

# The OA interviews: Francis Jayakanth of India's National Centre for Science Information

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Like members of all movements, OA advocates come in all shapes and sizes, and they are driven by a variety of different motives. Some have embraced OA, for instance, because they see it as a good business opportunity, some because they want their research to be more accessible, and so have greater impact, some because they expect it will save their institution large sums of money, and some simply because they believe that OA holds out the promise of providing considerable [common good](#).

What is distinctive about the Open Access ([OA](#)) movement, however, is that it is a leaderless revolution. There is [no formal organisation or foundation](#) to represent it, and there is no official leader. For all that, OA is generally associated with a small group of high-profile Western-based individuals and organisations that are extremely vocal in their support of OA, and who have shown themselves to be very successful at attracting attention.

Since all movements have to promote themselves effectively this is clearly a good thing. However, it does mean that the contribution of the many “foot soldiers” of the movement can too easily be overlooked. These are people who do not shout about their activities, but simply go about the business of facilitating OA quietly and modestly.

And it is the foot soldiers based in the developing world that tend to be least visible – people like Francis Jayakanth, a library-trained scientific assistant based at the National Centre for Science Information ([NCSI](#)), the information centre of the Indian Institute of Science ([IISc](#)) in Bangalore.

## Ah-ha

Jayakanth's ah-ha moment came in 2001, when he first saw [arXiv](#), the physics preprint repository. “I was very impressed with the concept of electronic pre-print servers, and I wanted to do something similar for IISc publications,” he explains, adding, “[M]ost of the research publications produced by IISc are locked up in high-impact, commercial journals. For those who cannot afford a subscription to the journals, the visibility and the potential impact of research produced by IISc and published in these journals is lost.”

The appeal of OA for Jayakanth, therefore, is that it is “the best way of ensuring that research produced in the developing world gets wider visibility.”

Keen to help Indian researchers achieve this wider visibility, Jayakanth became a dedicated and highly effective advocate for OA. More importantly, he determined to do whatever he could in a *practical* way to advance the cause of Open Access in his native country.

In 2002, Jayakanth was instrumental in the creation of India's first institutional repository [ePrints@IISc](#). Today this repository contains over 32,000 publications – around 80% of all the publications produced by researchers at IISc. Strikingly, this has been achieved despite the absence of an [open-access mandate](#) at IISc *requiring* researchers to deposit their papers.

Jayakanth also threw himself headlong into the task of helping colleagues at other Indian institutions play their part in the OA revolution. He began organising and running workshops and conferences on OA, helping others to set up their own repositories, and assisting in the creation of new OA journals, and the conversion of print-only journals to OA.

[Professor Subbiah Arunachalam](#), distinguished fellow at the [Centre for Internet and Society](#) in Bangalore, has known Jayakanth since 1994, when he was an [Indian National Science Academy](#) Visiting Fellow at NCSI for three months.

At the time, says Arunachalam, “NCSI was a beehive of activity with a number of trainee librarians learning to use computers and the emerging web technologies in their work. Francis was in charge of the servers and he was teaching a few classes.”

Arunachalam adds, “I have been visiting IISc and NCSI off and on since then and I have been following Francis’ work. Never one to seek wealth or fame, Francis believes in living simply (almost to the point of being self-effacing) and giving generously. He never says ‘no’ to anyone who requests help in setting up a repository, or speaking at, or conducting a workshop. Indeed when, for family reasons, he could not go to a workshop he had accepted he arranged with another expert to stand in for him.”

What is most notable about Jayakanth, says Arunachalam, is that where many librarians are happy to talk about OA, “Francis is one of the very few in India who have actually done something concrete.”

## Foot soldier

Professor N V Joshi, the former chair of NCSI, and professor at the Centre for Ecological Sciences at IISc in Bangalore, agrees with Arunachalam’s assessment of Jayakanth. As an example of his commitment to OA, Joshi relates how, when the first anniversary of the death of the former associate chairman of NCSI [Dr TB Rajashekar](#) was approaching, Jayakanth pointed out that the number of deposits in the IISc repository was hovering around 5,000. What better tribute to the memory of Rajashekhar, he suggested, than to pull out all the stops in order to achieve 5,000 by the anniversary date.

“The students and assistants worked for many days, often very late into the night (2am and beyond), to ensure that the target was reached,” says Joshi.

