

## SELF - ARCHIVING PRACTICES: PERCEPTIONS OF SCHOLARLY RESEARCHERS IN LIS FROM INDIAN INSTITUTES IN INDIA

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Academicians and researchers are fond to publish their articles in the reputed journals, but due to the excessive fees of open access journals it becomes difficult. Over the years, there was one practice which emerged in the publication sector, termed as ‘self-archiving’ or ‘open archives’ means free of charge and accessible online to all people interested in reading the articles. Self-archiving has benefited to enhance the visibility and impact of their work and they are downloaded and cited more frequently. Researchers get confidence to upload their creative ideas which can reach to quite a larger audience giving them recognition in their respective fields. ResearchGate, Academia.edu, Kudos, Mendeley.com, E-prints, etc. are platforms, along with these there are IRs and Personal websites where the researchers deposit their scholarly works. The present study, finds about the perceptions of researchers on self-archiving. Through the study it was found that almost 92% researchers were aware of self-archiving. Also, major findings were that ResearchGate is the networking site that was used by the researchers for uploading their research works.

**KEYWORDS:** Academia; E-prints; Institutional Repository; Open Access; Open Access Initiative Movement; Research Gate; Self-archiving; SHERPA/RoMEO, Wiley Journal

### INTRODUCTION

The meaning of “Open Access” is free accessibility through internet to the public. It allows the users to read, download, copy and also to link the full-texts articles to that. "Self-archiving" refers to making "e-prints" available through Web to the users interested. An e-print can be termed as either a digital preprint or a post-print. The pre-print is the article copy which has been submitted to the scholarly journals. The articles are being first submitted for peer-review of that paper and to get the editorial acceptance, after editing. Nevertheless, the term post-print is referred to those articles that are been submitted to the scholar journals, which do not have to go through peer-review serials (Sawant, 2009).

Self-archiving can be referred to as one of the practices where the scientific literature in the digital format can be made available online. In other words, self-archiving is the practice that makes one's articles, paper, theses, dissertations free and open to access, use, share and view content with the help of web. Because of this, it increases the impact and citation rate for their works (Cerejo, 2013).

Due to self-archiving, researchers can make their scientific work freely and easily accessible to larger audience, which can otherwise remain excluded from the wider information and knowledge because of journal's high price. Because of increased visibility it also expands the number of citations on those articles. Self-archiving saves the researcher's time and effort. It can help the researchers to enhance their ability of openness to their previous publications in their funding applications.

Lupton (2013), argued that "making your research available on open access services increases citation and helps ensure greater impact." According to him self-archiving is the method through which there would be an advantage of having access to a wider audience.

Smith (2013), "84% of the authors thought that much more could be done to make them visible globally. Likewise, there can be an example of 'Emerald' publication. Who asks the authors, "when you have published your next paper with Emerald, you will also have all the tools at your fingertips to self-promote your work and see how much more you can grow your citations, disseminate your work to an even wider audience and build the impact of your research on journals." (Smith, 2013).

### SHERPA/RoMEO

SHERPA/RoMEO is an online resource that collects and evaluates publisher's Open Access policies from all over the world. The system also provides an abstract of these policies regarding self-archiving and copyright permissions and rules which are given to the authors. RoMEO is a JISC service and has its collaboration with many of the international companies that contribute for the development and maintenance of this service.

There are four categories of archiving rights, which are developed from the original RoMEO list. It contains four colors in which the content is accepted by the publisher.

	Pre-print as well as Post-print PDFs
	Post-Print PDFs (final version)
	Pre-Print PDFs (pre-refer)
	Not Supported

**Figure 5. SHERPA/RoMEO colour chart**

There is a list of conditions and restrictions that the publisher imposes while governing the archiving activities such as authors must always

acknowledge the publisher's copyright policies and blocking the access to e-version of the print.

- SHERPA Services

- Sherpa RoMEO
  - Sherpa Juliet
  - OpenDOAR
  - Sherpa Fact
  - Sherpa REF
- (<https://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo>).

The research paper undergoing is particularly on the perceptions of those authors that have already self-archived their articles in various ways all over India. Also, it will discuss about whether these authors actually do follow the SHERPA/RoMEO standard of copyright policies or any other such standards. The research study also sees the problems that the authors face during the process of self-archiving. Along with these how do the various self-archiving platforms work for these researchers.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Lone (2008), has reported that in Open Access Literature, India stands for its continuous contribution. Self-archiving is one of the viable options for increasing the impact of research by making it freely and widely accessible (Arunachalam & Muthu, 2011), Cerejo (2013) and (Musa et al, 2016). Open access journals are those electronic journals which are available freely to the researchers. They mirror the quality assurance practices of conventional journals, such as editorial oversight, peer review, and copy editing (Sawant, 2016). The publisher's self-archiving copyright policies had no such influence on the author's practice of self-archiving (Antelman, 2006). A recent study by Spezi et al, (2013) had reported that authors self-archive voluntarily, on requirement or publisher's invitation, etc. Self-archiving has the ability to

