

https://dspace.org/

An Institutional Repository (IR) with Local Content (LC) at the Redeemer's University: Benefits and Challenges

Adebayo, Emmanuel 'Layi

2010-12-17
http://hdl.handle.net/10539/8954

Downloaded from a DSpace repository. https://dspace.org/

An institutional repository (IR) with local content (LC) at the Redeemer's University: benefits and challenges.

Dr Emmanuel 'Layi Adebayo
University Librarian, Redeemer's University.
Mowe, Ogun State, Nigeria
el_adebayo@yahoo.co.uk

Presented at the First International Conference on African Digital Libraries and Archives (ICADLA-1), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 1st-3rd July 2009

Abstract
The paper discusses extensively the benefits and challenges of creating an institutional repository (IR) with local content (LC). The similarity of this to the National Library of Nigeria Legal Deposit (LD) Law was examined. Some of the challenges highlighted include sourcing for materials, cooperation of faculty members, finance, stocking, staffing and use. Despite all these challenges, many benefits can be derived if one faces the challenges squarely.

Introduction
Redeemer's University (RUN) is one of the most recent tertiary institutions in Nigeria. Its library came into existence in 2005 when the parent institution received its licence to operate from the Federal Government. The library has a collection of more than 15,000 volumes of books, about 40 foreign journal titles, with back sets from 2000 to date, and 55 titles of locally purchased journals. The library also has a fair stock of multimedia materials and equipment.

The library is fully automated and runs all its activities under an automated environment. These facilities rank RUN Library as one of the fastest growing libraries in Nigeria. The library stocks materials for all the programmes of the university and recently has initiated moves to create a repository for all RCCG publications.

Local content (LC) explained
The idea of LC originated from the intention of the Federal Government (FG) to indigenize the oil and gas sector as much as possible. Iba (2008) recorded that it is government policy not just for checking the huge capital flights that so much go with the award of contracts to foreign firms, but because the policy would ensure the development of local human expertise. In general terms, Local Content (LC) refers to locally owned and adapted knowledge of a community, aimed at supporting efforts of the poor in developing countries to create and exchange useful potential wealth generating projects.[1]

[1] connect-online.org

While the LC policy of the FG mandate for multinational oil firms is to ensure that 25% of all its projects must be handled by local firms, Kisumbira (1987) stated that LC as practiced in the USA stipulates that 90% of the components of any product, especially motor cars, must be made in the USA. From these views, one can summarily state that LC has to do with the indigenization policy of the FG, which encourages that a particular product should obtain domestically a specified minimum percentage of their basic input. Currently, the FG has achieved 37% of this mandate, although the plan was that by the year 2006, 45% of the mandate should be achieved as in year 2010, not less than 70% should be achieved.

Institutional repositories (IR) explained

An institutional repository is an online locus for collecting and disseminating the intellectual output of an institution, particularly a research institute. This output may include research journals, theses, dissertations, normal academic materials, administrative documents, course notes and learning objects. An IR can also be explained as an archive set up and managed by research institutes to house articles published by authors at the institution involved.

Institutional repositories (IR) and legal deposit (LD) laws

As explained above, the logic of Legal Deposit (LD) is similar in operation, and with the exception that IR has not got official legislation or backing even in various institutions where it is practised, the idea is the same. The decree setting up the National Library of Nigeria (Decree 29 of 1970), which gave a legal backing to Legal Deposit provisions, stipulates that 25 copies of all Federal Government publications, ten copies of all state publications and three copies of all commercial publishers should be deposited at the National Library of Nigeria at the publishers expense within a stipulated period. The whole idea of IR is the same as that of LD except that it is confined to a particular institution. It is a major factor in reputation ranking which is a source of concern in academia.

Before the 1970 decree, there was the Publications Ordinance of 1950. In it was a provision that two copies of all books printed in Nigeria should within one month be delivered at publishers' expense to the Minister of Education who would arrange for their preservation as the Governor-General in council may direct and two copies to the University College, Ibadan. Using this, John Harris, the then University Librarian published the first national current bibliography entitled *Nigeria publications 1951-1952.*

There were regional laws also, which however eroded the powers of the 1950 Publications Ordinance. The Eastern Region Legal Deposit law of 1956 (amended in 1958) and Western Region Law, also of 1956, recommended the University of Ibadan as its Legal Depository while the Northern Region Law of 1964 recommended Ahmadu Bello University.

In 1964, Federal Government Legal Notice No. 112 amended the 1950 Publication Ordinance and substituted the University of Lagos library for the University College, Ibadan; and in 1970

the National Library became the Legal Depository. The Lagos State Government also had its own provision in 1973 and the University of Lagos won the beneficiary.

Why should an institution establish an institutional repository?

Libraries build up their stocks through various means which include purchases, donations, gifts and exchanges and bequests. Many libraries do not rely on acquisition policies for guidance these days. Librarians are prompted by the exigencies of the moment, which may be as a result of available resources, strength of collections and accreditation requirements. Despite these, some librarians take their time in sourcing materials for their libraries through the avenue of institutional repositories. Among the objectives of this, as recorded in Wikipedia 2007, are:

- Creating global visibility for an institution scholarly research;
- Collecting content in a single location;
- Providing open access to institutional research output by self-archiving it;
- Storing and preserving other institutional outputs, including unpublished or otherwise easily lost "grey" literature;
- Significantly increasing the visibility of theses which in turn leads to greater citation of students' research;
- Fulfilling research funding mandates of institutions;
- Central storage and preservation in one database.

