

Open Electronic Library – from initiative to reality at the community of Kyrgyz libraries

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American University of Central Asia initiated the project on Open Digital Libraries of Papers of Kyrgyzstan scientists. We have used Open Source software - Dspace. Experience of the University stimulated to implement the corporative project in 2007, and 12 libraries of the country participated in establishment of Corporative Repository (Open Electronic Library) of Dissertations Abstracts. The electronic archive is the first project on Open Electronic Library Establishment in Central Asia, which combines Academics full text abstracts of dissertation on social, humanities, medicine and technical sciences.

Our corporative projects are called not only for achievement of their goals but also sustainable development of a project in future. Library community of our country has devised tactics for implementation of new ideas, technologies and projects, which includes phases of selection, evaluation, analyses, testing, integration levels determination and opportunities of corporative work, and building work team to implement new programs, software, corporate principles and develop normative basis for sustainability.

Pilot group of 12 leading academic and special libraries working together created normative base on corporative resource formation and copyright observance in open electronic library. Author's Contract, interlibrary agreements, guidelines, instructions has been developed with the support and cooperation of state institutions that coordinate copyright issues.

Web site of Corporative Repository is created:

<http://krad.bik.org.kg/>

Open Electronic Library (OEL) of Dissertations Abstracts of Kyrgyzstan scientists is accessible on <http://oel.bik.org.kg/>.

More than 100 users all around the world visit the OEL web-site every day. At present, the library includes 170 documents and grows every month. Number of participant-libraries has increased to 14 in 2008. On the basis of AUCA, we work for the information provision of documents in open electronic libraries in HTML format, which is easy to work, provide information more visually. We work on cross-reference links between resources of the repository and Electronic Catalogues of the Libraries. We consider that formation of Database of students' theses, research results and academic papers is an important informational base for e-learning development. Technological, normative and legal environment is created for future development of the project not only in our country but also in Central Asia. We intend to open electronic library of scientists' papers of Central Asia countries and Kazakhstan.

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Introduction

1. Idea of Open Access and Open Electronic archive
2. Organization principles and regulation base

3. Results and project development in a corporate repository of author's abstracts of dissertations
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Introduction

Open archives of scientific publications become the important part of the scientific information resources at university and at the scientific society. The American University in Central Asia became the first pilot university where the initiative of Open access and technologies of the Electronic Archive began to be realized and developed in Kyrgyzstan. Certainly, other universities also actively work on creation of their own collections of digital editions. But the work conducted on the AUCA has some principal differences. And the most important difference is that the principle of open access and wide distribution of the information is as a basis on the creation of the electronic collection. The good practice and experience on the creation of the Open Electronic Archive became a base of corporate project of Kyrgyz Libraries Information consortium.

Idea of Open Access and Open Electronic archive

The idea of creation and organization principles of Open Access archives have been presented on General Assembly EIFLnet consortium in 2005. Idea that the scientific information should be accessible, and scientists and researchers should have possibility to place results of the researches, to share experience of their work, to have possibility to carry out scientific communications has found broad support at the Kyrgyz libraries community.

The group of our university experts (librarian and IT specialists) could take part in training on use of Open Source software in December, 2005. It was EPrints software. At the same time we also studied another Open Source product – DSpace as an institutional repository (IR) solution. We have estimated these two programs and have chosen DSpace as a program environment because of some reasons: distribution of the software at the CIS countries, access to NITLE, DSpace Service opportunity, our IT specialist's qualification.

Main purposes of our work were:

- Formation of the modern intellectual electronic environment for development of a science and research activity at the university,
- Advancement and wide circulation of results of scientific, methodical and educational activity at university.
- Maintenance of an easy approach to the scientific information,
- Dissemination of our work results at the Kyrgyz libraries community and development of the corporate interlibrary base for creating corporate electronic archive (repository) of scientific information.
- Formation training base for the specialists from other libraries on creating their own electronic archives.

Organization principles and regulation base

For electronic archive creation as independent database it was necessary to fulfill technology and principles of its formation. Library community of our country has devised tactics for implementation of new ideas, technologies and projects, which includes phases of selection, evaluation, analyses, testing, integration levels determination and opportunities of corporative work, and building work team to implement new programs, software, corporate principles and develop normative basis for sustainability.

On a base of AUCA all technologies of the Electronic Archive (testing and installation of the repository software, documents digitalization, metadata entering and editing, etc.) have been developed. Certainly, the technical aspect occupied a lot of time, because it was our first operational experience with Open Source applications. Here the positive moments of the library

participation in NITLE and also the cooperation with the Ural State University, one of the few in Russia which experts also work with DSpace were defined.

It was also important to define with hardware and to execute a complex of works on placing of electronic archive in Internet and to provide open access to it. As many materials have been presented in printing, it was necessary to think over questions on their digitization, description and indexing. Each document in the Repository database contains the annotated bibliographic record with attached full text file in PDF format.

For us the questions of legal base maintenance of the formed collection and observance of the copyright norms were most important.

With this aim we have addressed for the help to State Patent service which experts have rendered strong support in working out of the author's Contract and the Agreement on placing of materials in electronic archive. This cooperation turned out to be fruitful and proceeds till now.

Therefore, our activity inside of the University was under construction in following directions: Work with university departments at all levels: from the head of the program to teachers, - informing about the initiative, clarification of Open access ideas, and also principles of our electronic library organization. For these purposes the library web site, sending of information by e-mail, meetings with faculty were widely used.