enhance the accessibility of the scientific and technological data and knowledge which is being generated in Africa as well as other developing countries worldwide (Contreras 2012; Chisenga 2012). According to Harnad (2001), self-archiving is depositing free copy of our work online by authors to facilitate free availability. According to Sawant (2009), the current scenario of Open Access Journal Initiatives in India was discussed in her study which focused mainly on the concepts of type, funding agency/host organization, full text availability of the articles, etc. Open University member's network uses Academia.edu for Humanities and Social Science as well as 30,000+ profiles can be found majority of graduates and users all over world Jordan (2014b), Menendez et al. (2012) and Nández and Borrego (2013). Rathemacher et al. (2016), had found that researchers should be careful with their creative ideas while uploading them on any of the commercial networking sites, because if they fail in doing so, they might violate the copyright policy of that particular publisher. Mark and Shearer (2006), viewed institutional repositories as getting back the informative output from the researchers as well as the staff members of that institutions which can help to accelerate the movement towards Open Access sharing of knowledge. Goutam and Dibyendu (2014), studied the failure of participation in IR by faculties. The study detected that there are hundreds of policies which had been adopted by the organizations at various levels as it showed the positive impact of the policies on the repository's content (Xia et al, 2012). Haustein, et al. (2014) and (Ortega, 2015a), also reported that Google Scholar Citations was used to check citations and reached for half million profiles in less than four years, while Academia.edu and RG

were used to upload papers. According to Baro et al. (2018), in Africa many of the academic librarians of the institutions and universities keep checking the publisher's website for copyright policies before they submit their works in that platform.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research methodology is one of the specific procedure or process which is used to identify, select, and analyze the information regarding a specific topic. To learn about self-archiving practices and policies of the academic researchers and scholars, following objectives were framed by researcher.

- To identify the usage level of self-archiving platforms. (ResearchGate, Academia.edu, e-Prints, Mendeley, Kudos, etc.)
- To learn the extent and use of institutional repositories and personal websites.
- To identify the copyright rules and policies regarding self-archiving.
- To understand about the pros and cons of self-archiving practices.
- To know the benefits of the self-archiving practices among the researchers.

For this particular research study, 'Survey' method was used and data collection tool was 'Questionnaire'. The questionnaire was developed with the help of Google Forms consisted of total 27 questions, of which there were more close ended questions rather than open ended. From E-LIS repository, there were almost 95 Indian researchers were identified. Similarly, from Academia around 60 Indian researchers

were identified and considered as sample. Thus, the sample was selected appropriately and contacted through email. The google form link was sent via email, thus the data was collected. Later the data was analysed with the help of means and percentages and the relevant conclusions were drawn. Before the main data collection, a pilot study was conducted to test whether the questions written in questionnaire were appropriate or not. The response rate for the conducted researcher was 54%.

## DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

### General Information

In the first section of the questionnaire there was question on the personal information of the researchers, including their names, name of institutes, e-mails, and years of experience. It has been observed that 23% (18) of the respondents were having the experience between 16 to 20 years. For 11 to 15 years there were 18% (14) respondents who had this work experience. After that 16% (13) of the researchers were working for almost 0 to 5 years and similarly for 6 to 10 years the experience rate was 18% (14) of the respondents who fall under this category. The experience rate for 21 to 25 years of working has been observed for 9% (7) researchers. Similarly, it is been observed through the study that 8% (6) respondents had the experience between 26 to 30 years. And lastly, the researchers who were working for more than 30 years are only 8% (6).

The questionnaire was shared with all the researchers those who are currently working or had retired. About 87% (67) researchers were working professionals in various institutes. The questionnaire was also filled by some of the

