

Workshop on BRAC University Digital Institutional Repository

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BRAC University has conducted a workshop entitled 'Developing a Digital Institutional Repository at BRAC University: Experiences and Challenges' recently. Library professionals from different universities and institutes participated in the workshop. The Vice Chancellor of the university Professor Dr. Jamilur Reza Choudhury inaugurated the newly established Digital Institutional Repository (DIR) program. The workshop provided an overview of the issues and challenges faced by BRACU library in setting up a Digital Institutional Repository service using

DSpace(dspace.bracu.ac.bd/dspace). A university-based digital repository is a service that fosters teaching and research by giving academics and researchers access to relevant materials, a higher profile to university research and providing public access to work carried out at the university. BRAC University is one of the pioneering private universities in Bangladesh. The university is determined to create an integrated and digital library system in order to support and enrich the academic and research activities of the university.

Professor Dr Jamilur Reza Choudhury spoke on importance of digital libraries. He urged the library professionals to establish their own repositories and make a network of university libraries for a greater benefit of the teaching-learning communities. While delivering the welcome address the Pro Vice Chancellor of BRACU Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed mentioned that a library is the heart of creating and disseminating knowledge in any university. Then he explained the different benefits of DIR and impacts for other universities in order to improve quality of teaching-learning and research activities. He mentioned that BRAC University is the first university in Bangladesh to establish Digital

Institutional Repository using open source software DSpace. The main purpose was to house and preserve the intellectual output of BRAC University. The repository will also increase access to and expands the visibility of the university's scholarly output.

The librarian of BRAC University Ms Hasina Afroz made a presentation on digital institutional repository and later conducted a demonstration and discussion session on the newly established DIR program. The participants showed their great interest in the digital repository program and expressed their willingness to receive training on the DIR program.

The librarian of BRAC University assured the participants that training program will be conducted for library professionals if they want to set up their own repository programs. The BRAC University Digital Repository Program including the workshop was funded by International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP), UK.