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OPEN-ASIA: Boosting engagement of HEIs in Open Science in India and Malaysia

Open Science Infrastructure Development plan P4-NMIMS

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Open Science Infrastructure Development plan NMIMS University (Mumbai, India) (P4-NMIMS)

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(1) Executive Summary:

NMIMS has been forefront in providing quality education for the last 45 years in society. The institute has always been a pioneer in societal development by developing young minds. In recent years, NMIMS has emerged as a multidisciplinary, research-focused university with a strong emphasis on innovation, technology integration, and interdisciplinary collaboration. Through its participation in international initiatives such as the OPEN-ASIA Project and its active collaborations with international institutions, NMIMS is taking steps to promote transparency, accessibility, and responsible research practices. The implementation of Open Science will ensure the availability of scientific research data to all, within and outside NMIMS University, without barriers.

The university aims to implement open science by

1. Developing the necessary infrastructure for storing the research data at the institution level, with access to more than 10,000 students and faculty members
2. Developing the open access policy
3. Disseminating the open science platform and data among the stakeholder community through a dedicated working team.

(2) Introduction

Open access to research and data, and the implementation of broader Open Science principles, play a vital role in accelerating scientific progress and promoting a more inclusive knowledge ecosystem. By removing paywalls and barriers to information, open access enables researchers, educators, policymakers, and the public to freely engage with and build upon existing work. This openness enhances transparency, encourages collaboration across disciplines and borders, and supports reproducibility—core elements of robust, trustworthy science. Moreover, open access democratizes knowledge, enabling innovations and evidence-based solutions to reach society more quickly, ultimately driving economic development, informed decision-making, and global scientific advancement. Worldwide, universities and research institutions are adopting the principles of Open Science. NMIMS, as a multidisciplinary and research-intensive institution, is taking initiatives to adopt the principles of Open Science.

(3) Objectives

Objectives of the Open Science infrastructure development plan at NMIMS:

1. Create an Open Science infrastructure supporting the storage, dissemination, and promotion of Open Science.
2. Train the faculty, students, and community stakeholders with the Open Science policy and adaptation.
3. Support data sharing with the researcher community at NMIMS
4. Promote open access to the research data and its outcome
5. Develop an Open Science culture among all stakeholders across all domains, i.e., Engineering, Science, Management, Law, Pharmacy, etc.
6. Encourage interdisciplinary collaboration.

(4) Policy Framework

The Open Science Policy Framework at SVKM's NMIMS is envisioned as an institutional mechanism to create a culture of openness, collaboration, reproducibility, ethical innovation, and responsible use of emerging technologies. The framework aligns with national and international Open Science initiatives and is designed to integrate existing university policies into a cohesive governance structure.

The Open Science practices at the NMIMS university will be governed by the following policies and guidelines already in place and will be amended as per the requirements for implementing the Open Science culture.

1. **NMIMS Open Science Policy**
2. **NMIMS Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy**
3. **NMIMS Gen-AI Policy**

These policies provide aid in the promotion of open dissemination of knowledge while safeguarding intellectual property, ethical standards, data security, and responsible use of AI.

1. NMIMS Open Science Policy

The NMIMS Open Science Policy is the primary framework governing open research practices within the NMIMS university. The policy aims to establish an institutional ecosystem that makes publications, research outputs, educational resources, and data generated through different research projects accessible to the extended academic community and society at large.

The policy is aligned with the principles of transparency, accessibility, reproducibility, inclusivity, and collaboration that define the global Open Science movement. Through this policy, NMIMS seeks to strengthen research quality, increase research visibility, facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration, and enhance societal impact. The university's active participation in the Erasmus+ OPEN-ASIA Project and its engagement with international Open Science initiatives further demonstrate its commitment to adopting globally recognized Open Science practices.

The NMIMS Open Science Policy applies to:

- Faculty members
- Research scholars
- Postdoctoral researchers
- Students undertaking research projects
- Collaborative or sponsored research projects
- Institutional repositories

Key Components of NMIMS Open Science Policy:

Open Research Data:

Research data generated through several research projects, either funded internally or externally, will be managed according to FAIR principles: Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable. The policy shall encourage researchers to deposit datasets in institutional or recognized public repositories while maintaining compliance with privacy, confidentiality, ethical, and legal obligations.

