AI-Driven Advancements in Open Educational Resource Repositories: Opportunities and Challenges

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DOI: https://dx.doi.org/10.51244/IJRSI.2025.1210000365

Received: 10 November 2025; Accepted: 10 November 2025; Published: 26 November 2025

ABSTRACT

This study explores the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into Open Access Educational Repositories (OAERs), focusing on enhancements to search functionalities, content management, and overall user experience. An extensive web-based literature review was conducted to identify OAERs that have implemented AI technologies and to examine their respective use cases. Findings indicate that AI contributes significantly to improved search accuracy and more refined content organization, utilizing advanced algorithms such as those employed in Dimensions AI and semantic search systems like Open Alex. Additional applications include automated metadata extraction and content recommendation systems, which demonstrate AI's potential to streamline repository functionalities. Despite these advancements, key challenges remain—particularly concerning data quality, system interoperability, scalability, and the transparency of AI algorithms. The study underscores the need for continued innovation to address these obstacles and enhance the role of AI in expanding accessibility and optimizing the dissemination of academic resources.

Keywords: Open Educational Resources, Artificial Intelligence, Repositories, Academic Resources

INTRODUCTION

Open Access Educational Repositories (OAERs) have become vital platforms for disseminating scholarly outputs, facilitating global knowledge sharing in an increasingly dynamic research landscape. These repositories, which provide unrestricted access to academic resources, are progressively integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies to enhance operational efficiency, user experience, and overall functionality. The application of AI in OAERs represents not only a technological advancement but also a transformative shift in how educational and research content is managed, discovered, and consumed.

AI technologies—ranging from machine learning and natural language processing to semantic search and automated metadata extraction—are being utilized to automate and optimize various repository functions. These include improving search precision, offering personalized content recommendations, and streamlining content classification and metadata generation. Such capabilities greatly enhance the discoverability and usability of scholarly materials, benefiting both repository users and administrators. Moreover, AI enables deeper insights into user behavior and research impact, which can inform strategic decision-making for repository development and resource allocation.

Traditionally, OAERs serve to preserve and share academic work that may quickly lose visibility after publication. By integrating AI, these repositories are not only extending the lifespan and relevance of scholarly content but also fostering a more dynamic, interactive, and user-centric research environment. As academic outputs continue to grow in volume and complexity, AI-driven functionalities provide essential tools for managing information overload and ensuring timely access to relevant knowledge.

The ongoing evolution of AI suggests even greater potential for future OAERs. Emerging technologies promise to improve content quality, enhance accessibility, and deliver increasingly personalized user experiences. As AI continues to mature, its deeper integration into OAERs will likely redefine the landscape of academic communication, fostering a more interconnected and knowledge-rich global scholarly community.

ISSN No. 2321-2705 | DOI: 10.51244/IJRSI |Volume XII Issue X October 2025

This study aims to examine the current trends in AI-assisted OAERs, highlight key advancements, and explore potential future directions that could shape the development of the next generation of open access educational repositories.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into Open Access Educational Repositories (OAERs) has garnered significant scholarly attention due to its transformative potential in enhancing access, retrieval, and management of academic resources. Researchers have explored the ways in which AI technologies—such as machine learning, natural language processing, and semantic search—can revolutionize the functionality of OAERs while also highlighting the practical and ethical challenges involved in their implementation. Chowdhury and Chowdhury (2022) emphasize the role of AI in improving information retrieval systems within digital repositories, noting its ability to deliver more accurate and context-aware search results compared to traditional keyword-based approaches. Their study outlines how AI-enabled tools can streamline user interactions and personalize content delivery, significantly enhancing user experience. However, they also point to persistent concerns around data quality, algorithmic transparency, and system interoperability. Crawford (2021) highlights how AI enhances digital data management and access, particularly in OAERs, by enabling faster information retrieval and informing content management and user engagement strategies. Kumar and Singh (2023) detail the application of AI technologies in OAERs, particularly focusing on automated metadata extraction for content tagging. Their findings show that such tools improve the organization and discoverability of research materials, streamlining description processes and resource acquisition. Jiang and Zhang (2023) examine challenges such as data quality, system integration, and algorithmic bias, noting that outdated infrastructures and biased training data can compromise the accuracy of AI tools. To address these concerns, they emphasize the need for robust data governance and adaptable integration strategies. Harris and Brooks (2024) outline emerging trends and innovations in AI for OAERs, asserting that these advancements will continue to shape the evolution of educational repositories for years to come. Chen and Lee (2023) address scalability concerns, noting that as OAERs expand, AI systems must be capable of handling larger datasets efficiently to maintain system effectiveness. Wang and Zhou (2022) identify algorithm transparency as a key factor for explainable AI (XAI), emphasizing that mechanisms aligned with "human vision" help build user trust and ensure responsible AI usage. Their review highlights advance in AI applications for OAERs, while also addressing key issues related to data quality, system integration, and enhancing the user experience. Chen and Lee (2023) also explore scalability, arguing that as OAERs become more prevalent, AI must be capable of efficiently handling the growing volumes of data. Wang and Zhou (2022) review the development of AI applications in OAERs, focusing on data acquisition, technology adoption, and system integration for optimal user experience. They highlight algorithm transparency as a key aspect of explainable AI (XAI), noting that aligning AI mechanisms with "human vision" helps build user trust and ensures appropriate usage. As AI technologies evolve, they are expected to further enhance the functionality and accessibility of educational repositories.

