Building online global access to African cultural heritage:

DISA – an appropriate model?

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DISA: Digital Innovation South Africa

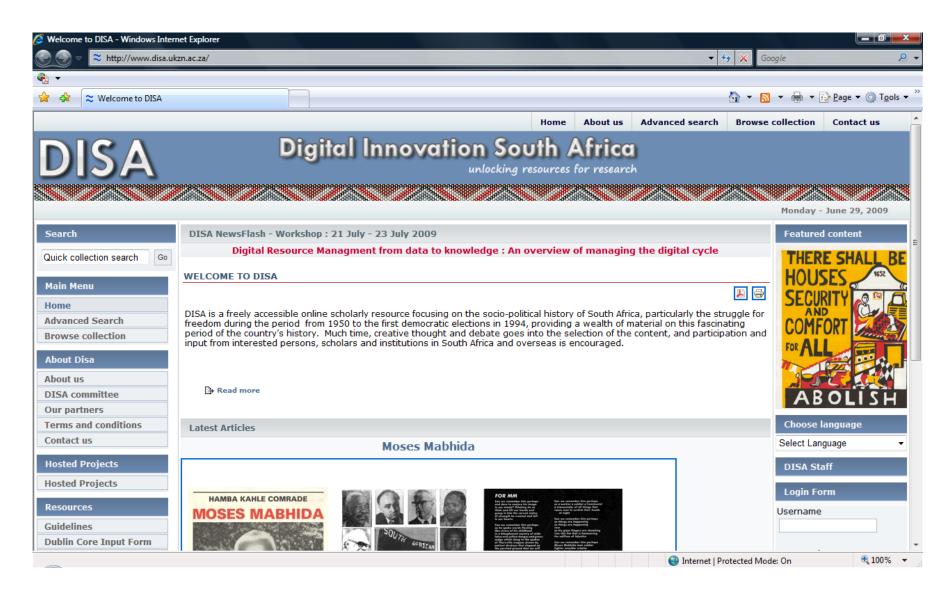
- Pilot feasibility study
- ▶ Technological advancement
- Skills development
- Collaboration
- Open

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



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

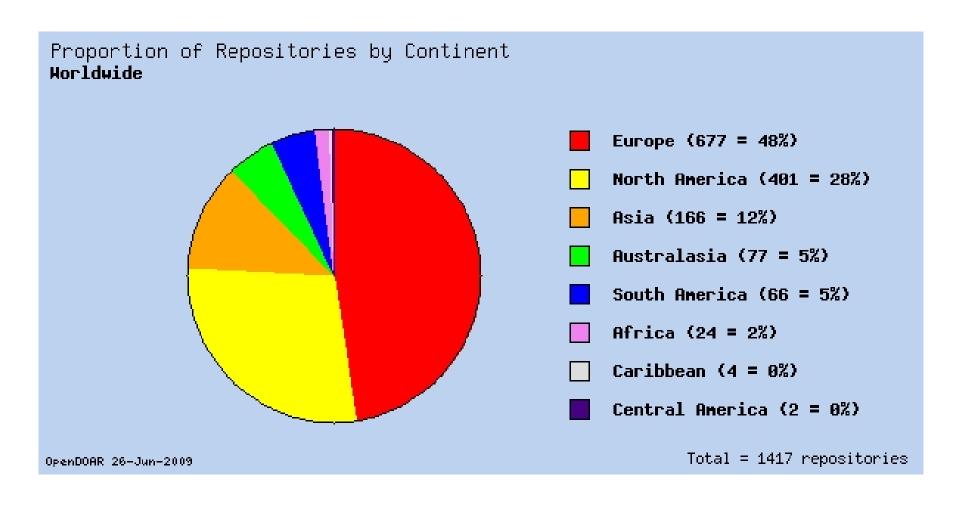
Building for resource networks

- Development of cross-repository infrastructures
- Metadata interoperability
- Standards
- Open access

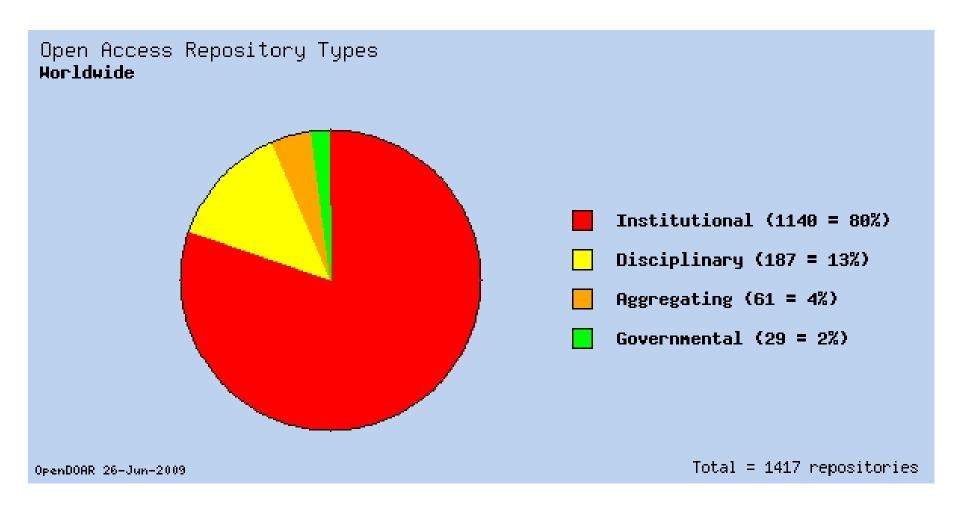
Moving beyond isolated repositories to a Global Knowledge Society

