Building online global access to African cultural heritage: DISA – an appropriate model?

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DISA: Digital Innovation South Africa

- Pilot feasibility study
- Technological advancement
- Skills development
- Collaboration
- Open
DISA as a subject repository

Collect and manage resources relating specifically to one or more subjects and make available on-line

- Socio-political history
- Cultural heritage
- Scholarly
- Multimedia
- Support teaching and learning
DISA   http://www.disa.ukzn.ac.za

Digital Innovation South Africa
unlocking resources for research

WELCOME TO DISA

DISA is a freely accessible online scholarly resource focusing on the socio-political history of South Africa, particularly the struggle for freedom during the period from 1950 to the first democratic elections in 1994, providing a wealth of material on this fascinating period of the country’s history. Much time, creative thought and debate goes into the selection of the content, and participation and input from interested persons, scholars and institutions in South Africa and overseas is encouraged.

Moses Mabhida

Hamba Kahle Comrade
MOSES MABHIDA
Substantial content

- 15 TB data
- 220,000 pages of digitized text
- 22,000 journal articles
- 4000 posters
- 1500 MP3s
- 50 journal titles
- 50 videos
Challenges

- Resistance to digitization initiatives
- Lack of national digitization policy
  - Hindrance to collaborative initiatives
- Misunderstandings about digital copyright
- Lack of institutional capacity
  - Human resources
- Lack of skilled professionals
  - Programmers + library skills
  - Metadata creators
- Content selection
Building expertise in digital technologies

- Training
- Skills development
  - Digital conversion
  - Metadata
  - IT for digital libraries
  - IP for digital resources
- Content management systems
- Workshops
- Practical training
Scholars’ selection process

Overall subject architecture
- Scholars expertise and knowledge
- Selection from collections across institutions
- Networking and collaboration

Drawbacks
- Costly
- Slow despite incentives
- No copyright permissions → no digitization
- Institutional refusal to digitize
Production

- **Centralised** production
  - Journal digitization
  - Centralised skills development

- **Decentralised** production
  - Archival materials
  - Roll-out of skills
  - Remote management
  - Human resources – professionals and students

- Data transfer
  - Narrow bandwidth issues
  - Large archival files
  - Courier services
digitization permissions

- Tracking owners
- Documenting the process
- Risk assessment - decisions
  - Best efforts
  - Fair dealing
  - Public domain
  - Ethical considerations
  - Disclaimers
- digitization permissions
- No national and institutional policies

- Lack of clearly defined parameters within South African law
- Lack of knowledge/understanding of digital copyright issues
Openness

- Open source
  - software where the source code is available for modification

- Open standards
  - specifications

- Open access
  - access to resources made available without fees or cost
Building for resource networks

- Development of cross-repository infrastructures
- Metadata interoperability
- Standards
- Open access
Moving beyond isolated repositories to a Global Knowledge Society

- Repository networks
  - National
  - Regional
  - International

- Implementing OAI-PMH
  - Data providers
  - Service providers
  - Access to full text

- Implementing social networking
  - Web 2.0 and 3.0 technologies
Repositories by continent

Proportion of Repositories by Continent

Worldwide

- Europe (677 = 48%)
- North America (401 = 28%)
- Asia (166 = 12%)
- Australasia (77 = 5%)
- South America (66 = 5%)
- Africa (24 = 2%)
- Caribbean (4 = 0%)
- Central America (2 = 0%)

Total = 1417 repositories
Worldwide repository types

Open Access Repository Types

Worldwide

- Institutional (1140 = 80%)
- Disciplinary (187 = 13%)
- Aggregating (61 = 4%)
- Governmental (29 = 2%)

Total = 1417 repositories
Building further repository expertise

- Standards – technical, metadata, preservation
- Guidelines – establishment, operational
- Harvesting protocols – data providers and service providers
- Support and advisory functions
- Cultural and institutional change management
Human capital development

- Leadership skills
  - University of Pretoria + Carnegie-sponsored development initiative

- Change management
  - Collaboration - mentoring
  - Understanding new research processes
    - Carnegie-funded Research Commons

- Advanced skills development
  - Networked information management
  - Topic maps – context rich
Digital repository

- Comprehensive collection of research resources
- Selected by African research community
- Relevant to contemporary African scholarship
- Accessible to all types of users
- Constructed through skills development
- Managed by information professionals
- Acknowledged value of African culture and heritage
A new model incorporating ....

- Institutionally driven digitization initiatives
  - Own content
  - Own selection
  - Copyright issues

- Institutional commitment to capacity building
  - Ensures sustainability and growth

- New ways of partnership and collaboration
  - Mentoring
  - Support
    - Top-down;
    - Bottom-up
    - Side-to-side

- Interoperability
OpenDOAR

The Directory of Open Access Repositories - OpenDOAR

Search for repositories | Search repository contents | List of repositories | Repository Statistics

OpenDOAR is an authoritative directory of academic open access repositories. Each OpenDOAR repository has been visited by project staff to check the information that is recorded here. This in-depth approach does not rely on automated analysis and gives a quality-controlled list of repositories.

