

Digitization for libraries in Kenya

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Key concepts in digitization

- Digitization
- Digital Libraries
- Library portal
- Digital repository vs. Institutional repository
- Digital Library Management System
- Digital preservation
- Access rights
- Metadata

Status of Digitization in Africa

- Digitization is a topic that is on the agenda of most Librarians and Archivists meetings, as a tool for enhancing the capture, dissemination, retrieval, storage and preservation of information.
- Digital libraries in Africa have been in existence since 2000. They fall into two categories – those built for Africa i.e. with African content or intended for Africa scholars, and digital libraries established by African institutions.

Status of Digitization in Africa

Digitization for Africa

- eGranary Digital Library
- African Online Digital Library
- The Essential Electronic Agricultural Library (TEEAL)
- Access to Global Online Research in Agriculture (AGORA)
- African Journals Online (AJOL)

Status of Digitization in Africa

Digitization by Africa

- Due to limited financial resources, emerging models of digital-based learning combine commercial and open access. A lot of the established digital libraries that have been built by African institutions have been supported financially or with the necessary manpower by donors in the developed countries.

- Most African digital initiatives involve cooperation
 - Digital Imaging Project of South Africa (DISA)
 - Kwetu.Net
 - Database of African Theses and Dissertations (DATAD)
- Apart from full-text digitization projects, there are various African-based, online bibliographic services that have been set up.
 - E.g. *The Quarterly Index of African Periodical Literature*, which is funded by the United States and produced in Kenya as a good example.

Relevance of digitization for libraries

- Improve and widen access to participating libraries' collections.
- Increase longevity of information material:
- Encourage and facilitate resource sharing amongst libraries
- Ensure standardization and conformity amongst libraries.
- Reduce duplication of work