When I characterised Jayakanth as a foot soldier of the OA movement, however, Joshi at first bridled. “[T]hat phrase seems to have an unfortunate connotation of having a lack of leadership and initiative – and nothing can be further from truth,” he responded. “I have had the pleasure of witnessing Dr. Francis Jayakanth’s exceptional organisational ability, as well as his unobtrusive leadership role in many of the programs conducted by the NCSI.”

But a few days later, Joshi emailed to say that, on reflection, he felt perhaps the term soldier was apt, at least in regard to one aspect of Jayakanth’s personality. Like a soldier, he said, Jayakanth is always happy to “carry out the responsibility entrusted to him with utmost dedication, without voicing the slightest judgement about the merits or otherwise of the goal.”

A good example of this, he explained, was Jayakanth’s decision to take it upon himself to do most if not all the daily tasks of maintaining ePrints@IISc. “At the lowest end, this involved checking the batteries of the backup power system and arranging for their replacement. It also covered deciding on the specifications of computers to be ordered, negotiating with the vendors to get the best possible deal and the subsequent follow-up action for delivery on time. Though there was good technical help available, there were instances when Dr Francis himself installed the operating system, tested it extensively, and then took up and completed the task of installing and testing the various software programs ([DSpace](#), [EPrints](#) etc. etc.). He also took care of the installation of the new versions (updating the software) and of migrating to new and more powerful machines as was necessary from time to time.”

The point he wanted to stress in listing these details, said Joshi, “is that these are the ‘technician like’ things that he did on his own, to ensure that the repository was a success.”

On the other hand, he added, since Jayakanth has also demonstrated exceptional leadership qualities, it might be more accurate to compare him to a Lt. Colonel, a Major General or even Brigadier. “I had the

pleasure and the honour of being the chairman of the National Center for Science Information for some time,” he explained, “and I am happy to admit that in almost all aspects Francis Jayakanth was the de facto chairman, as I would go more or less completely by his advice on matters of policy, initiatives, administration etc.”

## Reward

In addition, said Joshi, it should be noted that Jayakanth is an extraordinary teacher and mentor. “He was the key person in the unique two-year program run by the NCSI to train library science graduates in the use of modern information science. In fact, after the sudden and sad demise of Dr TB Rajashekar, it was Francis Jayakanth who saw to it (along with a few colleagues) that the program continued to run very well. In addition to the two-year program, he has conducted many workshops for the students of library science, and the response has been excellent.”

Above all, Joshi concluded, Jayakanth has evinced an exceptional loyalty to NCSI, a loyalty all the more remarkable given that he has yet to be rewarded or promoted for his efforts.

“Dr Francis continues to be at the NCSI by choice, despite the lack of recognition and status commensurate with his abilities and performance,” he explained. “He has turned down several offers and invitations from good educational institutions who were keen to have him as the librarian. He is very well regarded in the library science community in India and was a vice president (and quite an active one) of the local chapter.”

At the beginning of this year, however, Jayakanth did finally receive recognition for his hard work and dedication, although ironically not from his native country, but from a London-based organisation called the Electronic Publishing Trust for Development ([EPT](#)). On January 1<sup>st</sup>, EPT announced that Jayakanth had been [chosen](#) as the inaugural recipient of a new award for individuals working in developing countries “who have made a significant personal contribution to advancing the cause of open access and the free exchange of research findings.”

As the EPT [press release](#) put it, “Francis Jayakanth can indeed be considered an OA ‘renaissance man’, an advocate and technical expert in all aspects of Open Access development and an inspiration to all, both at the research and policy level.”

“EPT made the right choice when they chose Francis for their inaugural award,” notes Arunachalam.

[Alma Swan](#), UK-based OA advocate and [director of European advocacy at SPARC](#), concurs. “Francis has been responsible for a considerable amount of the progress on OA in India, but he is so unassuming that unless one were specifically involved in Indian Open Access developments, one wouldn’t know,” she told me. “Francis works quietly behind the scenes, nudging things along here, giving them a shove there. He is much admired and much consulted. His expertise and wise counsel inspire confidence, and he is a much sought-after OA advocate.”

In short, one of OA’s less visible advocates has at last been made more visible, and the leaderless revolution has rewarded one of its foot soldiers.

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**Francis Jayakanth**

## The interview begins ...

**RP: Can you start by saying something about yourself, and your qualifications?**

**FJ:** My first degree was a Bachelor of Science in Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics. Subsequently, I gained a Master of Library and Information Science ([MLIS](#)), and more recently I obtained a Doctoral Degree (PhD) on the topic of the OAI-compliance of legacy databases.

I have been a member of the scientific staff at the National Centre for Science Information ([NCSI](#)), Indian Institute of Science ([IISc](#)), since September 1986.

