

## **OPEN ACCESS DIGITAL REPOSITORIES ON ‘LAW AND POLITICS’ : A CASE STUDY OF OpenDOAR PLATFORM**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*The study reports the functioning of open institutional repositories on Law & Politics as registered in OpenDOAR. OpenDOAR website and the websites of individual institutional repositories were browsed to collect the required data. The study reveals that : There are 230 institutional repositories registered in OpenDOAR having contents on the subject ‘Law & Politics’ as on 6-3-2018. 96 % (220 ) of the open access IRs are operational. 175 (76%) open access IRs belong to institutional repository type. . 157 (68%) IRs have journal articles, 51 % (118) of them have theses and dissertations, 33 % of them have conference and workshop papers and 45% of them have unpublished reports and working papers. 169(73 %) institutional repositories have contents in English language. 23(10 % ) of IRs have contents in Spanish and 21 of them have contents in German. 84 IRs (37 %) use Dspace software. only 19 institutional repositories have defined their preservation policies. 124 (69%) IRs have not defined their content policies. 40 IRs (22%) have defined their submission polices. United States leads with 47 (20%) IRs followed by United Kingdom with 15 (7%) and Germany with 11(5%) IRs. European continent has a maximum of 93 (40%) IRs . It is followed by North American Continent with 52 IRs (23%) and Asian Continent with 39 (17%) IRs.*

**Keywords :** Institutional repositories, openDOAR, content types, repository software, preservation policy, Law & Politics.

### **INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORY**

Institutional Repositories are digital archives that capture, organize, preserve and disseminate the intellectual assets of a single institution or a group of institutions by forming a global system of distributed and interoperable digital libraries.

An IR may be defined as an on-line locus for collecting and preserving – in digital form the intellectual output of an institution, particularly a research institution (Wikipedia).

According to Lynch (2003) an institutional repository is a “set of services that a university offers to the members of its community for the management and dissemination of digital materials created by the institution and its community members. It is most essentially an organizational commitment to the stewardship of these digital materials, including long-term preservation where appropriate, as well as organization and access or distribution.”

### **OBJECTIVES OF AN IR**

With the increasing use of ICTs and availability of open sources software packages most of the institutions are maintaining such repository or archive to collect, preserve, and make accessible the entire intellectual product created by the scholarly communities of that institutions.

Main objectives for having an IR are:

- to create global visibility for an institution’s scholarly research;
- to collect content in a single location;
- to provide access to institutional research output by self-archiving it;
- to store and preserve other institutional digital assets, including unpublished or otherwise easily lost (“grey”) literature (e.g., theses or technical reports).

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

**Padma and Ramasamy (2015)** reported the functioning of institutional repositories in African continent. **Ramasamy and Padma (2015)** reported the functioning of institutional repositories in Japan. **Musa, Musa and Aliyu (2014)** explored the historical development, current practices and the challenges affecting the institutional digital repositories in Nigeria. **Padma and Ramasamy (2014)** reported the functioning of institutional repositories in Malaysia. **Ramasamy and Padma (2014)** carried out a study on the functioning of institutional repositories in India. **Nazim and Mukherjee (2011)** identified the present status of IRs in the countries of Asia. **Collen and Chawner (2010)** investigated the development of institutional repositories in New Zealand, exploring factors affecting the adoption and success of institutional repositories with the help of Data from a series of interviews with library managers and the findings from a randomized national survey of academics. **Karmakar, Das and Thakuria (2010)** outlined the role and importance of various institutional repositories (IR) in India.

**Padma and Ramasamy (2016)** carried out a study on the status of institutional repositories as registered in OpenDOAR as on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2015 in terms of their origin, continent and country-wise distribution, types of IRs, softwares used, subjects and languages of contents and the top 20 repositories. **Dhanavandan and Tamzilchelvan (2015)** discussed about the trends and development of Institutional Repository (IR) in south Asian countries in terms of name of the repositories, size, type, content and languages and various software. **Padma and Ramasamy (2014)** undertook a study to understand the functioning of open institutional repositories on Education worldwide. **Abrizah, Noorhidawat and Kiran (2010)** highlighted the current state of open access repositories of Asian universities.