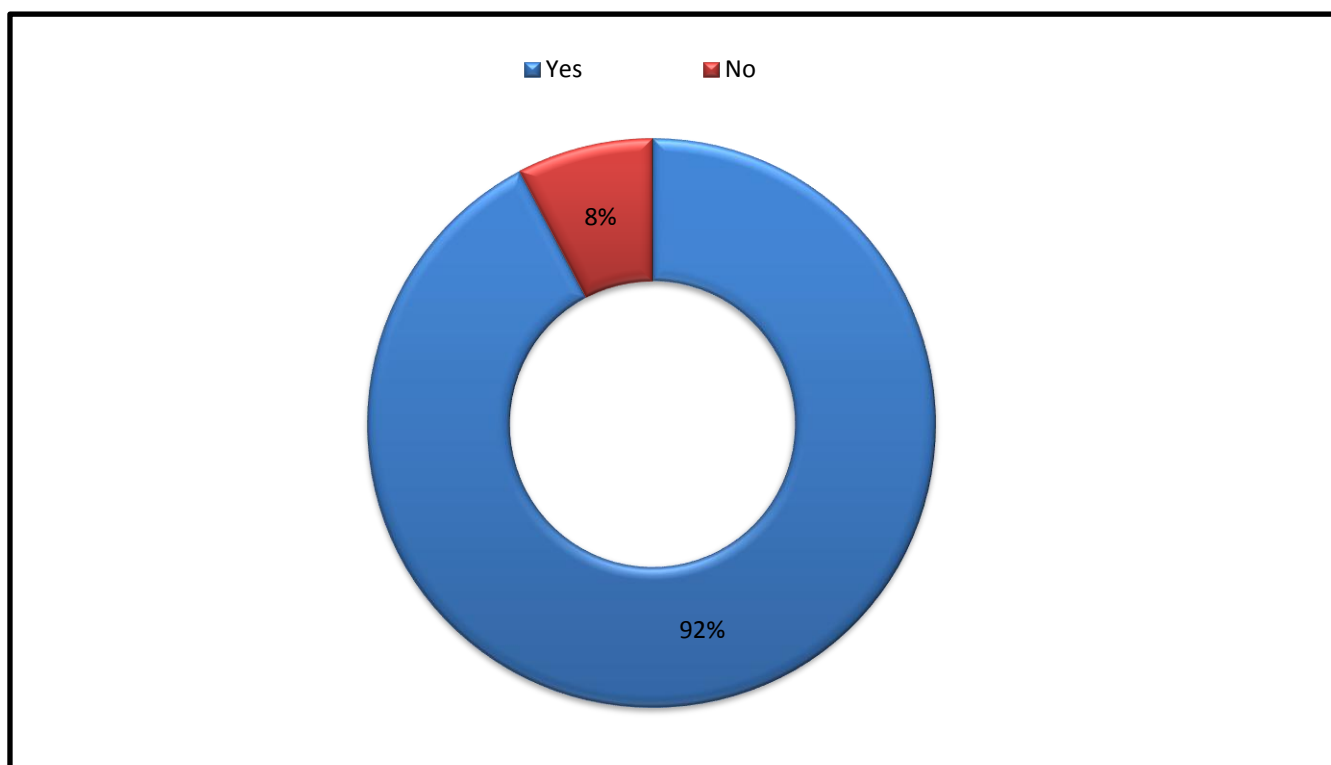
research scholars, who are 10% (8). It had depicted that 3% (2) of the researchers who filled the questionnaire were retired. There was 1% (1) respondent who avoided to answer the question.

### Self-archiving

Self-archiving is one of the methods to make one's scholarly work available to the public on web. The scholarly works that are to be shared includes conference papers, articles, thesis, dissertations, and more. A scholarly work is

considered to be self-archived if it has been posted on personal or professional web site, deposited in an institutional repository or disciplinary archive

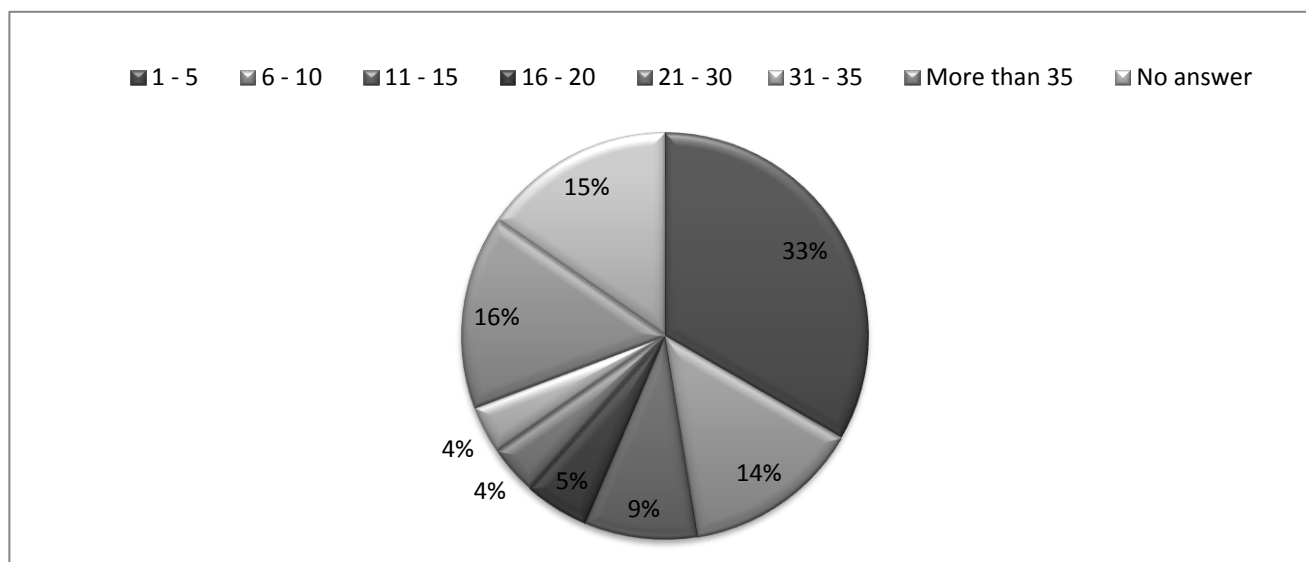
From the figure no. 2, it can be noted that 92% (72) respondents were aware of the various self-archiving options. Whereas, 8% (6) respondents were unaware of the self-archiving options. Those participants had said 'No', after further investigations it was observed that their co-authors archived the papers.