**RP: Are you employed as a librarian, a researcher, or an IT person?**

**FJ:** I am a librarian who likes to use ICT to provide information services.

**RP: What is the role of the NCSI?**

**FJ:** NCSI was set up in the early 1980s to provide selective dissemination of information ([SDI](#)) services to researchers in universities across India.

The then prevailing situation was that due to the paucity of library budgets most of India's universities were not in a position to subscribe to the leading international abstracting databases, let alone pay for journal subscriptions. To mitigate the lack of access to abstracting databases, a centralised SDI service was created and administered from NCSI. The University Grants Commission ([UGC](#)) of India provided the financial support to set up and sustain the service.

**RP: How did the services work?**

**FJ:** We subscribed to the respective subject-specific abstracting databases in electronic format. The information was then distributed to users by means of computer-based SDI services, using software developed by NCSI staff in-house.

**RP: What subject areas did the SDI services cover, and who used them?**

**FJ:** SDI services were provided in biology, chemistry, engineering, geology, mathematics, and physics. They were primarily meant for researchers working in other universities in the country.

**RP: Were the services widely used?**

**FJ:** Yes, at one point more than 20,000 researchers were availing themselves of our services. At the time, India was one of the few countries in the world providing computer-based SDI services.

Thanks to financial support from various government agencies since the late 1990s, however, a number of library consortia have been formed in India. As a result, access to scholarly literature has improved considerably in our universities, and so in 2002 NCSI stopped providing the SDI services.

**RP: What is the primary role of NCSI today?**

**JF:** Our activities are now mainly focused on creating and maintaining two digital repositories – [ePrints@IISc](#) for research publications produced by IISc, and [etd@IISc](#) for IISc theses. The aim of these repositories is to showcase and provide open access to the intellectual output of IISc.

We also provide an OAI protocol based harvesting service exclusively for the OAI-compliant repositories in the country. The service is called CASSIR – [Cross Archive Search Services for Repositories in India](#), and to date close to 50,000 records have been harvested from 25 repositories across the country.

In addition, we run a training programme, undertake sponsored consultancy projects, and cater to the information needs of the IISc faculty and students. We also run a couple of moderated electronic discussion lists, including [LIS-Forum](#), which has more than 6,500 members today.

**RP: What is the purpose of LIS-Forum?**

**JF:** It was launched in the mid-90s by the former associate chairman of NCSI, the late [Dr. T.B. Rajashekar](#), to provide a network for library and information professionals in the country. It was one of the earliest discussion lists in the country.

NCSI has also played a significant role in human resource development. Until recently, for instance, we offered an 18-month course on Information and Knowledge Management (IKM). This was targeted primarily at students graduating from Indian library schools, with a view to providing them with classroom and practical training in the application of ICT. Essentially, the aim was to train the students in how to provide state-of-the-art, computer-based information services. I have been closely associated with this training programme, providing courses and overseeing projects.

## Advocate and practitioner

**RP: It was [announced](#) recently that you were chosen as the inaugural winner of the [Electronic Publishing Trust](#) award – an award for people who have made a personal contribution to advancing the cause of Open Access and the free exchange of research findings. When and why did you become an Open Access advocate?**

**JF:** I became an OA advocate in 2001, when I found out about the [arXiv.org](#) repository. I was very impressed with the concept of electronic pre-print servers, and I wanted to do something similar for IISc publications.

Fortunately, by then the [EPrints.org](#) software had been developed, so we tried it out as one of our student projects. From that point on, I have been both an OA advocate and a practitioner of OA.

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank EPT and the jury for conferring the award on me. I was aware that I had been nominated, but it never occurred to me that I could be a serious contender. I am particularly thankful to [Professor Subbiah Arunachalam](#), distinguished fellow at the [Centre for Internet and Society](#) in Bangalore, and [Professor N.V. Joshi](#), from the Centre for Ecological Sciences at IISc in Bangalore (and former chair of NCSI), for their support and encouragement.

**RP: Can you give me the background to the development of the ePrints@IISc repository?**

**JF:** ePrints@IISc was established in 2002. As I said, the groundwork for both the ePrints@IISc and etd@IISc repositories was done by students of our IKM training programme. Specifically, [Mr. Madhuresh Singal](#) developed the self-archiving concept under my supervision, and using the then prevailing version of GNU EPrints.org

software.

