

Dissemination of scholarly information in Western Africa: How, What and How effective; Open Access in Western Africa

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Berlin Declaration on Open Access

"Our mission of disseminating knowledge is only half complete if the information is not made widely and readily available to society"



Outline

- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ Open access - definition, benefits etc
- ▶ The "Gold" and "Green" Roads to Open Access
- ▶ Open access institutional repositories
- ▶ Issues and challenges in Africa
- ▶ Conclusion



Introduction

The rise of open access movement

- ▶ “networked information economy” v. “industrial information economy”
- ▶ demand for broader access to research outputs
- ▶ significant increase in the volume of research
- ▶ dissatisfaction with traditional print and electronic journal price hikes



Open Access

Free availability of research articles or publications on the public internet, permitting any users to read, download, copy, distribute or print the articles or publications,... pass them as data to software, or *use them for any other lawful purpose*, without financial, legal, or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the internet itself. The only constraint on reproduction and distribution, and the only role for copyright in this domain, should be to give authors control over the integrity of their work and *the right to be properly acknowledged* and cited. (Budapest Open Access Initiative)

Nature of Open Access

- ▶ *Free availability on the public Internet*
- ▶ *Licensed to use for any legal purpose*
- ▶ *Subject only to proper acknowledgment*



Benefits to Institutions in West Africa

- Unrestricted access to knowledge
- Speed and reduced cost of distribution
- Access to grey literatures from developing world
- Expanded opportunity to publish

Roads to Open Access

- The "Gold" Road
 - Open Access Journals
 - www.doaj.org
- The "Green" Road
 - Digital Archives/Repositories
 - www.openoar.org

Open Access Institutional Repositories

"a digital archive of the intellectual product created by the faculty, research staff, and students of an institution and accessible to end users both within and outside of the institution, with few if any barriers to access."

Crow (2002)



Aim

to provide access to scholarly material without the economic barriers that currently exist in scholarly publishing.

Content

already-published articles (post-prints), pre-published articles (pre-prints), research reports, data sets, examination papers, conference papers, newsletters and seminar papers, course notes, theses and dissertation, manuals, teaching material or any other material that the authors or their institutions wish to make freely available to the public.



Elements of IR

- Digital Content
- Institutionally Defined: content generated by institutional community
- Scholarly Materials: preprints and working papers, published articles, enduring teaching materials, student theses, etc.
- Cumulative and Perpetual: preserve ongoing access to material
- Open Access
- Interoperable



Benefits

- ▶ increase in visibility and impact of research output
- ▶ improvement of internal communication within the institution
- ▶ serves as a tangible indicator of a university's quality
- ▶ preservation and dissemination of institutional research outputs
- ▶ Complements existing scholarly publishing model

Opportunities for Africa

Universities and research institutes in Africa are the major centres of research and consequently the major generators of research based data, information and knowledge.

The scientific and technological information and knowledge which they are generating should be easily accessible, and the creation and use of institutional repositories could be the first step in this process.

Chisenga (2006)

