OPEN ACCESS INITIATIVES: A STUDY OF ICAR NATIONAL RESEARCH CENTRE FOR EQUINES LIBRARY

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ABSTRACT:

   Purpose: Open Access Initiatives is a process to provide free access to various journals, repositories and scholarly literature. The study attempts to find out the various steps and measures taken for open access initiatives by ICAR National Research Centre for Equines. We also study to find availability of infrastructure for providing open access facilities.

   Methodology: Questionnaire method has been used to investigate the open access initiative by thelibrary of National Research Centre for Equines.

   Findings: NRC for Equines library is a special library, and it contains documents related to equines research. ICAR is a central government organization so NRCE getting their fund from central government through ICAR. For all the heads library budget is between □ 5,00,000 to 10,00000 approximately.Its parent body ICAR decides mission and purpose of open access in Library of NRCE.

NRCE library the services under open access is performed through CeRA (Consortium of e-resources in agriculture).After introducing open access services in libraries of NRCE, there are significant changes in the scientific output of research. Lack of funds, IPR issues, organizations open access policy and Lack of trained staff are challenges in open access initiatives.

KEYWORDS: Open Access, Open Access Initiatives, NRCE, National Research Centre for Equines, Consortium, Open Access Publishing

1. INTRODUCTION:

Open access is a term used for providing free access to online journals, institutional repositories and scholarly literature. Subscription prices have risen significantly faster than inflation and significantly faster than library budgets. Subscription prices have risen about twice as fast as the price of healthcare, for most people the very index of skyrocketing, unsustainable prices.

2. Review of Literature

A literature review is a text of a scholarly paper, which includes the current knowledge including substantive findings, as well as theoretical and methodological contributions to a particular topic. Literature reviews use secondary sources and do not report new or original experimental work. A vast amount of literature is available on 'Open Access Initiatives' in different forms. It is not possible to review all the available material. However, select books, as well as journal's articles, have relevant to the present study been reviewed below.

Bavdekar and Sahu (2006)[1] In the area of science, technology and medicine open access to electronic versions of Indian print journals, is a recent phenomenon. The growth in visibility and impact has been reported for the online version of the Journal of Postgraduate Medicine.

Chan and colleagues (2005)[2] Discusses a general overview on the progress of open access archiving in developing countries and its benefits. Specific Indian initiatives are mentioned in this context.

Das, Sen and Dutta (2005)[5] Indian institutional repositories covers the collection development of selected repositories based on information gathered from the Internet as of July 2005. It covers the types of content and software in use at these repositories. Problems listed are mainly due to the limited availability ofwebservers running the institutional repositories and dead links.

Fernandez (2006)[6] Open access initiatives described in this paper are based on interviews with information professionals responsible for creation and maintenance of online research repositories in India. Barriers to setting up institutional repositories are identified in this paper. Special features are described. Based on participant feedback a list of best practices is presented. The study has definite implications for the role of Canadian librarians in the promotion of Canadian research.

Ghosh (2006)[7] provide an up-to-date outline of Indian open access initiatives including open courseware and metadata harvesting services.

Mathur and colleagues (2006)[8] conference presentations have provided updates on the progress of open access in India. The case of the National Institute of Technology, Rourkela which has mandated

deposit of research papers publishedby the Institute in its institutional repository.

3. Objectives of the Study

3.1 To evaluate and assess the status and policies of open access initiatives inNRC for Equines library.

3.2 To find out the main purpose of open access.

3.3 To identify the type of documents and services that is open accessed.

3.4 To ascertain the availability of infrastructure and budget for open access.

3.5 To find out various services provided through open access.

3.6 To find out the various challenges and hurdles in open access.

4. Hypothesis

4.1 Open access services are provided to the users in NRC for Equines library.

4.2 Library has a policy for open access.

4.3 Library is providing open access services for online journals and has an institutional repository.

4.4   As ICAR is a very prominent institution of thegovernment of India, there is no lack of budget for open access services.

4.5 These research centres have their repositories and archives.

4.6 Lack of technical manpower is the hurdle in open access.

5. Methodology

The data was collected through structured questionnaire that was distributed personally to the librarian of respective library some of the data was also collected by means of surveying various institutional documents (including annuals reports, procedure guidelines, and brochures, Websites,etc.)

