

Open Access to Odia Books – A Digital Repository of Cultural Heritage of Odisha: an Assessment

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Abstract

Introduction: The emergence of digital repository became inevitable after 2003 when Open access movement initiated all around the globe. Open Access to Odia Books (OAOB) is digital repository focused on the collection of Odia books to preserve the heritage of Odia literature and culture through digitization of old and rare documents in Odia Language.

Objective: The present study has been conducted to find out the recent trends of openly accessible e-books in Odia language available through the repository – Open Access to Odia Books (OAOB) in terms of year, author, subject, etc.

Design/Methodology/Approach: The required data for this study has been collected online for analysis from the OAOB web-pages. After that they have been summarized and analyzed as per objectives mentioned.

Findings: The result shows that 836 digitally scanned e-books are available in Odia language on different subjects through OAOB. The analysis has been made based on different bibliographic parameters like year of publication, subject wise availability, etc. It is also found that there is a special collection of e-books. Special collection includes mainly translated books of Shreema, Aurobindo, Rabindranath Tagore, Gandhiji and many other classical authors.

Conclusions: The study is important for the promotion of Odia e-books and accessible to all people through OAOB so that people interested in Odia language and literature can easily be availed the opportunity of reading e-books in Odia language free of cost and it increases the image of people of Odisha.

Keywords: Directory of Open Access Repository (DOAR); Open Access to Odia Books (OAOB) National Institute of Technology (NIT); Odia books; Odia language and literature; Open Access; Repository; Disciplinary repository.

Introduction

The open access movement started its journey in 1990 after the invention of Internet. After that open access journals developed from 1993 to 2009. Then Open Archives Initiative started in 1999 and its aim is to provide dissemination of content to wider

public. Herein lays the open access publishing and institutional repository or institutional digital repository movements (Royster, 2016). Open access publishing is primarily related with two terms-gold open access (author publishes his contribution in an open access journal available online) and green open access (author publishes his contribution

in any journal and then published content has been archived in a repository or website by author himself or herself). In this regard digital repositories are a collection of digital database of scholar's intellectual resources. The institutional digital repositories collect digital resources from libraries, archives and individuals and also preserve those resources for future use as these resources are openly accessible all around the globe. In this respect Open DOAR (Directory of Open Access Repositories) and ROAR (Registry of Open Access Repositories) may be consulted. Both are the lists of institutional and subject-based repositories for registration of institutional open access digital repositories. Open Access to Odia Books (OAOB) is a disciplinary repository which contains e-books in Odia language but English language is used in the interface. OAOB is also registered in Open DOAR.

For the purpose of the study, authors try to analyze Open Access to Odia Books (OAOB, 2020). OAOB is a non-profit project, hosted by National Institute of Technology, Rourkela with the help of Srujanika, Bhubaneswar and Pragati Utkal Sangh, Rourkela. OAOB makes e-books available online in Odia language and literature that have been procured from local libraries, archives and individual collections. This OAOB started its journey on and from 21.08.2010 and it was inaugurated by Naveen Patnaik, Honourable Chief Minister of Odisha (OAOB, 2020). OAOB provides free access to digitally scanned books or e-books from academicians to common people any time anywhere. OAOB project is to be initiated for preservation of cultural heritage of Odisha by means of digitization of old, rare and copyright-free Odia books which are in vulnerable condition. Actually it preserves the heritage of Odia literature and culture through digitization of old and rare documents in Odia Language. It may be called an archive of documents written in Odia language.

Objective of the Study

The main objective of the research paper is to study and analyse the e-books available in this disciplinary repository- Open Access to Odia books (OAOB) indexed in Open DOAR in terms of author, publication year, discipline and other notable features.

Review of Literature

Many notable studies have been conducted on digital repositories from the global and regional