- 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



Worldwide repository types



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

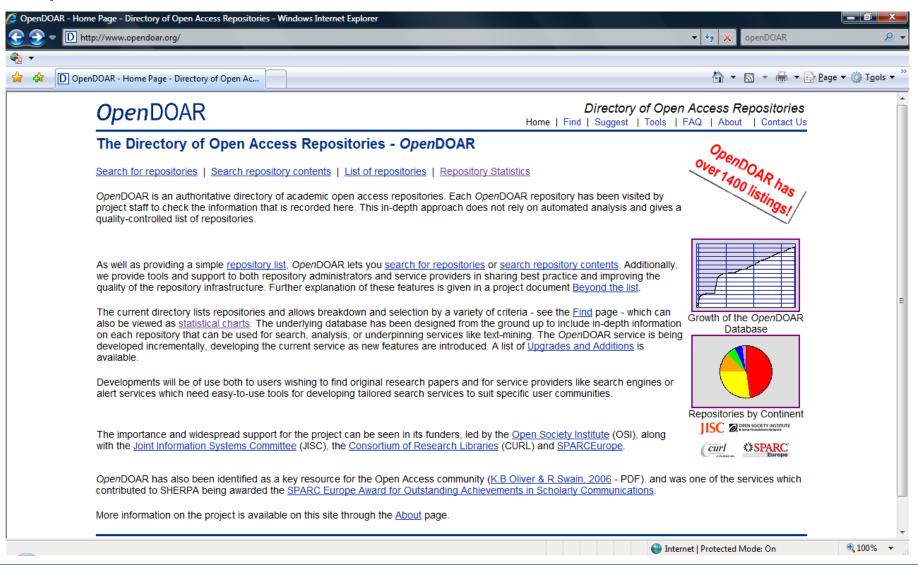
Digital repository

- 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

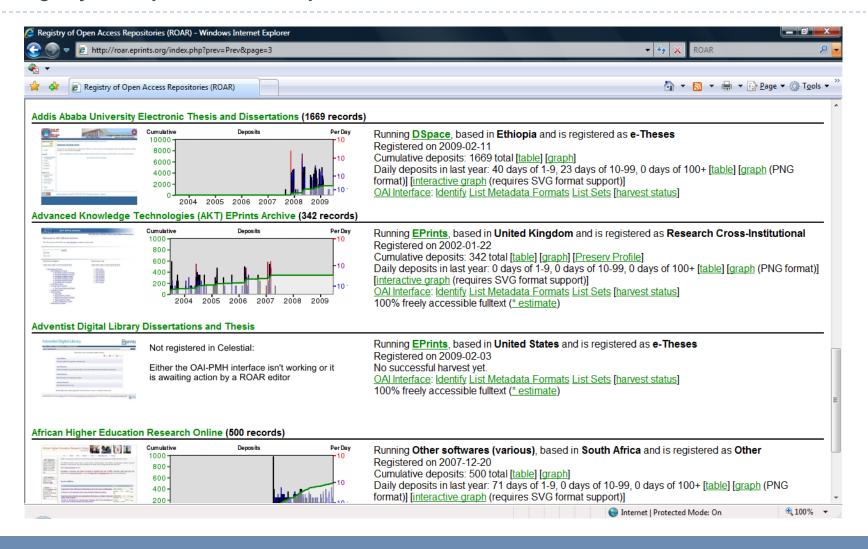
A new model incorporating

- 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

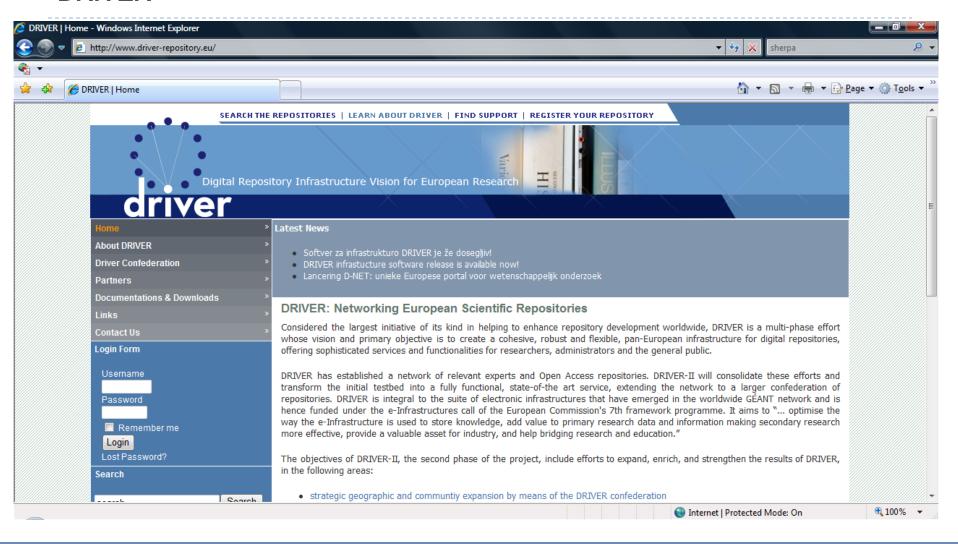
OpenDOAR



Registry of Open-access Repositories ROAR



DRIVER



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

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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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