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Abstract

Purpose: Institutional repositories (IRs) serve as vital platforms for showcasing African research, intellectual contributions, and development, helping to elevate them to a global audience. However, the effectiveness of IRs in achieving this goal heavily relies on their visibility, which is notably low in the case of African repositories. This paper explores the development trajectory of IRs within selected universities across various sub-regions of Africa to uncover their global impact.

Design/Method/Approach: The study is a case study focusing on the four regions of Sub-Saharan Africa. Using mixed methods, a visibility analysis was conducted using interviews and a questionnaire to elicit information from the IR managers. Qualitative and quantitative data analysis were utilised.

Findings: The findings indicate that the content of the Institutional Repositories (IRs) is comprehensive and supported by a deposit policy. While most materials are open access, some are embargoed. The IRs maintain high metadata quality to enhance the reliability, discoverability, and usability of research data. All platforms support Dublin Core metadata, can export records in formats like XML or MARC, and adhere to metadata harvesting protocols such as OAI-PMH. Despite challenges like insufficient researcher awareness, limited infrastructure, and financial constraints, the repositories are promoting global engagement with African scholarship and fostering collaboration beyond national borders.

Originality/Value: This study highlights the importance of African repositories in boosting the global visibility of scholarly communication. It reveals the underutilisation of Institutional Repositories (IRs) in Africa, which could enhance the dissemination of research outputs, given the large population of the continent. The analysis of several Sub-Saharan African IRs emphasises the need for institutions to develop and maintain these repositories to improve global visibility of their academic contributions.

Implication: African institutional repositories are increasingly enhancing the global visibility of research from the continent, despite facing challenges. They offer open access to valuable local knowledge and help preserve institutional memory. To maximise their impact, it's essential to advocate for improved visibility and interoperability.

Keywords: Africa, Institutional Repository, IRs, Visibility Analysis, Global Impact

Introduction

Institutional Repositories (IRs) have firmly established themselves as vital components of the global research ecosystem, recognised for their substantial transformative potential in scholarly communication. In an era characterised by the rapid expansion of

digital resources and an increasing demand for open access to research, these digital repositories serve as essential platforms for academic and research institutions to effectively collect, preserve, and disseminate their intellectual outputs (Apuke & Iyendo, 2018). Functioning as specialised digital libraries, IRs excel at gathering, organising,

cataloguing, curating, and ensuring long-term accessibility for a diverse array of digital content, including research articles, theses, datasets, and multimedia resources (Apuke & Iyendo, 2018). Their role extends well beyond mere storage; they are instrumental in facilitating knowledge management, evaluating research impact, and actively championing open access principles within the scholarly community (Moore, 2022).

In the African research context, Institutional Repositories represent a powerful and effective strategy for significantly enhancing the visibility and accessibility of scholarship emerging from the continent (Moore, 2022). Historically, African researchers have confronted considerable barriers to achieving global recognition for their contributions, primarily due to the prohibitive costs of journal subscriptions and the lack of adequate dissemination channels that restrict the visibility of their work (Moore, 2022). The establishment of IRs in Africa marks a pivotal advancement in the global movement towards open access, meticulously designed to address the distinctive challenges faced by African researchers within a scholarly publishing environment often dominated by Western perspectives. The implementation of IRs is a decisive step toward democratising knowledge on a global scale, fostering an equitable academic landscape where the voices and research outputs of African scholars can resonate significantly and achieve well-deserved recognition.

This paper will provide a comprehensive analysis of the current visibility of African Institutional Repositories and will rigorously assess their impact on the global academic landscape. The focus will be on the research outputs generated by African institutions, scrutinising their accessibility, citation rates, and overall influence within the international scholarly community. This investigation will demonstrate the pivotal role of IRs in

amplifying the global presence of African research and advancing a more inclusive academic dialogue.

