## Report on

# Support to BOU for establishment and customisation of OER repository using Digital Repository Software DSPACE



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# **Organized by**

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#### Introduction

Open and Distance learning (ODL) is an opportunity for knowledge transmission. Information Communication Technology (ICT) is penetrating the horizon of educational sector. At the outset, these concurrences are gearing up the knowledge society to achieve equitable quality education for further development. To achieve Sustainable Development of maximum number of learners, the Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA), Commonwealth of Learning (COL) as per their six-year-plan (2015-21) is determine to assisting Higher Education Institutions in adoption and implementation of Open Educational Resources (OER) by framing OER policies and developing OER Repositories.

As a part of the aforesaid, CEMCA sought to engage the author as a consultant to provide "Support to BOU for establishment and customisation of OER repository using Digital Repository Software".

With CEMCA, COL support Bangladesh Open University (BOU) implemented an OER policy for the university. As follow-up the same OER Repository of Bangladesh Open University is already being established and which is accessed via link **bou.org.bd/oer** Keeping focus on establishment of dynamic and effective OER repository, the entire support was segregated into four stages viz., Preparation, Incubation, Illumination and Implementation.

## **Preparation:**

As a preparation of establishing OER Repository, initially consultant had detail discussion with BOU team members consisting higher authorities, project coordinators and technical personnel (System analyst/director, Webpage developer) from computer division time to time over Skype/messenger/e-mail.

- Understanding existing system to measure interoperability;
- Availability of internet connectivity/cloud space to host Dspace in 24X7 modes;
- Through the series of consecutive discussion consultant suggested for the availability of adequate facilities (hardware & Software) to develop repository by installing DSPACE on Ubuntu (Linux based operating System) for Unlimited Collection to the unlimited users;
- Prepared and sent a layout of OER Repository homepage as a reference;
- Provided continuous online (email, skype meeting, WhatsApp, messenger) technical support for availability of the technical infrastructure and help BOU technical team to establish the requirements of the necessary related software architectures for establishment of DSpace software.
- Primary identification, selection and organisation of educational resources (context and content wise) to be uploaded on OER repository.

#### Incubation

### 1st Day Activities:

- With the help of CEMCA and BOU consultant was visited BOU on 8<sup>-11</sup> May (four days) to provide onsite support for installation, configuring and customization of the DSPACE according to the requirements of BOU and project;
- Installation of Ubuntu (Linux based OS) to maintain server for secure usage, Installation of DSpace, customization of DSpace as per local context and declaration of Open license(s) (item-wise) had been added;

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Day Activities:

- Developing community and collection for BOU- OER repository according to programs offered by BOU in all levels;
- Identification and Selection of existing Educational resources of BOU;
- Conversion of existing Educational resources of BOU in IR compatible mode
- Organisation of Educational resources;
- Uploading educational materials (two types includes text and video materials) in BOU-OER Repository;
- Tested Indexing, Search & Retrieval of the system;
- Backup and restoration procedure.

## 3rd Day Activities: Illumination

- Customization of Webpage to represent BOU-OER Repository in a global platform;
- Building online Connectivity for the 24x7 access across the globe. Selection of Domain Name and Web Hosting to achieve accessibility of the OER Repository to anyone, at any time in any form at any time;
- Software updates during support period

# 4th Day Activities: Implementation

- Finalizing BOU OER Repository;
- Demonstration of OER repository to VC after having an appointment in his convenient time;
- Demonstration of OER repository to Faculties of BOU.

Sustainable development of the repository is an ongoing process. For further development of the repository focusing on software updation, content uploading procedure consultant conducted training for technical person right from the first day and also conducted training to the faculties at the time of demonstration of OER Repository as follows:

- Training of technical person from computer Science department
- Training of faculties to enrich Repository by collection development.

## Accessibility of BOUOER Repository for further reference:

Figure 1 is the Home Page of BOU-OER Repository. To access click on Search BOU OER Repository and explore!