6. Results and Discussions
6.1 Strength of Users

| Srl. No.	Users	Numbers
1.	Scientists	20
2.	Faculty Members	00
3.	Staff	79
4.	Visitors	30
5.	Total	129

Table 6.1
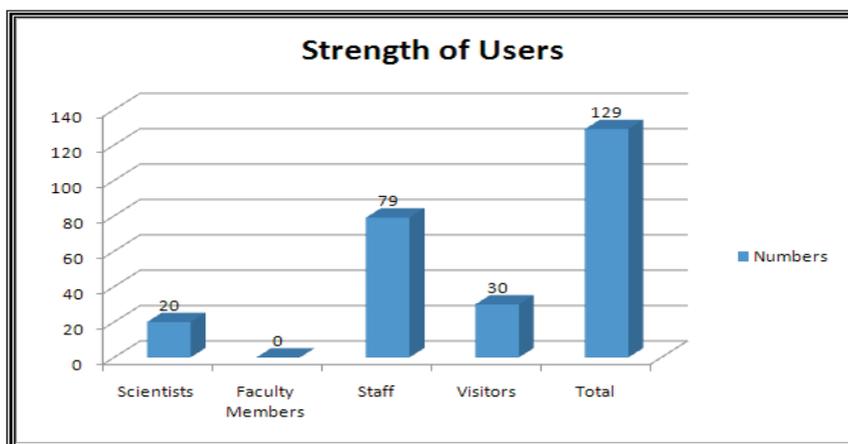
Graph 6.1

The above table 6.1 shows the strength of users in National Research Centre for Equines Library.Total no. of registered users is 129 at National Research Centre for Equines Library.

6.2 Learning Resources

Srl. No.	Learning Resources	Total No.
1.	Books	2000
2.	Journals (Current)	14
3.	Journal Back Volume	100
4.	Reports	100
5.	Patents	6
	Non-Book Material	
6.	Audio Visual Materials	2
7.	CD-ROM Databases	10
8.	Online Databases	00
9.	Electronic Journals	1
10.	Microfilm/Microfiche	1
11.	Others	000

Table 6.2
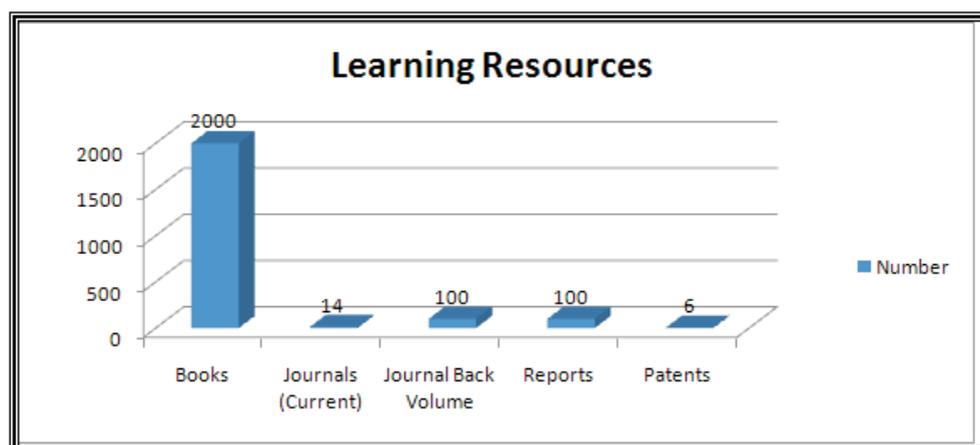
Graph 6.2

Table 6.2 shows total no. of collections (book andnon- book materials) available in NRCE library. The library has 2000 books, 114 journals, 100 reports, etc. In non-book materials there are 10 CD-ROM databases, twoaudio-visual materials, one microfilm and one e-journal subscribed.