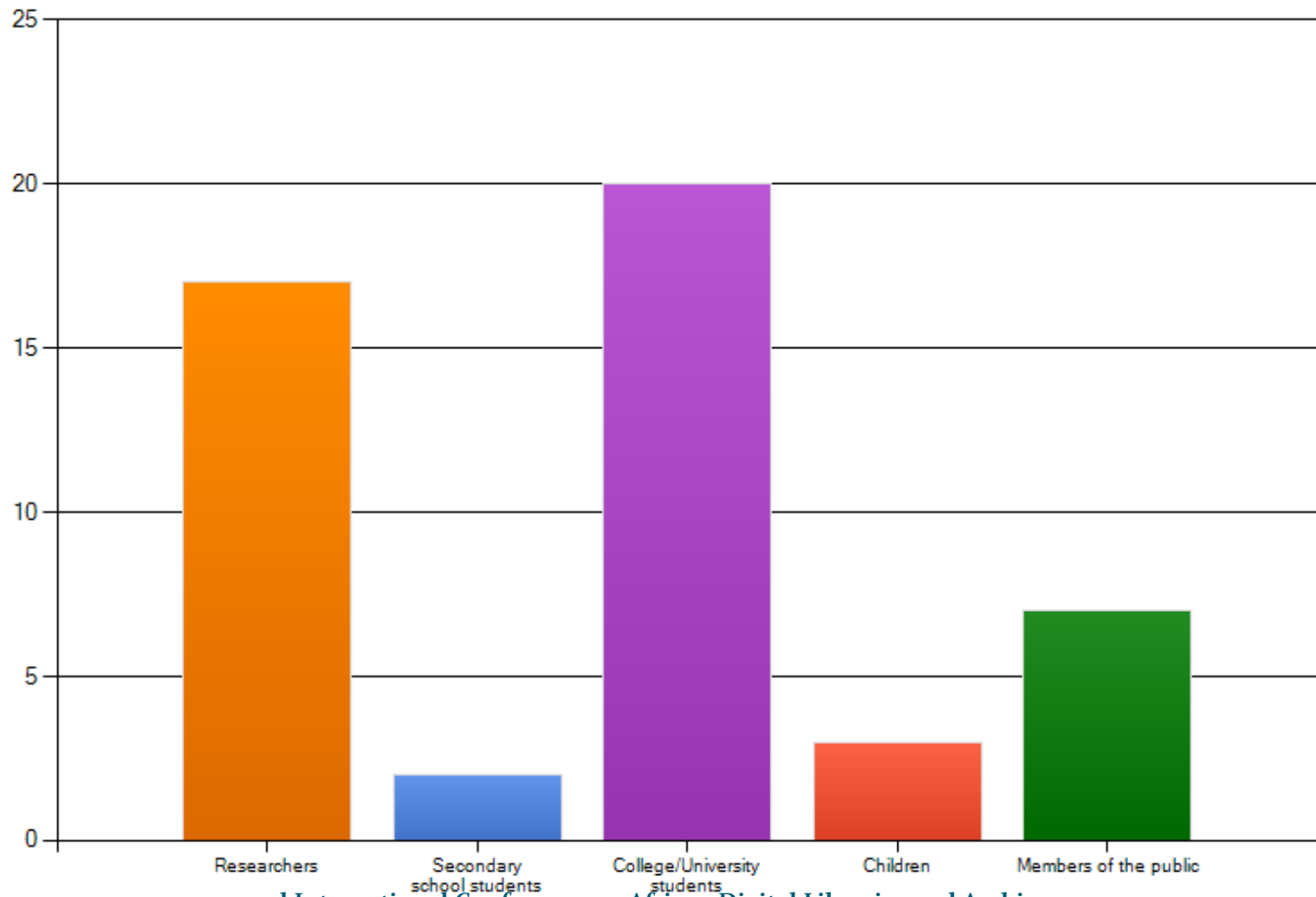
Libraries in Kenya

- Kenya has a large number of libraries in academic, research, private and public institutions.
- Libraries in Kenya are found in:
 - Public Libraries and Archival Institutions
 - National Research Institutions
 - Universities
 - Middle level Colleges, Polytechnics and Institutes of Technology
 - Primary Schools and Secondary Schools

Libraries in Kenya

- Largest category of libraries in Kenya, in number and size is drawn from the education sector. University libraries have the largest information collection and users overall.
- It is estimated that, taken together, universities hold approximately 70% of all library resources in the country.

Category of users in 20 libraries from the sample group



The status of digitization endeavours in Kenya

- In 2009, a land information management system was implemented in Kenya's Ministry of Lands.
- To help in developing relevant local content for the education sector, the **Communications Commission of Kenya (CCK)** partnered with the **Kenya Institute of Education (KIE)** in 2008 in its programme for digitization of the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) curriculum.

The status of digitization endeavours in Kenya

- Kenya is tackling regional disparity by setting up **digital centres** countrywide.
- In 2010, the ICT Board launched *Tandaa* local digital content grants to support entrepreneurs in developing local digital content.
- Over 2,000 people participated in the competition that run from June 3 – July 19, 2010. 14 companies and one individual emerged winners and were awarded grants to develop digital content.

The status of digitization endeavours in Kenya

- Another development that is within the country's E-government initiative is the State Law Office Company registry's digitization exercise which resulted in the transformation of 25.5 Million paper records to digital format in May, 2010.
- Google's ongoing global effort to bring historical and cultural heritage online has incorporated Kenya's initiative called Open Access to Public Legal Information into its programme.

The status of digitization endeavours in Kenya

- Lack of common standards or guidelines that would allow easy citizen access to the information using current and emerging technologies.
- Though **Article 35 of the Constitution of Kenya 2010** establishes the citizen's right of access to public information, actual access remains limited due to this and other reasons not discussed in this presentation.

- Kenya's standardization body, the **Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS)** has intervened to solve the standardization problem by establishing a Technical Committee to help set standards for digitization of libraries, record centers and archives.
- **The ISO TC46 SC11 Committee** was established to develop standards in Archives/Records Management which covers standardization of principles for the creation and management of documents, records and archives as evidence of transactions and covering all media including digital multimedia and paper, archives and records management.

Digitization for libraries in Kenya

- Despite the zeal with which the government is supporting and implementing these ICT related changes, the pace in digitization of libraries and national records offices or departments still remains generally slow. There is need for more action to ensure that libraries are incorporated in the national digitization policies and plans. The reasons for the slow pace are varied.