Open Source Software and Research Tools:

The university encourages the use of open-source software for data analysis, statistical computing, molecular modeling, artificial intelligence, machine learning, and bibliographic management. Many faculty and researchers, especially at the Schools of Science, Pharmacy, and Engineering at NMIMS, have already initiated efforts to transition from proprietary software to free and open-source platforms for research and data management.

International Collaboration

The open science policy at the NMIMS supports global research collaborations through open exchange of knowledge, resources, and expertise. Partnerships developed through programs such as OPEN-ASIA provide NMIMS researchers with opportunities to engage with international Open Science networks.

2. NMIMS Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy

Even when implementing Open Science to encourage accessibility and sharing of knowledge, an effective protection of intellectual property is essential for promoting innovation, commercialization, and societal benefit. The NMIMS Intellectual Property Rights Policy serves as a complementary framework to protect intellectual assets generated through research and innovation activities. The policy seeks to achieve a balance between open dissemination of knowledge, protection of inventions and innovations, technology transfer, commercialization opportunities, industry collaboration, and researcher recognition and rewards. The university's growing emphasis on innovation and intellectual property management is reflected in institutional initiatives such as World Intellectual Property Day celebrations, recognition of faculty and researcher contributions, and strengthening the university's IPR ecosystem.

3. NMIMS Gen-AI Policy

In the current age, Generative Artificial Intelligence is increasingly being adopted for teaching, learning, research, data analysis, and many other applications. NMIMS recognizes the need for a comprehensive governance framework to support the responsible and ethical use of AI technologies. The NMIMS Gen-AI Policy provides guidelines for the use of AI tools across academic, administrative, and research environments, ensuring compliance with Open Science principles.

These three policies mentioned above can aid as a governance framework for Open Science at the NMIMS as summarized below:

Policy	Primary Function	Contribution to Open Science
NMIMS Open Science Policy	Research accessibility and transparency	Enables open access, open data, reproducibility, collaboration
NMIMS IPR Policy	Protection and commercialization of innovations	Balances openness while protecting innovation and technology transfer

NMIMS Gen-AI Policy	Responsible use of Artificial Intelligence	Ensures ethical, transparent, and accountable AI-assisted research

(5) Infrastructure Components

The successful implementation of an Open Science policy at NMIMS requires establishing a robust digital, technological, and collaborative infrastructure. Such infrastructure will support the creation, preservation, dissemination, and reuse of scholarly knowledge. The infrastructure should facilitate open access to research outputs, promote interdisciplinary collaboration, research integrity, and innovation across all constituent schools of the university.

Currently, the NMIMS central library manages several platforms, ensuring the availability of educational and research resources to students and faculty. Prof. Y. K. Bhushan Information & Knowledge Resource Centre of SVKM's NMIMS Deemed-to-be University is a well-established academic library serving the university community since 1982. Spread across 15,000 sq. ft. on the second floor of the NMIMS Mumbai Campus, the library serves as a comprehensive knowledge hub, actively supporting teaching, learning, research, and academic integrity. It houses a rich collection of print and digital resources and offers a wide array of services to cater to the diverse needs of students, faculty, and researchers.

5.1 Prof. Y. K. Bhushan Information & Knowledge Resource Centre:

5.1.1 Print Resources

- 55,000+ books covering diverse academic disciplines.
- 101 National and International periodicals for current awareness.
- 430+ PhD theses for advanced research reference.
- 1,900+ audio-visual resources to support multimedia learning.
- 20 newspaper titles, including 1 international title – Financial Times.

5.1.2 Digital Collection

- **DSpace** – Open-source digital repository platform used to manage, preserve, and provide access to the library's institutional digital content.
- Access to 59,000+ e-journals and over 30 lakh e-books across law, finance, engineering, statistics, and company research via subscribed databases.