Statement of the problem

In the contemporary academic arena, the demand for Institutional Repositories (IRs) has become a fundamental aspect of scholarly communication, shaping the ways knowledge is shared and accessed across the globe. These digital platforms serve as vital resources for researchers, allowing them to archive, preserve, and disseminate their work effectively. Scholars are increasingly motivated to contribute to the intricate tapestry of global knowledge, with an ambition to ensure their citations gain prominence in renowned journals. Additionally, the widespread dissemination of research findings around the world is more crucial than ever, as it fosters collaboration and innovation across various disciplines. In particular, Africa's research landscape is teeming with untapped potential; the continent is home to a wealth of diverse perspectives and ground-breaking studies. However, significant hurdles remain, including limited access to funding, infrastructure challenges, and insufficient visibility in the global academic arena. These barriers often hinder the ability of African scholars to share their valuable contributions, thereby limiting their impact on a worldwide audience. These issues must be addressed to ensure that the rich and diverse output of African research is recognised and integrated into the broader global discourse.

Objectives of the study

The following are the objectives of the study:

1. To analyse the development of African Institutional Repositories (IRs) by examining how their content

availability, accessibility, and metadata practices influence their visibility.

2. To assess the interoperability of African IR platforms with the global scholarly infrastructure.
3. To identify key factors that contribute to the global impact and reach of African IRs.

Literature Review

Institutional Repositories furnish academic and research institutions with invaluable platforms to effectively showcase and amplify their diverse research output (Sandler, 2023). Apuko & Iyendo (2018) convey that these digital repositories are designed to accommodate a wide spectrum of scholarly materials, including peer-reviewed journal articles, meticulously researched theses and dissertations, preliminary preprints and final post-prints of publications, comprehensive conference proceedings, crucial research data sets, innovative learning objects, essential administrative documents, and detailed technical reports, among other forms of intellectual capital. Sandler (2023) noted that successful initiatives such as Digital Commons@Becker at Washington University School of Medicine exemplify the potential of IRs to extend the reach of institutional scholarship to a global audience, having facilitated millions of downloads of their hosted works. By providing a centralised digital space for this diverse array of research outputs, IRs enable institutions to effectively curate and present their intellectual capital in an accessible manner, increasing the potential for broader dissemination and impact.

The landscape of scholarly communication in Africa has witnessed a significant transformation with the emergence of Institutional Repositories (IRs) within academic and research institutions. These

digital archives serve as crucial infrastructure for preserving and disseminating the intellectual output of African universities and research centres (Ezechukwu et al, 2024). Their development represents a strategic response to the growing global movement towards open access, aiming to make research findings freely and readily available. The advent of IRs in Africa can be viewed as a proactive endeavour by these institutions to gain greater control over their intellectual property and ensure its wider dissemination, thereby moving beyond the limitations often associated with traditional publishing models (Ezechukwu et al, 2024). These repositories hold immense potential to act as "beacons of hope" for the African academic community (Ezema, 2011). They offer a tangible pathway to address the historical challenges of limited access to and dissemination of African research, which has frequently been marginalised or remained inaccessible to the broader global scholarly audience due to factors such as the restricted circulation of local journals and the prohibitive costs associated with many international publications

Apuko & Iyendo (2018) pointed to the fact that the emergence of Institutional Repositories in Africa holds significant promise for enhancing the sharing of locally generated research information and for advancing open access initiatives across the continent. This potential has been consistently highlighted by scholars such as Dlamini & Snyman (2017), whose work underscores the capacity of IRs to address the challenges of information accessibility that have historically hindered African researchers. However, Olubiyo & Olubiyo (2023) emphasised that institutional repositories directly align with the core tenets of the open access movement by offering unrestricted access to research outputs for users both within and outside the originating institutions (Olubiyo & Olubiyo, 2023). In

the context of developing countries, IRs are particularly relevant as they provide a crucial mechanism for creating online visibility for digital resources, thereby supporting broader open access endeavours that aim to make scholarly content freely available (Eromosele, 2022). This enhanced sharing facilitated by IRs has the potential to foster greater collaboration among researchers both within Africa and with their international counterparts, ultimately leading to more impactful research outcomes that can address local and global challenges.

Institutional Repositories are instrumental in augmenting and broadening the dissemination of unique African knowledge and perspectives to a global audience that might otherwise remain unaware of these valuable contributions (Moore, 2022). These repositories serve as crucial mechanisms for making local content, which may have been previously hidden or difficult to access through traditional publishing channels, readily available to the global scholarly community (Van, 2011). Initiatives such as AfricArXiv specifically aim to enhance the visibility of African research and to actively disseminate African knowledge and expertise across the world (AfricArXiv, 2023). By providing a platform for sharing a diverse range of research outputs and perspectives, IRs ensure that African contributions to the global knowledge pool are more readily discovered and considered by a wider and more diverse international readership.