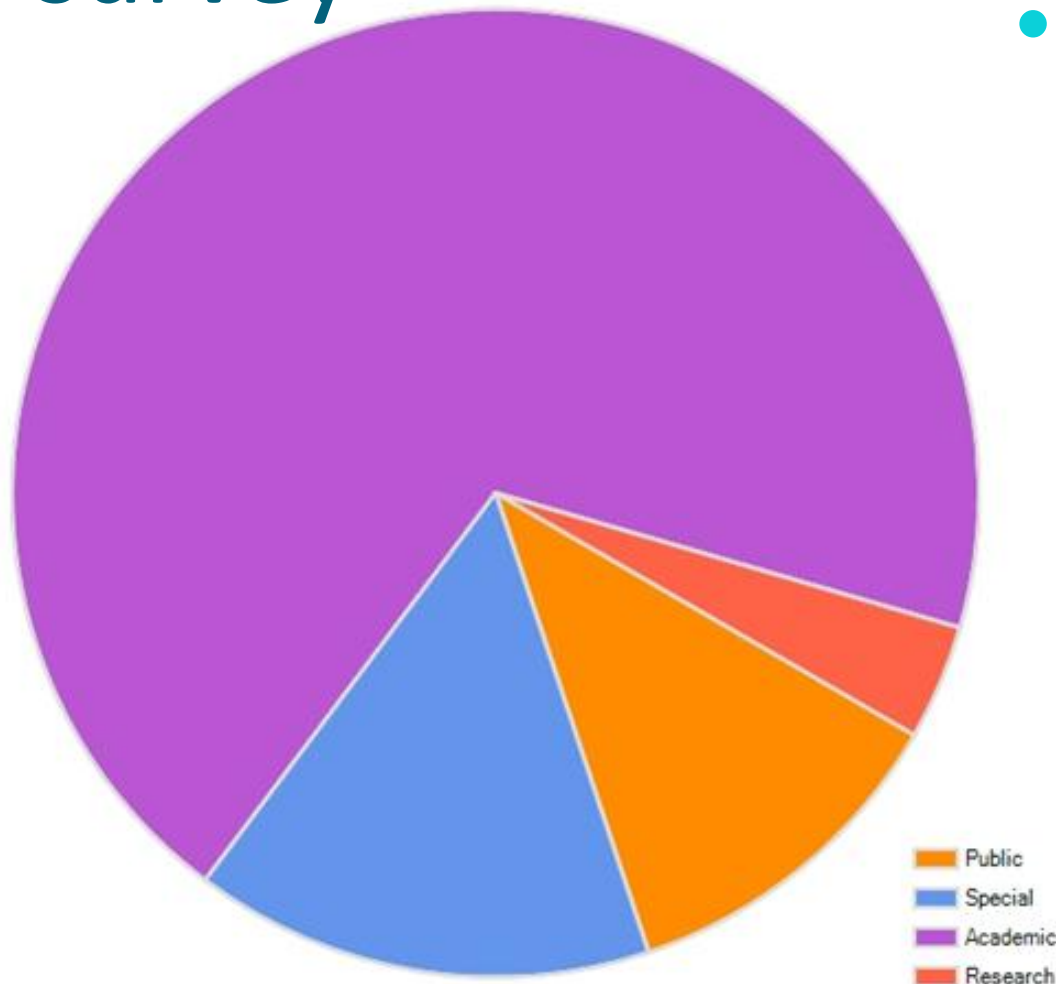
Digitization for libraries in Kenya

- Initiatives for library digitization are scattered widely, with the university libraries, showing greatest progress.
- One major initiative is training organized by UNESCO in September, 2008. UNESCO Office in Nairobi facilitated a workshop on the Greenstone digital library software at the University of Nairobi.

Digitization for libraries in Kenya

- In 2007, Electronic Information for Libraries (eiFL) teamed up with the Koha Foundation to develop expertise and to grow the network for Greenstone, a suite of software for building and distributing digital library collection in South Africa.
 - In 2009, the EIFL-Koha Foundation project was extended to involve sixteen countries including Kenya.
 - There are three designated **National Centres in Kenya** which were established to play a key role organizing training events and supporting trainees who are undertaking digitization projects or building Greenstone digital library applications.

Library cluster represented in a survey



- To establish the extent and status of digitization in Kenya's libraries, an online questionnaire was generated and sent out to 133 recipients from 50 libraries.
- The libraries comprised of academic, research, special and public libraries

Survey findings

- The response rate was 25%. The findings of the study reveal that:
- 95.8% of the sample group has a digital collection.
- Majority (86.4%) said that their collection was acquired or purchased in digital format.