**Figure 2. Awareness of self-archiving options**

Further, in the questionnaire there was a question in which respondents were asked the total number of research works that the respondents had self-archived. It has observed that 33% (26) respondents had archived almost 1 to 5 articles.

Later it was seen that, more than 35 articles were archived by just 16% (12) of respondents. For 21 to 30 and 31 to 35 the archiving rate was similar i.e., 4% (3) each.

**Figure 3. Number of articles self-archived**

Name of Self-archiving platforms	In numbers	In percent (%)
ResearchGate	44	56%
Academia	32	41%
e-Prints E-LIS repository	24	31%
Mendeley	22	28%
Kudos	2	3%
Total number of respondents responded		100%

**Table 9. Self-archiving platforms**

Other	In numbers	In percent (%)
Institutional Repository	2	3%
Personal Website	1	1%
Blogs	5	6%

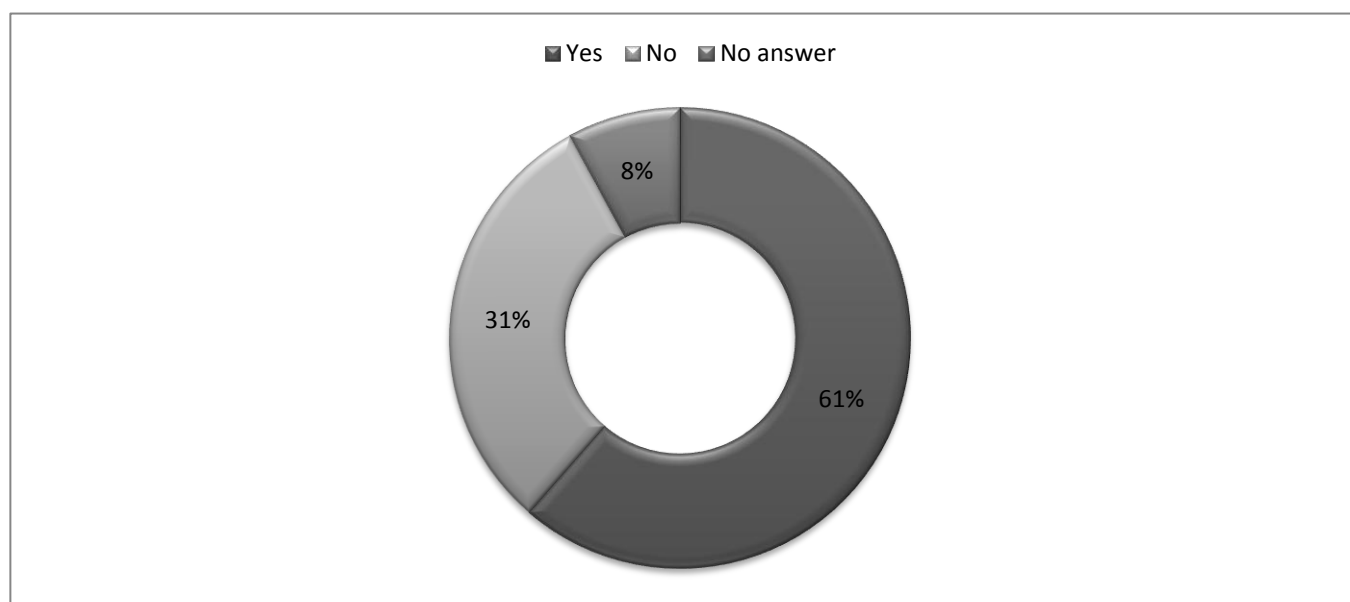
**Table 10. Other options for self-archiving**

It was found that 70% of the users had a profile in Google scholar whereas 27% did not have any such profile. Also, there were some 3% people those who avoid to give the answer.

Further linking to this question, the next was asked that whether the respondents do monitor their article citations before archiving and after archiving using Google Scholar. It was depicted

from figure no. 4 that almost 61% (48) of the participants were aware of this feature and they