After a successful pilot project, a three-member team comprised of Dr. T.B. Rajashekar, Mr. Singal, and myself implemented EPrints to set up the ePrints@IISc, making it the first institutional repository (IR) to be established in India. I have been maintaining and administering the repository since then.

All the alumni of NCSI have also contributed very significantly towards the growth of eprints@IISc. The contribution made by Dr. Rajashekar to the growth of both NCSI and the OA movement in India are to be particularly commended.

**RP: The value of ePrints@IISc lies in its ability to increase the visibility of India's research I guess.**

**JF:** Yes, most of the research publications produced by IISc are locked up in high-impact, commercial journals. For those who cannot afford a subscription to the journals, the visibility and the potential impact of research produced by IISc and published in these journals is lost. With eprints@IISc, we are striving to place all the research publications produced at IISc in the repository and, as you say, therefore increase their visibility.

**RP: How can we quantify the success of ePrints@IISc?**

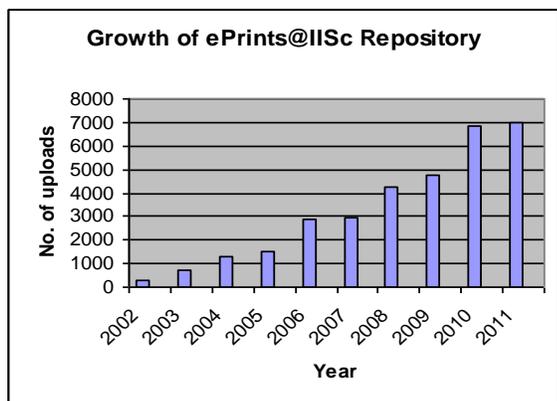
**JF:** To date more than 32,000 publications have been deposited in the repository and the download statistics indicate that these are being accessed from all over the world. Moreover, with the "[Request eprint](#)" feature developed by GNU Eprints.org, and utilised in our repository, users can place a reprint request by email for any paper they cannot directly download for copyright reasons. This service is being made use of quite extensively, and on an international basis.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the entire GNU Eprints.org team at Southampton for developing such great software for managing institutional repositories. We have been using the software for more than a decade now. It has been absolutely trouble free, and is very easy to maintain and upgrade, and to enhance the features. The technical support given by the software development team and user community is also a great help.

**RP: What percentage of the total output of IISc papers do you estimate the repository now holds?**

**FJ:** The total number of IISc publications to date, by my estimate, is around 40,000+, of which around 29,000+ records are indexed in the Web of Science ([WoS](#)). The remaining 10,000 records pertain to publications in Indian journals and national conferences that are not indexed in WoS or other abstracting databases.

Much of the 29,000+ records indexed in WoS have already been included in our repository. What remains are the ones that have been published in national journals and conferences and I am not sure to what extent we would be able to get full-texts of such publications.



**RP: So you have collected around 80% of IISc's output. How does that compare with the repositories at those institutions where a [self-archiving mandate](#) has been introduced?**

**FJ:** [Mr. Madhan Muthu](#), the manager of library and information services at the International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics ([ICRISAT](#)), who was responsible for the OA mandates at the [National Institute of Technology](#), Rourkela and ICRISAT, tells me that 90% of the publications of these two institutions are now in the respective IRs. The National Institute of Oceanography ([NIO](#)), Goa has almost 100% of its publications in its IR.

**RP: Many OA advocates believe that for OA to be successful it is necessary for governments and research funders to introduce [self-archiving mandates](#). You have been very successful without a mandate haven't you?**

**JF:** I, too, believe that mandates are necessary for OA to be successful. However, instead of endlessly waiting for these mandates, librarians should take the initiative to set up and populate repositories in their institutions, publicise the benefits of OA to their user community, and educate researchers not to transfer exclusive rights of their research work to publishers. In addition, where applicable, print-only journals should be converted to OA.

**RP: How many self-archiving mandates have been introduced in India?**

**JF:** To date, there are only the three OA mandates in the country – those at the [National Institute of Technology](#), Rourkela, the [National Institute of Oceanography](#) at Goa, and [ICRISAT](#), Patancheru.

## Go-to guy for OA in India

**RP: What other OA activities are you involved in?**

**JF:** I provide technical support for people setting up repositories and OA journals in other institutions and organisations in India. I also serve as a resource person in workshops and conferences related to OA publishing held in India, and I give talks related to OA activities, organise seminars and workshops on OA publishing. Also, I promote the benefits of OA to students and faculty members both at IISc and at other institutions.