Survey findings

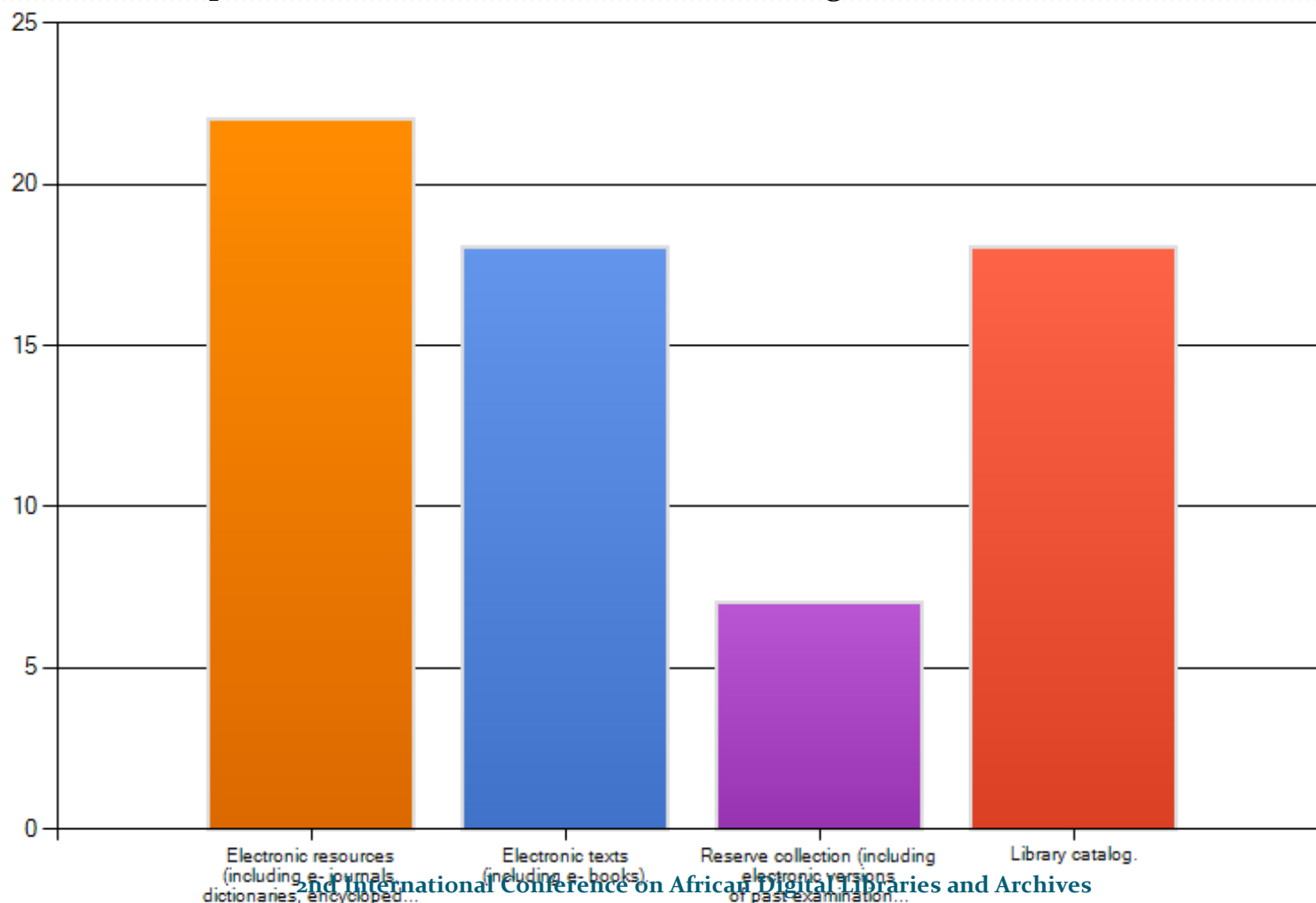
- 63.6% of the respondents who mostly represented academic libraries said that their digital content was developed by the library or parent institution.
- Supporting literature confirm that these are thesis and dissertation that are written by the students, staff and researchers.

Survey findings

- 81.3% of the respondents said that they had installed open source software for the purposes of managing their digital collections.
 - DSpace and Greenstone were the main softwares used by those who said that they had digital libraries.
 - The rest of the respondents with all or either of born-digital, subscribed or internally converted digital material gave the name of their Integrated Library System software as the software used for searching and retrieving information from the digital collection.

Types of online material found in the sampled libraries

- Majority of the respondents, who said that they had online material, specified the type of online material as shown below. Many of the libraries gave their online catalogs (OPAC) and online subscriptions as the main contents in their digital libraries.