The establishment and effective management of Institutional Repositories can significantly enhance the reputation and international standing of African universities and research institutions (Sandler, 2023). A well-maintained and actively populated IR serves as a tangible indicator of an institution's commitment to research excellence and to the broad dissemination of its intellectual capital, thereby increasing its visibility, status, and

overall public value (Eromosele et al, 2022). Furthermore, the presence and quality of an institution's IR can positively contribute to its rankings in both local and international university ranking systems, which often consider research output and online visibility as key metrics (Idiedo et al, 2024). By showcasing their research strengths and increasing their global online presence through IRs, African universities can effectively elevate their reputation within the international academic community.

Institutional Repositories are already having a noticeable and growing impact on the academic environment within Africa (Mwalubanda, 2021). These digital platforms are playing an increasingly important role in supporting teaching, learning, and research activities across African universities (Kodua-Ntim, 2021). However, literature reveals that,

Africa compares unfavourably with the rest of the world with regard to research or academic scholarly output. For instance, from 1992 -2007, South Africa which is the leading country in Sub-Saharan Africa in terms of scholarly publications, produced 51,738 publications. This was half of what the United States and the United Kingdom were able to produce in one year (Cheryl de la Rey, 2010, p. viii).

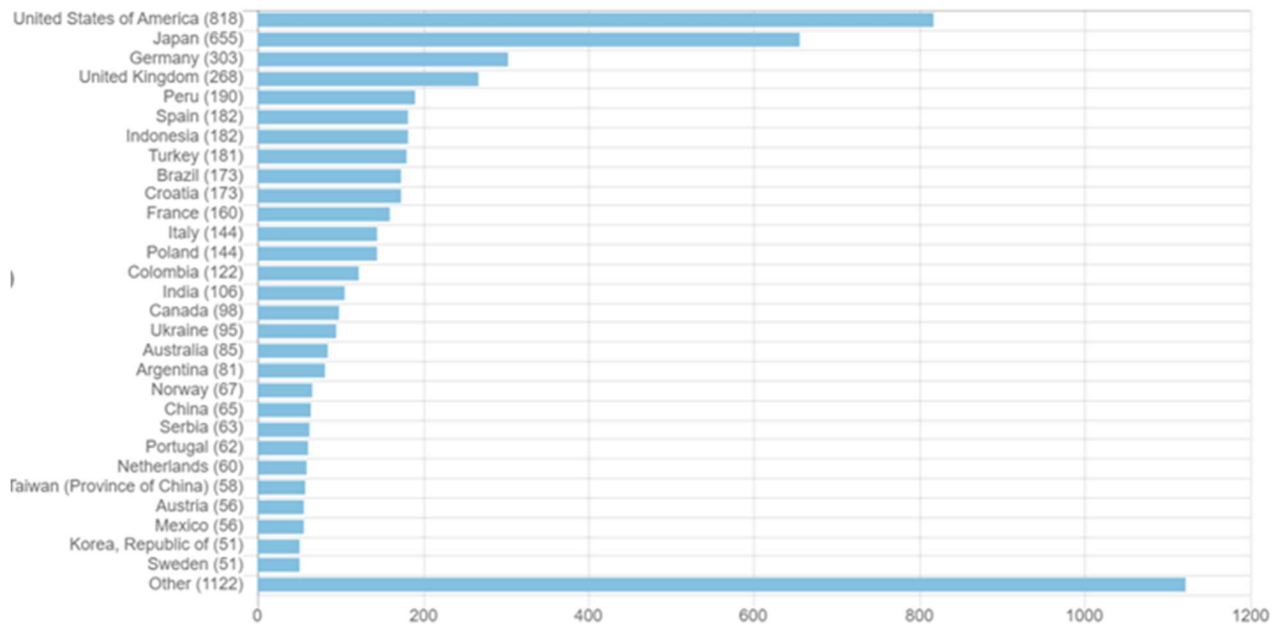
Most of African countries' repositories are not visible on major IR indexing aggregators such as Directory of Open Access Repositories (OpenDoar) and Registry of Open Access Repositories (ROAR). OpenDoar (2024), tagged and captured African repositories among 'Other (1122)' as illustrated in Figure 1. While challenges such as visibility, funding limitations, infrastructural constraints, and the need for greater awareness and engagement persist, the trend indicates a positive transformation in how African research is being managed,

disseminated, and ultimately, recognised on the global stage (Anbu, 2006).

