

# Awareness of Krishikosh and Its Uses Among Foreign Scholars of CCSHAU, Hisar and LUVAS, Hisar: A Case Study

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## Abstract

The technological advances have changed the scenario of every walk of life. Similarly, the knowledge management practices have also changed and all the information is stored in digital form now. The origins of institutional repositories are also made for long-term preservation of our knowledge and culture. The present paper is a case study of CCS HAU, Hisar and LUVAS, Hisar in order to know about the use and awareness of Krishikosh institutional repository among the foreign scholars. It was found that 46.52% of the respondents were fully satisfied with the use of Krishikosh institutional repository, 37.20% respondents were partially satisfied, while 16.28% respondents were not satisfied. It was also suggested by the researcher that awareness programmes on Krishikosh should be organized on regular basis so that ultimate users' satisfaction would be achieved.

**Keywords:** Awareness, Digital Library, Electronic Resources, E-Repository, Institutional Repository, Krishikosh, Satisfaction

## Introduction

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) can help to make all the significant literary, artistic, scientific, and other informational work of humans permanently digitally preserved, and accessible to the billions of people all over the world as and when required. Timely access to information is becoming more and more crucial for survival in every sphere of life; agricultural sector is no exception to it. In the present competitive world, which is developing to be what we perceive as knowledge society, the access to right information at anytime, anywhere about anything has gained high significance. This, of course, does not mean that the earlier societies

were not aware of importance of information or were not knowledgeable. The crucial difference now is the speed with which we can access information, the magnitude of available information and removal of geographical boundaries to access information. The developments in ICT revolutionized the world by connecting the planet into an information and knowledge network. Today, the information has become absolutely important input in agriculture along with seed, fertilizers, pesticides, land, water, and environment. The demand for authentic and credible digital information sources has risen in agriculture sector, be it research, education, or extension. The E-Granth is one of the important projects initiated by National Agricultural Innovation Project (NAIP) under the aegis of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to enable digital access to vast amount of information available in the NARS system, which has been achieved through open access Digital Repository 'Krishikosh'.

## Institutional Repository (IR)

Institutional repository is a "Digital collection that captures, preserves, archives and provides policy-based access to the intellectual output of an institution". It can be perceived as an organization-based set of services, which the organization offers to the members of its community for the management and dissemination of digital materials created by the institution and its community members. The institutional repository acts as a digital platform to preserve institution's intellectual assets and helps in providing and managing open access to institution's intellectual assets. It is a new channel for structuring the organization's contribution to the border world and as such invites policy and cultural reassessment of this

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relationship. It also forms part of a larger global system of repositories, which are indexed in standardized way (Reference Manual on Krishikosh, p. 10).

## **Krishikosh**

Krishikosh is a versatile open-access digital repository catering to the needs of Indian National Agricultural Research & Education System (NARES) and has architecture of centralized hosting of content but decentralized management. The Krishikosh is hosted at the data center of ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), the premier research institute and deemed university under NARES. The hardware, software, and connectivity are professionally managed by Agriculture Knowledge Management Unit (AKMU) at ICAR-IARI and each institute (SAUs/DAUs, etc.) can manage and administer its own repository, which is integral part of Krishikosh. The Krishikosh has been designed by using open-source software DSpace and each institution in NARES has been configured as community on it having its own collections. Each community and collection can be given independent rights to registered users for uploading and managing the contents. Effectively Krishikosh is a collectively managed, centrally aggregated repository with integrated search facility (Reference Manual on Krishikosh, p. 10).

## **CCS HAU, Hisar**

After the division of Punjab State, the first established university in Haryana State in 1970 was Haryana Agricultural University, which is one of the Asia's biggest agricultural universities. In 1991, it was renamed after India's seventh Prime Minister Chaudhary Charan Singh. Thus, now it is known as Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University (CCS HAU), Hisar. Being a leader in agricultural research, it significantly contributed to Green Revolution and White Revolution in India in 1960s and 70s, respectively. In starting, it was a small campus of Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana. However, after the formation of Haryana in 1966, it became an independent university on 2nd February 1970 through a

Presidential Ordinance, which later ratified as Haryana and Punjab Agricultural Universities Act 1970 passed by the parliament on 29th March 1970. The university covers an area of 8645 acres, out of which, 7219 acres is at main campus and 1426 acres at sub-campuses (CCSHAU, 2017).

