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## **HISTORICAL ASPECTS OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORIES IN HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS OF UKRAINE**

*The purpose of the article is to analyze the historical aspects of the formation and development of institutional repositories in higher education institutions of Ukraine and to identify the peculiarities of entering, organizing, and managing scientific and educational information in these digital resources under conditions of digitalization and the implementation of open science principles.*

*The research methodology is based on the application of historical-logical, systemic, comparative, and structural-functional methods, analysis of regulatory and legal documents in the field of education and science, as well as generalization of practical experience in the functioning of institutional repositories. The empirical basis of the study includes the institutional repositories of Leonid Yuzkov Khmelnytskyi University of Management and Law, Vinnytsia National Agrarian University, and Vinnytsia Humanitarian-Pedagogical College of a municipal higher education institution.*

*The article identifies the main stages of the evolution of institutional repositories, from the first electronic archives of scientific materials to modern standardized information systems operating on the basis of international metadata standards and information exchange protocols. A comparative analysis of repository types, their functional purpose, content structure, and software platforms, in particular Ubuntu/MySQL and DSpace, is carried out. Differences in the priorities and use of repositories at the university and college levels are substantiated.*

*It is established that the effectiveness of institutional repositories largely depends on the quality of metadata, compliance with copyright regulations, moderation procedures, and the level of digital competencies of participants in the educational process. The study proves that institutional repositories are an important tool for ensuring open access to the results of scientific and educational activities, increasing the academic visibility of higher education institutions, and integrating Ukraine into the global scientific space.*

*The article concludes that the further development of institutional repositories requires improving regulatory and organizational support, standardizing content submission processes, expanding the use of internationally recognized platforms, and strengthening the integration of repositories into educational and research activities.*

**Keywords:** *institutional repository, higher education institutions, open access, scientific information, metadata, digitalization of education.*

## **ІСТОРИЧНІ АСПЕКТИ РОЗВИТКУ ІНСТИТУЦІЙНИХ РЕПОЗИТОРІЇВ У ЗАКЛАДАХ ВИЩОЇ ОСВІТИ УКРАЇНИ**

*Метою статті є аналіз історичних аспектів становлення та розвитку інституційних репозиторіїв у закладах вищої освіти України, а також*

*визначення особливостей внесення та організації науково-освітньої інформації в цих цифрових ресурсах в умовах цифровізації та реалізації принципів відкритої науки.*

*Методологія дослідження ґрунтується на застосуванні історико-логічного, системного, порівняльного та структурно-функціонального методів, аналізі нормативно-правових актів у сфері освіти й науки, а також узагальненні практичного досвіду функціонування інституційних репозиторіїв. Емпіричну базу дослідження становлять інституційні репозиторії Хмельницького університету управління та права імені Леоніда Юзькова, Вінницького національного аграрного університету та Вінницького гуманітарно-педагогічного коледжу закладу вищої освіти комунальної форми власності.*

*У статті визначено основні етапи еволюції інституційних репозиторіїв – від перших електронних архівів наукових матеріалів до сучасних стандартизованих інформаційних систем, що функціонують на основі міжнародних протоколів обміну даними та метаданих. Здійснено порівняльний аналіз типів репозиторіїв, їх функціонального призначення, змістового наповнення та програмно-технічних платформ, зокрема Ubuntu/MySQL і DSpace. Обґрунтовано відмінності у пріоритетах використання репозиторіїв університетського та коледжного рівнів.*

*Встановлено, що ефективність інституційних репозиторіїв значною мірою залежить від якості метаданих, дотримання вимог авторського права, процедур модерації та рівня цифрових компетентностей учасників освітнього процесу. Доведено, що інституційні репозиторії є важливим інструментом забезпечення відкритого доступу до результатів наукової та освітньої діяльності, підвищення академічної видимості ЗВО та інтеграції України у міжнародний науковий простір.*

*Зроблено висновок, що подальший розвиток інституційних репозиторіїв потребує вдосконалення нормативно-організаційного забезпечення, стандартизації процесів наповнення, розширення використання міжнародних платформ та активнішої інтеграції репозиторіїв у освітній і науково-дослідний процес.*

***Ключові слова:** інституційний репозиторій, вища освіта, відкритий доступ, наукова інформація, метадані, цифровізація освіти.*

**Problem statement.** The modern development of information technologies has significantly influenced the system of higher education and scientific communication, contributing to the active implementation of digital forms of knowledge preservation and dissemination. One of the key tools of this process has become institutional repositories, which provide accumulation, systematization, and open access to the

results of scientific and educational activities of educational institutions. They increase the visibility of scientific research, promote academic mobility and integration of Ukrainian educational institutions into the global scientific and information space.