African Institutional Repositories play a vital role in increasing access to African research for scholars located worldwide (Apuko & Iyendo, 2018). By making research outputs freely available online through these repositories, many of the traditional barriers that previously limited access to African scholarship is effectively dismantled (Ukachi, 2017). Scholars across the globe can now readily discover and engage with research originating from African institutions, overcoming the geographical and financial constraints often associated

with traditional publishing models. Furthermore, Shearer (2024) outlined that the principle of interoperability among repositories, facilitated by initiatives like the Confederation of Open Access Repositories (COAR), enhances the overall value of open access by connecting and integrating disparate collections of research, thereby making African scholarship more discoverable within the global information landscape. This increased accessibility is crucial for fostering a truly global exchange of knowledge and for ensuring that the contributions of African researchers are considered and built upon by the wider academic community.

Figure 1. Repositories by Countries



Source: OpenDoar, 2024. (https://v2.sherpa.ac.uk/view/repository_visualisations/1.html)

Sandler (2023) acknowledged the fact that increased visibility afforded by Institutional Repositories will significantly boost the citation rates and overall recognition of African researchers on a global scale. Evidence from numerous studies suggests a strong correlation between open access to research and an increase in the number of

citations received, indicating a greater impact for freely available scholarly works (Sandler, 2023). Research specifically examining the impact of IRs has also demonstrated positive effects on citation counts and the overall visibility of researchers and their work (Demetres & Wright, 2020). By making their research more accessible through IRs,

African scholars can expect to reach a wider audience, leading to greater engagement with their work and, consequently, enhanced recognition and influence within their respective fields on an international level.

Methodology

The study is a case study that focuses on the four regions of Sub-Saharan Africa. It utilised interviews and a questionnaire to gather information from selected universities. A multi-sampling method was employed to purposefully choose eight countries from the four regions of Sub-Saharan Africa, based on their visibility in OpenDoar (2024) and the International African Institute (2024). From these countries, a university institutional repository was randomly selected. Both the interview and the questionnaire were

administered to the repository managers. Qualitative and quantitative methods were used for data analysis.

Findings and Discussion

Description of the Institutional Repositories

Eight university institutional repositories (IRs) were selected for in-depth investigation based on their visibility. However, only four of the contacted IR managers were willing to participate in interviews for this empirical study, resulting in a response rate of 50%.

The IRs examined are from universities in Ghana, Malawi, Uganda, and Nigeria. Details such as the year of establishment, URL, and names of the IRs are presented in Table 1. The managers of these IRs include librarians and ICT personnel.