## **LUVAS, Hisar**

Lala Lajpat Rai University of Veterinary & Animal Sciences (LUVAS) is located in Hisar, Haryana. LUVAS has been established in December 2010 and named in the memory of freedom fighter Lala Lajpat Rai popularly known as "Punjab Kesri". Earlier, it was the College of Veterinary Sciences, which was shifted to Hisar from Lahore in 1948 and later on, was a part of Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana. Later on, it became a part of Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University in 1971 (LUVAS, 2017).

## **Nehru Library - A Brief Sketch**

Though the library was establishment in 1948 with the establishment of College of Veterinary Sciences, in the year 1975 it was named after Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India. The covered area of the building is 9076 m<sup>2</sup> with a capacity to accommodate more than 3.5 lacs books and bound journals (CCSHAU, 2016). The library possesses a rich collection of more than 3.6 lacs books, bound journals, and other reading material to meet the informational requirements of students, teachers, research scholars, extension specialists, and other staff of the CCSHAU as well as LUVAS located at Hisar and sub-campuses. Actually, the LUVAS does not have its own library and is thus shares the facilities of Nehru Library, CCS HAU, Hisar. The library is also maintaining its collections at College of Home Science, Hisar, College of Agriculture, Kaul, College of Agriculture, Bawal, Campus School, 19 Krishi Vigyan Kendras and seven Regional Research Stations. The library is successfully exploiting the power of information and communication technologies in various activities for retrieval and dissemination of information (Nehru Library, 2017).

**Table 1: Current Status of the Nehru Library, CCS HAU, Hisar**

| <i>Information resources</i>    | <i>Quantity</i> |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Books                           | 2,44,025        |
| Bound journals                  | 1,03,431        |
| Thesis                          | 12,608          |
| CD-ROM databases                | 158             |
| Books CDs                       | 2,522           |
| Theses CDs                      | 2,213           |
| E-books                         | 413             |
| Total                           | 3,65,370        |
| Library membership              |                 |
| Faculty including LUVAS         | 649             |
| Other staff including LUVAS     | 1,849           |
| Students including LUVAS        | 2,459           |
| Special members including LUVAS | 72              |
| Total                           | 5,029           |

Source: Questionnaire-Survey, Nehru Library, CCS HAU, Hisar, October -November 2017

## Literature Review

Here, an attempt has been made to review some of the existing literature on Krishikosh or institutional repositories.

In a study, conducted in the universities of Karnataka, the researchers found that the majority of the science, technology, and medicine scholars were aware of, and positive towards, deposit institutional repositories; however, the arts, humanities, and social science researchers were found to have a low-level awareness of the institutional repository but were interested in contributing their research work to the University Institutional Repository with a positive attitude towards providing free access to scholarly research results of their University (Manjunatha and Thandavamoorthy, 2011). In an another study, Halder and Chandra (2013) found that 93.33% faculty members, 62.50% staff, and 76.47% students were aware about the institutional repository in Jadavpur University and also revealed that 37.65% among the students express that teachers made them aware about how to use institutional repository. Dutta and Paul (2014) conducted a study in University of Calcutta to know the awareness about institutional repository among the faculty members and found that faculty's attitude towards institutional repository was generally positive, half of the respondents were aware about the institutional repository,

and they use it positively for their academic and research-related work. Bamigbola (2014) conducted a survey to know the awareness and use of institutional repositories among the faculty of agricultural sciences in Nigeria and found that the level of awareness about institutional repositories among faculty members was increasing, but there was variation in the level of awareness across agriculture disciplines. In a study, Yang and Li (2015) explored that the majority of responding faculty members of Texas A&M University, USA were aware about the open-access journals in their concerned fields and willing to publish their research work in open-access mode, however, they were unaware that institutional repository deposit process was the greatest barrier that accounted for low institutional repository participation rate in Texas A&M University. Tiemo and Ebiagbe (2016) found that lecturers were highly aware of institutional repository and most of the lecturers agreed to fact that if the repository is established in the university, it will enable them to deposit their research work easily but also afraid with the perception of violation of copyright law. Electronic theses & dissertations and eBooks were the most frequently used information resources from the repository's collection; however, there is low usage rate of the repository by the respondents but they have positive attitudes towards the repository and its use (Abdelrahman, 2017). Felicitas and Muthee (2018) found that the majority of academic staff at Egerton University, Kenya were still not aware of the

existence of an institutional repository in the university and the few academic staff-members who were aware of the existence of the repository may not be conversant with the process of self-archiving and as such most of their scholarly results remained unshared or critiqued. These research findings show that many factors affect the awareness about institutional repositories and its use. Keeping in view these findings, a study was planned to know the awareness about the institutional repository specially Krishikosh repository among the foreign scholars of CCS HAU, Hisar and LUVAS, Hisar.