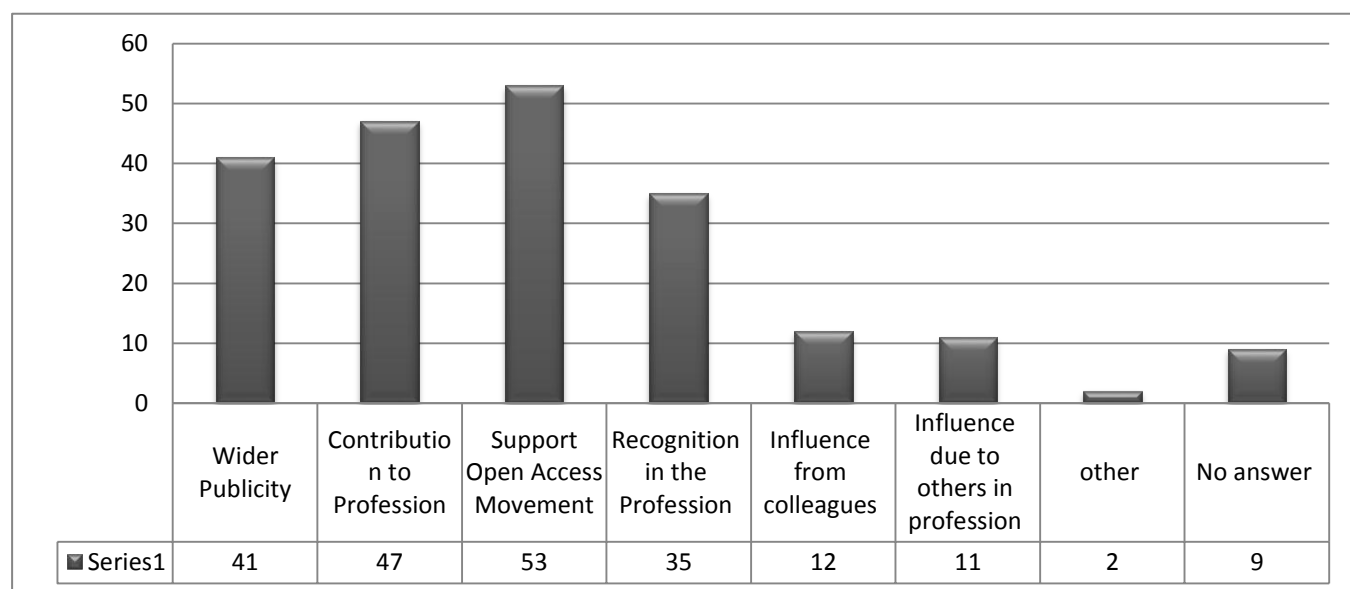
do monitor the citations. And 31% (24) respondents were not monitoring their citations.



**Figure 4. Monitor Citations before self-archiving and after self-archiving through Google Scholar**

When respondents were asked about reasons of self-archiving, it was observed that 68% (53) respondents believed that, due to self-archiving of their articles it will indirectly support the Open Access Movement. Almost 60% (47) participants

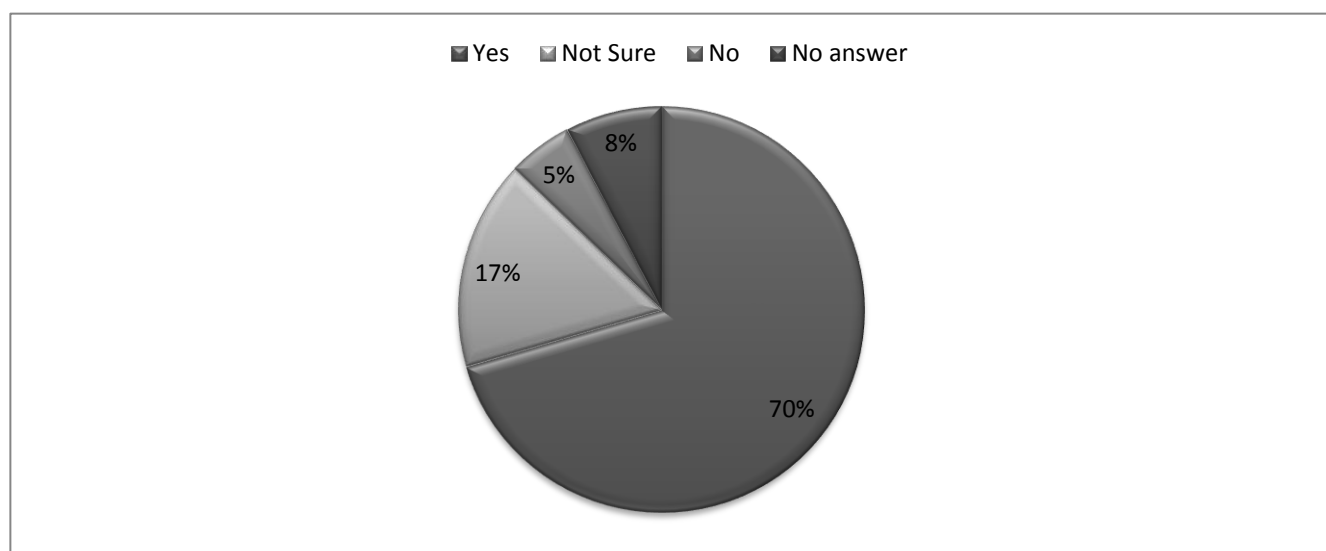
had a strong belief that self-archiving had contributed to their professional career. And similarly, about 14% (11) respondents had chosen “Influence due to others in profession” as the reason for self-archiving.



**Figure 5. Reasons for self-archiving**

Further the question was asked to the participants about their opinion on self-archiving in social networking academic platforms. It was observed that 64% (45) of the participants thought that social academic networking sites/platforms were highly useful for self-archiving. About 16% (14) participants believed that it was not useful for self-archiving. Whereas there was a small group of respondents i.e., 15% (14) who felt that it has moderate level of use for self-archiving.