Table 1: General Information about the Institutional Repositories

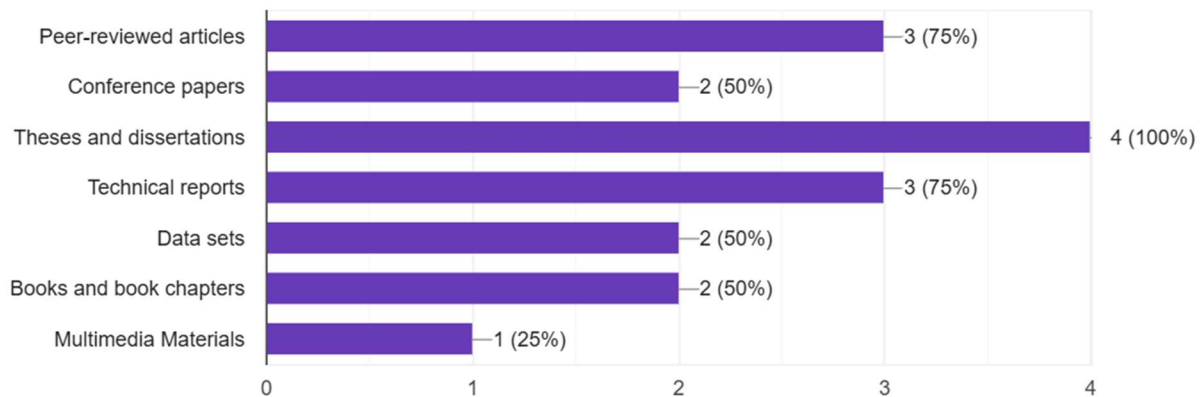
Country	Ghana	Malawi	Uganda	Nigeria
The year your Institutional Repository (IR) was established	2018	2020	2006	2012
Is your IR publicly accessible online? (Yes/No)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
If yes, please provide the URL of your IR:	ir.ucc.edu.gh	nkhokwe.kuhes.ac.mw	makir.mak.ac.ug	ir.oauiife.edu.ng
Your role: (e.g., Librarian, IT Specialist, Researcher)	Librarian	Ass. Systems Librarian	Server Manager	Systems Librarian
Name of your institutional repository platform	DSpace	Nkhonkwe	Makerere University Institutional Repository	OAUSpace

Content Availability, Accessibility and Metadata Practices of the IRs

The content types deposited in the Institutional Repositories (IRs) are illustrated in Figure 1. All IRs contain these and

dissertations. Additionally, 75% include peer-reviewed articles and technical reports. Conference papers, data sets, books, and book chapters are present in 50% of the IRs, while only 25% have multimedia materials.

Figure 2. Types of content are deposited in the IRs



Looking at the comprehensiveness of the contents deposited in the IRs in terms of faculty publications, student theses and conference proceedings, the following responses indicate that the content of the IRs is very comprehensive.

Very comprehensive. Includes all the listed

It includes faculty publications, student theses

This includes Postgraduate theses and dissertations and some reports.

I would say it's comprehensive.

Some additional items deposited in the Institutional Repositories (IRs) include datasets, audio files, and newspaper archives. These items align with the findings of Apuke and Iyendo (2018), which noted that the digital resources available in IRs encompass research articles, theses, datasets, and various multimedia resources.

Furthermore, each IR has a deposit policy that outlines the types of content that can be submitted. According to the IR Managers, items can be deposited through two main

processes: 'Self-Submission' or 'Librarian Assistance,' as detailed below.

Self-submission but with librarians' assistance

Librarians' assistance

In our institutional repository, postgraduate students submit the final approved copy of their theses and dissertations to the library. Senior librarians then manage the depositing process, ensuring that the documents are properly archived and made accessible according to repository standards.

The students do self-submission. The academic staff are usually assisted by the Librarian, but some also self-archive their papers.

All the Institutional Repository (IR) platforms allow users to access the full text of all submitted materials, ensuring open access for a wide audience. However, it is important to note that 25% of these repositories impose restrictions on certain types of content through embargoes. These embargoes can delay public access to specific documents or datasets for a predetermined period, which

may be due to publisher agreements, licensing restrictions, or the need to protect sensitive information.

Most of the materials are open access, but some are on embargo until a specified date

Sometimes, on embargo, while access to other times is through Document Delivery Services

All the Institutional Repositories (IRs) adhere to the Dublin Core metadata standards, as outlined below:

Yes. Author's name, titles, keywords, citations, date of issue, language, ISSN/ISBN/DOI, etc

Yes. Keywords, author affiliations, among others

Author, Date of Issue, Description, Abstract, Language, Publisher, Title, Type

Author name, Subject keywords, Title, ISSN, ISBN, URL,

Seventy-five per cent of the institutional repositories (IRs) offer a range of valuable tools and training programs designed to assist researchers in creating high-quality metadata. These resources empower researchers by providing guidance on best practices and standards for metadata creation, ensuring that their data is accurately and effectively described.

To maintain high standards of quality for metadata, IRs implement several thorough quality control processes. These often include systematic reviews, automated checks for consistency and completeness, and user training sessions that emphasise the importance of precise metadata. The following strategies are employed by the IRs not only to enhance the reliability of their collections but also to improve the discoverability and usability of research data for a wider audience.

