Open Access Activities in Turkey

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Presentation Plan

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Introduction

Open access initiative has been increasingly improving in the means of accessing information without borders in research area. In fact Open Access initiative has been started due to scientists concern and approach and aims to solve problems related to scientific communication systems.

Open access has been increasingly discussed in both theoretical and practical areas in Turkey recently. Many leading universities, institutions and associations have been forming open access archives and simultaneously taking up initiatives to improve open access awareness in the community by creating structures and arranging activities. This presentation gives an overview on open access activities and initiatives undertaken in Turkey.

Short History of Open Access in Turkey

- The concept of open access has been discussed intensively at universities since the beginning of 2005.
- Open access was discussed at 10th Internet Conference organised by University of Bahçeşehir on 9-11 December 2005.
- Open access was a subject of several sessions of Academic Informatic Conference organised by University of Pamukkale in 2006.
- At the same conference Open Access Declaration was formed and announced to public opinion by the chair of committee. Significance of Berlin Declaration, that is accepted internationally, was stressed in the Declaration and it was stated that Turkish universities support open access.
- Open Access Advisory Board is constituted in 2006.
- A guiding brochure on open access was prepared by ANKOS in 2006.
- Many open access application has been started at universities and information centers with this initiatives.
Open Access Structures

There are two main structures created to raise awareness on open access initiatives in Turkey:

- Open Access and Institutional Archives Advisory Board
- Open Access and the Institutional Archives Working Group

Open Access and Institutional Archives Advisory Board

Open Access Advisory Board was established in March 2006. The aims of the Advisory Board are:

- to inform and raise open access awareness of policy makers, libraries, universities, research centers and all the institutions about open access to scientific information.
- to implement collaborative work with stakeholders in order to enhance open access culture, form national policies and generalize the open access archives in Turkey.
- to organize guiding activities related to projects and initiatives about open access.
Open Access and Institutional Archives
Advisory Board

Members of Advisory Board;
- ULAKBIM (Turkish Academic Network and Information Center)
- TKD (Turkish Library Association)
- ÜNAK (University and Research Library Association)
- ANKOS (The Anatolian University Libraries Consortium)

Open Access and the Institutional Archives
Working Group

ANKOS (The Anatolian University Libraries Consortium) established Open Access and the Institutional Archives Working Group (OAI/RY/G) in January 2006. Working Group consists of members from both academic and working areas.

The Aims of Working Group are as follows:
- to raise awareness on open access (OA) and institutional repositories (IRs) among information professionals in Turkey.
- to ensure the cooperation between ANKOS, information professionals, researchers - as to the related practices - and to cooperate with domestic and international organizations who operate in the relevant areas.
Open Access Initiatives

The number of open archives is increasing especially at universities. Also many other institutions supports open access initiatives and starts to make their publications freely available on the internet. These are examples of some open access initiatives:

**Hacettepe University Open Access Platform**
Document types: Theses and dissertations including multi-media components.
Compatible with OAI-PMH : yes

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Open Access Initiatives

- **Ankara University Open Archive**
  Document types: Unpublished articles, unpublished papers, conference papers, articles, projects, reports and theses
  Compatible with OAI-PMH : yes

- **Gazi University Open Archive**
  Document types: Articles, presentations, reports, conference papers and theses
  Compatible with OAI-PMH : yes

- **Sabancı University E-Lit**
  Document types: Preprints, conference papers, research documents.
  Compatible with OAI-PMH : no
Open Access Initiatives

- **METU Library Open Archives**
  Document types: Theses and dissertations
  Compatible with OAI-PMH: yes

- **Atılım University Institutional Open Archive**
  Document types: preprints, educational materials, technical reports, conference papers, audio-visual materials.
  Compatible with OAI-PMH: no

- **Çukurova University Open Archive**
  Document types: Articles, conference papers, reports, educational materials.
  Compatible with OAI-PMH: no

*OAI-PMH: Open Archives Intitiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting*

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Open Access Initiatives

The leading initiatives are as follows:

- Hacettepe University Open Access Platform
- The Middle East Technical University Library Open Archive
- Ankara University Open Archive
- Gazi University Open Archive
- ULAKBIM (Turkish Academic Network and Information Center)
Hacettepe University Open Access Platform

Hacettepe University was founded in 1967 and has the biggest number of refereed papers published in scholarly journals. The "Hacettepe University Electronic Theses Project" has been carried to make the full-texts of graduate theses and dissertations accessible through the Internet in 2005.

This project is carried out by the Department of Information and Records Management. Selected theses; and dissertations, including multimedia components (pictures, maps, audio video features), were scanned and files in PDF (Portable Document Format) format were archived. Open archive currently holds 300 records.

Hacettepe University Open Access Platform

Dublin Core-based metadata was created for each thesis and dissertation. The DSpace software was installed on a web server (Apache Tomcat) running on Linux Fedora Core operating system with access to PostgreSQL database.

The DSpace user interface was translated to Turkish to facilitate the data input, search and retrieval process. This open access archive is the first archive in Turkey compatible with OAI-PMH protocol.
The Middle East Technical University (METU), which is Turkey’s most competitive university, was founded in 1956 to contribute to the development of Turkey and Middle East countries and to create a skilled workforce in the fields of natural and social sciences.