Later when asked to the researchers that do self-archiving has motivated them to archive their research works again and again. Through the study it has been learned that 70% (55) participants were motivated to self-archive again and again. About 17% (13) of the participants were not sure whether they had been motivated again or not. There are some of the respondents i.e., 5% (4), who do not believe that self-archiving had motivated them again.



**Figure 6. Self-archiving motivated to self-archive again and again**

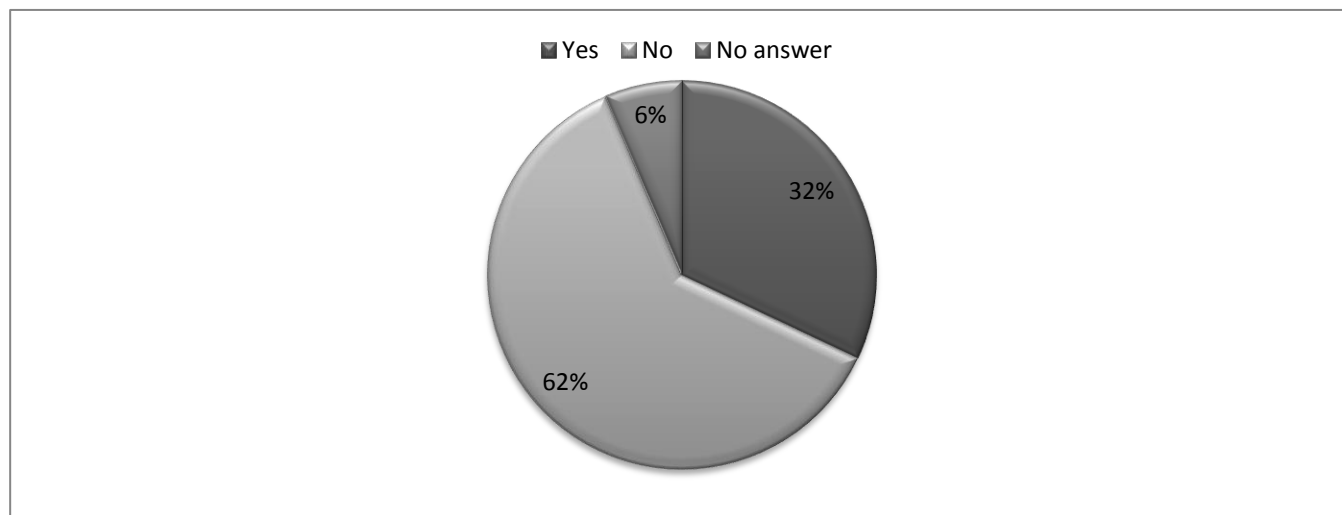
Publications	In Numbers	In percent (%)
Conferences/Seminars	67	86%
In-subscription Journals	46	58%
Open Access Journals	46	59%
Institutional Repositories	20	26%
Personal Websites	6	8%
Other	1	1%
No answer	3	4%

**Table 11. Published the papers documents in**



Later the researcher asked the participants that in Further one more question was asked by the researcher, regarding the SHERPA/RoMEO website. It has been found through this survey that only 32% (25) participants do check the

what way do they deposit or archive their works. website. Almost 62% (48) were not checking this website for archiving. Only 6% (5) of the respondents had not answered to this question.



**Figure 7. Awareness and use of SHERPA/RoMEO website**

Later the respondents were asked whether they allow the access to their articles in full-texts or abstracts or giving both the access according to the publisher's policies agreement. There were almost 45% (35) of the participants who allowed their users to had access to both the ways. But there were still many of the respondents i.e., 29% (23) who permitted access to its articles only in Full-texts form. Less than this were the participants who allow access to only abstract level, which was almost 12% (9) who wanted their viewers to seek permission from them or the journal or the repository to which they had deposited. In spite of these 14% (11) participants had not answered to this question.

#### Institutional Repository

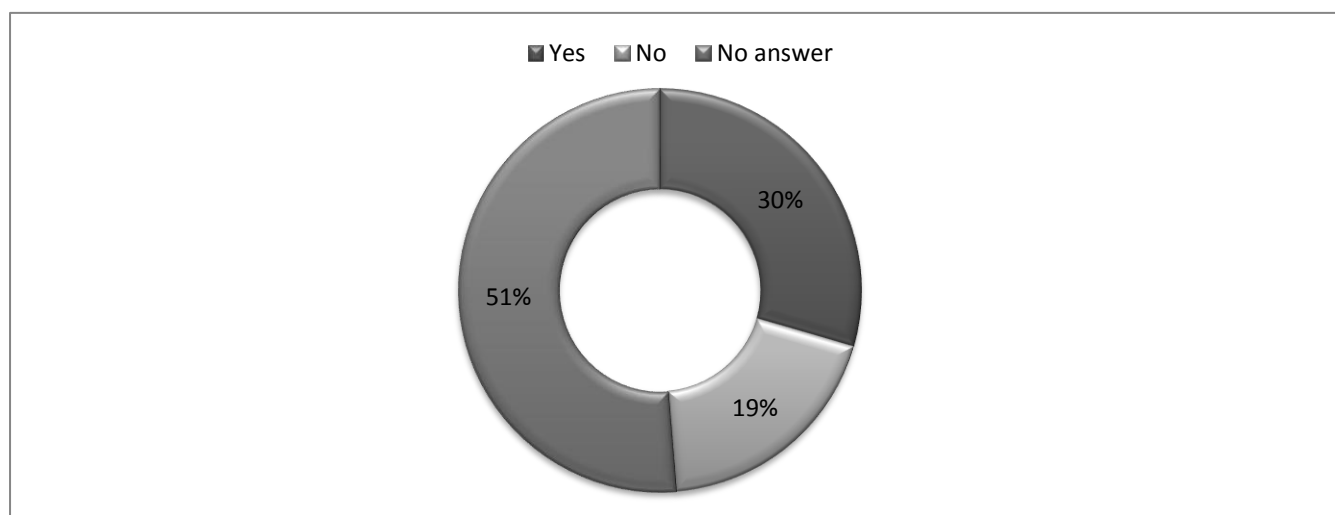
Further the researcher asked whether the participants working in the institutions do have

