is drawn. The plot depicts the status of different documents in terms of their percentages. From the chart is quite evident that the status of published journal dominates the other categories.



A test of proportion is carried out to assess the significance of Published articles

Test Conducted: Tests of Sample Proportion, Significance level=0.05

Null Hypothesis: There exists no significant difference between the Proportion of Published and other articles.

Alternative Hypothesis: There exists a significant difference between the Proportion of Published and other articles

All the articles are compared with Published articles one by one and their significance are recorded as follows.

Documents	Frequency	Total	Proportion	Estimate Prportion (P)	(1-P)	Z value	Remark
Published	1229	1467	0.769598	0.649487	0.350513	18.24707	Significant
Unpublished	309	1467	0.210634				
Published	1129	1467	0.769598	0.75082	0.24918	9.217849	Significant
In press	29	1467	0.019768				
Unpublished	309	1467	0.210634	0.194258	0.805742	2.484051	Significant
In press	29	1467	0.019768				

From the result it is found that the Z value is highly significant in all the pairs. This leads to the rejection of the Null hypothesis and thus it can be inferred that the proportion of published articles are significantly different from that of unpublished and in press articles. Similarly the proportion of unpublished articles is significantly different from the in press article

Conclusion

E-LIS is a timely supplement to a traditional library and information science research tools such as library literature and library and information science abstracts. Its international scope is especially valuable particularly in areas of library and information science where some of the most innovative work is happening outside of the states. So E-LIS can be regarded as a tool for the dissemination of the open access philosophy with the promotion of E-LIS also enhances importance of the open access movement. In general as it is one of the few biggest subject specific open access collections existing in the world and ensures quality of research in the field in numerous ways.

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