Consider the example of Leonid Yuzkov Khmelnytskyi University of Management and Law, where the institutional repository is used as an electronic repository of scientific publications of teachers, materials of scientific and practical conferences, monographs and qualification works of applicants for higher education. The functioning of the repository contributes to ensuring the openness of research results, compliance with the principles of academic integrity and the formation of a positive image of the university in the scientific and educational environment.

An important role in the dissemination of scientific knowledge is also played by the institutional repository of Vinnytsia National Agrarian University, which accumulates scientific developments in agrarian, economic, environmental, and technical sciences. The repository serves as a platform for the preservation and dissemination of scientific articles, dissertations, educational and methodical materials, and the results of applied research, which contributes to the active exchange of knowledge between scientists, education seekers and specialists in the agricultural industry.

Alongside university-level higher education institutions, institutional repositories are also implemented in municipal institutions of higher education. For the storage and distribution of educational and methodical materials, scientific and methodical teachers' publications, student scientific works and materials of pedagogical research, the repository is used in Vinnytsia Humanitarian-Pedagogical College of Municipal Institution of Higher Education.

This contributes to improving the quality of training for future teachers, developing their research skills, and creating an open educational environment.

Thus, the experience of Leonid Yuzkov Khmelnytskyi University of Management and Law, Vinnytsia National Agrarian University, and Vinnytsia Humanitarian-Pedagogical College of Municipal Institution of Higher Education confirms the important role of institutional repositories in the digitization of education, the development of scientific communication, and the implementation of open science principles at various levels of the education system.

**Analysis of recent research and publications.** Analysis of scientific research and publications shows that institutional repositories (IR) are becoming an integral part of modern academic infrastructure. Already in the early 2000s, Crow (2002) emphasized the role of IR as a strategic tool for preserving and disseminating scientific results. Later, Lynch (2003) noted that repositories not only provide long-term storage of materials, but also create a platform for open access to scientific research, which significantly increases the visibility of scientific works.

Suber (2012) considers IP in the context of the global Open Access movement, emphasizing that open access to scientific publications contributes to greater citation and integration of scientific results into the international scientific space. Pinfield et al. (2016) focus on the economic aspects of publishing in hybrid open access conditions, showing that the use of repositories reduces the «total cost of publication», especially when compared to traditional pay-access magazines.

Research by Ukrainian scientists (Kopaneva, 2019; Pasmor, 2021; Karpenko, Kobyzhch, 2023; Gorbach, Lyashuk, 2025) demonstrates the specifics of IP organization in higher education institutions in Ukraine. In particular, they note the importance of compliance with metadata standards and information exchange protocols (OAI-PMH); the use of modern repository management platforms (DSpace, EPrints); the implementation of academic integrity policies and content licensing through Creative Commons; organizational support for libraries and staff training.

Practical examples from Ukrainian universities, such as Leonid Yuzkov Khmelnytskyi University of Management and Law, Vinnytsia National Agrarian University, and Vinnytsia Humanitarian-Pedagogical College of Municipal Institution of Higher Education demonstrate different approaches to adding information to repositories and integrating with international open access catalogs (ROAR, OpenDOAR). This indicates the gradual development of digital infrastructure and the formation of effective mechanisms for ensuring open access to scientific materials.

Thus, research to date confirms that institutional repositories are a key element of scientific communication, ensuring the accessibility, visibility, and quality control of scientific materials, and requiring continuous improvement of the organizational, technical, and regulatory aspects of their functioning.

**Problem statement.** The purpose of this article is to analyze the development of institutional repositories in the higher education system of Ukraine, as well as to determine their role in ensuring open access to scientific and educational materials. Special attention is given to the practical experience of operating repositories at Khmelnytskyi University of Management and Law, Vinnytsia National Agrarian University, and Vinnytsia Humanitarian-Pedagogical College of Municipal Institution of Higher Education.