**RP: In short, you are the go-to guy for OA in India. You mentioned OA journals: You are also a specialist in the open-source software Open Journals System ([OJS](#)) are you not?**

**JF:** Well, I am not a specialist in OJS, or any other software for that matter. I am just one of the users of free and open source software ([FOSS](#)) developed to facilitate OA to scholarly literature.

But it is true that NCSI has trained a number of people in using OJS so that they can publish OA journals. It has also helped a few organisations to migrate their print-only journals to OA. And NCSI will continue to render technical support for the creation of new OA journals and the migration of existing journals to OA.

However, the reality is that the majority of researchers prefer and continue to publish in high impact commercial journals, which they are free to do. The only thing they need to do is to ensure that a copy of their papers (post-prints) is made available in an OA [institutional](#) or subject repository like arXiv or [PubMed Central](#). This means that authors should not transfer exclusive rights in their work to commercial publishers.

**RP: As implied in what you say, there are two main types of OA: [Gold OA](#) (publishing in OA journals) and [Green OA](#) (self-archiving papers published in subscription journals). What in your view are the respective merits of these two approaches?**

**JF:** In a recent [study](#), [Bo-Christer Bjork](#) estimated that the overall percentage of scientific literature currently available OA is about 20%. This includes both papers published in OA journals and those deposited in

institutional repositories and directly on the Web.

From the researchers' perspective, the ideal situation would be for the entire gamut of scientific literature to be available without any access barrier. However, this is unlikely to happen in the near future. Research institutions and universities should therefore ensure that their research outputs are freely available to those who need them. As you say, this can be achieved by means of either OA journals and/or institutional repositories.

The fact is that OA can be realised much faster through the Green route: If all research institutions set up repositories and populated them with publications, it would be possible to overcome the current access-barrier to peer-reviewed scholarly literature very quickly.

But we should encourage researchers to publish in peer-reviewed OA journals too. And IISc faculty do publish quite regularly in the OA journals published by the [Indian Academy of Sciences](#), [PLoS](#), [BioMed Central](#) etc.

There is, by the way, a misconception in some sections of the research community, with claims made that OA journals are not on a par with commercial journals as far as the quality of the papers they publish is concerned. It is also claimed that by paying an [author-processing fee](#) it is easier for an author to get a paper accepted by an OA journal.

**RP: You do not accept that OA journals are inferior in any way from subscription journals.**

**JF:** No, peer-reviewed OA Journals are as good as their subscription counterparts. I will hasten to add that I am no one to judge the quality of journals. However, if we use the same yardstick to measure the quality of OA journals as is used when judging the quality of commercial journals – the impact factor ([IF](#)) – we can see that the IF of some of the OA journals published by PLoS and BioMed Central are very impressive, even though the journals are relatively new.

## Federated search service

**RP: You said that your PhD was on the topic of OAI-compliance of legacy databases. Can you say something about this, and how making legacy databases compliant can help the OA movement?**

**JF:** OAI-compliance means that a repository's underlying software is compatible with the Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting ([OAI-PMH](#)). This protocol defines a mechanism for harvesting metadata records from OAI-compliant data providers (repositories).

Consider that the directory of open access repositories ([DOAR](#)) indicates that there are now more than 1,770 institutional repositories. For end users it would be virtually impossible to know about and search all the existing and emerging repositories. If repositories are all OAI-compliant, however, the metadata from the large population of distributed repositories can be harvested (programmatically gathered) by OAI service providers in order to build a federated search system.

**RP: The point is that this then allows a user to search across the more than a thousand repositories that exist as though they were one database, by means of a single interface.**

**JF:** Correct. [OAlster](#) is one of the earliest OAI protocol based federated search services. At present, it has more than 25 million metadata records representing more than 1,100 repositories. So services like OAlster serve as an important discovery tool for researchers.

Note that the OAI federation concept is just the same as that utilised by Google and other web search engines when they aggregate the millions of web sites across the world. Google, [Google Scholar](#), and other OAI service providers also harvest and index metadata from OAI-compliant repositories.

So far as legacy information systems are concerned one problem is that they are unlikely to be OAI-compliant.

This makes it difficult for such systems to be interoperable with other digital libraries on the Internet, and [CDS/ISIS](#) is one such legacy information system. The software was specifically designed to handle bibliographic (textual) data, and it is very popular in many developing countries, including India and Latin America.