Impact of Institutional Repository

School of Business, University of Otago, New Zealand

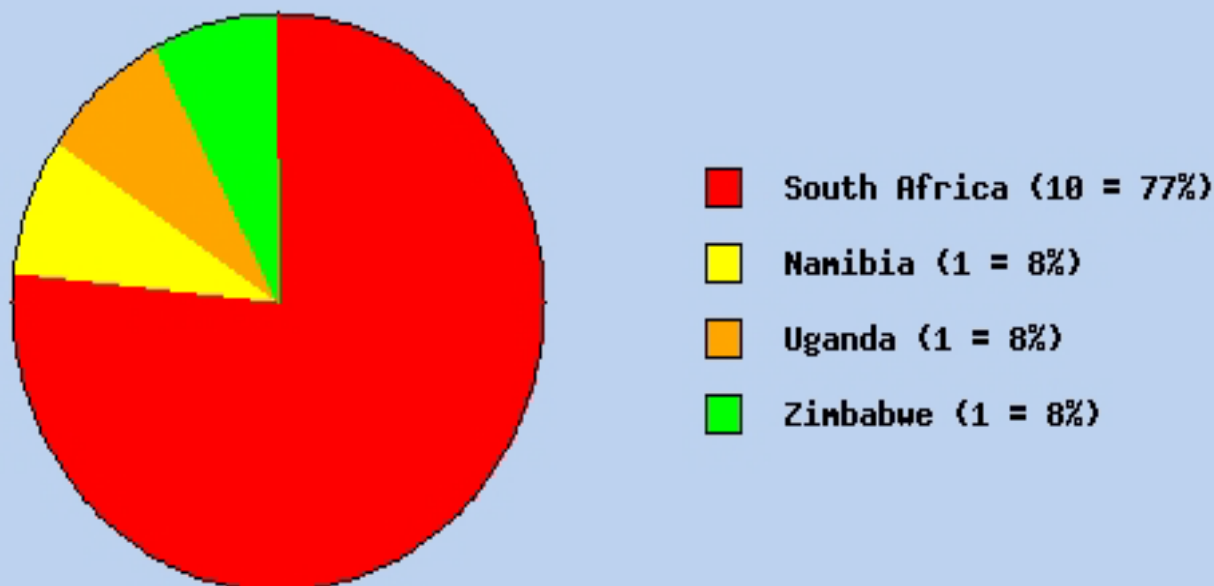
- ▶ first to develop an institutional repository NZ.
- ▶ IR went into operation in mid November 2005.
- ▶ By the end of January 2006 there was a record 9000 downloads from 60 different countries.
- ▶ Over 2 months later, the number of downloads doubled and included visits from 80 countries.
- ▶ The most popular paper (an Information Science discussion paper) had 451 downloads from 23 countries after twelve weeks in the repository.

State of Open Access Institutional Repository in Africa

Repository name	Country	Recs.	Software
1. African Higher Education Research Online	S/Africa	165	Unknown
2. CSIR Research Space	S/Africa	821	DSpace
3. DSpace at the University of Namibia Library	Namibia		Dspace
4. DUT IR	S/Africa	150	DSpace
5. Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Database	S/Africa	846	ETD-db
6. Institutional Research Repository – Uni. of Pretoria	S/Africa	2390	DSpace
7. Rhodes eResearch Repository	S/Africa	219	EPrints
8. Stellenbosch University Institutional Repository	S/Africa	189	DSpace
9. UCT Computer Science Research Document Archive	S/Africa	194	EPrints
10. Uganda Scholarly Digital Library at Makerere	Uganda	55	DSpace
11. Uni. of Pretoria Electronic Theses and Dissertations	S/Africa	2070	ETD-db
12. University of Zimbabwe Institutional Repository	Zimbabwe	212	DSpace
13. UWC Theses and Dissertations	S/Africa	479	Unknown

State of Open Access Institutional Repository in Africa (Chart)

Proportion of Repositories by Country
Africa



OpenDOAR 22-Mar-2008

Total = 13 repositories

Steps in Building an IR

1. Learn about the process by reading about and examining other institutional repositories.
2. Develop a Service Model
3. Assemble a Team
4. Access the State of Existing infrastructure
5. Choose the IR Software Platform
6. Run a Pilot Program
7. Launch the IR

Developing a Service Model

- ▶ What is the service mission?
- ▶ What kind of content will you accept?
- ▶ Who are the key users of the IR?
- ▶ Who can deposit content in the IR?