Working out of a repository standard base: Statement about electronic library (repository), conditions of materials including in collection, the form of the author's contract. Instructions for librarians-experts on digitization, indexing and materials placing in a collection were developed. Forming the technological environment including adaptation of the software, creation a web site of electronic library with the easy-to-use interface. IT Specialists worked over safety access to resources under condition of collection placing in open access in Internet.

AUCA Electronic library opened at the end of 2006 and the first documents presented in it were articles, books, methodical researches of our teachers, researchers, scientists, who were working in the library at various times. Quantity of materials was 72 items. Web page of the AUCA Electronic Library is accessible on <http://e-library.auca.kg> The students and faculty showed a keen interest to the resource because parts of articles, and also dictionaries, monograph were the materials included by teachers in curricula.

Thus our University has beforehand executed a complex of necessary workings out by an estimation and adaptation of software, has estimated degree of possible integration within the limits of corporation of libraries, has prepared experts-trainers (AUCA employees and IT experts) on training to work in the new electronic environment.

The next step was to publish the results of our activity at the Kyrgyz Libraries community and on base of our experience to work together for a future development of common corporate database.

Results and project development in a corporate repository of author's abstracts of dissertations

Being based on positive results, we have presented our activity in library community of the country and have received the big interest of many universities in creation of similar collections. As a result, on October 2006 the Kyrgyz Libraries Information Consortium in collaboration with AUCA library prepared "New forms of library service of scientists of Kyrgyzstan on the basis of creation of the corporate electronic repository of abstracts of dissertations project and submitted it to Soros Kyrgyzstan Foundation for financial support. On February 2007, the project, sponsored by Soros Kyrgyzstan Foundation, launched.

The main goal of the project was to implement the Corporate Electronic Repository (archive) of Full Text Abstracts of Dissertations (CRAD) in order to collect, store and provide open and free access to scientific work of scientists of Kyrgyzstan for all global research community.

In short terms we could generate a group of interested libraries which have decided to create a corporate resource together: the first corporate repository (archive) of author's abstracts of scientists of Kyrgyzstan in the country.

The pilot group under the project included 12 leading academic and special libraries working together created normative base on corporative resource formation and copyright observance in open electronic library. Author's contract between the author and University, the author and the library, the author and the consortium), an interlibrary agreement, guidelines, instructions has been developed with the support and cooperation of State Patent Service of Kyrgyz Republic that coordinate copyright issues.

As the result of the Project implementation (February–October 2007), the Open Archive of Scientific Work project was implemented, which is formed as a unique database of full text electronic abstracts of dissertations/ dissertations and is increased with new documents regularly.

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Open Electronic Library (OEL) of Dissertations Abstracts of Kyrgyzstan scientists is accessible on <http://oel.bik.org.kg/>.

More then 100 users all around the world visit the OEL web-site every day. At present, the library includes 170 documents and grows every month. 2 dissertations and 168 abstracts of dissertations in Russian and Kyrgyz languages on economics, natural sciences, medicine, technical sciences, history, etc. presented in the Corporate Repository database. Number of participant-libraries has increased to 14 in 2008.

It is not the first corporate project which is realized on the basis of Libraries Association of Kyrgyzstan. The united catalogues of books and periodicals constantly replenishes with new records in the country.

But uniqueness of our idea is that it was the first project on creation of a full-text electronic database and maintenance of open access to it.

We constantly work with our colleagues both in the library world and with scientists and constantly advance idea of placing the scientific information through open repository. Project presentations, round tables, seminars, active work from mass-media – all these promote to development of open access idea in our country, to attraction of new participants, expansion of information potential of an electronic collection.

For future sustainable development and support of the project Technology council was established, which included one representative of each participant library. All the decisions regarding the Corporate Repository of Abstract of Dissertations development as well as financial support have made on collegial base.

3 workshops for the Library community on Open Access, creation of the institutional repository, open archives of research publications, corporate repository implementation, etc. have conducted. On April 17, 2008 the Project Council decided to expand corporate repository collections through placing on monographs and research articles of scientists of Kyrgyzstan in the repository.

The future of the project development

Our University remains the pilot organization on improvement of ideas technologies promotion of open access to the information. Thereupon now work is conducted in following directions:

- The technology of the information representation in open electronic library in HTML which is easy to work, provide information more visually.

- Work on cross-reference links between resources of open electronic library and electronic library catalogue is conducted.
- Work with MBA and its students on formation of Database of students' theses and thesis of dissertation, research results and academic papers is conducted. This year in summer the first works will be placed in electronic archive.
- University placed the AUCA Academic Review from the first issue of its edition in open Electronic library as example of open access to the academic research resources.

Based on the positive results of our activity and also on a good partnership inside of the Kyrgyz Libraries Association we plan to expand our corporate repository at the expense of reviewed articles and monographs including in it.

The received experience, new knowledge certainly will also be extended within the limits of our consortium, and, thus in the country.

In conclusion we would like to notice that fact, that experience of our university on Open Source use in creation of electronic collections and initiators support of open access, and also a successful operational experience of our Library association on creation of the corporate repository have caused the big interest in neighboring countries of the Central Asia with which we successfully keep in touch for a long time.

Technological, normative and legal environment is created for future development of the project not only in our country but also in Central Asia. We intend to open electronic library of scientists' papers of Central Asia countries. At the end of the last year the representatives of consortia in our country, and also Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan signed the Agreement on the cooperation beginning in creation of a corporate repository of the scientists' works of our countries.