perspectives but no such study on language oriented open access repositories have been found especially in Odia. There are very few studies on subject/disciplinary repositories (Bankier and Perciali, 2008), most of these are presented as case study of a particular institute or organisation (Adamick and Reznik-Zellen, 2010). Rosy Jan and Nadim Akhtar Khan opined that institutional repositories are needed for making available of their institutions' intellectuals contents online. The study shows that 145 English language repositories are available all over the globe. They showed that most of the repositories are available in History and Archeology (20%), followed by Geography and regional studies (16%); Computes and IT (12%); Law and Political Science and multidisciplinary (11%) (Rosy and Khan, 2010). Erway studied on seven disciplinary repositories-AgEcon Search, arXiv, Economists Online, E-LIS, RePEc, PubMed Central, and SSRN. He studied on these repository based on following parameters – country, launch date, size, metadata, approach, primary business model. He opined that both institutional repositories and disciplinary repositories should be hosted side by side. He also showed that the roles and relationships between these two types of repositories- institutional repositories and disciplinary repositories should be given importance by the librarians and he showed how these two types of repositories work jointly to achieve their goals (Erway and OCLC Research, 2012). Bjork in 2013 observed different subject repositories in and around the globe and summarized data in a tabular form. He actually showed 56 subject repositories with their generic and technical features (Björk, 2014). Panigrahi in his paper wrote about Open Access to Odia Books and he told this repository is the preservation unit of cultural heritage of Odisha. Srujanika, an organization of Bhubaneswar, National Institute of Technology, Rourkela and Pragati Utkal Sangh, Rourkela scanned over 760 Odia books. Out of 760 e-books, 200 e-books have been hosted in OAOB (Panigrahi, 2014). Patra in 2015 observed that most of the SAARC countries are unable to pay for all research papers because of high cost. So they depend on open access disciplinary repositories. She made a study to show outcome of the development of open access disciplinary or subject repositories. This paper also presents research outcome of SAARC countries in relation to patents according to WIPO website. From her study she wanted to show that the development of disciplinary repositories for SAARC countries plays a vital role by providing sufficient material to academicians and researchers (Patra, 2015).

Gunjal in his presented paper in conference told the initiatives taken by Biju Patnaik Central Library to host OAOB. He told that it presents the cultural heritage of Odia literature and language. He wants to show status of Odia language in Digital era (Gunjal, 2017).

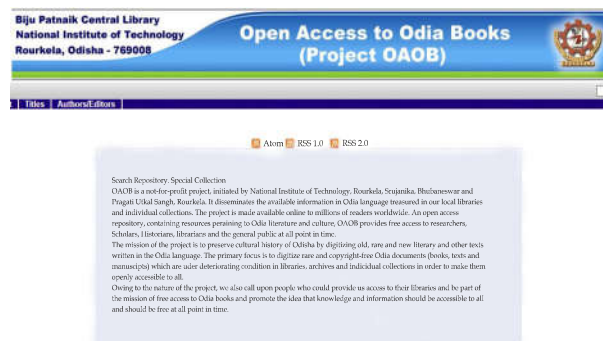


Fig. 1: Homepage of OAOB.

Scope

After browsing the URL of the Open Access to Odia Books (OAOB) (Fig. 1) total 836 open access e-books have been retrieved and as per the objective of this study, total 836 books (from 13.06.2020 to 16.06.2020) have been selected to study and analyze.

Methodology

All the data related to Open Access to Odia Books (OAOB) have been extracted from the website concerned. After that they have been summarized, tabulated and analyzed for minute analysis. For analysis of this digital repository, case study method and content analysis of the URL concerned have been followed keeping in the mind of the aforementioned objective.

Analysis and Interpretation of Results

For minute analysis and interpretation of the retrieved data from the URL of OAOB, the following tables and figures have been prepared below following the objectives mentioned above-

Table 1: Publication Year wise distribution of e-books in OAOB.

Year of Publication	No. of e-books available	Percentage (%)	Cumulative Percentage (%)
Before 1900	02	0.23	0.23
1900-1925	03	0.35	0.58
1926-1950	38	04.54	5.12
1951-1975	462	55.26	60.38
1976-2000	193	23.11	83.49
2001 onwards	103	12.32	95.81
Unspecified	35	04.19	100
Total	836	100	

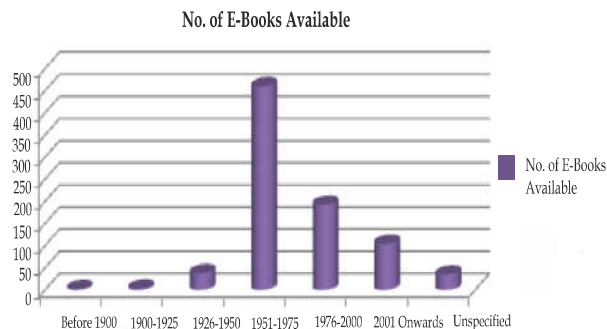


Fig. 2: Number of e-books in OAOB (Publication Year wise).

The above table 1 and fig. 2 show that total 836 e-books have been found after data collection and most of the e-books are available in between 1951 to 1975 i.e. 462 e-books whereas two e-books (Priyatamara Chithi by Bira Kishor Barik in 1100 and Drustipata by Beduinin 1365) are only available before 1900. It is noteworthy that 35 e-books are unspecified i.e. year of publication of those books have not been traced. It may also be noted that a very few e-books published before independence are found in OAOB viz. Munsii by Neol Kishore (1901); Bhagyalata by Udayanath Nayak in 1924; Naatundi and Archana by Kuntala Kumari Sabat in 1925 and 1927 respectively; Sukha Bodha Abhidhana by Rai Madhusudhan Rao in 1929, etc. It is observed that OAOB is always ready to procure e-books from various sources.