Archiving of uploaded items pends until vetted by the assigned editors.

Accuracy and consistency.

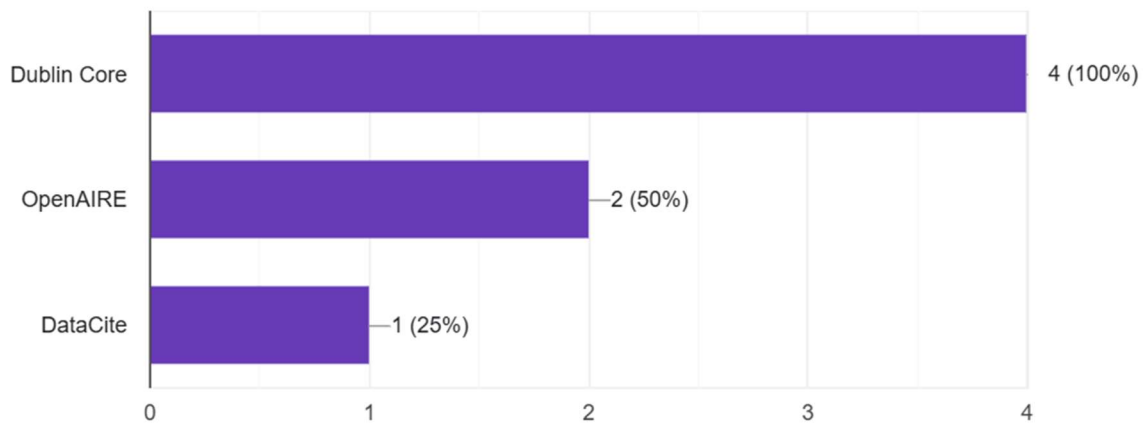
The process for quality control of metadata within our institutional repository involves senior librarians reviewing and verifying the accuracy of metadata before final submission. This includes checking for completeness, consistency with repository guidelines, and adherence to metadata standards like Dublin Core.

All self-archived dissertations must have both the author(s) and the supervisor's signatures

Interoperability Features, Promotion Strategies for Usage and Discoverability

The IR managers were asked whether their repository platform supports Dublin Core, OpenAIRE, or DataCite metadata standards for interoperability with other repositories. The responses are detailed below:

Figure 3. Metadata standards for Interoperability with Global Repositories



All the Institutional Repository (IR) platforms mentioned support Dublin Core metadata format, while two of them also support OpenAIRE. Only one platform supports DataCite. The platforms that support OpenAIRE provide federated functionalities, enabling users to search and retrieve content from other repositories.

All the IRs can export metadata records in machine-readable formats such as XML or MARC and support metadata harvesting protocols like OAI-PMH. Regarding direct deposits of content into global platforms, 75% of the IRs can deposit directly into the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), while 25% can deposit directly into arXiv, Mendeley, or OpenDoar. This observation aligns with the submissions by Cheryl de la Rey (2010) and OpenDoar (2024). However, most African IRs are not interoperable with global platforms.

To identify effective promotional strategies for utilising the IRs, respondents were asked whether their institutions have policies or incentives to encourage researchers to deposit their publications. The responses gathered were as follows:

We have the IR/OA Policy

As part of the requirements for promotion, a staff should have at least deposited their publications in the repository

According to the respondents, the IRs are actively promoted to researchers, students, and the wider community through –

Through all the listed means - workshops, training sessions, website announcements

We regularly conduct training sessions aimed at educating postgraduate students on how to utilise the repository effectively.

At all the Information Literacy Workshops

During the orientation week

Seventy-five percent of the institutional repositories (IRs) provide usage statistics or metrics to track downloads, views, and citations. However, none of the IRs have fully utilised social media or other online

platforms to promote the research outputs deposited in the repository, as indicated in the responses.

Through university email – allusers

Very minimal

Not much has been done in the area of utilising social media or other online platforms to promote research outputs deposited in the repository. Our focus has been primarily on internal promotion through workshops and training sessions.