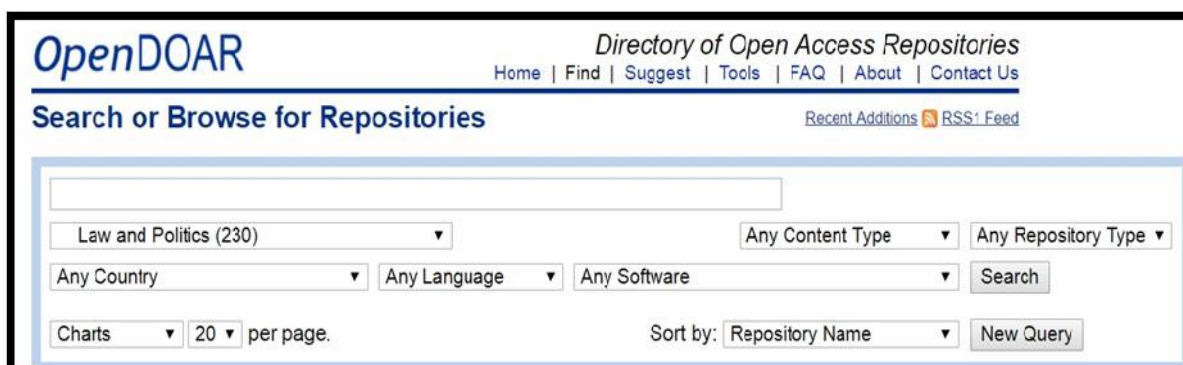
## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the present study are to study the open access IRs on Law and Politics as registered in OpenDOAR as on 06/03/2018 in terms of Operational status; Type of open access repositories; Repository software used ; Content types ; Most frequently used languages ; Availability of preservation and full-text re-use policy ; Growth rate ; Continent-wise proportion of IRs and Country-wise proportion of IRs.

## METHODOLOGY

**The modus operandi of our study underwent the following phases.**

1. First of all, the OpenDOAR directory was browsed with the relevant narrowed down search terms to find out the IRs holding contents on the subject ‘Law & Politics’.
2. The geographical area is set to be the repositories situated all over the continents.
3. Institutional repository statistics was done to get required data to answer the objectives of the study.
4. Then, the URLs of the selected IRs were browsed for cross checking and verification
5. Diagrams were utilized to present the inferences of the study.

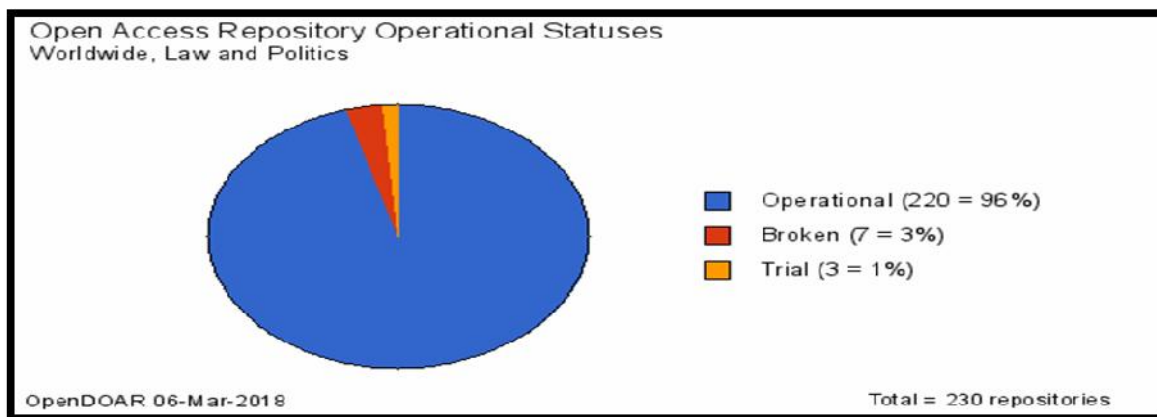


The screenshot shows the OpenDOAR search interface. At the top left is the 'OpenDOAR' logo. To the right is the text 'Directory of Open Access Repositories' with navigation links: Home | Find | Suggest | Tools | FAQ | About | Contact Us. Below this is the heading 'Search or Browse for Repositories' and links for 'Recent Additions' and 'RSS Feed'. The main search area contains a search input field, a dropdown menu for 'Law and Politics (230)', and dropdown menus for 'Any Content Type', 'Any Repository Type', 'Any Country', 'Any Language', and 'Any Software'. A 'Search' button is located to the right of these dropdowns. At the bottom, there are options for 'Charts' and '20 per page', and a 'Sort by: Repository Name' dropdown with a 'New Query' button.

## DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

### 1. OPERATIONAL STATUS OF IRs ON LAW & POLITICS

There are 230 institutional repositories registered in OpenDOAR having contents on the subject 'Law & Politics'. Diagram 1 shows that 96 % (220 ) of the open access IRs are operational. While 07 (3%) Open Access IR is broken, 3 (1%) are trial repositories.

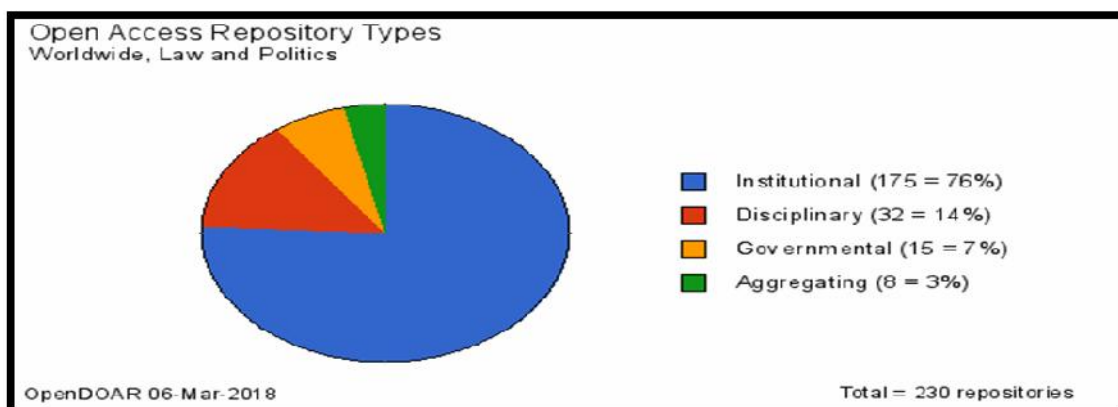


**Diagram 1: Operational Status**

### 2. TYPE OF INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORIES

The IR may of different types : institutional (run by a institution or department), disciplinary (a cross-institutional subject repository), aggregating (an archive aggregating data from several subsidiary repositories) or a governmental (repository for government data) .

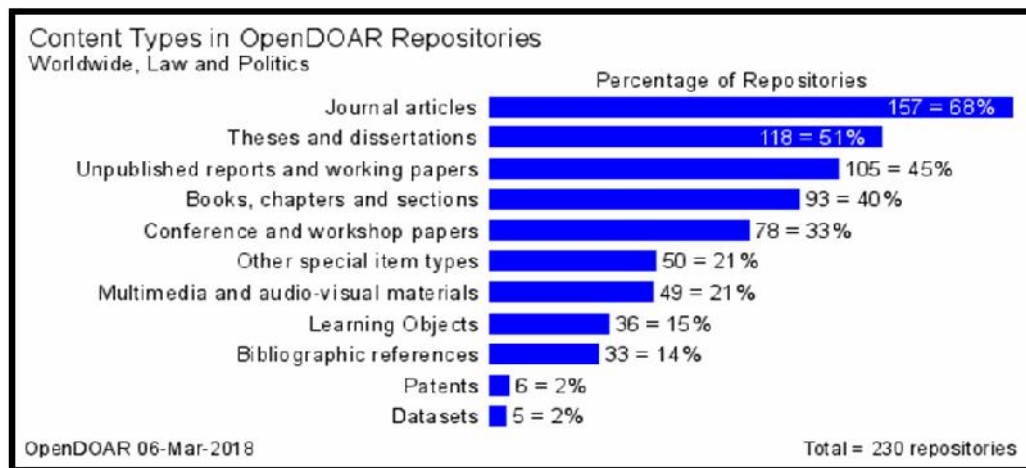
Diagram 2 shows that 175 (76%) open access IRs belong to institutional repository type. They are run by various institutes, universities or departments. While 32 of them (14%) are the discipline-oriented repositories, 15 (7%) are governmental repositories and just 08 of them (3%) are the aggregating units.