- **MapMyAccess** – Remote access tool enabling students and faculty to securely access subscribed digital resources from off-campus locations.
- HBPS Cases:Subscription to HBPS (Harvard Business Publishing) cases for management education.

5.1.3. Library Automation and IT Infrastructure

- Koha ILMS – Fully automated open-source Integrated Library Management System managing cataloguing, circulation, OPAC, and acquisitions.
- RFID-based entry system for secure and monitored library access and maintain records of daily footfall.
- Self-check-in kiosks enabling users to borrow books independently.
- Book drop facility for convenient return of library materials.

5.1.4 Subscriptions to Databases & Software

- **Online Databases (33 Subscriptions):**

Access to several journals and databases such as EBSCO, JSTOR, ProQuest, IEEE Xplore, DELNET, Capitaline, LexisNexis, EMIS, Statista, WARC, etc.

- **Academic Integrity & Writing Software:**

NMIMS provides access to several academic integrity and writing tools to students and faculty that include tools such as Turnitin, DrillBit, and Grammarly.

- **Library & Research Management Software**

The central library of the NMIMS uses several library and research management platforms such as Koha ILS (Open-source integrated library system managing all core library operations including cataloguing, circulation, reports and OPAC), IRINS (Research information management system implemented with INFLIBNET for faculty research profiling and output tracking), NVivo (Qualitative data analysis software widely used by researchers for managing, analysing, and visualising non-numeric research data) and Finance Lab (Professional financial data platform providing real-time market data, analytics, and financial news; 6 Bloomberg terminals available in the Finance Lab).

- **Assistive & Language Learning Software**

Several assistive and language learning software are made available at the NMIMS library, including SuperNova (Screen magnification and reading software for visually impaired users,

ensuring equitable access to digital resources), NVDA (Non-Visual Desktop Access, a free, open-source screen reader software enabling visually impaired users to independently access computer-based library resources) and Wordsworth (a Language learning software installed in the Digital & Language Lab, supporting 30 users simultaneously for English language skill development).

5.1.5. Library Services

- **Academic & Research Support**

Database training sessions are conducted regularly to enhance digital literacy and resource utilization. The central library provides an Inter-Library Loan (ILL) service to access resources beyond its own collection. Further, IRINS (Indian Research Information Network System) is implemented in collaboration with INFLIBNET for research profiling and scholarly visibility.

- **Open Educational Resources & MOOCs**
- Several Open educational resources are made available to students and faculty through free platforms. SWAYAM platform is used for training sessions conducted for MOOC course registration and online learning. National Digital Library of India (NDLI) access facilitated for open educational resources.

5.2 High-Performance Computing Infrastructure

NMIMS has created an HPC infrastructure at the School of Engineering, providing a facility for computing-intensive research, including AI and data-driven projects. The Artificial Intelligence (AI) lab features HPC with two Hopper (H100) GPUs with 80GB Vram per unit with Intel Xenon processors.

5.2.1 Dedicated server procured under Erasmus+ OpenAsia project:

To support the infrastructure plan and to fulfill the Open Science objectives outlined, NMIMS has procured a high-capacity enterprise server for repository hosting and data management. The system will complement the existing infrastructure at the NMIMS.

ThinkSystem SR650 V4- Open Science Repository and Data Management Server

The Lenovo ThinkSystem SR650 V4 is a 2-socket, 2U rack-mounted server configured with Intel Xeon 6530P processor (2.3 GHz base frequency, 32 cores / 64 threads, 64 GT/s UPI speed, 144 MB L3 cache). It consists of 32GB TruDDR5 6400 MHz RDIMM, which would be sufficient to handle the planned DSpace repository. To support data management, the server includes five 2.5-inch 3.84TB read-intensive SATA (6 Gbps) SSDs and two 480 GB read-intensive NVMe PCIe SSDs. These SSDs can handle the high read-to-write ratio required for a repository server. The server

will be used exclusively for Open Science workflows and will host various repositories and data management systems. By hosting these services on a dedicated, always-on enterprise server, 24×7 availability and predictable performance under peak access loads is assured.