Choosing the IR Software Platform

Open Source v. Proprietary Solutions

- Open Source: Dspace, Eprints, Fedora, bepress, Greenstone
- Proprietary IR software: Cumulus (Canto), Digitool, Encompass for Digital Collections, Hive, Masterfile, The Learning Edge



Populating the repositories

- ▶ Mandatory Policies (Grant Bodies)
 - ▶ National Institute of Health (NIH)
 - ▶ Wellcome Trust
 - ▶ Medical Research Council (MRC)
 - ▶ Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)
 - ▶ International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

Populating the repositories

- ▶ Mandatory Policies (Universities)
 - ▶ Queensland University of Technology (QUT), Australia
 - ▶ Computer Science Dept. of the University of Tasmania, Australia
 - ▶ FAS, Harvard Approach



Populating the repositories

- ▶ Intellectual Property Rights Issues
 - ▶ alternative publishing agreement
 - ▶ SHERPA project
- ▶ Quality Control (Peer Review)

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Welcome to the IDRC Digital Library

The IDRC Digital Library provides the international research community with access to a current and comprehensive collection of research results and documents generated by IDRC-funded projects, IDRC funding recipients, and IDRC staff about a wide range of subjects related to international development. See About the IDRC Digital Library for more information.

Document Delivery Service

The IDRC Digital Library provides access to a comprehensive collection of research results and documents dating back to 1970, the year IDRC was created. Approximately 20% of the metadata records include links to full text documents. This is due to the retrospective nature of the collection. To enquire about document delivery, contact the IDRC Library at reference@idrc.ca or at 613 236-6163 ext. 2578.

Search

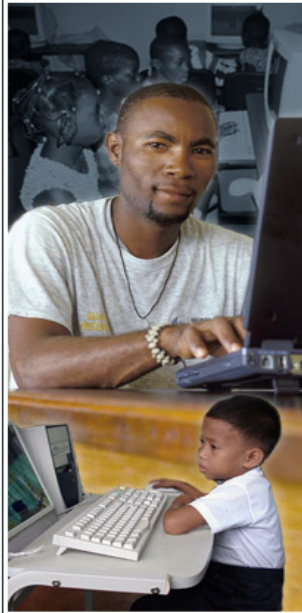
Enter some text in the box below to search DSpace.

Go

Communities in DSpace

Choose a community to browse its collections.

- [ACACIA](#) [202]
- [Connectivity Africa/Connectivité Afrique](#) [9]
- [Echelle de pauvreté](#) [200]



RSS Feeds

[RSS 1.0](#) [RSS 2.0](#)

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Search Results

Search: All of DSpace for internet in africa Go

Results 1-10 of 90.

Item hits:

Issue Date	Title	Author(s)
1996	Guide to improving Internet access in Africa with wireless technologies	Jensen, M.
2006	Assessing consumer activity in the telecoms and Internet sectors in Africa	Southwood, Russell; Nguo, James; Sagna, Olivier; Lewis, Charles
1996	Bridging the gaps in Internet development in Africa	Jensen, M.
1999	Internet for all : the promise of telecentres in Africa	IDRC, Acacia
2002	Internet : out of Africa	IDRC, Acacia; Fuchs, R.; Jensen, M.; Emdon, H.; Martin, L.; Martin, A.
1997	Investigation into a water demand management network for Southern Africa	-
2002	Internet au Sénégal : modes d'insertion, différents usages et réseaux de communication mis en place par les ONG dakaroises [Internet in Senegal : modes of inclusion, different uses, and communication networks established by Dakar NGOs]	Dulau, Caroline
1999	Internet pour tous : le potentiel des télécentres en Afrique	CRDI, Acacia
1997	APC Africa Strategy Development Meeting report, Feb. 8-11, 1997, Johannesburg, South Africa	SANGONeT
2002	Internet au Sénégal : modes d'insertion, différents usages et réseaux de communication mis en place par les ONG dakaroises	Dulau, Caroline

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 ...

<http://idl-bnc.idrc.ca/dspace/handle/123456789/30900> Local intranet

Start Skype™ - gchristian... Yahoo! Messenger Inbox - Microsoft Ou... 2 Microsoft Office ... 3 Internet Explo... Microsoft PowerPoin... My Computer 4:43 PM



Thanks you:

Questions?

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