**Diagram 2: Open access IR Type**

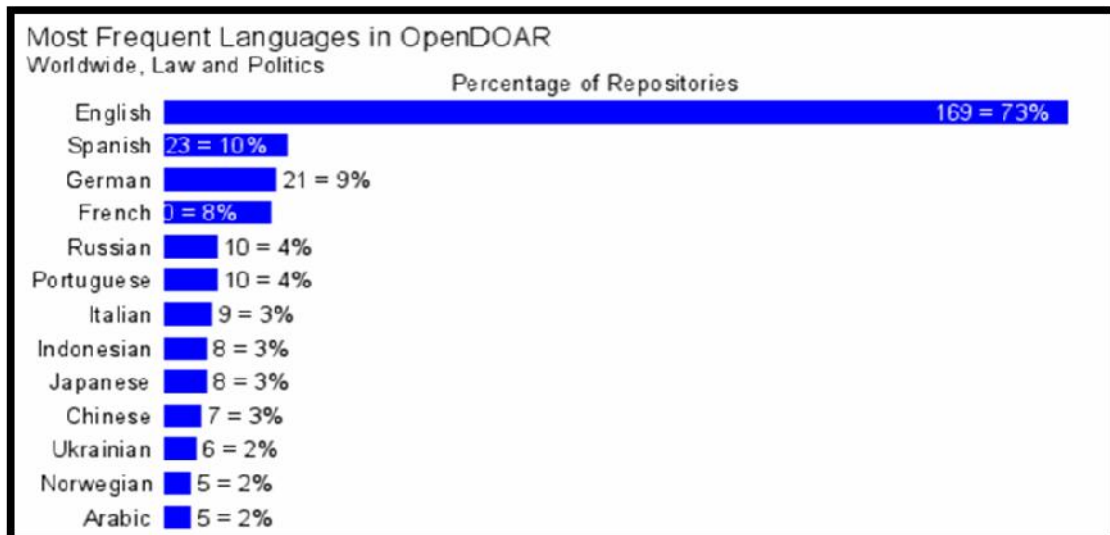
### 3. CONTENT TYPES IN IRs

The IRs on Computers and IT possess different kinds of materials namely journal articles, conference and workshop papers, theses and dissertations, book, chapters and section, multi-media and audio-visual materials and some learning objects. 157 (68%) IRs have journal articles, 51 % (118) of them have theses and dissertations, 33 % of them have conference and workshop papers and 45% of them have unpublished reports and working papers. 93 IRs have book chapters and sections, 36 of them have learning objects and another 49 of them contain multi-media and audio-visual materials.