**RP: As I understand it, you developed a piece of software called [CDSOAI](#) to help make legacy databases OAI-compliant. How does CDSOAI work, and is it widely used?**

**JF:** The groundwork for developing the CDSOAI tool was done at the Computer Science Department, [Old Dominion University](#), Norfolk, Virginia, USA. I was a visiting [Fulbright Professional Fellow](#) at the ODU for six months during 2004-05. [Prof. Kurt Maly](#) and [Prof. Mohammad Zubair](#) were my supervisors. I take this opportunity to thank them for being my host and also for being my supervisors. I also thank United States-India Educational Foundation ([USIEF](#)) for granting me the fellowship. The ground work done at the ODU helped me later to develop the full-fledged CDSOAI tool.

But to answer your question, CDSOAI makes it possible for the CDS/ISIS databases to be OAI-compliant and so interoperable with other OAI-compliant databases. It's been made freely available and I have sent copies of it to people who have asked for it. However, I have no idea about its actual usage.

Being a Java based web application, by the way, CDSOAI requires a web server that can run Java applications, and it has been tested successfully with the [Apache Tomcat](#) web server. I should add that it also requires another tool to interact with a CDS/ISIS database, a standalone utility developed by Bireme called "[WWWISIS](#) (wxis)".

**RP: How does that work?**

**JF:** The way it works is that CDSOAI accepts an OAI query (verbs), parses it into a form that is understandable to CDS/ISIS, and then passes it on to wxis. Wxis in turn searches the CDS/ISIS database. The resulting output is sent back to CDSOAI, which converts the results into an XML format compliant with the protocol specifications.

**RP: Legacy databases rarely have any OA full text material attached to them, so perhaps compliance is not much of an issue?**

**JF:** You are right. Several institutions that I am aware of continue to use CDS/ISIS to store metadata information related to their institutions' publications. However, if such data became interoperable then end users would at least be able to establish the source of the full-text, and so could hopefully obtain it that way.

## The Indian context

**RP: You said earlier that access to scholarly literature has improved considerably in India in recent years. Some might conclude from this that making papers OA is not as important as it once was.**

**JF:** OA is absolutely essential. However, with only about 20% of the peer-reviewed scholarly literature currently available in the OA domain, we have to accept that researchers will continue to depend on commercial scholarly literature until we achieve 100% OA. And as I said, that is unlikely to happen in the near future.

As I also said, it is clear that researchers will continue to publish in high impact, commercial journals too. Clearly they should be free to do that, but it does mean we need to impress upon researchers that they do not have to transfer exclusive rights to publishers. Making the case for this will require a great deal of time and effort on the part of OA advocates and practitioners.

**RP: You emphasise that authors should not give away exclusive rights in their works to publishers. This of course is primarily an issue when publishing in subscription journals. However, there is the associated issue of whether OA papers are made available [Gratis or Libre](#) OA. In other words, authors**

who pay in order to have their papers made OA need to be aware of the difference between *Gratis OA* (where the paper is made freely available but only for reading or printing off), and *Libre OA* (where it is also possible to, say, mine and re-purpose the content in the paper as well). There has been [some discussion](#) of this issue recently, with complaints that some OA publishers are taking money from authors to make their papers OA, but not providing re-use rights to those papers – as was envisaged with the [Budapest Open Access Initiative \(BOAI\)](#).

JF: My understanding is that, *Gratis OA* itself will be a great boon, both to researchers and to anyone else interested in research publications.

The latest [RoMEO](#) statistics show that nearly 65% of publishers allow some form of self-archiving. It is therefore important that researchers facilitate OA to their research publications by retaining the rights necessary to self-archive their publications in institutional or subject-based repositories.

**RP: How would you characterise the specific Indian context for Open Access?**

JF: The key point is that research work done in India and published in Indian journals does not currently reach the international community. This is because many Indian journals are not indexed by the [Web of Science](#) and/or [Scopus](#), or by discipline specific abstracting databases like [Biological Abstracts](#), [INSPEC](#), etc. If such journals converted to OA, however, research work carried out in India would get global visibility.

Moreover, these journals could be migrated quite easily by using OJS or any other suitable software, or it could be done by means of platforms like [Medknow publications](#), [Bioline International](#), or similar initiatives.

**RP: What are your hopes and expectations for OA in the coming year, particularly for India and the developing world?**

JF: I would love to see a national facility in my country for the deposition of post-prints along the lines of the UK-based service [The Depot](#). In addition, the introduction of a mandate requiring that all publicly funded research in India is made OA would be great.

It is in their own interest for developing countries to embrace OA in a much more thorough and more rapid way than we see today. As we said, doing so is the best way of ensuring that research produced in the developing world gets wider visibility.



Richard Poynder

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