Awareness of students and research scholars regarding Institutional Repository of Presidency University, Kolkata: A Study

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Abstract: Institutional Repository is an essential part to cater information about a particular institution to the large mass irrespective of the time and space boundary. Digital archive or Institutional repository of a particular institution contains some or all publications of and by the institutions along with its official documents. This study examines the awareness of the students of the Presidency University regarding Presidency University Repository.

Total 180 students (10 from each of the 18 academic departments of Presidency University, Kolkata were considered for the study and provided with the questionnaires. Out of them 137 filled in questionnaires were received back. It is found that the college magazines, letters and others official documents are in great demand as it contains many important historical records for being an academically excellent institution of more than 200 years old.

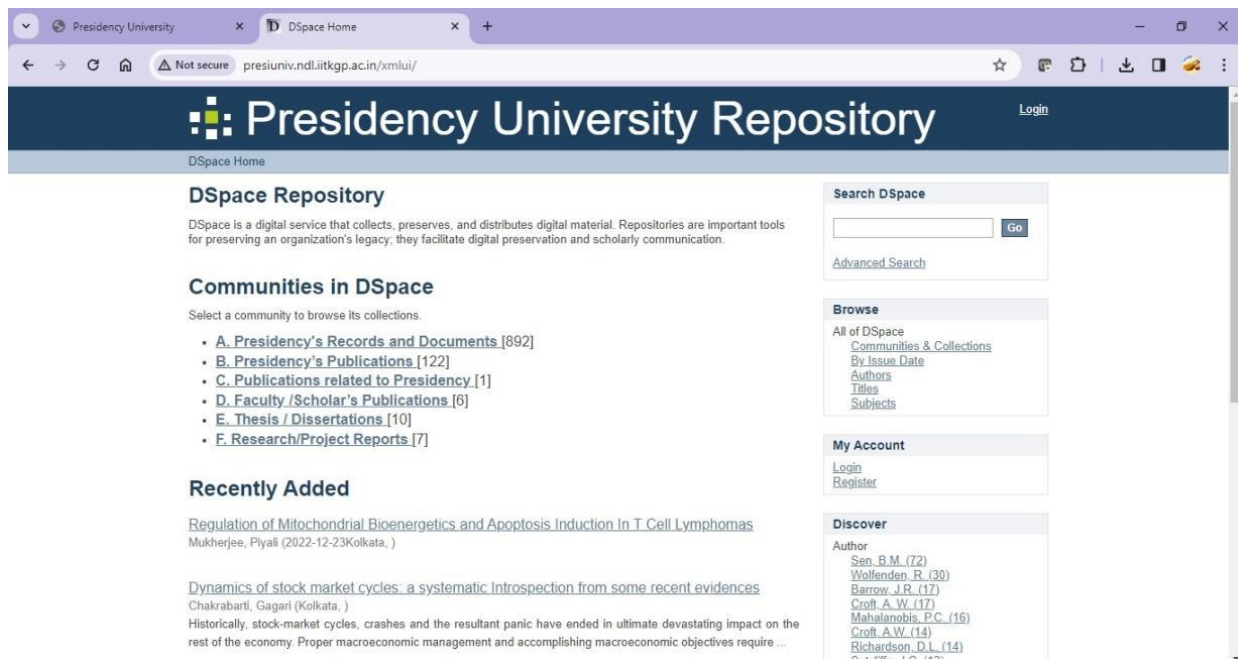*Key Words: Digital Archive, Institutional Repository, Presidency University, Kolkata.*

1. INTRODUCTION:

Presidency University, Kolkata, is unique with its prosperous history. In the beginning it was established in 1987 as Hindoo College and was later renamed as Presidency College. In 2010, it was given the status of a university. The university has an academic status for its notable alumni. The digital archive of the Presidency University i.e. Presidency University Repository is maintained in DSpace content management software. It is hosted as a part of the NDLI Project run by IIT, Kharagpur. The digital archive was developed to make many historical, rare and valuable records of the Hindoo College/Presidency College/ Presidency University openly accessible to all.