To identify various AI-assisted Open Access Educational Repositories and explore their functionalities.

To examine the types and nature of AI technologies integrated as features in OAERs.

To identify the AI tools used in Open Access Educational Repositories (OAERs) and analyze how they are applied.

To analyze the contributions of AI in enhancing OAERs, focusing on improved search capabilities, content management, and user experience.

To identify the challenges and limitations of AI in OAERs, including technical issues and usability shortcomings, with a focus on recent developments and increased implementation.

Statement of Problem

The integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into Open Access Educational Repositories (OAERs) has significantly advanced search accuracy, content management, and user engagement. However, there remains

ISSN No. 2321-2705 | DOI: 10.51244/IJRSI |Volume XII Issue X October 2025

limited understanding of the specific AI tools employed across different platforms and how these tools influence repository performance. This study aims to investigate the application and effectiveness of various AI technologies in OAERs, particularly within contexts such as Centralized Academic File Systems (CAFS). It also addresses the technical challenges and practical limitations that hinder the successful implementation and adoption of AI in these environments.

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSIONS

S.N.	OAER Platform Name	Year of AI Implemented	Country
1	Dimensions AI	2022	UK
2	OpenAIes	2022	USA
3	Less.org	2022	Australia
4	WorldWideScience.org	2023	USA Global
5	ScienceOpen	2022	Germany
6	Iris.ai	2023	Norway
7	Open Research Europe **(ORE)**	2022	EU
8	PubMed Central	2022	USA
9	CORE	2022	UK
10	Zenodo	2022	EU
11	aiXiav	2023	USA
12	bioReiv	2022	USA
13	Figshare	2023	UK
14	DataCite	2009	Germany
15	OAIster	2020	US

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AI Technologies features are currently being used in Open Access Educational Repositories (OAERs)

Sr. No.	OAER Platforms	AI Application features Trends
1.	Dimensions AI	Advanced search algorithms
2.	Open. Alex	Semantic search advanced search features

ISSN No. 2321-2705 | DOI: 10.51244/IJRSI |Volume XII Issue X October 2025

3.	Len.org	AI Driven detailed search options citation analysis
4.	WorldWideScience.org	Semantic search multilingual content retrieval
5.	Science Open	Sophisticated search and filtering options using AI
6.	CORE	Automated Metadata extraction and Indexing
7.	Zenodo	Automated metadata tagging and content categorization
8.	Figshare	Automatic metadata generation and content management
9.	Iris.ai	Personalized content recommendations based on user behaviour
10.	Open Research Europe **(ORE)**	Personalized content recommendations peer review support
11.	PubMed Central	AI driven content discovery and literature search
12.	bioReiv	Intelligent discovery of preprints and research papers
13.	aiXiav	Ai Tools for discovery and organization of preprints
14.	Data Cite	Efficient tagging and indexing of research data
15	OAIster	Integration with other research data systems

Table 2 illustrates the evolving trends in AI applications across various Open Access Educational Repositories (OAERs). These repositories are increasingly integrating AI-powered features to enhance search functionality, content management, and overall user experience. Key developments highlight a focus on improving search accuracy, relevance, and content discoverability.

Repositories such as **Dimensions AI**, **Open Alex**, and **Lens.org** incorporate advanced search algorithms that provide users with precise and contextually rich search results. **Lens.org**, in particular, leverages citation analysis tools to support comprehensive research discovery, including real-world applications and interdisciplinary insights.

