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Open Access Practice in National Science Library, Chinese Academy of Science

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Abstract

The article introduced the open access practice in National Science Library, Chinese Academy of Science, including institutional repository, OA resources integration, international partnership, and challenges.

Keywords: Open Access, National Science Library, Chinese Academy of Sciences, NSL, CAS

Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) has been focusing on and participating in open access movement. In 2004, Dr. LU Yongxiang, President of Chinese Academy of Sciences and Dr. CHEN Yiyu, Director of National Natural Science Foundation of China signed “Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities” (Berlin Declaration). Following that, CAS planed series of activities to introduce and improve open access in China. As the predominant institute of open access promotion in China, National Science Library (NSL) made the strategy of open access promotion in CAS. The article will introduce the open access practice of NSL in the 4 aspects: institutional repository, OA resources integration, international partnership, and challenges.

1 Institutional Repository

1.1 NSL-IR

As an essential part of institutional asset management strategy, the institutional repository (IR) is both the tool of knowledge management for institutes, and the development mechanism for institutional knowledge capacities. Since 2007, NSL has finished the developed self-archiving system based on DSPACE[1]. During the pilot in some institutes of CAS, the major challenges we encountered was the policy mechanism support. That means, institutes were not clear about what IR exactly means, and were not sure about which kind of policies would be suitable for their own institutions. On the purpose of investigation, National Science Library built up its own institutional repositories—NSL-IR, to investigate and deal with related problems possibly. Furthermore, as a best practice for institutes IR development, to market the IR further.

NSL-IR (http://ir.las.ac.cn) was in operation in February 2009, and archived knowledge content produced by the staff of NSL. During about 3 months operation, the contents submit and archived is increasing with a high speed. By the end of May 15, 2009, the number has reached 1309[2]. On a certain circumstances, the prosperity depends on the archiving policy mechanisms.

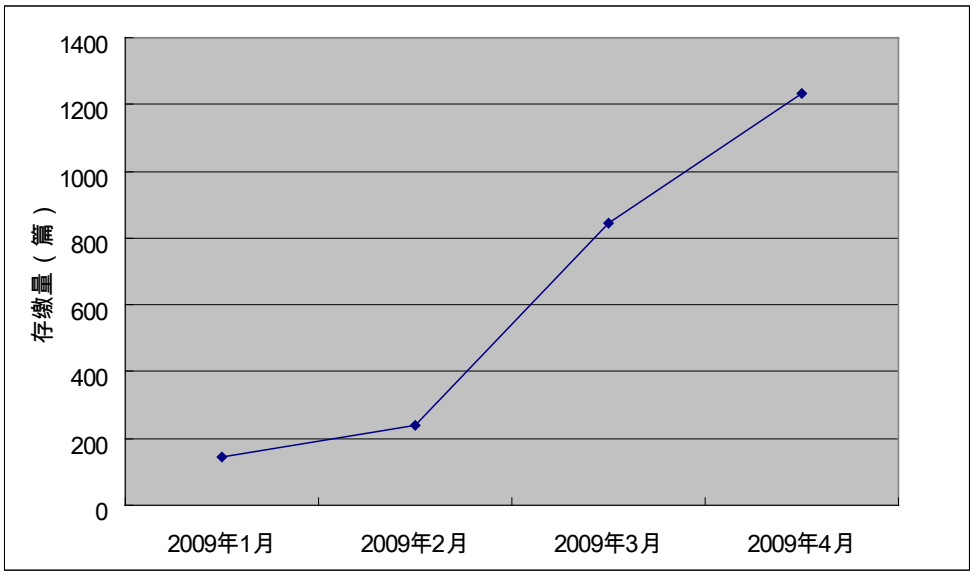

Figure1. The Contents archived in the NSL-IR (by month)

1.2 Policy Mechanism

During the preparing of NSL-IR operation, we drafted related archiving policies, guidebooks, and other mechanisms, which can be divided into 3 levels. Firstly, it is the basic principles and archiving policy. NSL adopted the mandate policy, which mandates the NSL members to archive the article to the NSL-IR 1 month after the article was published. The articles submitted by the NSL members will be one of the main evidences and references for the members' final year performance evaluation, which impacts on the salaries and other treatments of the faculties and staffs. The archiving policy also stipulates the dissemination principles and the mission of NSL-IR. Secondly, it is the related addendums. We drafted series of addendums, including

Copyright License Addendums, Conference achievements hosted by NSL Archiving License, Journals hosted by NSL Archiving License. For the CAS institutes whose articles published in foreign journals, we also translated and edited the RoMEO[3] Guidebook to introduce the foreign publishers' copyright licenses to CAS scientists. Thirdly, it is operational guidebooks, including the procedure of IR operation and IR system handbook. We provide the detailed documents of the IR operation procedure to the institute libraries, which are the IR operational department in the CAS institutes. Also, we edit many kinds of system handbook, for the users, administrators, and policy maker, with both the simple version and the detailed version.

