Capacity building activities on Open Access: the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa Perspective

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Outline

- Context – ECA’s vision and programmes
- Focus on ICT, Science and Technology Division (ISTD)
- Open Access activities at ECA
  - Open Access Publishing – ECA Institutional Repository
  - Development of e-learning & Open Educational Resources
  - Open Access to GeoData & information
- Modalities of support to member states
- Access to Scientific/Socio-economic Knowledge in Africa (ASKIA) programme
- Lessons learnt
ECA’s mandate & vision

The Economic Commission of Africa:

- established 1958
- one of the UN Secretariat's five regional commissions
- 5 Sub-Regional Offices (SROs): Morocco, Niger, Rwanda, Zambia & Cameroon

_to promote economic and social development, foster intra-regional integration, and promote international cooperation for Africa's development_
ECA’s Work Programme

Focus on:

• Regional Integration, Trade and Infrastructure
• Meeting the MDGs
• Promote good governance & popular participation
• ICTs, Science and Technology for Development
• Statistics and Statistical Development

Responsible for:

• United Nations programme on “harnessing information for development”;
• Is an integrated information service:
  • to promote accessibility & availability of quality information on African development
  • To assist member states build national capacities in the use of ICTs for development
ICT, Science & Technology Division (ISTD)...

- Work programme in 4 strategic areas of intervention:
  - Promoting ICTs for development and implementing the African Information Society Initiative (AISI);
  - Promoting science and technology for development;
  - Strengthening geographic information for sustainable development
  - Knowledge, Library and Information Management services

- ISTD provides these services at 2 levels:
  - to the Commission
  - to member states
Publishing at ECA

ECA’s knowledge is presented in:

- Flagship publications
- Conference proceedings, Resolutions & speeches
- Technical publications, policy briefs, mission reports, annual reports, working papers
- Other grey literature

—all of which outline important research or decisions that have been made on economic and social developmental aspects in Africa.
The status of ECA publications 3 years ago

- **Library basement**
- **ECA publications**
- **Divisional Collections**
- **Electronic copies**
- **Catalogued collection**
- **Staff computers**
- **ECA Web sites**
- **Library shelves**
The ECA Institutional Repository

Established in 2009:
..is an electronic publishing means for collecting, managing and preserving the institutional memory of ECA. It offers timely dissemination of this wealth of knowledge outlining important socio-economic research and decisions made on Africa...

- Highly customized to provide value added services
- 17,000 metadata records & 10,000 digital files
- Project on going and will be adding multimedia
Implementing the ECA IR

Project activities
- Preliminary activities
- Workflow
- Collection development (including digitization)
- Online platform development
- Communities and collections development
- Importing MARC21 metadata records into the DSpace IR with qualified Dublin Core
- Uploading digital files
Welcome to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) institutional repository!

In its 50 years of existence, UNECA has created and holds a vast quantity of information and knowledge in a variety of formats, including printed and electronic. These represent the corporate memory, providing historical evidence of its actions and decisions. The information resources include published materials such as flagship publications, journal articles, conference proceedings, technical reports, mission reports, annual reports, working papers, speeches and other grey literature, all which outline important research or decisions that have been made on the economic and social developmental aspects in Africa.

The Institutional Repository of the Economic Commission for Africa offers unique knowledge and information not available elsewhere pertaining to regional programmes, decisions and resolutions promoting social and economic development in Africa.

Communities in UNECA IR

Select a community to browse its collections.

- Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing [1465]
- Economic Development and Development Finance [7856]
- Gender Issues and Equity [1007]
- Governance and Public Administration [2363]
- Industry [1443]
- International Trade [1461]
- Library, Information Communication Technology (ICT), Science and Technology [1703]
- Natural Resources and Environment [1831]
- Organizational Queries [1642]

Available at http://repository.uneca.org
Accessing content in the ECA IR

**Searching**
- Simple Search
- Advanced search using the AGRIS AP metadata (qualified DC)
- Subject search

**Browsing**
- DSpace features (title, date & Communities and collections)
- Subject keyword browse (UNBIS thesaurus)
- Thematic collections of ECA conferences & Flagship publications

**Harvesting**
- OAI-PMH (simple DC)
- Expose metadata using AGRIS AP (qualified DC) for specialized harvesters
The ECA IR: impact

80,000 hits/month

Top 10 countries include: USA, SA, Nigeria
The ECA IR: Lessons Learnt

- **Migration** of data from and existing systems to IR software i.e. DSpace
- Use of **qualified** Dublin Core metadata set for data input and harvesting from DSpace software
- **Integration** of controlled vocabularies for data entry and value added services e.g. subject search & browse
- Good **project documents** needed for fund raising
- Poor **internet connectivity** across Africa is a big challenge to access ECA IR resources
- **Level of funding** very important in determining project achievements in a given period.
Other Open Access activities

- Open Educations Resources & e-learning
- Open Access to geo-information
Open Access Education Resources (OER) & e-learning

- Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders in Africa
  - 8 Modules on ICT4D topics including; ICT policies, e-government, network security, ICT trends:
  - 3 new modules are planned as follows:

Open Access to GeoData

- Online Metadata Clearing House Registry Services
  - ECA offers “country spaces” for hosting of metadata clearinghouse nodes at [http://geoinfo.uneca.org:8080/geonetwork](http://geoinfo.uneca.org:8080/geonetwork)

- Development of interoperability standards for datasets
  - to promote open geodata architecture for mutual and remote access to geodata and geo services. [http://www.uneca.org/istd/default.htm](http://www.uneca.org/istd/default.htm)

- Development of data sharing policies
  - Policy & guidelines development during the biennium 2012-2013 period
  - Setting up policies at Regional (ARSDI) and National (NSDI) levels
Open Access Resources: OER & e-learning

Support to member states

- **Dual role** as regional arm of the UN & part of the regional institutional landscape

*Provides a vantage point to harness resources and make a unique contribution to assist member states' efforts to address their development challenges*
Modalities and services to support member states include:

- **Policy analysis and advocacy**
  - formulation of national ICT policies, commonly known as NICIs
    - Over 43 countries had adopted their NICIs by end of 2010,
    - Ongoing implementation of sectoral strategies in key priority sectors facilitate implementation of the WSIS Geneva declaration on Open Access in Africa

- **Enhancing Partnerships**
  - based on comparative advantage and pooling of resources
    - Examples:
      - Govt of Finland: Technology in Government Awards
      - Carnegie Foundation & IFLA for ICADLA conference in 2009
Technical Assistance through
- on-demand regional advisory services
- training workshops and seminars
- fellowship and internship programmes

Communication and Knowledge sharing
- CoP platforms: Teamworks knowledge-sharing platform in partnership with UNDP
- e-learning platform: [http://www.uneca.org/elearnafirca](http://www.uneca.org/elearnafirca)

Statutory meetings
- Committee on Development Information Science and Technology-CODIST
  - Brings together experts, policy makers, researchers from members states
  - KLIS reinstated as a Committee of CODIST in CODIST-II meeting
  - Pre-event workshop activities
ACCESS TO SCIENTIFIC/SOCIO-ECONOMIC KNOWLEDGE IN AFRICA (ASKIA) INITIATIVE:

defines a framework for bringing together a variety of scientific, socio-economic and associated information to the African scientific community;

Identifies five strategic areas of intervention working in synergy for a common goal;

Is an implementation programme for the African Virtual Libraries Information Network (AVLIN) established by member states/ECA at the CODI meeting.
Strategic intervention 1

ASKIA Online portal

- a one stop shop to all knowledge types from/on Africa
- contextualized access to information services
- Bibilios, maps, news, stat. data etc.

- Using a Web Content Management System (Web 2).
- **Hosting:** ASKIA Federated Search Engine, CoPs for Library and information Managers; e-Forums; RSS feeds for news and events on science and socio-economic development issues; Directories of African scientists and researchers etc.; IM tools & standards Databases; the ASKIA blog etc.