To achieve the goal, the work aims to solve the following tasks: analyze the main stages of the formation and development of institutional repositories in educational institutions; determine the role of repositories in disseminating the results of scientific activity and increasing the academic visibility of educational institutions; to study the features of the organization and content of institutional repositories in these institutions; to outline the advantages of using repositories for scientific and pedagogical workers and students; to identify promising areas for the development of institutional repositories in conditions of digitization of education and implementation of open science principles.

The implementation of these tasks will allow us to summarize the experience of using institutional repositories in educational institutions of various levels and justify their importance for modern educational and scientific activities.

**The paper main body.** The first electronic archives of scientific materials began to form at the end of the 20th century in parallel with the active development of the global Internet and digital communications. At the beginning, such archives were mainly informal and were used by scientists to exchange preprints, working versions of articles, and scientific manuscripts to quickly disseminate research results and obtain professional feedback even before official publication.

In the early 2000s, with the spread of the Open Access concept, electronic archives became systematic and institutionalized. Universities, public institutions, and research organizations began to purposefully create their own institutional repositories based on specialized software, which ensured a unified approach to the storage, description, and dissemination of scientific materials. The introduction of metadata standards and information exchange protocols made it possible to integrate local repositories into national and international scientific information systems [7].

In 2017, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine approved the «Regulations on the National Repository of Academic Texts» dated July 19, 2017, which emphasized the need to promote the development of educational, scientific, scientific-technical, and innovative activities by improving access to academic texts and the adherence to academic integrity [10].

Under conditions of distance learning and the martial law, repositories have gained relevance by ensuring open and free access to the intellectual achievements of scholars [8].

Institutional repositories have evolved into multifunctional information systems that cover a wide range of digital resources. In addition to scientific publications, they contain dissertations, qualification works, teaching materials, reports on the

implementation of research projects, and research data sets. In today's environment, repositories are seen as an important tool for implementing the principles of open science, which require transparency, accessibility, and reuse of scientific results.

Institutional repositories perform several important functions in the activities of educational and scientific institutions. They ensure long-term and reliable storage of scientific and educational resources, contribute to increasing the citation rate of publications and strengthening the academic reputation of universities. In addition, repositories support the principles of academic integrity and transparency, reducing the risks of plagiarism, and create conditions for free access to the research results of teachers and students for a wide range of users.

Submitting materials to the institutional repository is a regulated process that ensures the quality and reliability of the information posted. To this end, the administrators of the Institutional Repository develop a package of documents, which includes Regulations on the institutional repository; Author's Agreement; User Registration Instructions; Instructions for Uploading Documents; online presentation with step-by-step instructions for uploading documents, etc [8].

The first stage involves creating an electronic resource in accordance with established technical and format requirements, which guarantees the correct storage and reproduction of the document. The next step is to fill in the metadata, which contains key bibliographic information about the work, including its title, authorship, abstract, keywords, year of publication, and affiliation with a particular scientific field in one or more languages [6].

When placing materials in the repository, it is important to comply with copyright regulations and determine the conditions for accessing documents. The author or responsible person chooses the type of access – open or restricted, with the possibility of imposing an embargo. After uploading, the material undergoes a moderation stage, during which the submitted data is checked for compliance with the

requirements of the institutional repository. Based on the results of moderation, the document is published and becomes available to users in accordance with the specified access conditions. In some cases, if necessary, the document is returned to the author for revision.

Institutional repositories have become an integral part of the information infrastructure of higher education institutions, serving as modern digital platforms for accumulating, storing, and disseminating the results of scientific and educational activities. Their development contributes to the openness of science, the improvement of the quality of scientific research, and the integration of Ukrainian educational institutions into the international educational and scientific space [9].

The institutional repository of Vinnytsia National Agrarian University (VNAU) [13] is university-based and focused primarily on supporting and developing research activities. Its content covers a wide range of materials: from scientific articles and dissertations to conference materials and educational and methodological works. The main functional purpose of the repository is to provide open access to research results, increase their citation rate and the scientific visibility of the university at the national and international levels. The use of the Ubuntu/MySQL platform demonstrates a focus on stable and open software solutions that ensure reliable storage and accessibility of information.

The repository of Khmelnytskyi University of Management and Law (KUML) [14] is institutional, but has a clear focus on the humanities and law. Its main content consists of scientific publications by teachers, qualification works by students, monographs, and collections of scientific works. An important function of this repository is not only to preserve the university's scientific achievements, but also to ensure academic integrity through openness and transparency of scientific activity results. The use of the DSpace platform (IRLYKhUML) complies with international

standards for the organization of institutional repositories and contributes to the integration of the university into the global scientific information space.