5.3 Existing Open Science initiatives and collaborations:

NMIMS faculty and researchers are actively participating in various Open Science activities, including collaborative research projects and the implementation of Open-Source software for research. One such example is the "Open Science Network (OSN)" project, undertaken by the School of Pharmacy in collaboration with the Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi, Geneva), to develop small molecules against neglected diseases such as leishmaniasis. Faculty, researchers, and students are encouraged to use Open-Source software instead of commercial tools for research. Researchers, especially those working in drug discovery, are using free tools for their research, including AutoDock, GROMACS, OpenMM, Chimera, Orca, etc. Further, researchers at NMIMS are encouraged to publish in open-access journals to facilitate the easy and free dissemination of knowledge.

5.4 Planned infrastructure pillars to support Open Science:

To achieve the objectives of the Open Science Policy, NMIMS proposes the development of four major infrastructure pillars, building upon the current infrastructure available at NMIMS:

1. Repository and Data Management System
2. Open Access Publishing Support System
3. Research Dataset Repository
4. Interdisciplinary Research Community Development Platform.

Together, these components can improve on the foundation of the university's Open Science ecosystem and help establish NMIMS as a leading research-intensive institution aligned with global Open Science practices.

5.4.1 Repository and Data Management System

NMIMS aims to develop high-end IT infrastructure facilitating the storage of research publications, doctoral theses, academic outputs, and institutional scholarly resources.

The Repository and Data Management System will serve as the central digital infrastructure for preserving, organizing, managing, and disseminating the scholarly outputs generated across the university. This system will function as the institutional knowledge repository, ensuring that

valuable research resources remain accessible, discoverable, and preserved for future generations of researchers.

Through the contributions of faculties, researchers and students, NMIMS generates a substantial volume of scholarly content. These include research projects, doctoral dissertations, master's theses, research and review publications, conference proceedings, technical reports, patents, research protocols, educational resources, and collaborative research initiatives. Traditionally, these resources remain distributed across departments or schools and individual researchers. This makes their discovery and reuse difficult and challenging. The proposed repository system will consolidate these outputs into a unified digital platform.

The NMIMS Library and IT infrastructure team is working collaboratively to manage the storage of the research data contributed by all faculty and students of different disciplines, i.e. Pharmacy, Science, Engineering, Law etc. The repository will be designed using open source tools such as DSpace and will be maintained according to international metadata standards to improve discoverability through search engines and academic databases. Persistent identifiers such as Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs), ORCID integration, and researcher profiles will be incorporated to facilitate accurate attribution and citation tracking.

Details of the planned repository:

- Platform: **DSpace** (an open-source Institutional Repository (IR) platform used by universities, research organizations, government institutions, and knowledge centers to preserve, manage, discover, and disseminate digital scholarly content.
- DSpace provides a centralized repository for research publications, theses, dissertations, faculty publications, conference papers, learning resources, multimedia content, datasets, and institutional records while ensuring long-term preservation and global visibility.
- Repository architecture: The DSpace repository architecture is designed as a modular, scalable, and standards-compliant digital repository system that enables institutions to collect, preserve, manage, and disseminate scholarly outputs. Its architecture follows a multi-tier framework consisting of the presentation layer (Responsive Web Portal (Angular SSR), application layer, storage layer, indexing services, and external integration services. Metadata storage is managed by PostgreSQL Database and search and statistics is managed by Apache Solr Search. This modular design ensures flexibility, high performance, and long-term sustainability while supporting interoperability with institutional information systems.

- System Integrations: The DSpace repository can be integrated with different library management systems such as Koha LMS (available at NMIMS), research information systems such as ORCID, Scopus, Crossref and Google Scholar.
- DSpace supports different file formats for the submission and handling of the data, including Word, PDF, images, audio, video, and datasets.
- Metadata standards: DSpace supports multiple metadata standards including Dublin Core, Qualified Dublin Core, MODS, MARCXML, and DataCite Metadata Schema
- DOI and ORCID integration are available. DOI integration is carried out using DataCite or Crossref
- The content of the DSpace will be organized hierarchically (NMIMS as the main organization and individual schools under it).
- User access and authentication procedures: Role-based access is provided to different users. These are categorized into: system administrators, community administrators, collection administrators, contributors, and public users. Public users' access is restricted to searching, browsing, and viewing open-access resources.