World Wide Science.org and **Iris.ai** utilize semantic search and recommendation engines, enabling personalized content retrieval based on user behavior and intent. This semantic layer also supports multilingual environments and enhances contextual understanding.

Repositories like **CORE**, **Zenodo**, and **Figshare** emphasize AI-driven metadata extraction, tagging, and categorization, ensuring systematic organization of research materials. **Open Research Europe (ORE)** and **PubMed Central** are developing tools that streamline content discovery and support processes such as peer review and research evaluation.

Preprint platforms, including **bio Rxiv** and **scholarly repositories**, are adopting automated tagging, article recommendations, and natural language processing to refine user interactions and simplify access to relevant content.

OpenAlex and **PubMed Central** focus extensively on text mining and natural language processing to improve information retrieval, whereas **Zenodo** and **CORE** concentrate on efficient indexing through metadata and text mining integration.

Additionally, platforms like **ORE** and **Figshare** employ data visualization and adaptive content display to improve user comprehension and navigation of research outputs. Meanwhile, **ar Xiv** and **Data Cite** implement

ISSN No. 2321-2705 | DOI: 10.51244/IJRSI |Volume XII Issue X October 2025

automated categorization and reference management through advanced metadata processing, contributing to better organization and user suitability.

Table 3 OAER platforms and its AI Applications Tools

1	Dimensions AI	Advanced search algorithms, citation analysis and research discovery tools
2	OpenAlex	Natural Language processing (NLP) and entity recognition
3	Lens.org	Citation analysis, Patent analysis, and AI Driven search
4	WorldWideScience.org	Semantic: Search and Multilingual Support tools
5	ScienceOpen	Content recommendation and automated tagging
6	Iris.ai	AI-driven Literature discovery and semantic search
7	Open Research Europe (ORE)	Automated content curation and quality assessment
8	PubMed Central	Natural Language processing and text mining
9	CORE	Text mining and content extraction
10	Zen0do	Metadata extraction and content indexing
11	arXiv	Automated tagging and content analysis
12	Figshare	Data visualization and automated metadata generation
13	DataCite	Metadata Management and Citation analysis
14	OAIster	Metadata harvesting and search optimization

Artificial Intelligence is significantly transforming OAERs by improving search efficiency, strengthening content organization, and enabling more interactive user experiences. These advancements make repositories easier to navigate and more responsive to diverse user needs, ultimately increasing overall productivity. As AI continues to evolve, its influence further enhances the accessibility and effectiveness of OAERs.

AI enhances OAER search by using NLP to understand user intent, semantic search to interpret context across languages, and personalized recommendations to deliver relevant resources. These tools make finding accurate, meaningful research faster and more efficient

AI streamlines content management in OAERs by automatically extracting and improving metadata, reducing manual cataloguing efforts. Platforms like Zenodo and CORE use machine l

AI enhances user experience in OAERs by providing personalized content recommendations, smarter content discovery, and real-time support. Tools like Iris.ai and PubMed Central's NLP systems help users quickly find relevant materials, while catboats improve usability through instant assistance

AI in OAERs faces technical issues such as poor or biased data, which can lead to inaccurate or unfair results, and complex integration challenges.

AI integration in OAERs faces interoperability issues due to differing data formats, APIs, and system structures, requiring common standards and flexible interfaces. Resource constraints, such as the need for high-performance computing, further limit implementation. A lack of standardized guidelines and effective evaluation methods

ISSN No. 2321-2705 | DOI: 10.51244/IJRSI |Volume XII Issue X October 2025

also makes it difficult to assess AI's impact, highlighting the need for consistent protocols and improved measurement tools.

The study shows that AI is strongly transforming OAERs by improving search, metadata management, and personalized user experiences through tools like Dimensions AI, OpenAlex, and WorldWideScience.org. However, challenges such as data bias, legacy system integration, scalability, transparency, and high computational demands still limit effective adoption. Overall, AI greatly enhances OAER functionality, but continued technical and ethical improvements are essential to fully realize it's potential.

Future research should examine AI use across a wider range of OAERs, compare different AI tools, and gather user feedback to understand their real impact. Long-term studies are also needed to assess how AI affects repository performance over time and to address ongoing technical and practical challenges.

CONCLUSION

AI integration is greatly enhancing OAERs by improving search accuracy, enabling multimedia interaction, and increasing user engagement, especially in regions like Europe and the USA. However, challenges such as data quality, system complexity, limited resources, and ethical concerns must be addressed to ensure reliable performance. Despite these issues, AI is clearly transforming OAERs and modestly improving their social and economic impact.

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