**Diagram 3: Content types**

### 4. LANGUAGE CONTENT

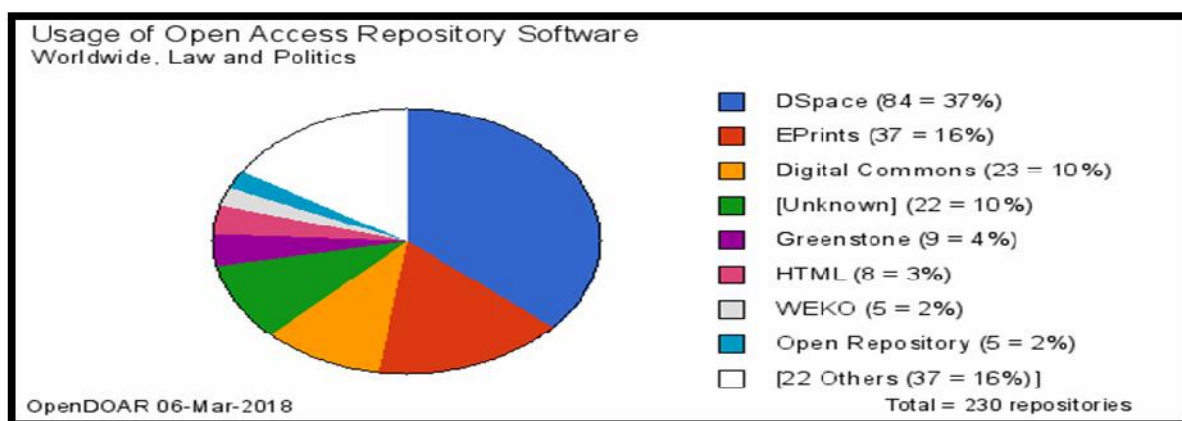


**Diagram 4: Language of the contents**

Diagram 4 shows that Out of 230, 169(73 %) institutional repositories have contents in English language. 23(10 %) of IRs have contents in Spanish and 21 of them have contents in German. While 10 (8%) have contents in French, just 4 of them have contents in Russian and Portuguese languages.

## 5. REPOSITORY SOFTWARE

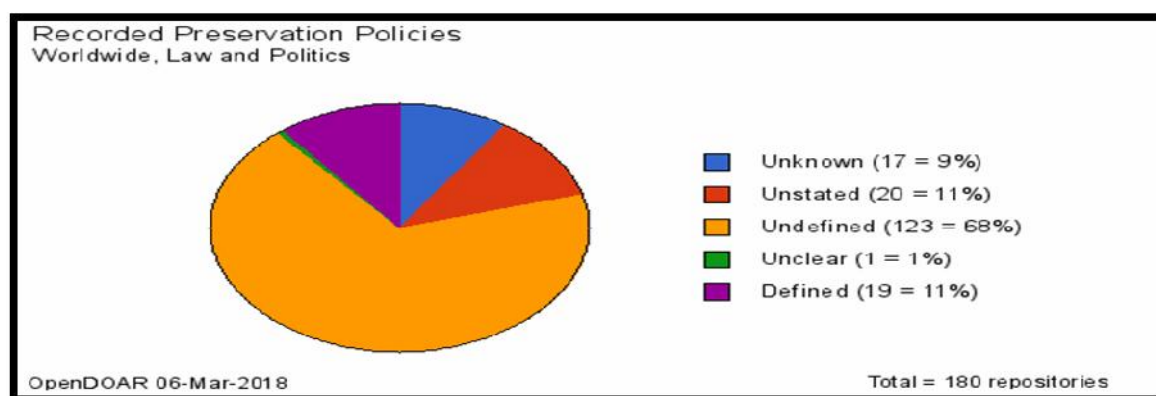
Diagram 5 depicts that Dspace software has emerged as the most used IR software in these IRs. 84 IRs (37 %) use Dspace software. While 3 IRs (16%) use Eprints, 23 IRs (10%) have used Digital Commons and 9 IRs have used Greenstone.



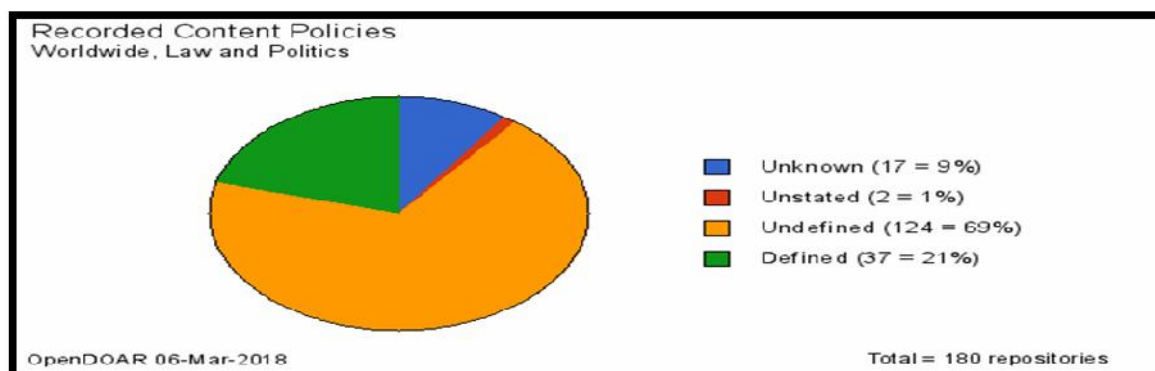
**Diagram 5: Use of Repository Software**