The records includes (as on 23.02.2024):

A. Presidency's Records and Documents [Total No. 892]

B. Presidency's Publications [Total No. 122]

C. Publications related to Presidency Total No. [1]

D. Faculty /Scholar's Publications [Total No. 6]

E. Thesis / Dissertations Total No. [10]

F. Research/Project Reports [Total No. 7]

Figure 1: Webpage of Presidency University Repository

The community 'Presidency's records and documents' includes Manuscripts, Records and Other Documents. The community Presidency's Publications' includes Presidency College Magazine and Presidency College Prasangiki (in Bengali).
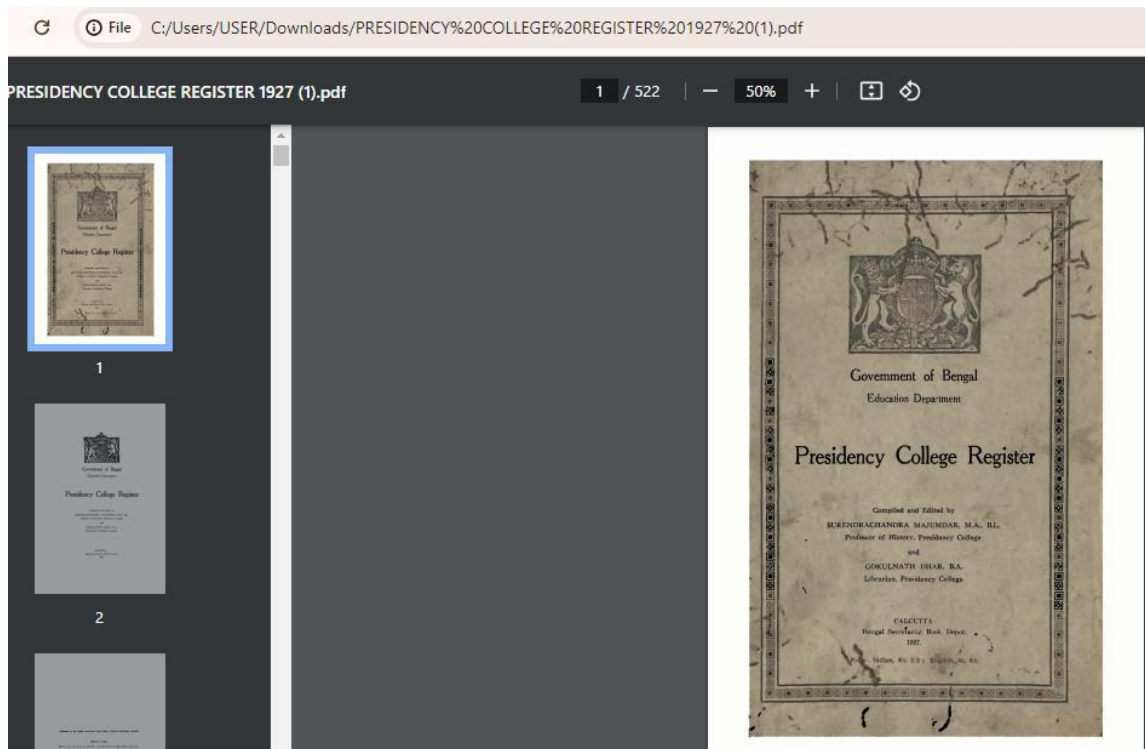
The institutional repository is brows able with the following options:

- Authors

- Communities & Collections

- Issue Date

- Subjects

- Titles

The link for the Presidency University Institutional Repository is given in the Library webpage as Digital Archive.

The study was taken with an interest to know the user awareness regarding the institutional repository, as this repository is an important reservoir of many historical and rare documents for containing documents of a 207 years old institution. Awareness regarding the same may help to find many hidden treasure in the form of knowledge regarding its glorious past by the present generation.

**Figure 2: Collection in Presidency University repository, Presidency College Register, 1926
Compiler and Editor- Surendrachandra Majumdar, Professor of History, Presidency College
and Gokulnath Dhar, Librarian, Presidency College.**

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

Literature review gives a base for selection of the problem and helps in understanding the relevance of the subject to study but also show the researcher the possible directions to the entire process of the study.