- **Status of the activity:**
  - Under development at the ECA Library
Strategic intervention 2

**ASKIA Federated Search**

- facilitate the collation of different knowledge types on/from Africa
- facilitates discovery, access to free and subscribed information resources
- through a single search

Different competing online sources: Bioline, BMC, DOAJ, PMC, AJOL, Scirus, Research4Life, Google etc.

- single search across Open Access and commercial knowledge sources
- contextual rendering of content in one view to bibliographies, geo-data, news, blogs, etc.

**Status of the activity:**
- Funds acquired and professional services under procurement
Ex. Federated Search Engine

Terms: malaria within

Database:
- WWW
- Catalogs
- Scientific Databases
- Databases - Social Sciences
- e-Journals
- Patents
- Databases - Biomedical
- Law

Date:
- All Years
- From
- To

The following fields control the Subject Filter analysis of the results

Fields to Analyze: All Fields
Focus on Subjects: Separate subjects with semi-colons
Ignore Subjects:
Ex. Contextual rendering of results

Search: Full Text: "innovation africa"  Get Automatic Updates on This Search

Results 1 – 10 of 276  Sort by: Rank  Limit to: All Collections  1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

1. Experimental verification of active vibration control of structures using jet pulses
   EKT National Archive of PhD Theses (HEDi)

2. Software project antipattern knowledge management: Dimitrios Settas
   EKT National Archive of PhD Theses (HEDi)

3. Paraphrasing and textual entailment recognition and generation
   EKT National Archive of PhD Theses (HEDi)

4. Γνωάκες σε θέσεις διεύθυνσης στην εκπαίδευση: μια συγκριτική μελέτη της διαχείρισης συγκρούσεων στην Ελλάδα και του Καναδά
   EKT National Archive of PhD Theses (HEDi)
Strategic intervention 3

Repository on African maps & geodata

- access to thousands of maps at the ECA Library and nationals libraries
- Input to google maps

- formerly the Map Reference Section of the Cartography and Remote Sensing Unit at ECA
- comprising topographical maps, soil survey maps, geologic bedrock: an invaluable historical record
- Developed through member states’ contributions and purchased materials.

Status of the activity:
- Funds to be raised
Strategic intervention 4

Knowledge hub & information services

- Values added services e.g.
  - theses and dissertations
  - country profiles: news, maps, biblos etc.
- New emerging technologies for information delivery

Wider dissemination of ECA knowledge
- Mirrors of the ECA IR at the ECA Sub Regional Offices
- Mirrors of the ECA IR at the United Nations Depository Libraries across Africa

Status of the activity:
- Professional services & equipment under procurement

Services delivery using new emerging technologies:
- e.g. social media
- mobile technology proliferation in Africa
Strategic intervention 5

Strengthening member states’ capacity to document local knowledge

- partnerships with donors for funding
- training in IM standards and tools
- fellowships and internships
- digitization equipment

Use different business models for capacity building activities:

- **Hosted services** e.g. In partnership with partners e.g. by Biomed Central:
  - relatively high cost of infrastructure development to set up repositories
  - lack of required skills and technical know-how to set-up and maintain the IR
  - immediate availability and visibility of IR online

- **Other models** of technical assistance:
  - Training workshops
  - Project funding
  - Purchase of digitization equipment

Vision: Every knowledge generating institution must have a repository
ASKIA: http://www.uneca.org/askia
Lessons Learnt

- Need to share best practices on IR development between member states’ libraries;
- Need to bring coherence to various Open Access & KM activities across the continent;
- Development partners and organizations need to assess comparative advantages and pool resources to support OA, KM activities;
- Poor internet connectivity poses a challenge to ECA knowledge access – replication of IR at SROs & UN Depository Libraries;
- Need to incorporate sustainability strategies in project planning and implementation;
- Good project planning is critical in the implementation of OA activities in the African Libraries given the limited funds
THANK YOU!!!