## Statement of the Problem

The present study was an attempt to know the awareness and use of Krishikosh among foreign scholars of CCSHAU, Hisar and LUVAS, Hisar and suggest some possible actions in order to improve service delivery through Krishikosh, if any lacuna would arise.

## Objectives of the Study

This study is basically concerned with the awareness and use of Krishikosh among foreign students/scholars of CCSHAU, Hisar and LUVAS, Hisar. The following specific objectives were identified:

- To know the awareness about Krishikosh repository among the foreign scholars.
- To identify the gender wise usage of Krishikosh repository among the foreign scholars.
- To know the kind of information resources accessed.
- To understand the purpose of using Krishikosh repository among the foreign scholars.
- To understand the satisfaction level of foreign scholars in accessing the existing information resources through Krishikosh repository.
- To investigate the problems in searching the information resources by foreign scholars.
- To provide suggestions based on the findings for better utilization.

## Methodology

The study was conducted on 47 foreign scholars studying in various departments of postgraduate and doctoral

programmes of CCS HAU, Hisar and LUVAS, Hisar. Questionnaire method was used to obtain responses from the defined population. Total 50 questionnaires were distributed personally to the foreign students in Nehru Library in the months of November-December 2017, out of which, 43 questionnaires were received back with 86% response and considered for analysis.

## Data Interpretation and Analysis

The data were analyzed using simple percentages in the form of tables as given below.

**Table 2: General Profile**

|                 |              | Respondents<br>(n=43) | %age  |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------------------|-------|
| University      | CCSHAU       | 28                    | 65.12 |
|                 | LUVAS        | 15                    | 34.88 |
| Gender          | Male         | 27                    | 62.80 |
|                 | Female       | 16                    | 37.20 |
| Age             | <30          | 34                    | 79.07 |
|                 | >30          | 09                    | 20.93 |
| Academic status | PhD.         | 17                    | 39.54 |
|                 | Postgraduate | 26                    | 60.46 |

The data given in Table 2 present the general profile of the respondents. Out of total 43 respondents, 65.12% were from CCS HAU, Hisar and 34.88% were of LUVAS, Hisar. With regard to gender-based distribution of respondents, 62.80% were male and 37.20% female respondents. During the survey, out of total 43 respondents, majority of respondents (79.07%) were below 30 year, while 20.93% respondents were in the age of 30 or more. 60.46% respondents were studying in various postgraduate programmes in agricultural sciences, basic sciences, veterinary sciences, and other allied areas; whereas, 39.54% respondents were enrolled in Ph.D. programme.

**Table 3: Frequency of Library Visit**

| Frequency    | Respondents (n=43) | %age  |
|--------------|--------------------|-------|
| Daily        | 06                 | 13.96 |
| Twice a week | 04                 | 9.30  |
| Weekly       | 09                 | 20.94 |
| Fortnightly  | 14                 | 32.55 |
| Monthly      | 10                 | 23.25 |



The frequency of respondents' visits in library is given in Table 3. 32.55% of the respondents visited the library weekly followed by monthly (23.25%), weekly (20.94%), daily (13.96%) and twice a week (9.30%).

**Table 4: Awareness and Use of Krishikosh**

| Awareness | Respondents (n=43) | %age  |
|-----------|--------------------|-------|
| Yes       | 19                 | 44.19 |
| No        | 24                 | 55.81 |

The data in Table 4 describe the awareness and use of Krishikosh repository among the respondents. Out of the total 43 respondents, 44.19% were aware about the Krishikosh repository and accessed the same for their academic research or other purpose and these respondents were mainly studying in Ph.D. programmes. On the other hand, 55.19% were not aware about the Krishikosh repository and mainly those who were studying in masters' degree programmes.