The following relevant resources were reviewed for clear understanding of the study:

Based on the topic of research the following reviews were done:

Asadi, et al. (2019) found that the lack of knowledge of open access Institutional Repositories (IRs) among scholars, inadequate ICT infrastructure were important challenges. Brush and Jiras (2019) in their case study stated Digital Commons as the best Institutional Repository solution for university libraries with small collection. Halder and Chandra (2012) stated ease to access and simple to retrieve information are the features that attracting more patrons in the use of IRs. Their another study in 2013 shown that people needs awareness and understanding of institutional digital repository Halder and Chandra (2013). Nyakurerwa, (2021) focused on the IR as a knowledge management tool to increase the visibility of libraries after conducting a situational analysis of the MSU IR and assessed the impact of the digital repository on the visibility of the library. Subiyakto, et al. (2021) tried to understand the user experiences using an institutional repository (IR) website in a public university of Indonesia and provided a number of visual design recommendations for the next website development.

It is seen that no in depth study on awareness on Presidency University repository has been done yet.

3. OBJECTIVES:
    i.   To find out the user awareness about existence of the library web pages

   ii.   To find out the user awareness about accessing the university's institutional repository

  iii.   To find out the user awareness about different features and resources accessible in the digital archive/institutional repository

4. METHODOLOGY:

The study has been done through a survey method with the help of questionnaires.

SAMPLE:

Total 180 students (10 from each of the 18 academic departments of Presidency University, Kolkata (department of Bengali, English, Hindi, History, Performing Arts, Philosophy, Political Science, Chemistry, Economics, Geography, Geology, Life Sciences, Mathematics, Physics, Sociology, Statistics, Institute of health Sciences, School of Astrophysics) were taken for the study. UG, PG students and research scholars attended the survey. Out of them 137 returned the filled in questionnaires.

The survey part was done with the help of structured questionnaire with open and close ended questions. Whenever required, interviews and observations method were implied. The data obtained were analysed after tabulation. Questionnaire fetched qualitative as well as quantitative data. It had direct as well as indirect questions to ensure the authenticity of the answers. For example:

Direct Question: Are you aware about existence in Presidency University Repository? Have you browsed the webpage?

Indirect Question: Mention some of the items which you have browsed in the said webpage.

Along with the survey, data was also obtained from the Presidency University website, Presidency University repository and other relevant webpages.

5. SCOPE OF THE STUDY:

The Scope of the study is limited to find out the user awareness of students and research scholars of the Presidency University Library, Kolkata about the Presidency University Repository. Users included were mainly undergraduate, post graduate students and research scholars.

6. ANALYSIS OF DATA OBTAINED FROM THE RESPONDENTS

Questionnaires were distributed among 180 students. Out of that, 137 were received back with filled in information. Data obtained has been organized, analysed and the following information were obtained:

Table 1: Course-wise Distribution of the Respondents

Questionnaires distributed among 180 students, Received back 137 filled in questionnaires		
Respondents	**Responses**	
	Numbers	**Percentage**
No. of UG students	61	44.53%
No. of PG students	49	35.77%
No. of Research Scholars	27	19.70%
Total respondents	**137**	**100%**

Table 1 showed out of the 137 students responded through questionnaire, 61(44.53%) students were pursuing graduation, 49 (35.77%) were pursuing post-graduation and 27 (19.7%) students respondents were pursuing research work.