1.3 CAS-IR Network

In 2009, NSL is planning to deploy the IR marketing strategy, which aims to promote each institutes of CAS to build IR of their own, and finally form the network of institutional repositories of CAS institutes. NSL will provide the policy, mechanism, and technology aids during the procedure. Subject librarians play a critical role in the issue. On the one hand, they trained the institute librarians how to build and administrate IR. On the other hand, they trained the students and faculties how to use IR. Meanwhile, they also persuaded and convinced the leaders of the institutes to support the IR in finance and policy.

2 OA Resources Integration

National Science Library investigated the open access journals, repositories, OA journal directories, and OA courseware. In order to facilitate the use of these resources, we integrated the resources into the NSL collection retrieval system. The users can access the resources through the unified retrieval platform.

According to the Digital Knowledge Collection Infrastructure Strategy of NSL, open access resources are regarded as one indispensable part of the Infrastructure. Besides of the traditional digital collection, NSL is thinking of developing the synthesized S&T information resources integrated services. A centralized information resources registered centre will be set up, to support for publication, registration, management and retrieval of distributed, heterogeneous collections and various services.

3 International Partnerships

3.1 Open Access Conference

NSL participates in the international open access movement and plays its special role. In 2005, NSL schemed and host the "International Conference on Strategies and Policies for Open Access to Scientific Information". Nearly 120 open access experts, librarians, and some institutional administrators took part in the conference. On behalf of the Chinese scientists, HU Qiheng, the Vice President of China Association for Science and Technology called for the practice of open access movement in China. It became the first conference, and the only one till today, held by the China mainland institution.

3.2 Chinese Open Access Portal

Besides, NSL set up the Chinese Open Access Portal (http://www.open-access.net.cn) as one of methods to sustainable support for open access. NSL defines its roles as a clearinghouse of international OA knowledge to support OA research and implementations, a study center for OA models, policies, and supporting mechanisms, a support base for OA training for OA implementers, policy makers and administrators, as well as general public, and a connection center for international cooperation in OA research and implementation.

There are 8 channels in the portal, i.e. (1) OA introduction, on the basic open access knowledge and information; (2) OA Newsletters, tracing and reporting OA newsletters, and translating the important ones; (3) OA Policy, policies from funding agencies and research institutes; (4) OA Research Reports; (5) OA Resources, OA journals, repositories and other directories for related research issues; (6) OA Tools, repository software platforms, directories of OA journals/repositories, registration systems, etc. (7) OA Conferences; (8) Related Links. We focused on the main websites in the OA field as the main sources of our portal, including the main OA portals, main OA conferences, main OA newsletters, blogs, mailing lists, main OA resources and Chinese research reports.

3.3 Collaborations

NSL also explores the collaboration with other institutions. Since 2007, we have engaged in the Sino-German Collaboration Program funded by Sino-German Center of NSFC, and DFG. One of the projects is on the open access policies and mechanisms.

Furthermore, NSL is discussing with BioMed Central about the BMC Membership and introducing open access to the institutes.

4 Challenges

During the open access practice, we encountered 2 issues which blocked the progress of open access practice: open access awareness and policy environment.

4.1 open access awareness

Currently, Scientists, even the institute leaders still learned less about open access. It is one of problems we should deal with in the near future. Nevertheless, the percentage of OA awareness is rising. In 2005, there is a survey on the open access awareness about the CAS scientists. Only 8% learned about open access[4]. Another survey held in 2006 revealed that 29.3% thought it is very possible to publish papers in OA journals in the future[5]. In 2007, another survey on constructing the website platform for journals said 45.8% agreed that establishing an OA website for journals is necessary[6].

4.2 Policy Environment

On the other hand, due to the low awareness, related supporting policies have not been decided. And the mechanisms are still waiting for being built.

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