the institutional repository. From the study it was observed that 49% (38) of the respondents had institutional repositories in their institutions. Equal number of participants i.e 49% (38) did not have institutional repositories. Whereas 2% (2) participants only avoided to answer the question.

Later in this section, the next question which was asked to the respondents was whether their IRs had any policy for archiving scholarly research work. In which it can be understood by the data which is presented in the figure that 39% (30) of the participants answered "Yes" which means that the institution in which they were working had some particular policies for depositing the scholarly works in the institutional repository. Also, it had been found that 10% (8) respondents had responded as "No", that their institutions do not have any such policies or it can be said that they actually may not had any such repository for

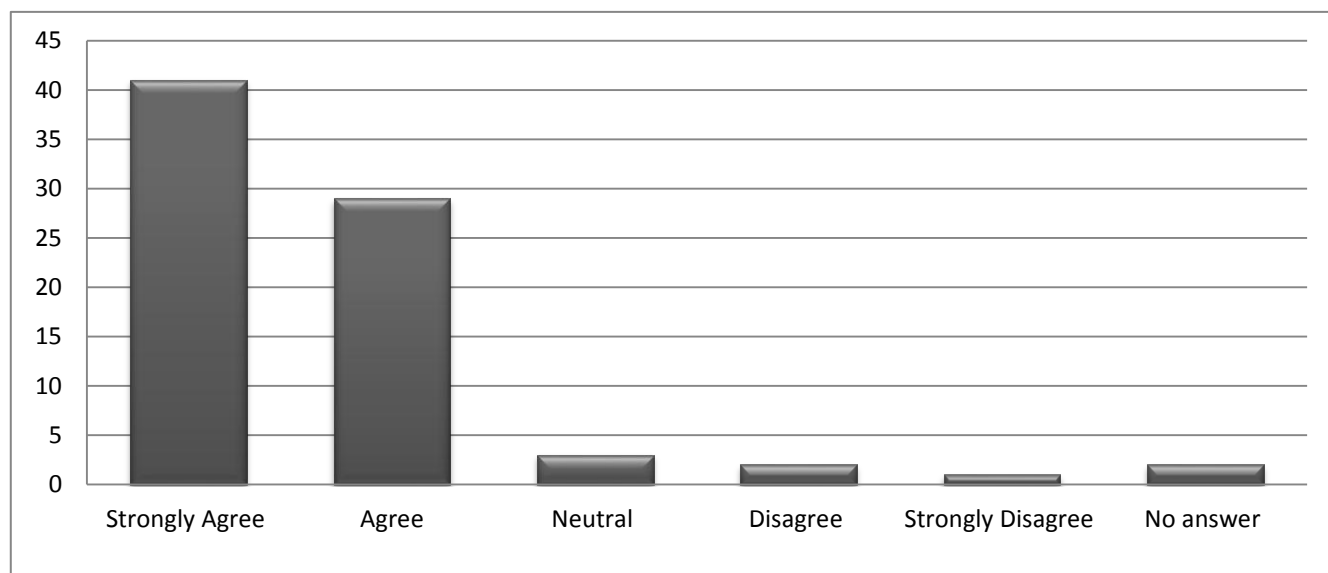
their institutions. The present question can be linked with the above one, as 51% (43) of the respondents had avoided answering this question. The reason behind this might be that their institutions may not have any such repositories or they might not want to give information about this. But the rating is similar for both the questions, because it can be observed from the first question that almost 41 respondents had not

responded as when asked about whether their institutions has any such institutional repositories. The above question was relatable to the question given below, where it can be seen that there is almost 15% of difference between those who are having institutional repositories and those who actually archive in those repositories. But for this question there was large group of respondents – 51% (40) – who avoided answering this question.