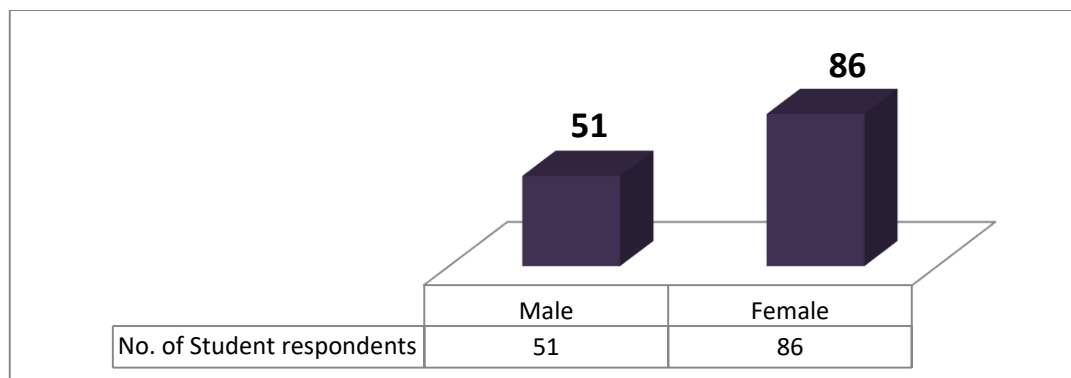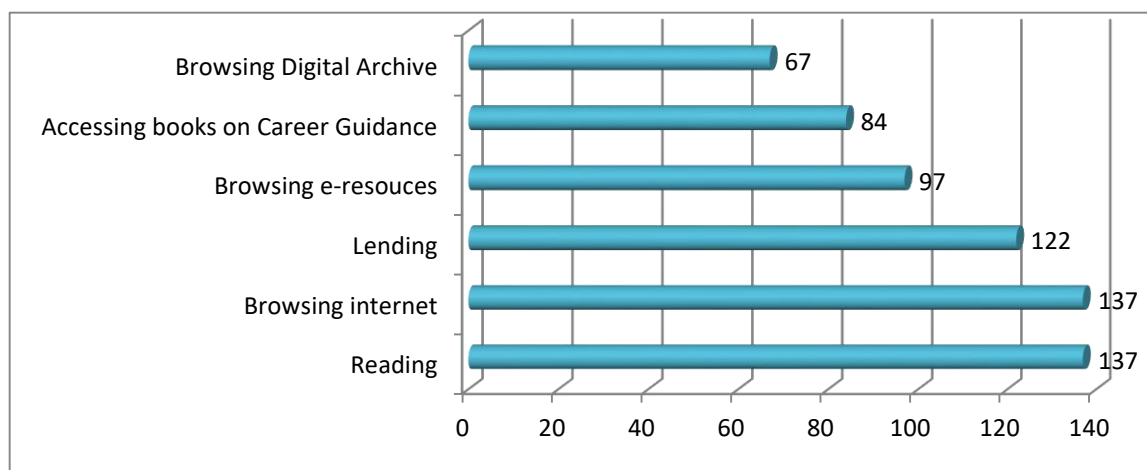**Figure 1: Gender-wise Distribution of the Respondents**

Figure 1 makes it clear that most of the student respondents were female (62.77%). Male respondents were only 37.22%.

Figure 2: Purpose to visit the Library of the Respondents

From the Figure 2, it can be stated that the maximum number of students and research scholars i.e. 100% of the respondents accesses the library for reading facility and also for browsing internet. Then there is demand for lending facility for which 89.05% student respondents visits the library. It is found that 70.8% student respondents access e-resources, 61.3% access book on career guidance and 48.9% access digital archive. Digital archive is mainly accessed for research purpose or for writing articles.

Table 2: Awareness and usage of Library Webpage and Institutional Repository by the Student Respondents

Description	Responses	
	Numbers	**Percentage**
Aware about library webpage	137	100%
Browsed library webpage	137	100%
Aware about Digital Archive and its link on library webpage	137	100%
Browsed Digital Archive	67	48.9%

Table 2 makes it clear that all the students surveyed are aware about the library webpage and all of them have browsed the same. They are aware about the library page and contents found in them as they are given awareness regarding the same through user orientation programmes after their joining in the university as students. Though all of them are aware about the Digital Archive only 48.9% of them have browsed the same.

Figure 3: Library webpage of Presidency University, Kolkata with the link of Digital Archive

The library webpage of Presidency University, Kolkata provides link for the Digital Archive also known as Presidency University Repository to increase its access among library users.