## 6 RECORDED POLICIES

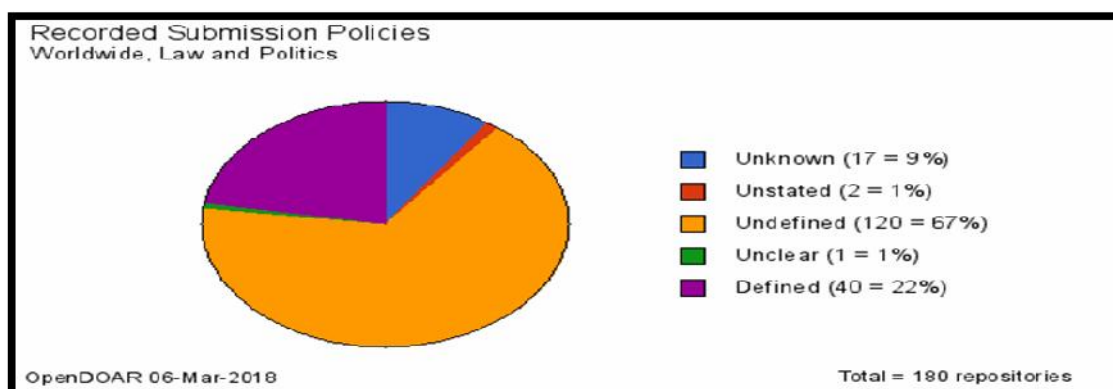
**Preservation Policies:** Diagram 6 shows that only 19 institutional repositories have defined their preservation policies and made it available in their IR portal. 123 (68 %) of them have not defined their preservation policies.



**Diagram 6: Availability of Preservation policies**



**Diagram 7: Availability of Content policies**



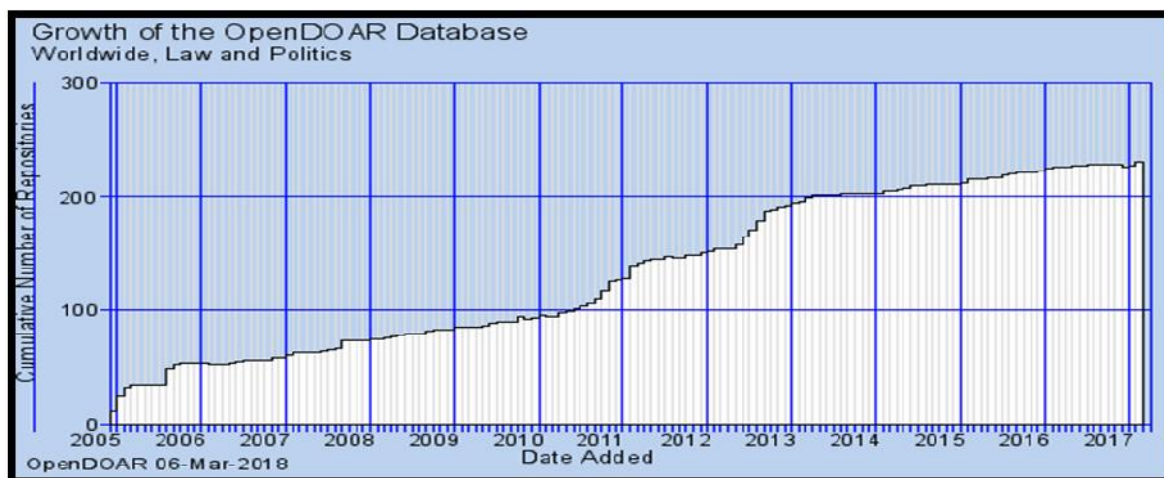
**Diagram 8: Availability of Recorded Submission Policies**

**Content Policies:** Diagram 7 shows that 37 IRs (21%) have defined their content policies while 124 (69%) IRs have not defined their content policies.

**Submission Policies:** Diagram 8 shows that only 40 IRs (22%) have defined their submission policies while 120 (67%) IRs have not defined their submission policies.