User authentication can be implemented using LDAP, SAML, and OAuth systems.

- Long-term preservation and backup will be made periodically and are supported by the sufficient storage capability of the server procured through the Open Asia project. Long-Term Digital Preservation can be done using persistent identifiers, checksums verification, and bitstream integrity validation.

5.4.2 Open Access Publishing support:

NMIMS envisions developing an open-access publication platform that facilitates students, faculty, and researchers to publish their research work in journals in various disciplines of study. These journals will be freely available for all researchers' community. The proposed system will support the establishment and management of university-hosted Open Access journals across various disciplines represented within NMIMS. These journals will provide a high-quality scholarly communication platform while adhering to internationally recognized standards of peer review, publication ethics, transparency, and research integrity. Special emphasis will be placed on increasing the visibility and impact of publications through indexing in national and international databases.

5.4.3 Research Dataset Repository:

The infrastructure being developed at NMIMS will also include curation of research datasets, making them discoverable and freely available to all researchers to aid their research. It will function as a centralized platform developed using DSpace for storing, curating, preserving, and sharing research datasets generated through faculty-led, student-led, institutional, sponsored, and collaborative research projects. The primary objective of the repository is to make research data discoverable, accessible, and reusable while maintaining appropriate safeguards for privacy, confidentiality, intellectual property, and ethical compliance. The tools and services being developed will follow FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable).

To make datasets **Findable**, these will be assigned a unique identifiers and metadata descriptions helping in easy search and discovery. Research community will be able to **Access** these datasets through standardized access mechanisms. Appropriate access controls will be implemented for sensitive, proprietary, or restricted datasets. Data formats, metadata standards, and documentation practices will be aligned with internationally accepted standards, enabling **Interoperability**. A further integration with external repositories and software tools such as bibliographical tolls will be planned after initial stage implementation. Wherever applicable and feasible datasets will be made available to support **Reuse**, validation, and further analysis of the data.

The repository will include research data generated across the NMIMS institutions, including but not limited to pharmaceutical and biomedical research data, chemical and analytical data, engineering simulation outputs, source codes, social science survey data, artificial intelligence and machine learning datasets, etc.

5.4.4 Interdisciplinary research community development

This platform will bring together researchers from schools across various disciplines to collaborate on developing solutions to societal problems. The NMIMS university has a unique advantage through its multidisciplinary academic ecosystem, comprising schools and departments spanning Management, Engineering, Law, Pharmacy, Science, Agriculture, Physiotherapy, Liberal Arts, Aviation, Hospitality, Commerce, Economics, Architecture, Design, and other domains. The proposed platform will leverage this diversity to encourage collaborative problem-solving and innovation.

The platform will support seminars, workshops, webinars, discussion forums, research showcases, innovation challenges, and collaborative networking events that bring together researchers from diverse disciplines. The infrastructure will also facilitate interactions between

academic researchers, industry partners, government agencies, healthcare institutions, startups, non-governmental organizations, and community stakeholders. Such collaborations will strengthen translational research and improve the societal impact of research outcomes.

(6) Training, Capacity Building and Community Engagement

1. Training and capacity building:

The Open Science implementation at SVKM's NMIMS University extends beyond the development of digital infrastructure and policy frameworks. As the sustainable Open Science ecosystem requires a continuous investment in human capital, institutional culture, stakeholder participation, and community engagement training of the different stakeholders is essential. Hence, NMIMS University will offer training programs and workshops on Open Science principles and open-source tools available for research carried out by the NMIMS faculty, students and staff community. The infrastructure will also strive to provide support for researchers to adopt open research practices.

2. Science Shop 2.0

NMIMS shall establish the Science Shop 2.0 for engaging different stakeholders, including faculty, students, industries, citizens, and patient groups, in scientific research. It will strive to raise awareness about Open Science and its benefits by organizing seminars or workshops open to the public. Science Shop 2.0 will work as a bridge between academia and society, transforming research from a predominantly academic activity into a collaborative work involving multiple stakeholders.