As well as providing a simple repository list, OpenDOAR lets you search for repositories or search repository contents. Additionally, we provide tools and support to both repository administrators and service providers in sharing best practice and improving the quality of the repository infrastructure. Further explanation of these features is given in a project document Beyond the list.

The current directory lists repositories and allows breakdown and selection by a variety of criteria - see the Find page - which can also be viewed as statistical charts. The underlying database has been designed from the ground up to include in-depth information on each repository that can be used for search, analysis, or underpinning services like text-mining. The OpenDOAR service is being developed incrementally, developing the current service as new features are introduced. A list of Upgrades and Additions is available.

Developments will be of use both to users wishing to find original research papers and for service providers like search engines or alert services which need easy-to-use tools for developing tailored search services to suit specific user communities.

The importance and widespread support for the project can be seen in its funders, led by the Open Society Institute (OSI), along with the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC), the Consortium of Research Libraries (CURL) and SPARC Europe.

OpenDOAR has also been identified as a key resource for the Open Access community (K.B. Oliver & R. Swain, 2006 - PDF), and was one of the services which contributed to SHERPA being awarded the SPARC Europe Award for Outstanding Achievements in Scholarly Communications.

More information on the project is available on this site through the About page.
Registry of Open-access Repositories ROAR

Addis Ababa University Electronic Thesis and Dissertations (1669 records)

Running DSpace, based in Ethiopia and is registered as e-Theses
Registered on 2009-02-11
Cumulative deposits: 1669 total [table] [graph]
Daily deposits in last year: 40 days of 1-9, 23 days of 10-99, 0 days of 100+ [table] [graph] (PNG format) [interactive graph] (requires SVG format support)
OAI Interface: Identify List Metadata Formats List Sets [harvest status]

Advanced Knowledge Technologies (AKT) EPrints Archive (342 records)

Running EPrints, based in United Kingdom and is registered as Research Cross-Institutional
Registered on 2002-01-22
Cumulative deposits: 342 total [table] [graph] [Preserve Profile]
Daily deposits in last year: 0 days of 1-9, 0 days of 10-99, 0 days of 100+ [table] [graph] (PNG format) [interactive graph] (requires SVG format support)
OAI Interface: Identify List Metadata Formats List Sets [harvest status]
100% freely accessible fulltext (* estimate)

Adventist Digital Library Dissertations and Thesis

Not registered in Celestia;
Either the OAI-PMH interface isn’t working or it is awaiting action by a ROAR editor

Running EPrints, based in United States and is registered as e-Theses
Registered on 2009-02-03
No successful harvest yet.
OAI Interface: Identify List Metadata Formats List Sets [harvest status]
100% freely accessible fulltext (* estimate)

African Higher Education Research Online (500 records)

Running Other softwares (various), based in South Africa and is registered as Other
Registered on 2007-12-20
Cumulative deposits: 500 total [table] [graph]
Daily deposits in last year: 71 days of 1-9, 0 days of 10-99, 0 days of 100+ [table] [graph] (PNG format) [interactive graph] (requires SVG format support)
Digital Repository Infrastructure Vision for European Research

Latest News

- Software za infrastrukturo DRIVER je že dosegljiv!
- DRIVER infrastructure software release is available now!
- Lancering D-NET: unieke Europese portal voor wetenschappelijk onderzoek

DRIVER: Networking European Scientific Repositories

Considered the largest initiative of its kind in helping to enhance repository development worldwide, DRIVER is a multi-phase effort whose vision and primary objective is to create a cohesive, robust and flexible, pan-European infrastructure for digital repositories, offering sophisticated services and functionalities for researchers, administrators and the general public.

DRIVER has established a network of relevant experts and Open Access repositories. DRIVER-II will consolidate these efforts and transform the initial testbed into a fully functional, state-of-the-art service, extending the network to a larger federation of repositories. DRIVER is integral to the suite of electronic infrastructures that have emerged in the worldwide GEANT network and is hence funded under the e-Infrastructures call of the European Commission's 7th framework programme. It aims to "... optimize the way the e-Infrastructure is used to store knowledge, add value to primary research data and information making secondary research more effective, provide a valuable asset for industry, and help bridging research and education."

The objectives of DRIVER-II, the second phase of the project, include efforts to expand, enrich, and strengthen the results of DRIVER, in the following areas:

- Strategic geographic and community expansion by means of the DRIVER federation
Development requirements

- Advocacy
- Training for best practices
  - IT for libraries
  - Web delivery and Internet protocols
  - Metadata
  - Standards
  - Management
    - Data, Content and Information
    - Long term preservation
- Services
- Tools
- New partnerships and mentoring initiatives
Contact details

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Reference:

The future of repositories? Patterns for (Cross-)Repository Architectures.
http://www.dlib.org/dlib/november08/aschenbrenner/11aschenbrenner.html

Hubbard, Bill 'Supporting a network of repositories -- experience from SHERPA in the UK', Danish Open Access Day, Copenhagen Business School, Copenhagen, 31st March 2009

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