The institutional repository of Vinnytsia Humanitarian-Pedagogical College of Municipal Institution of Higher Education (DSpace.VGPK) [12] was created with the aim of accumulating, organizing, preserving, and disseminating the college's intellectual achievements in the scientific and educational environment. The repository collects scientific and educational materials, monographs, textbooks, teaching aids, reference books, scientific articles, materials from scientific conferences, abstracts, dissertations, and student research papers for storage. The functional purpose of such a repository is to support the educational process, improve the methodological support of academic disciplines, and develop the research competencies of students. Unlike university repositories, it is more focused on the internal needs of the institution and the practical aspects of training future specialists [11].

**Table 1****Characteristics of institutional repositories of educational institutions**

<b>Educational institution</b>	<b>Repository type</b>	<b>Main content</b>	<b>Functional purpose</b>
Vinnytsia National Agrarian University (VNAU))	Institutional university	Scientific articles, dissertations, conference materials, teaching and methodical works	Dissemination of research results, increasing citation rates, open access
Khmelnysky University of Management and Law (KUML)	Institutional	Scientific publications by faculty members, qualification works, collections of scientific works	Ensuring academic integrity, preserving scientific achievements
Vinnytsia Humanitarian-Pedagogical College of Municipal Institution of Higher Education.	Institutional	Monographs, textbooks, tutorials, reference books, scientific articles, materials of scientific conferences, abstracts, dissertations, student research papers	Accumulation, organization, preservation, and dissemination of the college's intellectual achievements in the scientific and educational environment

*Source: formed by the authors based on their own research*

Table 1 provides the summarized description of the characteristics of institutional repositories of educational institutions, demonstrating their diversity in terms of type, content, and functional purpose, as well as their role in shaping an open scientific and educational space.

Thus, Table 1 clearly illustrates that institutional repository, despite their common goal of preserving and disseminating knowledge, differ in their functional content and priorities depending on the profile of the educational institution. They are an important tool for the development of open science, improving the quality of education, and integrating Ukrainian educational institutions into the global scientific space [10].

The platforms on which institutional repositories of educational institutions operate play a key role in ensuring the preservation, accessibility, and dissemination of scientific and educational resources. Their choice is determined by both technical capabilities and the strategic goals of universities.

**The Ubuntu/MySQL platform** used for the institutional repository of Vinnytsia National Agrarian University is an example of building a repository based on open-source software. The Ubuntu operating system ensures the stability, security, and flexibility of the server environment, while the MySQL [13] database management system is responsible for the reliable storage of large amounts of structured information. This platform allows the repository to be adapted to the specific needs of the university, integrated with other information systems, and provides uninterrupted user access to scientific materials. At the same time, such solutions require constant technical support and the involvement of specialists in server and database administration [5].

**DSpace**, which hosts the institutional repository of Khmelnytskyi University of Management and Law (IRLYKhUML) [14] and Vinnytsia Humanitarian-Pedagogical College of Municipal Institution of Higher Education (DSpace.VGPK) [12], is one of

the world's most widely used platforms for creating institutional repositories. It is specifically designed for the storage, systematization, and long-term archiving of scientific materials. DSpace supports international metadata standards (including Dublin Core), the Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting (OAI\_PMH) for data exchange and indexing in global scientific search engines. This significantly increases the visibility of scientific publications and promotes adherence to the principles of open science and academic integrity. The platform has a user-friendly web interface, a system of roles and access rights, as well as the ability to perform statistical analysis of resource usage.

In general, Ubuntu/MySQL [13] as an infrastructure solution gives universities greater freedom in configuring and developing their own repositories, while DSpace [6] offers a comprehensive, standardized, and internationally recognized environment for managing scientific collections. Both platforms effectively perform the tasks of preserving and disseminating scientific achievements, but differ in terms of versatility, scalability, and technical support requirements.

Entering information into institutional repositories is one of the key stages of their functioning, since the quality, accessibility, and further use of scientific and educational materials depend on how this process is organized. The specifics of filling repositories are largely determined by the type of software platform on which they operate, as well as the level of standardization and automation of work processes.

