Sustaining DSpace Repositories: the experience of Makerere University library (Maklib) and University of Zimbabwe library (UZ lib)

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Overview

- Introduction
- Collaborations & DSpace Repository Start-ups at Maklib & UZ lib: some literature
- Lessons & Implications
- Conclusions
- Acknowledgements
- References
Introduction: Uganda in East Africa
Introduction: Zimbabwe in Southern Africa
‘We build for the future’ - Makerere Univ’s Motto;

- Mak Univ was established in 1922 as a Univ College of London, later Univ of East Africa & in 1972 as a Nat Univ
- By 2013/2014 student population was 36,911 (650 Int Students)
- Gender 47% females and 53% males
- Annual Graduation rate about 12,000
Knowledge, Diligence, Integrity’ - Univ of Zimbabwe’s Motto;

- Mak Univ was established in 1952 with a special relationship with Univ College of London,
- By 2015 student population was over 12,000
Research Trends have informed source of repository uploads
• Makerere Univ Lib (Maklib) became the 1st legal deposit unit in Uganda in 1958;
• In 1972, Maklib became a National Reference Lib in addition to its primary role as Ac lib;
• Since the 1990’s, Africa has been experiencing a rapid expansion in higher education and research;
• The expansion requires a vibrant lib & info service to meet the changing needs and increased demands;
• The changes are very demanding in a Sub-Saharan African Univ environment where shortages of infrastructure & facilities are very common.
Introd ... cont: Mak Main Lib & UZ entrance

Collaboration & support from development partners enhanced repository efforts of Maklib & UZ lib (Musoke & Landoy, 2014).

Yeats & Guy (2006) noted a challenge of limited expertise in scholarly communication.

Maklib & UZ lib responded by building capacity to manage DSpace repositories through training of Librarians & IT repository staff (Dewey, 2006).

The training has had a multiplier effect at both institutions and in the region (Musoke & Landoy, 2014).
DSpace Training

• Two-fold:
  1. Continuous Training of Repository Staff
  2. Continuous self-archiving marketing/sensitisation & training to encourage submissions from academics & researchers at both Maklib & UZ lib
Strategic Collaboration
Supported Capacity Building

• Capacity building was key to initiate DSpace repositories:
• Some of UZ lib partners have been included:
  a) EiFL
  b) INASP
  c) AAU
  d) Institute of Development Studies (IDS): Hosts some Univ of Zimbabwe content on own repository & provided DSpace refresher training & support
Capacity building was key to initiate DSpace repositories:

Maklib partners have been:

a) Univ of Tennessee Lib

b) CCNY

c) Univ of Bergen Lib (DSpace server & software – hosted initial repository (2005/6)

d) Institute of Development Studies (IDS): Hosts some Makerere content on own repository & provided DSpace refresher training & support
Strategic Collaboration
Supported Capacity Building

- Partnership with IDS included the participation of Maklib & UZ lib in the joint initiative called “Digitisation of Southern research and population of the BLDS Digital Library, Mak Univ Institutional Repository (Mak IR) & Univ of Zimbabwe repository” – part of the Global Open Knowledge Hub programme

- Maklib’s IR was initially called Ug Scholarly Digital Lib & later MakIR when fully implemented with support from Sida.

- Naming nomenclature for the IR was realised as key in popularising MakIR among academics
The graph below shows a notable usage increase of the Mak collection within the BLDS digital library.
Lessons from DSpace Initiatives

- Whereas initially partners hosted Maklib DSpace repository collections, Maklib has built capacity to host its own repository in-house.
- UZ lib hosted its DSpace repository from start having gained experience from similar initiatives such as DATAD.
- Enhancements and add-ons necessary for performance measurement: e.g. the CUA Statistics module by Atmire & Google analytics.
Besides having an equipped Digitisation workroom an Institution needs a thoughtfully selected repository platform such as DSpace.
Lessons from DSpace Initiatives cont...

• Repository maintenance is a never-ending activity because of advances in technology e.g.
  – The various digital formats will require various expertise & customisation e.g. the music records require music archival schema & curation skills
  – Using DSpace – an open source repository solution has proved costly (upgrades, add-ons, staff turnover, etc)

Hence Maklib & UZ lib will keep repository initiatives among library priorities in strategic plan & budgeting to cater for advances.
• The rapidly changing information environment requires a trained & equipped library workforce; hence Maklib, UZ library & their partners will continue to invest in upgrading the knowledge & skills of repository staff as a sustainability strategy.

• Increased & world-wide usage of Mak digital collection as reported by IDS has confirmed that investment in a digital repository is worthwhile; hence the need to continue.

• The lessons learned by Maklib & UZ library have practical implications that will take the scholarly communication activities forward with more deeper data curation
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Thank you for your attention

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