Figure 3: Awareness of the Respondents about the Communities of the Institutional Repository
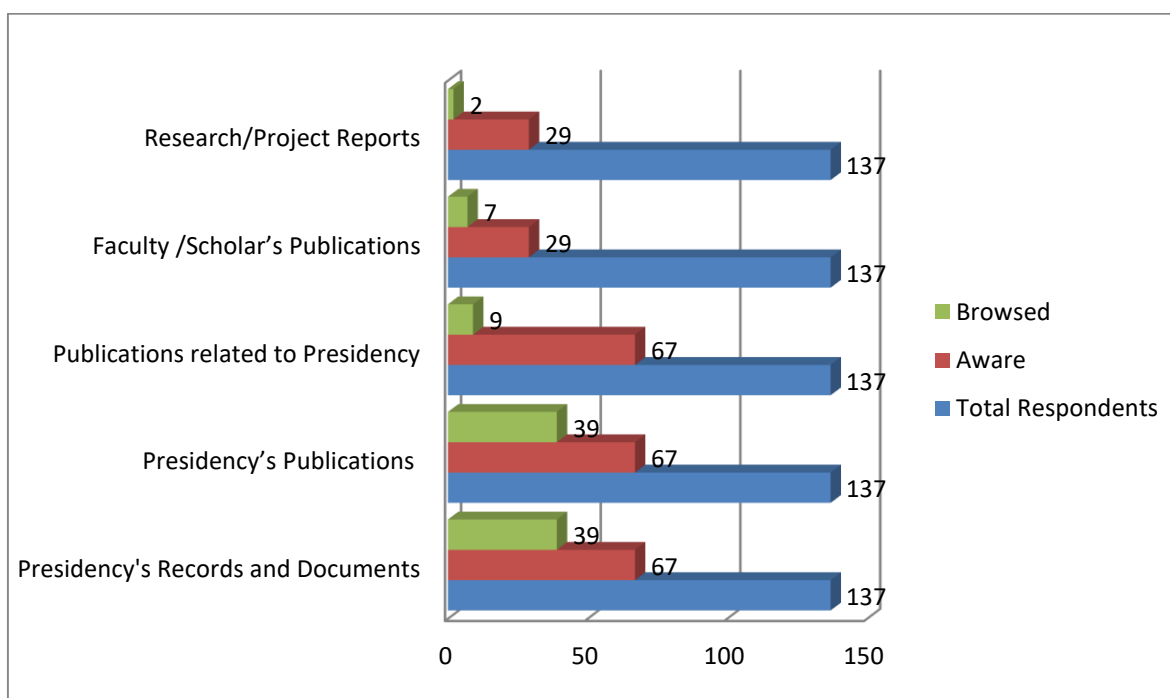

Figure 3 indicates that out of the 137 student respondents, 67 (48.9%) of them are aware of communities named Presidency's Records and Documents, Presidency's Publications and Publications related to Presidency. But only 39 of them have browsed Presidency's Records and Documents, Presidency's Publications and 9 have browsed the

publications related to Presidency. 29 (21.1%) are aware about faculty or scholars publication and research reports and projects but only 7 have browsed the faculty or scholars publication and 2 have browsed the research reports and projects.

Table 3: Awareness of the Respondents about certain features of collection in Digital Archive

Awareness regarding certain features of collection in Digital Archive/Presidency University Repository	No. of respondents
Downloadable and printable	67 (48.9%)
Accessible from anywhere anytime	67 (48.9%)

Table 3 shows 67 (48.9%) respondents are aware about the fact that pdf file are downloadable and printable and accessible from anywhere anytime.

7. Findings in a Nutshell:

As per the predefined objectives, the findings have been stated in a nut shell below:
100% of the students surveyed were aware about library webpage and link of Presidency University Repository available on it.

They all have felt the usefulness of the Presidency University Repository in their academic and research work. Further, its accessibility from anywhere and anytime with download and print facility is making it more demanding.

The study finds 48.9% of the respondents have browsed the Presidency University Repository for their academic work. They browse the repository to find attendance/signature/picture/important publications/ tenure of engagement of eminent persons in Presidency University. List of awardees were also some important point of concerned for them. History of Academic courses and departments are traced through this repository.

Mostly used documents are Presidency magazines (published annually, range 1914-2015) and Prasangiki (published annually, range 1952-2014, in Bengali), attendance registers, manuscripts containing handwritten letters of historical value as they contain varied information about Presidency College/Hindoo College and eminent persons associated with them for over two hundred years.

8. SUGGESTIONS:

- ✓ Online Institutional repository Search guide
- ✓ More awareness programmes on the Institutional repository
- ✓ More refined mechanism of search in DSpace

9. CONCLUSION:

Institutional repository of Presidency University is serving its users effectively. It is very helpful to disseminate historical information about such a glorious academic institution with 207 years of journey with many revolutionary steps towards better academic activities. It will also useful for the nation too to study its past and present.

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