**Table 5: Collection Prefer to Use from Krishikosh**

| Collection type            | Respondents (n=43) | %age  |
|----------------------------|--------------------|-------|
| Theses/Dissertation        | 23                 | 53.49 |
| Books                      | 02                 | 4.65  |
| Reports/Newsletters        | 01                 | 2.33  |
| Proceedings                | 03                 | 6.98  |
| Institutional publications | 10                 | 23.25 |
| Reprints                   | 00                 | 00    |
| Miscellaneous              | 04                 | 9.30  |

The data presented in Table 5 show the preference to use the different types of collection available on Krishikosh repository. More than half of the respondents (53.49%) mainly accessed theses/dissertations for their allotted project work followed by institutional publications (23.25%), proceedings (6.98%), books (4.65%), and reports/newsletters (2.33%); whereas, 9.30% respondents were using miscellaneous type of information or resources from the Krishikosh repository.

**Table 6: Satisfaction Level with Use of Krishikosh**

| Satisfaction level  | Respondents (n=43) | %age  |
|---------------------|--------------------|-------|
| Fully satisfied     | 20                 | 46.52 |
| Partially satisfied | 16                 | 37.20 |
| Not satisfied       | 07                 | 16.28 |

The satisfaction level with use of Krishikosh repository is given in Table 6. More than 46% of the respondents were fully satisfied with the use of Krishikosh repository and 37.20% respondents were partially satisfied, whereas 16.28% respondents were not satisfied with the use of Krishikosh repository due to many reasons.

**Table 7: Problems Faced While Using Krishikosh**

| Problems                                                  | Respondents (n=43) | %age  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------|
| Information resources are not up to dated                 | 09                 | 20.94 |
| Not comfortable with e-resources                          | 05                 | 11.62 |
| Lack of awareness and skills to use computer and Internet | 20                 | 46.52 |
| Staff doesn't support                                     | 05                 | 11.62 |
| Language problem                                          | 04                 | 9.30  |

Table 7 reveals the various problems faced by the respondents while using Krishikosh repository. The perusal of data reveals that 46.52% of the respondents lacked awareness and skills to use computer and the Internet. 20.94% of the respondents said that the information resources available on Krishikosh repository are not up-to-date, while an equal numbers of respondents, *i.e.*, 11.62% responded that they were not comfortable with the use of e-resources and library staff also didn't support them to use the same. Interestingly, a few numbers of respondents (9.30%) were facing the language problem because their mother language is different and information resources are available only in English language.

## Major Findings

Based on the results, the major findings have been summarized as follows:

- 62.80% male respondents and 37.20% female respondents participated in the survey and gave their positive response to the study.
- The respondents below the age of 30 years were 79.07% and above the age of 30 years 20.93%.
- From the postgraduate classes, 60.46% respondents and from the Ph.D. programme, 39.54% respondents participated in the survey positively.
- 32.55% of the respondents visited the library and used the library resources and services weekly,

23.25% monthly, 20.94% weekly, 13.96% daily and 9.30% twice a week.

- 44.19% of the respondents were aware of the Krishikosh repository and 55.19% of the respondents were not aware of it.
- 53.49% of the respondents accessed theses/dissertations, 23.25% institutional publications, 6.98% proceedings, 4.65% books, and 2.33% reports/newsletters, while 9.30% respondents used miscellaneous type of information or resources from the Krishikosh repository.
- 46.52% of the respondents were fully satisfied with the use of Krishikosh repository, 37.20% respondents were partially satisfied, while 16.28% respondents were not satisfied.
- 46.52% of the respondents faced the problem of lacking of awareness and skills to use computer and Internet, 20.94% information resources were not up to dated, 11.62% were not comfortable with the use of e-resources, 11.62% library staff didn't support them to use of resources available on Krishikosh repository and a little numbers of respondents (9.30%) were facing the language problem.

## Conclusion and Suggestions

Today's era is of computer era or better we can say ICT era. Due to technological advances, now maximum information is available in electronic form and open-access mode. Open access is a step ahead of free access to the information, which removes just the price barrier by providing free access to the end users without considering geographical boundaries. Nowadays, it is a trend to establish institutional repositories all around based on open-source software like DSpace. The present study dealt with the awareness and use of Krishikosh, which is a leading institutional repository in the field of agricultural and allied sciences among the foreign scholars of CCS HAU, Hisar and LUVAS, Hisar. After analyzing the data, the findings reveal that more than half of the respondents in the study were not aware about the Krishikosh institutional repository and its use due to many reasons. Therefore, it is suggested that the concerned authority should conduct awareness programmes on Krishikosh institutional repository on regular intervals and also try

to improve the attitude and ability of staff so that ultimate user satisfaction would be achieved.

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