The Middle East Technical University Electronic Theses and Dissertations project was established in September 2003 to archive and provide access to theses and dissertations (in PDF form) that have been completed at the Middle East Technical University (METU).
The Middle East Technical University Library Open Archive

Since April 2004 the Middle East Technical University Library has been a member of Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (NDLTD) - an initiative created to improve graduate education, increase sharing of knowledge, help universities building their information infrastructure, and extend the value of digital libraries.

The METU Library Theses and Dissertations Repository currently holds 2245 records.

http://hitit.lib.metu.edu.tr/oai
Ankara University Open Archive

Ankara University, which major field of studies are health and natural sciences as well as social sciences, was founded in 1946 and is one of the most prestigious university in Turkey.

Ankara University OA is one of the first open access initiatives in Turkey. Open Access Project come into effect according to the administrative decision in April 2005 and its main purpose is supporting scholarly research. The software is constructed on PHP based MySQL and in July 2005 has been uploaded to a server that is only used for open archive purposes.

Ankara University Open Archive

According to the decision of administrative board in 2006 the graduate theses and dissertations as well as articles published in the journals have been included to the archive with the permission of their authors. 2072 scientific publications have been self-archived so far and are now accessible on the internet (http://acikarsiv.ankara.edu.tr/).

The open archive is compatible with OAI-PMH protocol.
Gazi University is founded in 1982. Being the leader of the country with its education faculties, Gazi University has faculties of industrial arts, Gazi education, vocational education, technical education, commerce and tourism.

Open Access Project come into effect according to the administrative decision in *February 2007*.

The open access archive is compatible with OAI-PMH. Gazi University Open Archive currently holds 189 scientific publications including articles, presentations, reports, conference papers, educational materials and theses.

http://www.acikarsiv.gazi.edu.tr/index.php
ULAKBIM (Turkish Academic Network and Information Center)

Turkish Academic Network and Information Center (ULAKBIM) has been founded as a service unit, in association with the Scientific and Technical Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) in 1996. ULAKBIM aims at providing technological facilities such as computer networks, information technology support, and information and document delivery services, to meet the information requirements of universities and research institutions, and to increase the efficiency and productivity of their end users.

ULAKBIM has been cooperating with national consortia and acting as the national archive for electronic information resources, with the purpose of making efficient and widespread access to electronic resources available for academic research community nationwide.

In fact it is not an open access initiative but the institution supporting open access initiatives and some of the journals in the variety of subject indexed in the database are freely accessible.
Open Access Journals

In a scientific research it was determined that 238 of 253 electronic scientific journals published in Turkey are open access (94%). 60% of the electronic journals are published by universities. 37% of journals are about health sciences, whereas 34% of them are about social sciences.

Some examples of Open Access Journals:

- TÜBİTAK Open Access Journals
- Turkish Librarianship Journal
- Information World Journal

TUBİTAK Open Access Journals

TÜBİTAK (Scientific and Technical Research Council of Turkey) publishes 12 peer-reviewed scientific journals indexed by various international abstracts. The full-text articles of the current and previous issues are accessible on the http://journals.tubitak.gov.tr and listed at DOAJ. The Scientific Journals are as follow:

- Agriculture and Forestry
- Biology
- Botany
- Chemistry
- Earth Sciences
- Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences
- Engineering and Environmental Sciences
- Mathematics
- Medical Sciences
- Physics
- Veterinary and Animal Sciences
- Zoology
TUBİTAK Open Access Journals

The Scientific & Technological Research Council of Turkey

Scientific Journals

TUBİTAK publishes 12 peer-reviewed scientific journals edited by various international editors. TUBİTAK also bimonthly to inform readers about the latest achievements and recent advances in science and technology. The following articles are covered in this newsletter:

- Applications and Reviews
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Earth Sciences
- Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
- Environmental and Environmental Sciences
- Mathematics
- Meteorology
- Physics
- Veterinary and Animal Sciences

TUBİTAK also publishes a series of books and monographs on various topics.

TUBİTAK Open Access Journals

TURKISH JOURNAL OF MATHEMATICS

The Turkish Journal of Mathematics has been included in the Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE). The following articles have been included:

- REFERENCES
- IOS Press
- Elsevier Science
- Cambridge University Press

Editorial Board

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TUBİTAK Open Access Journals

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"Turkish Librarianship" is an official journal published by the Turkish Librarians Association every three months and it follows new developments closely with regards to issues of documentation, archiving and research of information and related scientific fields of practice. The first issue was published in 1952.

All the issues are accessible on the internet. The old issues were digitalized and they are now available on the webpage.
Turkish Librarianship Journal

“Information World” is a refereed journal published by the University and Research Librarians Association (UNAK). Publication period is twice a year and freely accessible on the internet.

Information World (Bilgi Dünyası) publishes (in Turkish and in English) original articles, opinion papers and reviews of books related to information and records management issues along with news and professional meeting announcements. “Information World” is an Open Access Journal and listed at DOAJ and E-Lis.

http://www.unak.org.tr/BilgiDunyasi/index.html
Conclusion

Raising awareness of open access is increasingly becoming the most important issue to be discussed in the information world in Turkey.

Recently most of the institutions and universities have been carrying out some kind of open access activities to make every kind of information accessible without borders.
Inicjatywy otwartego dostępu w Turcji

Dziękuję za uwagę

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