

Institutional repositories in Japanese national universities: historical and philosophical reflections

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Landscape of higher learning in Japan

- Modern university system since late 19c
- Made pretty Americanized in 1949
- Tripartite division of labor since 1970s:
 - National(90)/private(450)/local government(80)

Number of students and faculty by kinds of institutions(2002)

	National	Local Gov	Private	TOTAL
Undergrad	462,492	100,691	1,935,964	2,499,147
Master's programs	89,653	7,905	57,709	155,267
Doctoral programs	48,303	3,776	16,166	68,245
Other	21,039	4,333	38,001	63,373
Students TOTAL	621,487	116,705	2,047,840	2,786,032
Faculty	60,930	10,860	83,260	155,050

So,

- Most of research is done by national universities
- Much of undergraduate education is done by private universities
- Ministry of Education...(MEXT) has controlled national university libraries by way of budget

Our hierarchy

Tokyo/Kyoto

Osaka/Tohoku/Kyushu

Nagoya/Hokkaido

Tokyo I of Tech

Tsukuba/Hiroshima

Niigata/Kanazawa/Chiba/

Okayama/Kobe/Kumamoto

Keio/Waseda
and others

Points today

- There were “institutional repositories” in Japan in 90s, funded by the government, at the size of \$10M.
- They were failures, waste of money and time.
- There are lessons to learn, fortunately.
- Describe lessons in form of policies
- State that we are consistent with the policies stipulated.

What we did in mid 90s

- “Paperless library”?!
 - Digitization of anything, even “online” journals
 - Digitization of “rare” books, maps, paintings, posters etc
- Dissemination of scholarly achievements?
 - Papers, datasets etc
 - Course materials, online readings etc
- No Internet in mind
- By government money

What we have now

- Of course, not nothing, but
- Lots of files on hard disks remain
- Unlocatable already (they were pre-internet) and dangling links etc
- Researcher-initiated project forgotten
- Same stuff digitized again
- UNKNOWN through Japan, and
- Memories remain

Case: Tsukuba University

- Digital library project from 1997 focusing on “oncampus research products”, after 3 or 4 others focusing on digitization
- In the name of “dissemination”, but
- The first ever “institutional repository”
- All stuff was and is openly accessible, “just like webpages”
- Stipulated very well defined copyright clearance policies on the use of materials to be transmitted

Its current situation

- As many as over 400 “products” are there,
- But \$1M/year spent over 7 years
- A collection of “rejected papers,” or at least “papers that were not reviewed”
- Collection of digitized page images of old department journals, not linked from TOC, just collated, and besides, unlinked from other web resources and dangling links

Faculty involvement at the time

- Very low
- Only library was talking
- Faculty viewed it as a good library initiative, but that was it: Administration thought it was nice (Library director then appointed President later)
- As far as original papers were concerned, they were more interested in submitting to good journals (of course); only “reports to funders” etc

Copyright clearance policy

- Author licenses library to transmit copyright material from their DL(no end user licensing)
- Author has to retain the copyright of published papers, which was not the case after they signs transfer contract with publisher (societies as well as commercial publishers)
- Their policy demanded author themselves to get permission from publisher, which was discouraging

Lack of “technical” knowledge

- Digitization was THE technology, given machines and the network
- No idea of “metadata”
 - E-document must identify itself
- No idea of “portal” like
Yahoo(directory)/Google(search engine)
- No association with bibliographical database,
well, registered in OPAC
- No idea of harvesting metadata/contents
- No consideration of archiving

Lessons to learn

- Don't do this way:
 - Think seriously, ie loosely, about copyright
 - Have libraries recede; Have university involved
 - Reevaluate the meaning of open access or “just being there waiting to be accessed”
 - Take “metadata” seriously. If that must be in the document, the markup must be done by author
 - Use the idea of harvesting more centrally
 - Think about “archiving” in the sense of long term preservation
 - Link_from, not “to”, is important

Observation of general status quo

- Institutional Commitment:
 - To find someone who understands and has power depends on chance
 - Reviewing of missions of university
- Copyright: Seems more relaxed than before
- Metadata: Author markup is still tough
- Archiving/Preservation: Author's responsibility?
- Googlability

An additional change

- The advent of online journals
 - Anything to do with rising prices and online journals?
 - Logically they are independent
 - Historically they happen to coincide?
 - Need to separate these two issues
 - Rising cost is a matter of economics
 - Electronic publishing is only possible now
 - Institutional repositories and open access
 - Need to know licensing world from property right

Our(who?) policy decisions

- Technical part first:
 - Collect anything, as opposed to digitization; “Libraries don’ create.” Collecting and preserving come hand in hand even in the electronic age, though coordination is necessary
 - Careful but progressive about copyright: ask for author’s licensing, and if she can’t, check if it is green at least(mayby not in terms of “right” but “obligation”)
 - Metadata tagged by librarians for now, and to be harvested by National Institute of Informatics, accessible at GeNii, which is a national portal to scholarly resources
 - NII also provide platforms
 - Statistics should be take seriously(COUNTER is hard with open access)

Policy decisions(cont'd)

- Intrauniversity lobbying: No principled ideas yet: though, in the current Japan situation,
 - Assessment
 - Industry/Society relationship
- To funders/government: No principled ideas yet but Japanese modernization history might be convincing: Promotion of outflow, but this turns to the problem in general of society publishing

Further concerns

- Our knowledge of scholarly communication getting lost with open access
- Preservation really possible in distributed environment
- Connection between journal prices and future of institutional repository
- Can Japanese universities survive?