6.3 Strength of Library Staff

Srl. No	Staff	Number
1.	Semi- Professional	00
2.	Non-Professionals	2
3.	Others	00
4.	Total	2

Table 6.3
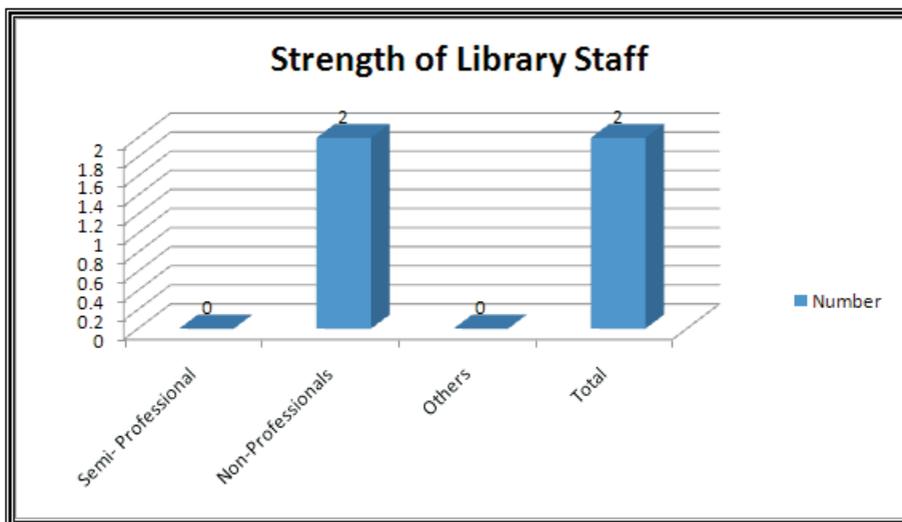
Graph 6.3

Total no. of staff is shown in Table 6.3 there are only two non-professional staffs in NRC for Equines library.

6.4 IT Infrastructure for performing open access initiatives

Srl. No	Items	Present Strength
1.	Computers	1
2.	Servers	00
3.	Scanners	1
4.	Printers	1
5.	CD/DVD	1
6.	Security System	1
7.	Software's	00

Table 6.4

In terms of infrastructure, NRCE library has a computer, scanner, printer, CD/DVD and security system which is shown in Table 6.4.

6.5 Funding Agency

Srl. No	Agencies	Response
1.	Central Govt.	✓
2.	State Govt.	
3.	MHRD/UGC	
4.	Self	

Table 6.5

ICAR is a centrally funded Institute comes under Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India.

6.6 Financial Resources

Srl. No.	Sources/ Grants	Response
1.	UGC	
2.	State Government	
3.	Trust/ Management Grants	
4.	Donations/ Endowment	
5.	Over Charges, Sale of Old Newspapers, Xerox Charges, Membership Charges, Etc.	
6.	Any other	✓ (ICAR)

Table 6.6

NRCE library is getting its financial assistant from its parent body that is Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

6.7 Allocation of Library Budget

S. No	Budget Head	Library Budget (Approximate) Rs.						
		Below 50,000	50,000- ,1,00,000	1,00,000 - 5,00,000	5,00,000 - 10,00000	10,00,000- 15,00,000	Above 15,00000	No Budget
(a)	E-Journals				✓			
(b)	E-Books				✓			
(c)	Repositories				✓			
(d)	Databases: CD ROM ONLINE				✓			
(e)	Audio/Video Cassettes, VCD'S DVD'S				✓			
(f)	Miscellaneous				NIL			

Table 6.7

In Table 6.7 we can see the distribution of library budget in different heads. For all the heads library budget is between □ 5,00,000 to 10,00000 approximately.

6.8 Digitization Status

(a) Yes ✓ (b) No ☐ (c) No but plan for digitization ☐

Srl. No.	Documents	Response
1.	Books	**Nil**
2.	Journals	**Nil**
3.	Reports	✓
4.	Patents	**Nil**
5.	Standards	**Nil**
6.	Magazines	**Nil**
7.	Newspapers	**Nil**
8.	Others (please specify)	**Nil**

Table 6.8

In National Research Centre for Equines, Library digitization work is done for reports.

6.9 Mission and Purpose of Open Access

Srl. No.	Mission and Purpose	Response
1.	Exchange Information	
2.	Set Standards	
3.	Advance Models	
4.	Advocate for Gold[1] OA	
5.	Educate	
6.	Promote Innovation	
7.	Other (please specify)	✓ By ICAR

Table 6.9

Its parent body ICAR decides the mission and purpose of open access in Library of NRCE.