Watson (2007), contributing on the benefits of the IR, states as follows:

- It enhances the reputation and visibility of an organization;
- It showcases institution's intellectual quality;
- It preserves and disseminates the collective capital of one's constituents;
- It exposes one's institution internationally;
- Delay in publication before circulation is removed.

How does a library create an institutional repository?

Setting up an IR is not a trivial task; it requires expertise. Certain issues have to be considered; these include content guidelines, target audience, quality control, storage format and promotion and advocacy (Year Wood Jackman 2007). On the issue of content, one must design a format of items to stock, which might be post-print or pre-print materials, multimedia, online materials and such others. With this, there will be a focus.

There must also be a target audience. Is the IR limited to a certain group of staff in the institution? Is it just on a particular discipline; is it for research outputs alone or all documents? This must also be determined. The quality has to be controlled. Level and calibre of authors/producers/ publishers need be considered. Not all "junk" must come in. Will the materials be stocked along with the library's other collections or separately? How about access? This leads to the issue of promotion and advocacy. Materials must be accessible. People must support your cause.

Practice at Redeemer's University

The Visitor to the University, Pastor E.A. Adeboye, is a prolific writer with hundreds of titles of books to his credit. Other than these, thousands of messages have been delivered over the years. These have been published under several formats, books, tapes, CDs, DVD, and films. When the trend of these was perceived, we realized that researchers might soon be interested in these information sources and, with the approval of the Vice Chancellor, we started. As we made progress, we observed that there are thousands of other publications emanating from other affiliates of the Redeemed Christian Church of God. Some individuals were involved too. We then decided to expand the scope of the collection to cover those interest groups.
The approach adopted included:

1. Determining what item to stock and the formats;
2. Determining the sources to contact and how to contact them;
3. Seeking permission from the Visitor through the Vice Chancellor;
4. Mode of acquisition (purchased or gift);
5. Mode of storage.

Having put this structure in place, we set to work. Our contacts include:

- CRM (Christ the Redeemer's Ministry) Press, Lagos. Nigeria
- Directorate of Christian Education, Redemption Camp. Mowe. Ogun State. Nigeria
- CRM Bookshop, Redemption Camp, Mowe. Ogun State. Nigeria
- Tie Communications Abeokuta. Ogun State. Nigeria
- Redemption Light. Redemption Camp. Mowe. Ogun State. Nigeri
- Redeemer's High Schools in Mowe, Abuja and Port Harcourt
- Individuals

Letters were sent to these contacts through our Vice Chancellor with the approval of the General Overseer of RCCG. The Library also ensured that we made efforts to reach these bodies personally on a weekly basis, particularly those that were nearby, while we contacted others through phone calls and emails. The Library now has a growing institutional repository for RCCG publications because of the response we receive from them.

Benefits of institutional repositories

In a well established institutional repository, the following benefits are expected:

- It brings all institutional research materials together;
- Materials are kept in one place for posterity;
- Materials serve as research documents;
- Materials are regarded as real books in a separate collection;
- Researchers have an idea of research output from an organization;
- Research efforts of an organization could be appreciated at a glance.

Challenges for consideration

IRs are quite appealing to academic libraries for many reasons but, as we observed earlier, setting up an institutional repository is not a trivial matter and a number of challenges are faced in terms of the logistics involved in creating, operating and sustaining an IR. If it is to succeed, there must be administrative and management support. The challenges include:

1. Tracking of publications;
2. Financing purchase;
3. Mode of stocking;
4. Staffing and staff hours;
5. Use;
6. Getting staff to agree to share their works.

The major challenge seems to be that of tracking or the bibliographic control of the materials which are published on daily basis. Publishers are diverse and reside in many places the world over. Locating them, even those in Nigeria, is an uphill task. When some of these are located, only their current publications are available. Similar to this is the issue of finance. It is not possible that the Library can meet its financial obligations. Many commitments compete for the few resources. The issue of having an institutional repository involves some financial obligations: in situations where materials cannot be sourced free, they have to be purchased. Even if free, publishers have to be contacted. All these activities involve money.

Dorothy Salo (2007) expressed the opinion that the ideology “if you build it, they will come” may fail when faculty do not show an interest or see the benefit in contributing their work.

Conclusion

There are many benefits which IRs with Local Content (LC) hold for academic institutions and their libraries. The IR provides the institution with an opportunity to collect, store and disseminate outputs emanating from the institution while bringing visibility to the university and the faculty. It is however, important to remember that the IR movement is still evolving. There are still many challenges being faced, and the major challenge is tracking of materials and participation. With enough understanding, the future is bright.

References

Canadian Association of Research Libraries (2005). Guide to setting up an information repository.

Iba, Louis. Daily Sun. Thursday, May 8. 2008.

Kisumbira, Idris (1997). Cataloguing creation and exchange of local content. http://www.iconnect

National Library of Nigeria (1991). National Bibliography of Nigeria. Lagos p.75

Random House Unabridged Dictionary (1997). Random House Inc.

Redeemer’s University Library (2006). Introduction to library facilities and services. 2006

Salo, D. (2007). What you're up against (PDF document). Retrieved October 23, 2008 from http://www.minds.wisconsou.edu/harle/1793/22081

Watson, C. A. (2007). Carpe diem: establish an institutional repository for your organization. http://www.//rx.com.features/institutional repository.htm

White Paper on Information Technology Funding and National Content development. September 21, 2007

Year Wood Jackman, S. (2007). Creation of institutional repository at the University of Wisconsin. (PDF document). Retrieved October 25, 2008 from www.sconul.ac.uk/publication/newsletter/42/12.pdf