**Figure 8. Archived articles in institutional repository**

#### Career-related



**Figure 9. OA platforms are becoming as much important as Journal articles**

From the survey, it has revealed that 72% (56) of the respondents thought that self-archiving has helped in their professional career. On the contrary, there were 10% (8) of the participants who do not thought that self-archiving was useful

in career advancement. Only 2% (2) were not sure whether it actually helps or not. Also, there were 13% (10) of the participants who had chosen “Not Applicable”.

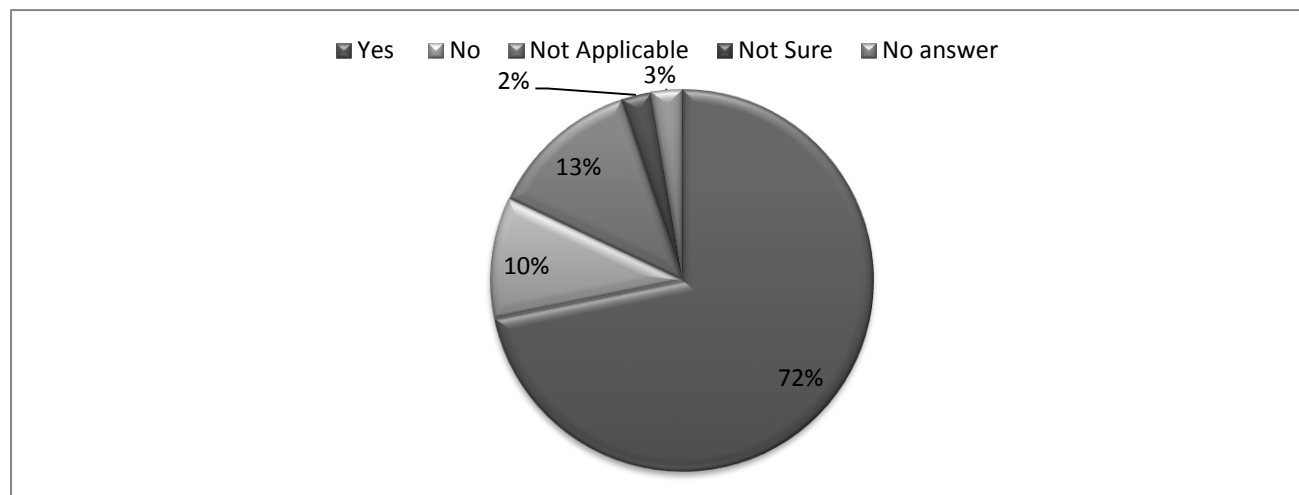


Figure 9. Usefulness of self-archiving in career advancement

Table 4. Statements or Self-archiving

Statements		Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Self-archiving will bring a vast change in my stream in the next few years	In numbers	8	35	14	3	16
	In percent	10%	45%	18%	4%	21%
Self-archiving will threaten the published journals in my discipline	In numbers	4	6	23	37	6
	In percent	5%	8%	29%	47%	8%
Self-archiving can help the coming generation to get a better look towards the articles that are been published in Open Access	In numbers	15	30	10	9	12
	In percent	19%	38%	13%	12%	15%
Self-archiving may not have any impact on my stream	In numbers	2	8	21	32	13
	In percent	3%	10%	27%	41%	17%

## CONCLUSION

The present research was to find the perceptions and usage level of the various self-archiving platforms by the scholarly researchers all over India. It was discovered that many of the scholarly researchers were aware of the Open Access movement and do archive their articles by the self-archiving method in various platforms (like ASNS, Institutional Repository, Personal Websites, and more). The idea of self-archiving as a platform for most of the researchers has proved to increase the visibility of their research works and also strengthens the recognition of those researchers in their respective fields. It was observed that almost 92 percentage of the researchers were aware of the platform and its usage level as well as its importance in the career development. The level of 'Monitoring citations' for the articles those which are archived in various ASNS platforms as well as in IRs and personal websites, is almost 61 percent, which concludes that there must be thorough awareness of these platforms where one can monitor their papers citations.

The website of SHERPA/RoMEO is not been used or seen by researchers and others most frequently, is been found through this study. The data analysed that almost more than 32 percentage of the researchers or respondents were not much aware of this website. In many studies, such as **Menendez et al. (2012)**, **Kjellberg et al, (2016)**, **Thelwall and Kousha's (2014)** and **Rathemacher et al. (2016)** and many more, which were reviewed it had an assumption that ASNS (academic social networking sites) were mostly used for the process of self-archiving rather than IRs and personal websites. This fact was also found in the present study, as Academia

and ResearchGate were the two most frequently used networking sites by the researchers. Library science professionals must use e-Prints ELIS repository which is of utmost importance for all professionals.

It was observed in the present study that respondents were motivated to self-archive because it can help to enhance the visibility of the articles and other research works. It was noticed that high level of awareness, upgradation and development in the self- archiving practices is not been achieved. Also, researchers need to check the policies before depositing or self-archiving their articles which is a crucial step in self-archiving. So there has to be awareness among researchers about the copyright/archiving policies of different publishers, information which is given in depth in SHERPA/RoMEO website. The researchers should be more up-to-date with the new intellectual practices upcoming in various fields.

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