

# **Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting (*OAI-PMH*): A Strategy for Sharing Metadata**

J. Mariyapillai<sup>1</sup> and R. Gamage<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Library, Eastern University, Sri Lanka*

<sup>2</sup>*NILIS, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka*

There are a vast and continually growing number of information resources on the World Wide Web such as text, image, audio, video and so on. Many of these resources remain hidden from commonly used search methods, such as Google or Yahoo search engines. Sri Lanka is not an exception to this scenario as majority of the higher educational institutions in Sri Lanka also seem to operate its information resources with less exchange and retrieval of metadata. The interoperability of Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting (*OAI-PMH*) is an effective way for complete metadata exchange and sharing. The larger repositories in the world such as *OCLC OAIster*, *OpenDOAR*, *Europeana*, etc. bring records using *OAI-PMH* and allow users to search the records of various institutions in one place. This paper tends to apply the *OAI-PMH* related process and related outputs among the Sri Lankan institutional information resources. Also, it discusses about the Sri Lankan institutional information resources interoperability with World Wide larger metadata service providers. The findings show that more than 40 online information portals available in Sri Lanka include universities and research institutions. However, all online resource portals have not been configured for *OAI-PMH* yet. There are only 20 Sri Lankan online portals fully enabled with *OAI-PMH* out of which only 13 on-line portals have been registered and have shared metadata with other larger metadata service providers. At last, the current research article has additionally proposed the applicable technical framework for sharing metadata within the nation as well as outside the country.

*Keywords:* OAI-PMH, Metadata, Open access, Data sharing, Interoperability