- In her study Otando (2011) found that institutions that have implemented intranet based institutional repositories within the KLISC membership include the:-
 - University of Nairobi -108 items
 - Kenyatta University, College of Insurance
 - KMFRI -400 items
 - Kabarak -3000 items
 - Aga Khan University -80 Items
 - Marist International -55 items
 - Moi University
 - KCA -103 items
 - ICIPE -21 Items
 - Inoorero, KEMRI and KEMU
- These are 12 out of the 75 overall membership size.
- As a matter of fact, of the 34 African repositories listed, 25 (62%) are found in South Africa, and only 4 (12%) are found in Kenya.

Challenges faced by individual libraries

- Every good thing has its challenges and digital libraries are not left out. Indeed there are challenges in developing and maintaining the digital collection as revealed in the study of the sampled libraries and reviewed literature on similar studies.
- Some of the common or main obstacles militating against digitization for libraries as gathered from the study and literature include **lack of sufficient funds, appropriate facilities, skilled manpower or staff turnover and the right incentives.**

- Table shows some of the challenges faced by 26 university and research institution libraries sampled in a study of institutional repositories. (Otando, 2011)

Challenges
Lack of facilities/infrastructure
Copyright issues
Lack of technical expertise/inadequate staffing issues related to understaffing
Lack of high level management support
Lack of understanding of the importance of the concept
Finance/proper funding
Fear of exposure of intellectual work that will be rated globally
Lack of prioritizing IR in library activities
Poor sensitization

Library management support of IR in 26 libraries

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No Response	Total
Adequate Computer hardware	4	8	14	-	-	26
Adequate computer software	3	10	10	3	-	26
Adequate personnel for submission and digitization		11	9	6	-	26
Adequate scanners for digitization		5	5	16	-	26
Strategies to promote the service		7	12	3	4	22
Sustainability (Budget for the infrastructure)		4	7	10	5	21
Deal with licensing and copyright issues	2	3	5	13	3	23

Challenges faced by individual libraries

- Cost
- Skills and Training
- Users
- Time
- Content
- Describing collections and adding metadata
- Handling documents
- Copyrights
- Fast changing technologies
- Staff Retention

Way forward

- Despite the challenges and obstacles in setting up of digital libraries, Kenya can forge ahead and build libraries that are comparable to those that are situated in the developed countries.

Way forward

- Collaboration
- Standardization
- Copyright
- User orientation
- Training library staff
- Creating the information infrastructure at government and institutional level
- Continuity of digital collection

Conclusion

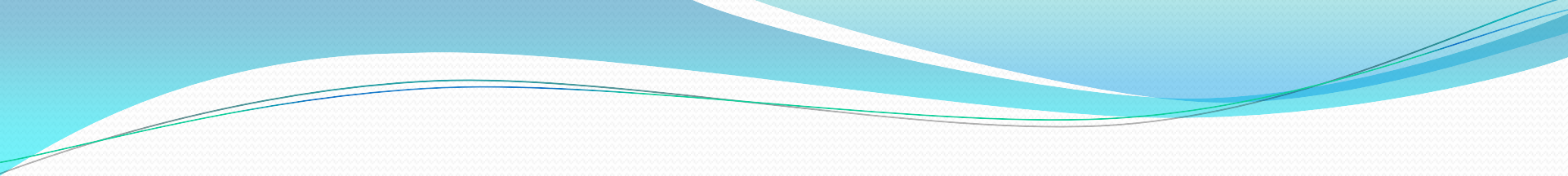
- If Kenya's 2030 vision of 'a globally competitive and prosperous nation with a high quality of life by 2030' is anything to go by then there is hope for digital libraries in Kenya.
- The progression so far indicate that digital libraries at national level will become a reality sooner than later.

Conclusion

- The channels for forging on with the vision of the national digital libraries not only lies with the
 - Kenya Association of Library and Information Professionals(KLA),
 - Kenya Library and Information Services Consortium (KLISC) and
 - Kenya National Library Service (KNLS),
- but with every librarian.

Conclusion

- Each librarian must be ready to support the efforts of the individuals who are striving to put the library on the agenda of the country's development process.
- Digital libraries will indeed improve the availability of and access to scholarly and cultural digital content, so as to enhance Africa's development efforts.



Thank you for listening

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