Table 2: Discipline wise distribution of e-books in OAOB.

Discipline	Number of Books
Anthology	53
Anthropology	08
Biography	55
Criticism	19
Dictionary	01
Drama	46
Epic	22
Geography	04
History	26
Linguistics	06
Literature	232
Novel	358
Philology	02
Poetry	34
Politics	09
Religion	24
Review	03
Science	05
Short Stories	121

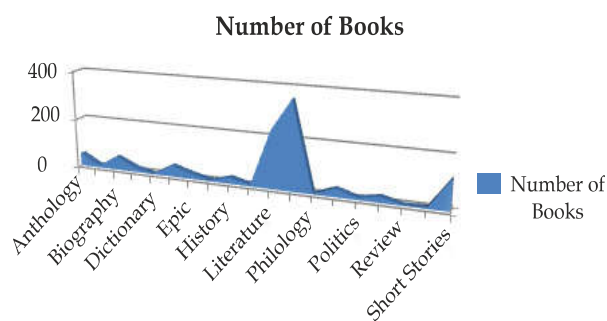


Fig. 3: Number of e-Books in OAOB (Discipline Wise e-Books).

From the above table 2 and fig. 3, it is observed that e-books of almost all disciplines are available in OAOB. It is also observed that 358 novels followed by 232 literature oriented and 121 short stories are available in OAOB. It may be said that most of the e-books belong to Odia Literature compared to Science and Anthropology related e-books. Moreover 24 religion oriented e-books have been found. The notable attribute of the study is that one title of the e-book is entered under two or more subjects so total number of subject wise e-books exceeds total number of titles (836).

Table 3: Author/Editor/Translator wise distribution of e-books in OAOB.

Number of books per author/ editor/translator	Number of authors/editors/translators
01	444
02	55
03	15
04	10
05	05
06	03
08	02
10	01
12	01
18	01
207	01
Total number of authors/editors/translators	538

Total 538 unique authors/editors/translators have been found in OAOB according to above table. The OAOB has a special collection of having 217 e-books. The table 3 shows that one author has 207 e-books under special collection category and the name of the author is Chittaranjan Das. These 207 e-books are mainly translated books. The study also shows that there are 18 e-books of Shreema and 12 e-books of Narashima Sahoo in OAOB. Ten dramas of Purna Chandra Kanungo ; 8 e-books of Hema Chandra Acharya and Bidhuprabha Rath have also been found in OAOB.

Findings

After analyzing the data presented in above tables and figures keeping in the mind of above mentioned objectives, researchers find some notable points. They are stated below

- This repository is available in vernacular language like Odia and it is useful for developing research in regional language.
 - Total 836 e-books have been observed and all these e-books are digitally scanned.
 - It is praiseworthy that OAOB has the facility for Advanced Searching. It has the search facility in terms of year, subject, title and author.
 - It can be accessed without registration but most repositories provide access and search facility after registration.
 - The notable attribute of the study is that anyone can deposit e-documents in this repository after a valid registration. Registered users may be able to submit their documents for editorial review. After successful review, registered users' item will be deposited in the repository.
 - Though e-books on different subjects in Odia language in the repository are available in good number but these e-books are available in PDF format and can be downloaded at any time anywhere by any person.
 - eprints, open source popular software , has been utilized by the NIT, Rourkela to build this repository. It is also economically beneficial for the institute or organization concerned because eprints is available free of cost and it is also used worldwide for building repository.
 - There are many Odia e-books available from the corporate bodies like National Book Trust, New Delhi (01 e-books), Bible Society of India (02 e-books), Odisha Sahitya Academy (01 e-books) and Govt of Odisha (6 e-books).
 - Besides Odia e-books collection, OAOB has the following e-books in English. These e-books are related with Odisha so they have been hosted in OAOB. These e-books are---
- I. The Indian Struggle 1920-1942 edited by Sisir Kumar Bose.
 - II. The Boatman Boy and Forty Poems by Sochi Raut Roy.
 - III. Wives of The God-King: The Rituals of The