6.10 Key Open Access Initiatives/Services

Srl. No.	Initiatives and Services	Response
1.	Publishing Open Access Journals	
2.	Institutional Repository	
3.	Other (please specify)	✓ Open Access through CeRA

Table 6.10

In NRCE Library, the services under open access are performed through CeRA (Consortium of e-resources in agriculture).

6.11 Measures applied to control the copyright/ digital rights of e-resources.

Srl. No.	Measures	Response
1.	Special security measures	✓
2.	Anti-plagiarism software	
3.	Any other (please specify)	No Photocopying is allowed

Table 6.11

In National Research Centre for Equines, library photocopying is not allowed to control the copyright issues.

6.12 Library Organize Archives

Srl. No.	Methods	Response
1.	Selected articles	
2.	Organize by category	
3.	As issued originally	✓
4.	Any other (please specify)	**Scanning**

Table 6.12

Table no. 6.12 shows the organisation of archives is performed in its original form through scanning.

6.13 Member of any of the following Indian consortia initiatives.

Srl. No.	Consortia Initiatives	Response
1.	UGC- INFONET	
2.	INDEST	
3.	CeRA (Consortium of Electronic Resources in Agriculture)	✓
4.	ICAR e-consortia	
5.	HELNET Consortium	
6.	Any other (please specify)	

Table 6.13

As ICAR is parent body of National Research Centre for Equines, it gets access of Consortium of Electronic Resources in Agriculture.

6.14 Awareness of Open Access publishing.

Srl. No.	Awareness	Response
1.	I'm not aware of OA publishing	
2.	Less than one year	
3.	Two years	
4.	Three years	✓
5.	More than three years	

Table 6.14

Table no. 6.14 shows the awareness of open access publishing of library in-charge. Library in-charge is aware of open access publishing from last three years.

6.15 Opinion on the contention that the Open Access publishing model will be more cost-effective to the academic research community in the long run than the current subscription-based model.

Srl. No.	Opinion	Response
1.	Strongly agree	
2.	Agree	
3.	Disagree	
4.	Strongly disagree	
5.	Don't know	✓
6.	Don't care	

Table 6.15

When Library In-charge was asked about his opinion on the contention thatthe "Open Access publishing model will be more cost-effective to the academic research community in the long run than the current subscription-based model." He doesn't know about this.

6.16 Open Access publishing model will be more cost-effective

Srl. No.	Opinion	Response
1.	Publishing costs will reduce	
2.	Publishers' profits will reduce	
3.	Other (please specify)	Do not know its economics

Table 6.16

Library In-charge was asked about his opinion on "cost-effectiveness of Open Access publishing model."He replied he didn't know the economics of open access publishing model.

6.17 Opinion on price based competition affects the quality of scholarly publishing process like Open Access model becomes more widely accepted, publishers may compete for work on the basis of price as well as the strength of their journal brands and quality of service.

Srl. No.	Opinion	Response
1.	In a positive way	
2.	In a negative way	✓
3.	In neither a positive nor negative way	
4.	Don't know	
5.	If you have any	

Table 6.17

Table 6.17 shows the response of librarian on price-based competition that affects the quality of scholarly publishing process. Open Access model becomes more widely accepted, publishers may compete for work on the basis of price as well as the strength of their journal brands and quality of service.

6.18 The impact of Open Access Services on Library Image.

Srl. No.	Opinion	Response
1.	Improved	
2.	Deceased	✓
3.	No. Change	

Table 6.18

According to librarian open access services were adeceased image of their library.Shown in Table 6.18

6.19 Impact on no. of users by introducing open access Services.

Srl. No.	Opinion	Response
1.	Increased	
2.	Decreased	✓

Table 6.19

Table 6.19 shows the impact on no. of users in the library of NRCE by introducing open access services. The number of users is decreased after introducing open access services.

6.20 Open access initiative made any impact on your annual budget.

Srl. No.	Opinion	Response
1.	Yes	
2.	No	✓

Table 6.20

Table 6.20 shows that Open access initiatives don't put any impact on annual library budget.

6.21 Observed any significant changes in the scientific output after introducing open access services.

Srl. No.	Opinion	Response
1.	Yes	✓
2.	No	

Table 6.21

In Table 6.21 we can see that after introducing open access services in libraries of NRCE there are significant changes in thescientific output of research.

