

Report of the Open Access Day Celebration at CSIR-CFTRI, Mysore

In accordance with the CSIR open access mandate, the first 'Open Access Day' celebration was held at CSIR-CFTRI on Friday, the 2nd December 2011 at the IFTTC Auditorium, CFTRI. The primary objective of this was creating awareness about the benefits of Open Access publishing among the CFTRI Research community.

Dr. Geetha Seetharam, Head, Library, CSIR-CFTRI welcomed the gathering and gave an introduction about the open access initiatives at CSIR. The Chief Guest, Dr. Gangan Prathap, Director, NISCAIR, New Delhi who inaugurated the "Open Access Day" also launched the Eprints@CFTRI web site (Institutional Repository of CSIR-CFTRI URL: <http://ir.cftri.com>). The topic of his inaugural talk was "Science Communication Channels: Open access avenues and institutional repositories". In his inaugural talk, Gangan Prathap, Director, NISCAIR said that the access to the scientific data and research papers has many advantages. The exchange of ideas and research between reputed scientific institutions in the world will be the future of science and technology.

"We will be able to share and exchange the ideas about particular research process done in Brazil and China and that of India. There should not be any hesitation to make the research findings public in fear of somebody finding a mistake or pose a challenge to it. The data used by others and challenged by others is good. Science learns from mistakes and don't be afraid of it," he told the gathering. He cited the example of how famous drug companies in India and worldwide and retail giants like Wal-mart have a process called data mining to keep tab on their progress in the respective markets. He appreciated the role of CSIR-CFTRI in actively advocating and promoting the OA initiatives. He congratulated CSIR-CFTRI, Head, Library & team and presented a 'Gold Plaque' as a special appreciation award for their contribution towards the CSIR Open Access Movement.

Dr. G. Venkateswara Rao, Acting Director, CFTRI, presided over the open access day. In his presidential address, he briefed about the institute's library collection, e-resources, infrastructure and various other services offered to institute staff. He also said that CFTRI's works and research papers were available hitherto within the campus through LAN and switching to open access would provide full text of all resources through internet.

Dr. P. V. Salimath, Head, Biochemistry & Nutrition and Mr. S. N. Krishna Rao, Head, Computer Centre were also present on the dias during the Open Access Day Celebration.

The technical session on "Benefits of Open Access for Scholarly Literature" was delivered by Dr. Francis Jayakanth, Scientific Officer, NCSI, IISc, Bangalore. In his presentation, he highlighted about the open access movement, journal system and initiatives being adopted globally. He also talked about the author's concern and rights about OA.

"Open Access Initiatives of NAL, Bangalore" was delivered by Dr. Poornima Narayana, Head, ICAST. In her presentation, she highlighted about the OA movement and emphasised about the CSIR OA Mandate and policy. She talked about the various initiatives taken for the establishment of NAL-IR and OA initiatives. She also mentioned of Open access day celebration at CSIR-NAL and about the NAL-IR user awareness program.

"Eprints@CFTRI: IR of CFTRI- a bird's eye view" was delivered by Mrs. T. Padmavathi, Senior Technical Officer, Library. In her presentation, she talked about the IR initiatives at CFTRI and also highlighted the guidelines for self archiving and the publishers' copyright policies to be followed for making the IR 100% OA.