- Devadasis of Puri by Frederique Apffel Marglin.
- IV. The Saga Of The Land Of Jagannatha by Mayadhar Mansinha.
- V. Indian Ink by H. E. Beal.
- VI. John Beams and Orissa compiled by Dr Laltendu Das Mohapatra.
- A good number of translated e-books are available in OAOB either from English or Bengali or Sanskrit to Odia—Ramanama; Nari Samj Prati; Satyagraha Siksha-Gandhi Rachanavali by Mahatma Gandhi; The Life Divine (Vol. 1 and 2); The Human Cycle by Aurobinda; Methods of Social Science Research by Goods and Hall; Shreema Matrurachanavali (16 e-books); Mruchhakatika by Sudrak; Binodini and 5 contributions of Rabindranath Thakur; Manaba Yuga-Chakra-'The Human Cycle'; Yoga Samanwaya Purbadha - 'The Synthesis of Yoga'; A tale of two cities by Charles Dickens; Rudin by Turgeniv Ivan etc.
- The notable attribute of the study is that researchers found other famous Odia e-books indexed in OAOB. Most of them are multi-volume e-books.
- I. Biswa Parikrama- (Vol.I and Vol. II)
- II. Chintamani Granthabali (Vol.I to Vol. IV)
- III. Goutam Budhankara Amara Bicharachaya
- IV. Hindu and Buddha Prachin Kathamala (Vol.I and Vol. II)
- V. Jana Sahitya (Series)
- VI. Jawaharlal Nehrunka Puratana Patrabali
- VII. Kishor Jnanmandal (Vol.I and Vol. II)
- VIII. Laal Rumal(Vol.I and Vol. II)
- IX. Malaya (Series)
- X. Matrurachanabali (Vol.2 and Vol. 17)
- XI. Narabali (Part I to Part IV)
- XII. Nilakantha Granthabali (Vol.I and Vol. II)
- XIII. Odia Sahityara Itihasa (Vol.1 to Vol.4)
- XIV. Prachin Utkal (Part I and Part II)
- XV. Ram - Raha (Part I and Part II)
- XVI. Ramalila (Part I and Part II)
- XVII. Rohitra Diary (Vol. 1 to Vol. 23)
- XVIII. Sampadakara Stambha (Vol. I to Vol. IV)
- XIX. Sampadakara Stambha(Vol. I to Vol. IV)
- XX. Shrimad Bhagwat Geeta
- XXI. Sishu Jnanmandala: Pilanka Pain Encyclopaedia (Vol. I and Vol. II)
- XXII. Upendra Bhanja Granthabali (Vol. II to Vol. IV)
- It is a great news that out of 836 e-books, 14 books imported from OAOB are available in the wiki commons- Alankara Bodhodaya, Baishanaba Padabali, Basudev Granthabali (Basudev Sudhaldev), Baula Charita o Ramagatha (Gobinda Bhanja), Bichitra Ramayana or Bisi Ramalila (Biswanath Khuntia), Bikramdev Rachanabali, Kabisurya Granthabali, Mahimandala Gita (Arakhita Dasa), Prachina Odia Gadya Sankalana, Prachina Odia Kabita, Radhanath Granthabali (Radhanath Ray), Ramalila (Raghunatha Dasa), Bruhat Chhanda Ratnakara.
- Most of the books were published from Cuttack and Bhubaneswar. A very few books were published from Kolkata, Rourkela, New Delhi, Berhampore, etc.
- It is found that all e-books have no ISBN because most of the e-books are old and rare.
- It is a matter of regret that NIT, Rourkela has not yet analyzed their preservation, content, metadata reuse policies. It is controversial regarding copyright laws and licensing policy. There is a problem of privacy and data security in it. It is a matter of regret that a very few e-books are not opened at the time of data retrieval.

The Way Forward

So OAOB plays a vital role to academic community and common people for easy browsing Odia e-books at any time anywhere as there are a large number of digital resources available in it. It is a matter of regret that the academicians, researchers are not at all acquainted with the OAOB and the maintenance of OAOB has not properly been done by NIT, Rourkela as some e-books have not been opened while extracting data. From the above study, it may be said that more and more e-books should be deposited to OAOB to enrich the cultural heritage of Odisha. Before the development of OAOB, Odia knowing people belong to outside

Odisha are unable to read Odia books as Odia books are not available anywhere anytime all around the globe. So this repository is helpful for those Odia knowing people who live in other states and countries except Odisha. Moreover, it is helpful for those people who are willing to read Odia books while roaming from one place to another as they are not in a position to carry books. Those people can avail the opportunity of OAOB very much. But it must be mentioned that most people are not be able to access electronic resources properly in spite of their willingness due to digital illiteracy. Therefore, the awareness programmes, training and workshops should be organized to make OAOB familiar among the faculty members, researchers and common people. Proper policy regarding preservation, content and metadata reuse should be framed to sustain OAOB in future. To conclude it may be suggested that a single window search based digital repository should be hosted by using open source software to procure metadata related with Odisha from other digital repositories in the world to make the intellectual output available to all people of Odisha for research and development purpose. However, anyone can download e-books form OAOB easily and it is the platform for sharing Odia digital resources easily as anyone can deposit e-documents after successful review. In this way OAOB increases the image of Odisha and it is regarded as a sophisticated service for preserving cultural heritage for next generation.

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