## 7. GROWTH OF OPEN ACCESS IRs ON LAW & POLITICS

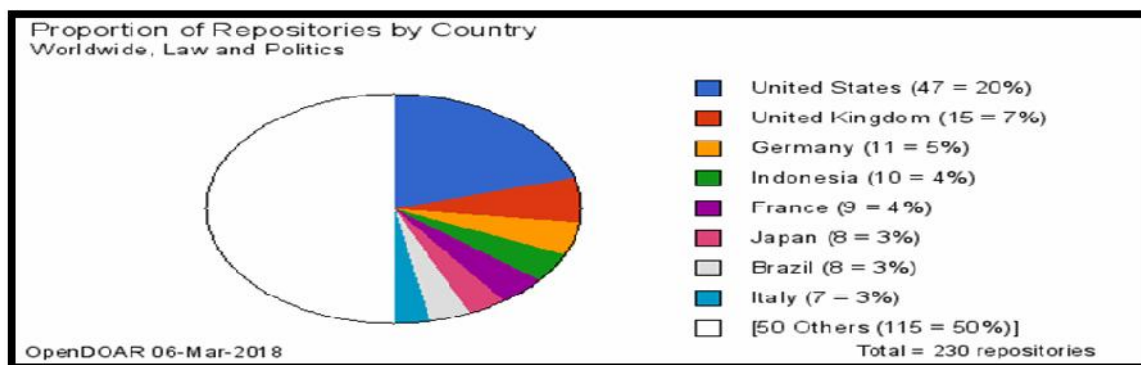
Diagram 9 shows the growth of open access IRs on Law & Politics. The birth of IRs took place in the year 2005. There is no much growth in 2006-2010. 100 IRs got established in first 5.5 years. There is a steep growth during in the years 2011-2013. There is a stagnation during 2014-2015.



**Diagram 9: Growth of the OpenDOAR Database on Law & Politics**

**9. PROPORTION OF REPOSITORIES BY COUNTRY**

Diagram 10 portrays that 50 % of the total IRs are available in 8 countries and the remaining are available in 115 countries. United States leads with 47 (20%) IRs followed by United Kingdom with 15 (7%) and Germany with 11(5%) IRS. While Indonesia has 10 IRs, France has 9, Japan and Brazil has 8 IRs each. Italy has 7 IRs.

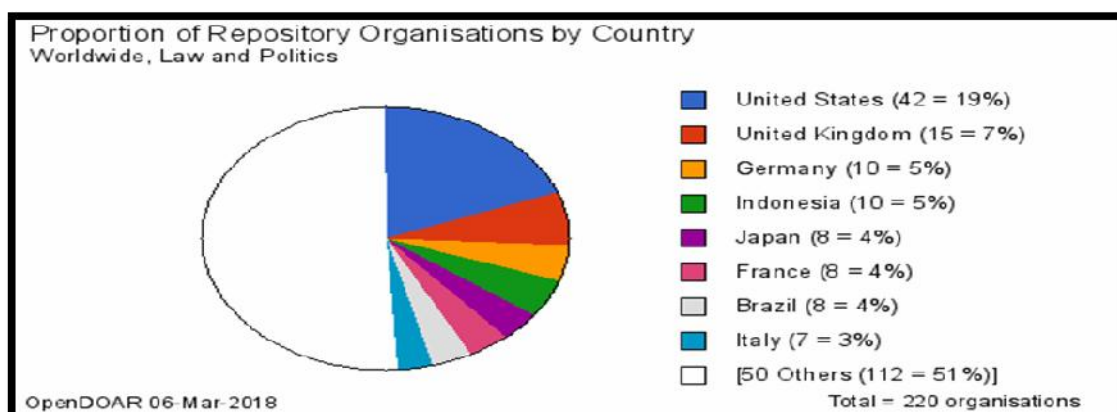


**Diagram 10: Country-wise IRs**

**10. PROPORTION OF REPOSITORY ORGANIZATIONS BY COUNTRY**

Diagram 11 shows that United States leads with 42(19%) repository organizations followed by United Kingdom with 15 (7%) and Germany and Indonesia with 10 (5%) repository organizations each. While Japan, France and Brazil have 8 repository organization each, Italy has 7 repository organizations.