On repositories created based on **open server solutions (in particular, the Ubuntu environment using MySQL)** [1; 2], the process of entering information is usually flexible but more technically oriented. Materials are uploaded via specially designed web forms or administrative interfaces that can be adapted to the needs of a particular educational institution. This approach allows for the specifics of scientific fields, document types, and internal university requirements to be considered. At the same time, filling in metadata often requires users to have basic technical knowledge,

and quality control of information largely relies on repository administrators. This increases the flexibility of the system but requires well-established moderation procedures.

On platforms such as DSpace [3; 4], the process of entering information is more standardized and structured. Users self-archive materials through a step-by-step interface that involves the sequential entry of metadata (title, authors, abstract, keywords, publication date, etc.) in accordance with international standards, primarily Dublin Core. The system automatically ensures the correct organization of data, supports document version control, and allows you to configure access levels. An important feature of DSpace is its built-in moderation mechanism, whereby materials are published only after verification by responsible persons, which promotes academic integrity and copyright compliance.

A common feature of different platforms is the need for **high-quality metadata**, as it ensures effective search, indexing, and integration of repositories into international scientific information systems. However, the level of automation of this process varies: while in DSpace a significant part of the metadata requirements is implemented at the system level, in individually configured repositories based on server solutions, the responsibility for compliance with standards largely rests with users and administrators.

Thus, submitting information to institutional repositories on different platforms has both common features and specific characteristics. The choice of platform determines the balance between flexibility of settings and the level of process standardization, which directly affects the effectiveness of using the repository as a tool for open science and digital transformation of higher education institutions.

**Conclusions of the research.** Institutional repositories have become an integral part of the information infrastructure of higher educational institutions, serving as modern digital platforms for accumulating, storing, and disseminating the results of

scientific and educational activities. They ensure the implementation of the principles of open science, promote transparency of scientific processes and free access to knowledge, which has a positive impact on the quality of research and the development of academic communication.

The experience of institutional repositories of higher educational institutions (in particular, VNAU, KUML, and VHPC) [12; 13; 14] shows that their use increases the scientific visibility of research results, contributes to the growth of citation indicators, and shapes a positive image of universities in the national and international scientific community. This, in turn, creates favorable conditions for the integration of Ukrainian higher education institutions into the global scientific and educational community.

At the same time, the effectiveness of institutional repositories largely depends on the level of organization of the processes of filling and administering them. The quality of content, the accuracy of metadata, compliance with copyright and academic integrity standards are key factors in creating a reliable and functionally valuable information resource. Under such conditions, repositories perform not only an archival but also a practical role, being actively used in the educational process, scientific research, and the management of educational activities.

Considering the results of the analysis of the functioning of institutional repositories of higher educational institutions and their role in shaping an open scientific and educational environment, it is advisable to identify several practical proposals, the implementation of which will contribute to improving the effectiveness of their activities.

First and foremost, it is necessary to improve the regulatory and organizational support for institutional repositories. This involves developing and implementing clear internal regulations that would define the procedure for filling, moderating, and regularly updating content, as well as the responsibilities of participants in this process.

An important area for further development is the standardization of metadata in accordance with international requirements, in particular the Dublin Core standards and the OAI-PMH. Compliance with these requirements will ensure the compatibility of institutional repositories with global scientific information systems, facilitate the indexing of materials in international databases, and increase their scientific visibility.

To effectively utilize the potential of repositories, it is advisable to improve the digital skills of scientific and pedagogical workers and students. Conducting training sessions, preparing methodological recommendations, and providing consultations on working with institutional repositories will contribute to more active involvement of the academic community in the process of filling and using these resources.

Special attention should be paid to increasing the use of institutional repositories in the educational process. It is advisable to use them more widely as a source of teaching materials, qualification works, and student research, which will improve the quality of the educational process and contribute to the development of research competencies among students.

It is equally important to further develop the technical infrastructure of repositories, to ensure their stable operation, adequate level of information security, and user-friendliness. The use of modern platforms, such as DSpace, as well as open server solutions, will improve the functionality of repositories and ensure their compliance with the modern requirements of the digital educational and scientific environment.

The implementation of the proposed measures will contribute to improving the efficiency of institutional repositories and strengthening the competitiveness of Ukrainian higher educational institutions in the context of digitalization and globalization of the educational and scientific space.

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