

An **institutional repository (IR)** is a **digital archive** where an **institution**, typically a **university**, **research center**, or **organization**, stores, preserves, and disseminates its intellectual output. It is designed to provide **open access** to scholarly **works**, **research papers**, **thesis**, **dissertations**, **datasets**, and other academic **materials**.

Key Features of an Institutional Repository: 1. **Open Access** – Provides unrestricted access to scholarly materials. 2. **Long-term Preservation** – Ensures digital preservation of institutional research. 3. **Content Management** – Organizes various types of academic content. 4. **Metadata and Indexing** – Enhances discoverability via search engines and academic databases. 5. **Compliance** – Helps institutions meet funding agencies' open-access mandates.

Common Contents in an IR: - Research articles (published & preprints) - Theses and dissertations - Conference papers - Datasets and reports - Books and monographs - Multimedia and learning resources

Popular Institutional Repository Platforms: - **DSpace** (widely used in academia) - **EPrints** (designed for open access) - **Fedora Commons** (flexible digital repository) - **Zenodo** (for research outputs)

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