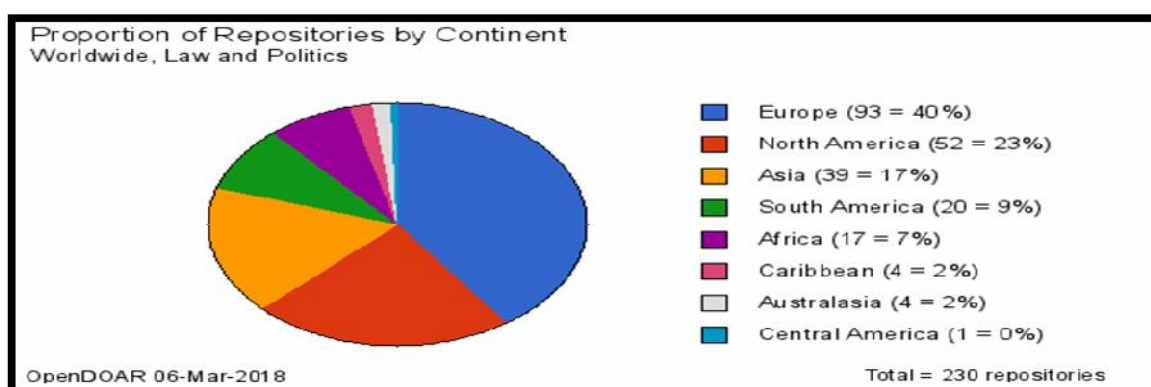




**Diagram 11 : Country-wise Repository Organizations**

### 11. PROPORTION OF REPOSITORIES BY CONTINENT

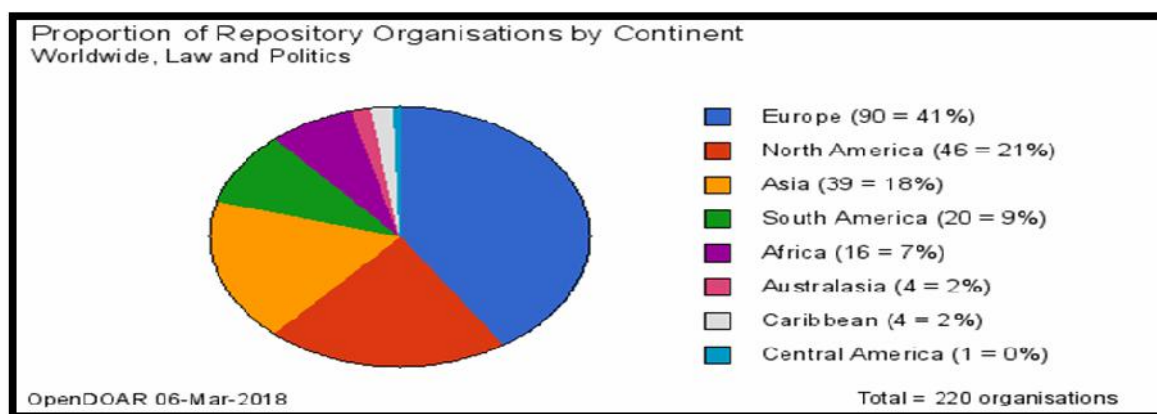
Diagram 12 portrays that European continent has a maximum of 93 (40%) IRs . It is followed by North American Continent with 52 IRs (23%) and Asian Continent with 39 (17%) IRs. South American continent has 20 (9%) IRs while African Continent has 17 (7%) IRs.



**Diagram 12: Country-wise IRs**

### 12. PROPORTION OF REPOSITORY ORGANIZATIONS BY CONTINENT

Diagram 13 shows that 41% (90) of repository organizations are from European Continent while 21% (46) of them are from North American Continent. While there are 39 (18%) repository organizations in Asia, South America has 20 (9%) and Africa has 16 (7%) repository organizations.



**Diagram 13: Country-wise Repository Organizations**

## CONCLUSION

Institutional repositories are being recognized as essential vehicle for scholarship in the digital world. This is evident based on the continuous growth of IRs around the world. Manpower requirements, quality and quantity of contents, metadata standards, technical specifications, copyrights barrier, and policy issues are major concerns that need to be addressed for developing IRs as component of open access knowledge movement. IRs have become a compelling and useful tool for collecting, organizing and disseminating intellectual output of an institute. Let more and more institutions / universities come forward to make their indigenous intellectual e-resources available on the open access publishing platforms like OpenDOAR and ROAR to ensure maximum utilization of resources sharing and caring.

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