NRENs, library consortia and government: Nexus for democratising access to scholarship

By

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&

Alexander Rusero
Introduction
• From oral traditions, Guttenberg
  Galaxy to digital libraries
• Brick & mortar to techno-infospheres
• From depositories to repositories
• From ownership to resource sharing
• Convergence of participants
• Proliferation of data as a scholarly product
OBJECTIVES

• Highlight key players in providing access to scholarship
• Describe the state of scholarship in academic institution
• Assess the challenges facing academic institutions in providing access to scholarship
• Examine collaborative initiatives in HE
KNOWLEDGE Production
• Doubling efforts in supporting HE
• Contribution to global knowledge?
• Peripheralisation of Africa
• Practicality of collaboration
• Changing dialectical relationship
• Blurring institutional ownership and boarders
• From disciplinary to multidisciplinary research
“Higher education... strategically position itself between government and industry, to influence both, and to steer the trajectory of economic development ...have a mutually beneficial relationship with the state, society and other stakeholders.”

Gumedede (2012)
GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION MAP

ISI articles per million capita, 2011

- **top fifth**: 599–3,359
- **middle fifth**: 108–599
- **lowest fifth**: 0.3–10.2
- **no data**

Very small entities are shown as squares.
“Higher education... strategically position itself between government and industry, to influence both, and to steer the trajectory of economic development ...have a mutually beneficial relationship with the state, society and other stakeholders.” Gumede (2012)
CHALLENGES
• Brain drain or brain gain?
• Poor infrastructure?
• Digital divide *viz-a-viz* accessibility & affordability
• Information as a commodity
• Overcoming knowledge & network deficits
• ICT infrastructural developments & hope for development
Cont’d

• Providing quality access to scientific publications
• Enhancing the visibility & accessibility of research output
• Underfunding
## INTERNET PENETRATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>Users</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>% Pen.</th>
<th>Usage Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>14,712,000</td>
<td>0.3 %</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>500,000</td>
<td>13,874,610</td>
<td>3.6 %</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>820,000</td>
<td>12,247,589</td>
<td>6.7 %</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>1,351,000</td>
<td>12,382,920</td>
<td>10.9 %</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>1,445,717</td>
<td>12,619,600</td>
<td>11.5 %</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>6,759,032</td>
<td>14,546,961</td>
<td>46.5 %</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NREN in Zimbabwe
• ZARNET Internet and ICT services to the academic and research sector.
• ZIMREN - inter-institutional regional and global connectivity
• Strengthening HE access to cost-effective ICT connectivity and high-speed bandwidth.
African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF)
Virtual Library on Capacity Development
Chinhoyi University of Technology (CUTIR)
Chinhoyi University of Technology Institutional Repository (CUTIR)
Midlands State University
Midlands State University Repository
National University of Science and Technology (NUST)
NuSpace Institutional Repository
NuStone Digital Library
(including theses and dissertations)
Research Council of Zimbabwe
National Research Database of Zimbabwe
University of Zimbabwe
University of Zimbabwe Institutional Repository
Zimbabwe Open University
ZOU SPACE : Institutional Repository
CONTEMPORARY ISSUES
• Open Science
• Open Access
• Forensic Bibliographic Reconstruction,
• Open Linked Data,
• Licensing content
• M-Libraries
• Intellectual genealogy
ACADEMIC LIBRARY

• Nerve centre of the institution
• Sustaining the wider scientific communities of practice
• Visibility of scholarship
• Promoting Open Science
• Independent learning
• Remote access
• Supporting research
• Digital preservation of content
Libraries and Open Science

• Building commons for long term availability of scholarship
• Fostering new forms of publishing
• Enabling new methods of knowledge discovery
• Building partnerships
• Potential for new discoveries and solutions
• Open up metadata
RESEARCH DATA CYCLE

DATA LIFE CYCLE

- Integrate
- Plan
- Collect
- Assure
- Describe
- Preserve
- Discover
- Analyze
Digital library features

- Integrated and comprehensive
- Online Catalogue
- E-resources
- Wider and broader content
- Interactive and collaborative
- Digital services linking users
- Networked e-resources
- Access and discovery tools
- Global Seamless access
WHAT GLAM CAN DO?

• Applying GLAM principles & practices
• Conducting outreach
• Consulting on data management plans & metadata
• Incorporating data into ILI
• Providing reference services for retrieval and citation
• Preparing web guides and tutorials
• Contributing towards policy
ROLE OF LIBRARY CONSORTIA

• Enhancing access to global research information
• Capacity building
• Partnerships with Government & NREN
• Integrating ICTs in resource management
• Advocating for a national site license
• Managing research data
“....Because if science is a search in the darkness, then the humanities are a candle that shows us where we have been and the danger that lies ahead.”

Tom Cook (June, 2017)
WAY FORWARD
• Government - policy formulation, regulation & monitoring
• Partnerships for robust global Internet infrastructure
• Development of multi-stakeholder processes and partnerships
• Government funding
• PPPs as an alternative strategy
Conclusion
• Deeper, broader & symbiotic partnership
• Collaboration & access to information underpinning national development.
  • Human capital development
  • Social services & poverty eradication
• Value addition & beneficiation
PUBLISH OR PERISH & SELF-ARCHIVE AND FLOURISH
TATENDA
THANK YOU
SIYABONGA
GRAZIE
TATENDA
MERCI BEAUCOUP
ASANTE SANA