Figure 1: Home page of BOUOER Repository

## **Communities of BOU-OER**

		BOUOER
Welcome to E Explore the world of Educational Resources.	Bangladesh Open University OER repository	It can be extensively configured by installing modified
Search Enter some text in the box below to search DSpace.  Go		JSPs, and altering the site configuration RSS Feeds
Communities in DSpace Choose a community to browse its collections.  Open School School of Agriculture & Rural Development (SARD) School of Business (SoB)		RSS ZO
School of Education (SoE) School of Science & Technology (SST) School of Social Science, Humanities & Languages (SSHL)		

#### Figure 2: Communities of BOU OER

#### **Collections of BOU-OER**



Figure 3 Collection of program- Humanities

#### **Browse Collection and Items**



# Accessing fulltext for use

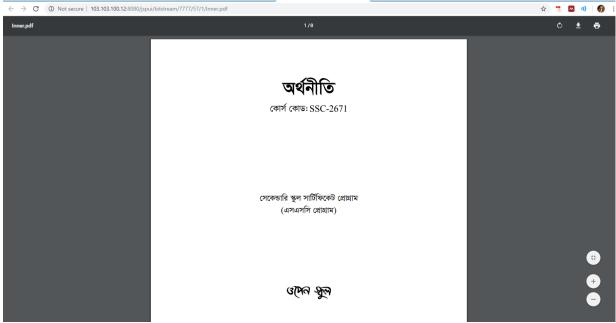


Figure 5: Accessing fulltext for use

#### Search

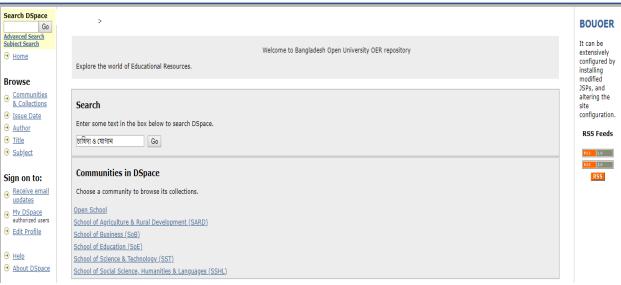


Figure 6: Search

#### **Search Result**

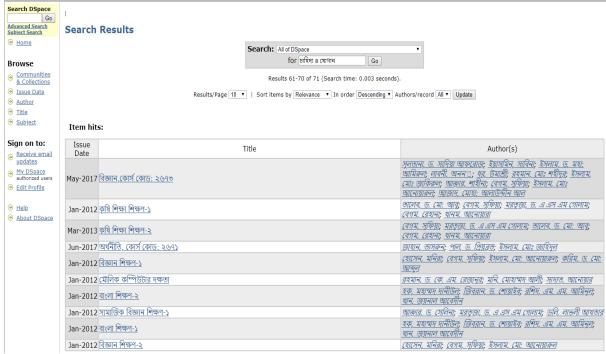


Figure 7: Search Result1

#### **Search Result:**

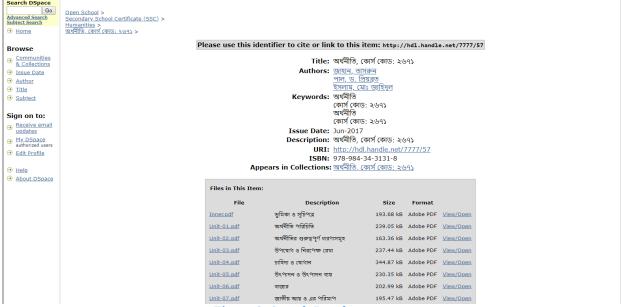


Figure 8: Search Result 2

#### **Full Text Access to use:**

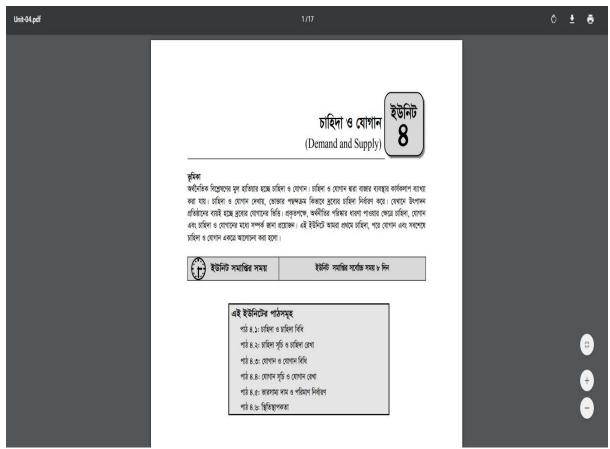


Figure 9: Full Text Access to use

#### Conclusion

BOU-OER repository is designed, established successfully. For the sustainable development of the repository it requires awareness and use among the, senior administrative staff and the faculties and technical staff of university. Goal has been achieved to a great extent. However, for effective implementation of Open Educational repository needs continuous development updation and evaluation. Apart from this it specially needs faculty engagement and awareness to implement and efficient use of BOUOER.

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