The Science Shop 2.0 initiative will pursue several objectives, including:

- Promote public participation in scientific research.
- Increase awareness and understanding of Open Science.
- Facilitate community-driven research.
- Strengthen university-society interactions.
- Enhance research relevance and societal impact.

The Science Shop activities will involve engagement of students from different NMIMS institutions such as School of Science and School of Pharmacy with the community stakeholders including faculty, parents, industry representatives, etc. These activities will be hosted at NMIMS and will be coordinated through infrastructure working group. The projects for Science Shop will

be selected from the research work of Master students and Doctoral students. Community stakeholders will be invited to participate in the engagement activities such as showcasing of the research carried out by NMIMS students. Additionally, two workshops will be conducted for students, faculty and community to actively involve different stakeholders in Science Shop initiatives. Through these activities, NMIMS aims to create a more inclusive and participatory research ecosystem. Science Shop 2.0 is expected to generate multiple academic, societal, and innovation-related outputs that contribute to the University's Open Science ecosystem.

(7) Evaluation and Monitoring

To ensure that the Open Science Infrastructure at NMIMS University delivers measurable academic, societal, and institutional benefits, a structured evaluation and monitoring system will be established. The system will provide a systematic mechanism for assessing the effectiveness, utilization, sustainability, and impact of Open Science initiatives across all constituent schools, research centers, and campuses of the university.

This will be achieved through:

1. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs):

The successful implementation of the OS infrastructure at the NMIMS will be monitored through different qualitative metrics, including research output and open access metrics, research data management metrics, repository infrastructure utilization reports, and community engagement reports.

2. Regular Assessments and Reviews:

NMIMS will conduct regular assessments and annual audits to monitor the implementation of Open Science policies and infrastructure. Feedback from faculty, researchers, and other stakeholders will be collected and analyzed to assess the planning and implementation of Open Science at NMIMS and identify opportunities for further improvement.

To monitor and handle the Open Science infrastructure, a governance committee is created at NMIMS. These include the head of the institution, Pro-VCs, Legal and Finance representatives, and representation from different schools. To handle and monitor the various work packages of the Open Asia project, working groups are created, each consisting of a coordinator and committee members. These working groups report to the project coordinator and Pro-VCs.

(8) Budget and Resource Allocation

The budget available to the NMIMS university will be utilized for implementing and maintaining the Open Science Infrastructure. NMIMS will take efforts to obtain external funding and collaborations to enable long-term sustainability of the Open Science policy.

Sr. No.	Particulars	Estimated Cost
1	**Hardware (Server, Storage devices, Screens, etc.)**	**Euro 43,520/-**
2	**Software:** Data Management Platform, Software like DSpace for managing the digital assets with strong metadata handling and customization capabilities User interface framework, web-based interface platform Back-end database management system	
3	**Maintenance and training**	
4	**Human Resource to manage the infrastructure**	
	Total	**Euro 43,520/-**

(9) Timeline and Implementation:

Year of implementation	Implementation plan
Year 1 **2025 Q1-Q4**	Team formation Exploration and understanding the project vision from EU partners Selection of the Open Science infrastructure
Year 2 **2026 Q1-Q2**	Procuring the IT hardware and software Development of the Open Science platform for resources sharing Training to access the infrastructure
Year 3 **2026 Q3-4**	Complete implementation of Open Science infrastructure and Open Science policies Conducting the outreach programs and developing the open science culture

(10) Conclusion

The proposed Open Science infrastructure at SVKM's NMIMS represents a comprehensive and future-ready ecosystem designed to support transparent, collaborative, and impactful research. With open access to research data, knowledge among all stakeholders will support the boarder vision of uplifting humanity boundlessly. NMIMS has been on the forefront for the development of humanity through developing the community. The project of open science complements the vision of NMIMS. University will develop the policy accordingly. So that open access infrastructure developed is supportive for fulfilling this broad vision.

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