Towards parabiotic partnerships for access & discovery: Leveraging access to e-content within the framework of library consortia in Zimbabwe.

By
Collence.Takaingenhamo.Chisita
chisitacollence@gmail.com

&
Alexander . M. Rusero
arusero@yahoo.com
Introduction

- Radical collaboration *i.e* experimenting & innovating to widen access to scholarly communication
- ICT’s driving learning, teaching & research
- Online content hosted outside
- Global proliferation of library consortia
- NRENS versus commercial ISP
- Access to global broadband networks
- Libraries need better links and access
- growth of broadband RENs
- Networks for interconnectedness
Technologies & Modern Library

- Mobiles Tablets
- Cloud Computing
- Geo-Everything (geolocation & geotagging)
- Personal Web
- Linked Data
- Semantic-Aware Applications (meaning to provide answers)
- Smart Objects (linking the physical world with information)
- Smart technologies - m-libraries e.t.c
ICT’s & NRENS

- Proliferation of ICTs providing stimulus for libraries to metamorph from EXCLUSIVITY to INCLUSIVITY

- NRENS providing for internet access & inter-institutional connectivity

- Global scientific collaboration & access

- NREN provision for dedicated internet infrastructure (Network Connectivity & Bandwidth)

- Extended service to COP & COI
Library Consortia in Zimbabwe

- Cooperation/Partnership affected by socio-economic, technological & political factors.
- Cost-benefit studies on the value of library consortia (Scigliano, 2002).
- National consortium for nation-wide access in support of learning, teaching & research.
Library Consortia & development partners

- INASP support for resource sharing, OA & capacity building
- INASPs strengthening research & Knowledge Systems” (SRKS).
- Combining the technical skills of NRENS & content knowledge of librarians & consortia
- INASP initiative in building the capacity of NRENS
- Maintaining research infrastructure
Cont’d

- EIFL widening access to e-content
- Consortium building & development
- Licensing negotiations
- Open access Initiatives
- Training & advocacy
- Legal factors i.e. IPR & access
- Use & maintenance of Integrated library Management systems
- Providing education & training to complement technical solutions
Strengthening relations

- Building & developing parabiotic relations
- Strategic partnership for developing ICT infrastructure, resource sharing & Licensing e-content
- Radical collaboration
- Collaboration in building ICT infrastructure for enhanced access:
  1. campus-level infrastructure
  2. ICT human capital,
  3. National, regional & international networks
NRENS in Zimbabwe

- ZIMREN an Internet Service Provider (ISP) launched to support research & HE
- ZIMREN established as a result of the combined efforts of ZUVCA
- ZARNET recently joined Ubuntunet Alliance in September, 2015
- role in developing ICT infrastructure
- Inter institutional connectivity
- revolutionizing HE connectivity & national development goals in ZIMBABWE
LIS cooperation & access to information

- Cooperation building on from traditional back to inter-library loans (ILL)
- Resource sharing is a critical component of the delivery of collections and services
- Sharing collection development & storage
- Library consortia responding to the growing demands of users vis-à-vis the information explosion
- Critical role of ICT infrastructure vis-a-vis costs
Library Consortia & development partners

- Library consortia cooperating with NRENS to improve the visibility and accessibility of their ETD IR’s
- ZULC collaborating with EIFL to promote OA
- Adaptation OA policies in 2013
- Enlistment of IR’s on the OpenDOAR
- Building an OA DRIVEN & INTEROPERABLE global system for accessing & exchange scholarly content
Cont’d

- NRENS collaborating with ZULC & CARLC, National Research Council (NRCZ) to develop the infrastructure for hosting central repository that provides nationwide access.
- NRENS turning digital divide into digital dividend
- Improving quality of education
- Supporting open distance education
- Fostering local content networks through NRENS
Cont’d

- Ensure the availability & accessibility of affordable high bandwidth
- Contribute to improved identity & access management for the use of – resources
- Support & promote the accessibility of e-content
- Improve the visibility of HE institutions and researchers
NRENS & access to ETD’s

- Annually approximately 10,000 students are enrolled in the 15 universities
- Prior to 2005 research output emanating from the TD was not visible past the academic library walls of the universities
- Master’s & PHD research output visible and accessible
- ETDs enable academic libraries to leverage research output beyond the library walls
- NRENS & access to content
Dakar Declaration on OA (2016)

- Monopoly capitalism *vis-a-vis* control on publications
- High costs of subscriptions & access to quality scholarly content
- Equitable production & sharing of information on a global scale i.e. the Dakar Declaration on OA (2016)
- OA provides an opportunity to transform the unfavourable situation
- OA to ENCYCLOPEDIA e-content
“There is no way we can succeed in the eradication of poverty if the developing world is not part of knowledge creation, its dissemination and utilisation to promote innovation. HE is a critical factor in making this possible ...must be part of any development strategy”

Dr. Ramphele (2000)
2012, the University of Zimbabwe libraries had 4,200 ETDs in its repository and 980,000 PDFs were accessed and downloaded by users, meaning that on an average each ETD was downloaded 233 times.

**Number of ETDs in the IR**

- **University 1**: 3,253 ETDs
- **University 2**: 737 ETDs
- **University 3**: 35 ETDs
Although all university libraries have, or are making efforts of having their ETDs visible through IRs, only four (4) university IRs out of the four indexed IRs, are ranked on the Ranking Web of World repositories (http://repositories.webometrics.info/en/Africa/Zimbabwe).

The next slide is screenshot of 4 indexed IRs.
Zimbabwe

About Us

- About Us
- Contact Us

About the Ranking

- Methodology
- Objectives

Resources

- Best Practices
- Links

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ranking</th>
<th>World Rank</th>
<th>Instituto</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Visibility</th>
<th>Files Rich</th>
<th>scholar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>970</td>
<td>University of Zimbabwe Institutional Repository</td>
<td>666</td>
<td>1067</td>
<td>1013</td>
<td>1222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1862</td>
<td>Midlands State University Institutional Repository</td>
<td>2171</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>1345</td>
<td>1334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1874</td>
<td>ZOU Space Zimbabwe Open University Institutional Repository</td>
<td>1965</td>
<td>1975</td>
<td>1494</td>
<td>1581</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1918</td>
<td>National Research Database of Zimbabwe Research Council of Zimbabwe</td>
<td>1570</td>
<td>1896</td>
<td>1528</td>
<td>1809</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Challenges facing library consortia

- Infrastructural development
- Access & Preservation i.e. the lack of electronic archival standards
- Adherence to internationally-agreed set of technical standards, e.g. (OAI-PMH) for interoperability
- High costs of bandwidth & human resources.
- Intellectual property rights
- Sustainability issues
- Enabling Government policies
Conclusions

- NRENS to offer library consortia more in order to gain a competitive advantage over commercial ISPs
- Library consortia & NRENs should innovate by collaborating with key stakeholders
- Accessing high speed network connectivity
- ZULC should strive for common protocol & standards
- OA initiative should be seen & used to promote Open African scholarship
Developing suitable ICT infrastructure to enhance management of ETDs

Valuing strategic partnerships as a strategic resource

NRENS & Library consortia helping in democratizing access to scholarly content

Towards egalitarian access models through NRENS
THANK YOU

TATENDA

GRAZIE

MERCI BEAUCOUP

SIYABONGA

ASANTE SANA