Transforming Research Landscape in Africa using Open Access: The case of Ethiopia

UCT-SPARC Africa
Open Access Symposium 2019
Cape Town, South Africa

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Outline

• Africa knowledge production
• True marginalization stories
• Ethiopia’s approach to avoid marginalization
• National Open Access Policy
• Challenges and Lessons learned
Knowledge Production in Africa

“With a contribution of less than 1 % of the world’s scientific publications, Sub-Saharan Africa belongs to the periphery.”
(Piron et al., 2019)

Source
True story of marginalization

• A story of a medical researcher from Makerere University whose article was rejected because of his affiliation.

• Other cases of rejection
  ➢ Local problem
  ➢ Language

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Ethiopia's Approach to avoid marginalization

- Build local publishing platforms to mainstream our research.
  - Repositories
  - Journal publishing platforms
- Making open access the default for research publication using policy.
- Learn from others but contextualize.
National OA policy

• Intuitional OA Policy discussion started in Ethiopia In 2014 at Addis Ababa University with support of EIFL.
• National OA policy proposed by CEARL(Consortium of ETH Academic and Research Libraries) in 2017.
Adopted Intuitional OA policy

• Jimma University (2018)
• Adama University (2018)
• Arbaminch University (2018)
• Hawassa University (2019)

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Contextualized National Open Access Policy

• Officially adopted by Ministry of Science and Higher Education (MOSHE) in June 2019.
• Holistic approach addressing all areas - policies, repositories, journals, researchers skills.
• Managed by local experts.
• funded by local money.
**Key Requirements of the policy**

- Open Access by Default for all public funded research outputs
  - Thesis and Dissertations
  - Journal articles
  - Research Data
  - Journals
- Researchers receiving public funding are required to prepare Data Management Plan (DMP) with FAIR principles.
Incentive

Encourage “Openness” as one of criteria during research during research assessment and evaluation.

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Infrastructure

• Universities are required to implement and support institutional repositories.
• MOSHE supports national repository as aggregator for research publication and research data.
Support for researchers

• Universities have to ensure open science services and training for their researchers.
Policy implementation

• Model IR policy based on National Policy have been prepared and circulated to Universities for adoption.

• A national project on national repository and Journals launched in August 2019.
The National OA Project

- Implement Institutional repositories for all public Universities.
- Capacity building training for repository managers and Journal Editors.
- Supporting the National Academic digital repository of Ethiopia (NADRE).
- Strengthening the Ethiopian Journals Online (EJOL) platform.
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NADRE

- Open Access National Repository of Ethiopia for Universities.
- Supports contents for thesis and dissertations, articles, research data and presentations.
- Hosts contents directly and also harvests from existing repositories.
Ethiopian Journals Online (EJOL)

http://ejol.aau.edu.et (current site)
http://ejol.ethernet.edu.et (New site)

The Ethiopian Journal of Higher Education

The Ethiopian Journal of Higher Education (EJHE) is one of the publications of the Institute Of Educational Research, Addis Ababa University. The Journal is primarily devoted to disseminating findings of scientific investigations related to higher education. We solicit articles from researchers of high professional caliber. We also accept Commentaries, book reviews and case studies on issues related to higher education. Manuscripts should not exceed 30 pages, typewritten on one side of the paper only, and Double-spaced. Commentaries, book reviews, case studies and the like should not exceed 15 pages.

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EJOL

• A platform to publish local open access Journals online.
• An Initiative of Addis Ababa University and EIFL which was launched in 2014 with six Journals.
• EJOL moved to MOSHE in November 2019.
• Currently there are 25 Journals participating in EJOL.
Building Intuitional Repository

- An IR platform is implemented at MOSHE data center (Ethernet) to be used by all Universities.
- Customization works for all the Universities in under process.
Capacity Building

• A training on Repository Management has been conducted for all participants from public universities in September 2019.
• A training on Online Journals Management has been conducted for Journal Editors in October 2019.
Challenges

• Long decision making process.
• Dispersed OA initiatives.
• Awareness and skill.
• Managerial turnover.
• Restructuring of Universities and Government Ministries.
Lessons learned

• Advocate for both IR policy and National policy in parallel.

• Consolidate OA Advocacy
  ➢ Library Consortia, National research and education networks, Ministry of Education, Policy and strategy centre, and Academy of Science.

• Create OA champions among researchers and policy makers.

• Use OA show cases to support advocacy

• Contextualize and locally own the process.
International Partners

eifl

AFRICAN JOURNALS ONLINE

inasp

DIRECTORY OF OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS

THE AFRICAN OPEN SCIENCE PLATFORM

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THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS?

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