



**DIGITAL INFORMATION SERVICES
AT THE
AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK**

**Digital Libraries Conference
1-3 July, 2009 Addis Ababa**

The Knowledge Virtual Resources Center



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT
BANK GROUP

Established in 1964, AfDB's mission is to mobilize resources to finance projects & programs for Africa's economic & social development

The AfDB Group has

- **77 Member Countries (MCs)**
- **US\$33 Billion paid-in capital (2008)**
- **Board of Directors: 18 members**
- **President + 5 VPs**
- **1,200 Staff**
- **24 Field Offices**

Knowledge Generation and Management is an important pillar in AfDB's activities.

Through lending, grants, technical assistance and policy advice, AfDB has a distinct comparative advantage in generating and disseminating knowledge to support its operations.

**AfDB Seeks to position it self as the
'Knowledge Bank for Africa'.**

Our approach to knowledge management embraces the definition of KM as

“The creation and subsequent management of an environment which encourages knowledge to be created, shared, learnt, enhanced, organized and utilized for the benefit of the Bank and MCs”.

Following the establishment of the Office of the Chief Economist in 2005, there has been a radical change in the way we deliver information

the Bank Library changed its name to:

The Knowledge & Virtual Resources Center (KVRC)

Our motto is

“More than Just a Library”.

We continue to acquire and disseminate information in print but increasingly in digital formats.

Our vision is to provide the right information at the right time to meet the specific information needs of each individual client.

In addition to conventional library services, our users now have full access to a myriad of digital resources including

- **Wiley-Blackwell Journals.**
- **Economist.**
- **Development Business.**
- **EBSCOhost.**
- **NewsBank.**
- **Africa Investor.**
- **IC Publications.**
- **Africa – Asia Confidential.**
- **Les Afriques.**
- **Financial Times.**
- **Indigo Publications.**

Current E-Journals



- **Jstor.**

- **Ing** **Digital Journal Archives**



- **British Library.**

- **Institut of Development Studies.**

- **World Bank Documents & Reports.**
- **United Nations Documents.**

Full-Text Electronic Documents of International Organizations



- **IBRC Reports.**
- **World Bank E-Library.**
- **OECD E-Library.**

- **Oxford Analytica.**
- **Business Monitor International.**
- **Economist Intelligence Unit.**
- **Armed Conflict**
- **ISI Emerging Markets.**
- **Institute of International Finance.**
- **International Country Risk Guide.**
- **Standard & Poors ratings**
- **Fitch Ratings**
- **Global Insights Reports**

Business Databases



- **FAO Statistical Database.**
- **International Development Statistics.**
- **UN Comm**
- **World Development Indicators Global Development Finance.**
- **Monthly Bulletin Statistics (MBS).**
- **International Financial Statistics (IFS).**

Statistical Databases



- **The World of Learning.**

Online Reference Sources



- **Oxford English Dictionary.**

- **Blackwell Books Online.**

- **Africa Institute of South Africa.**
- **African Studies Center. Penn. University.**
- **Center for African Studies. Links to Free Digital Resources** 
- **Center for the Studies of African Economies.**
- **International Institute for Environment and Development.**
- **National Bureau of Economic Research.**

- **Africa News.**

- **Business Report (South Africa).**

- **Access to Online African Newspapers**



- **North Africa Journal.**

- **El – Akhbar (Egypt).**

- **Assabah (Morocco).**

- **L’Intelligent d’Abidjan (Côte - d’Ivoire).**

To facilitate information storage, searching and retrieval, we use **VTLS VIRTUA** IMS which includes a platform access our online resources.



The Knowledge & Virtual Resources Center

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Welcome to the AfDB Knowledge & Virtual Resources Center (KVRC)

KVRC offers reference and research assistance, current awareness profiles; electronic subscriptions and document delivery services. All operations are fully automated including catalog searching, loans, reservations and renewals. All Bank staff can access the KVRC's iPortal via the Intranet using Bank personal numbers and passwords.

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Electronic Resources

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The feedback we receive from the users suggests that our information resources and services are

Adequate, up-to-date, prompt and highly relevant to their needs.

And we are improving continuously:

We systematically identify, procure, and maintain resources that are deemed to be relevant to Bank management, operations and research needs.

Building on our current achievements, available technologies, resources and excellent collaborative working relationships with numerous information institutions, KVRC is well suited to become a basic component of an African Digital Information Network/Consortium.

Our long term objective is to become the regional depository of development information in Africa. Over the next three years, our strategic ambitions are

- We will explore new ways of delivering and doing more to reach new users.

- We will interact more closely with our users (including field offices and RMCs) both online and face-to-face, listen to their concerns and understand their information needs.
- We will seek networking arrangements with external information institutions for sharing information and experiences.
- We will be doing more to showcase our services to encourage more users to access and utilize AfDB knowledge products.

- We will be putting increasing efforts to develop our skills, both in quantitative and qualitative terms, as a means of improving the quality of our services.

Professionally trained staffs with high skills in information management are essential for converting knowledge into a format that can be communicated, shared and stored.

KVRC is currently severely deficient in these skills.

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- There is a growing need to train users on how to access and utilize online digital resources.
- The cost of and demand for information resources are increasing day after day. We need to convince management to allocate more financial resources to provide high quality information services.

In summary

In this digital area, KM involves connecting people with people, as well as people with information.

We have reached an important milestone along the way to becoming a full-fledged digital information facility.

We are prepared to work in partnership with other organizations in Africa and world-wide in order to facilitate the development of an All- Africa Digital Information Network Utility.

The AfDB is ideally suited to take a central role in such an initiative

Thank you

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