

INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORY: A CASE OF THE SLOVAK UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE IN NITRA

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About 40% of scholarly publications written by authors from the Slovak universities are published via traditional communication channels – publishing houses. The rest belongs to the grey literature - publications issued by universities, research institutes, academia ... in both print and electronic formats, but not controlled by commercial publishing interests. The number of electronic publications increases rapidly, except for online also CD and DVD publications. There is an important role (not only) for academic libraries – conservation and long time archiving all of these documents.

Institutional repositories are one of the possibilities how to save university electronic publications. In some countries (the Netherlands, Germany, Australia) percentage of academic repositories is very high, but situation in the Slovak Republic is different. In spite a project of Slovak academic libraries oriented to common repository of electronic theses and dissertations, which started in 2005, the importance of grey electronic literature conservation is still underestimated.

Slovak Agricultural Library started in 2004 new project oriented to conservation of electronic publications. The main aims of the project are oriented to electronic publications collecting (collecting the University publications, mining and harvesting publications in the Internet) and their saving. Other aim is making these publications accessible from one point (in accordance with copyright rules) – via special bibliographic and full text database. For this purpose a special library system is applied. In the system work with multimedia, video, audio and full text documents is supported. The repository contains not only born-digital documents, but also digitalized ones (special collection of older library documents).

Problem of institutional repository building is closely connected to data safety, copyright, data backup and data archives, automated information retrieval but there are also aspects of its utilizing in the University e-learning programmes, which is still not very common.

In the case of the project described in the article emphasis is given to accessibility of publications which can be in three levels – university employee or student, library patron (neither university employee nor student) and visitor.