6.22 What extents are you concerned that a significant move to Open Access publishing may disrupt the established system of scholarly publishing.

Srl. No.	Concerns	Response
1.	Very concerned	
2.	Concerned	✓
3.	Not very concerned	
4.	Not at all concerned	
5.	Don't know	

Table 6.22

Table 6.22 shows the opinion of the librarian on the significant move to open access publishing disrupt the established system of scholarly publishing. He is concerned about this matter.

6.23 Opinion about the efficiency of your library staff regarding handling Electronic Information Sources and Services.

Srl. No.	Opinion	Response
1.	All are efficient	
2.	Majority are efficient	
3.	Majority are not efficient	
4.	Can't say	✓

Table 6.23

The librarian can't say about the efficiency of library staff regarding handling Electronic Information Sources and Services.

6.24 Awareness of open access initiatives

| Srl. No.	Open Access Initiatives	Pre-prints	Post-prints	Open access journals
1.	Aware			✓
2.	Not Aware	✓	✓	
3.	Against It			
4.	No adequate knowledge about the initiative			
	No response			

Table 6.24

Table 6.24 shows the awareness of librarian regarding open access initiatives in different prospects. He is not aware of preprint and post print open access initiatives, but he is aware of open access journals open access initiatives.

6.25 Challenges and barriers in open access initiatives(Please use this rating scale: 1= Strongly agree; 2= Agree; 3= Undecided; 4= Disagree; 5= Strongly disagree)

	Barriers	1	2	3	4	5
1.	Lack of funds		✓			
2.	IPR issues in performing open access		✓			
3.	Organizations open access policy		✓			
4.	Technical hurdles to accessing data			✓		
5.	Lack of knowledge to use open access resources among library users				✓	
6.	Lack of support from the Administration			✓		
7.	Lack of infrastructure facilities				✓	
8.	Lack of trained staff		✓			
9.	Cost of providing open access services is high, and users make less use of them					✓
10.	Others (please specify):					

Table 6.25
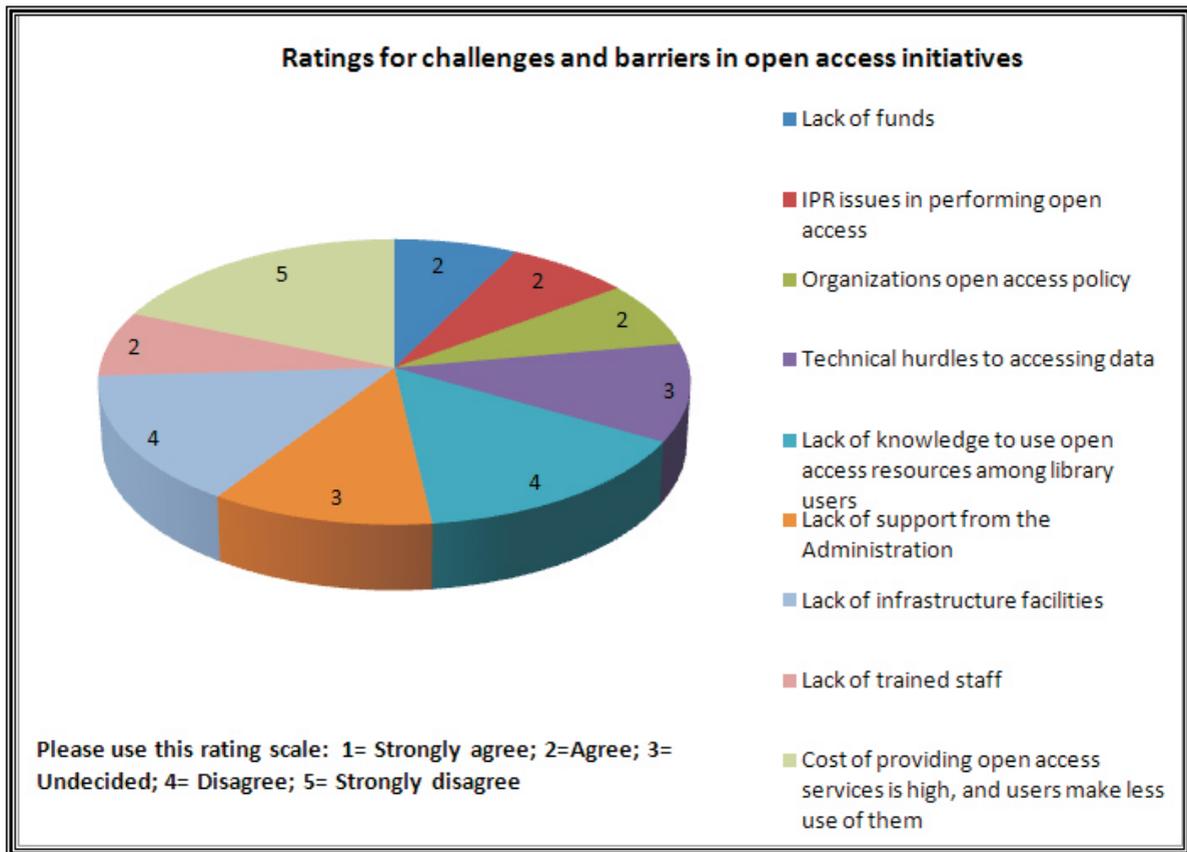
Graph 6.25

In Table 6.25 we can see the opinion of thelibrarian on Challenges and barriers in open access initiatives. Librarian is agreed with thelack of funds, IPR issues, organizations open access policy and lack of trained staff are challenges in open access initiatives. He is undecided in regards of Technical hurdles to accessing data and Lack of support from the Administration. He disagrees with the fact that Lack of knowledge to use open access resources among library users and Lack of infrastructure facilities is abarrier in open access initiatives.

7. FINDINGS

Library of National Research Centre for Equines is well equipped and adequate infrastructure for performing open access initiatives. The parent body of NRCE that is ICAR is centrally providing open access initiatives to its entire institute.

❍ There are 129 users enrolled in the library. The total collection of print material is 2220, out of which 2000 are books. Non-book materials are 14, out of which 10 are CD-ROM databases. NRCE library users are using mainly online resources, so there is no need for staff in the library that's why no. of staff is very less.

❍ ICAR is a central government organization so NRCE getting their fund from central government through ICAR.

❍ Distribution of library budget is performedthrough different heads. For all the heads library budget is between □ 5,00,000 to 10,00000 approximately. National Research Centre for Equines Library digitization work is done for reports.

❍ Its parent body ICAR decides mission and purpose of open access in Library of NRCE. NRCE library the services under open access is performed through CeRA (Consortium of e-resources in agriculture). Librarian is well aware of open access publishing, but he doesn't know about the cost effectiveness of open access publishing model and subscription based model.

❍ The response of librarian is negative on price-based competition that affects the quality of scholarly publishing process. According to librarian open access services were adeceased image of their library. The number of users is decreased after introducing open access services. Open access initiatives don't put any impact on annual library budget.

❍ After introducing open access services in libraries of NRCE, there are significant changes in the scientific output of research. Awareness of librarian regarding open access initiatives in different prospects. He is not aware of preprint and post print open access initiatives, but he is aware of open access journals open access initiatives.

❍ The opinion of the librarian on Challenges and barriers in open access initiatives. Librarian is agreed with the lack of funds, IPR issues, organizations open access policy and Lack of trained staff are challenges in open access initiatives. He is undecided in regards of technical hurdles to accessing data and lack of support from the administration. He disagrees with the fact that lack of knowledge to use open access resources among library users and Lack of infrastructure facilities is abarrier in open access initiatives.

8. CONCLUSION

After analyzing the received data, we conclude that National Research Centre for Equines library is getting fund from central government for performing open access initiative. But as it comes under Indian council of agricultural research they are using open access services directly provided by their parent body. Although librarian is well aware of open access publishing and open access services.After introducing open access services in libraries of NRCE, there are significant changes in thescientific output of research.Its parent body ICAR decides mission and purpose of open access in Library of NRCE. NRCE library the services under open access is performed through CeRA (Consortium of e-resources in agriculture). Providing open access services is minimized the presence of users in thelibrary. After introducing open access services in libraries of NRCE, there are significant changes in thescientific output of research.

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