Not all the time

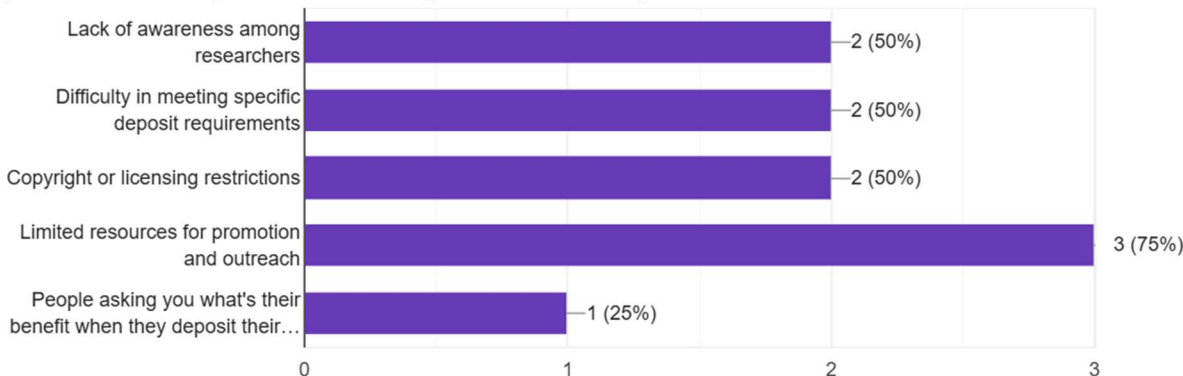
Considering the functionalities of institutional repositories (IRs), approximately 75% offer support for multiple languages. Additionally, all IRs integrate with external search engines or discovery services, such as Google Scholar and the

Directory of Open Access Journals. Moreover, a significant majority of IR managers (75%) express satisfaction with the discoverability of research outputs in their institutional repositories.

Global Impact of African IRs and Challenges

The challenges faced by Institutional Repository (IR) managers in expanding the global reach and impact of their repositories are illustrated in Figure 4. Some of these challenges include: limited resources for promotion and outreach (75%), a lack of awareness among researchers (50%), difficulty in meeting specific deposit requirements (50%), and copyright or licensing restrictions (50%). One manager expressed a particular challenge, stating, "People often ask what benefits they gain from depositing their publications."

Figure 4. Challenges in Increasing the Global Impact of African IRs



According to the respondents, the biggest challenges faced in developing and maintaining the IRs include:

Technical know-how, loss of data when upgrading to new versions of DSpace

Migration to a newer version

Implementing and maintaining sophisticated repository software requires specialised technical skills and expertise.

Limited financial resources can restrict the ability to invest in advanced technology, provide adequate training, and support ongoing maintenance and development.

Lack of dedicated IT personnel in charge of the Repository

Furthermore, the following are the biggest challenges faced by the IRs regarding interoperability with global platforms:

Technical limitations, lack of awareness, and resource constraints

Network breakdown

The integration with global platforms can be complex and time-consuming,

considering the complexity of the technology involved.

Limited financial resources restrict our ability to invest in the necessary technology and infrastructure to enhance interoperability with global platforms.

Lack of dedicated IT staff to work on full-time

Utilisation of the functionalities of the Repository

The respondents were asked to state in their opinion the most significant factors that contribute to the global impact of African IRs. The responses are shown in Figure 5.

Figure 5. Factors that Contribute to the Global Impact of an IR



The following are the initiatives or strategies implemented by the institutions to increase the visibility of the IRs.

Training, personal contact, regular workshops and seminars

Organising training and creating awareness

Regularly conduct workshops and training sessions to educate researchers and postgraduate students on how to deposit their work and utilise the repository effectively.

When we rolled out self-archiving strategies, this has improved our visibility

In the opinion of the respondents, the potential benefits of improved interoperability for African institutional repositories include:

Visibility of African grey literature and rich culture

High usage

Enhanced interoperability allows African research to be more easily discoverable by global audiences, increasing the impact and recognition of local scholarship

Researchers gain better access to global databases, repositories, and resources, enhancing the quality of research and education

The systems would be able to communicate with each other for easy information access and retrieval

The following are the suggested initiatives or resources that would help enhance the interoperability of African IRs with global platforms:

Adopting universal data standards and open APIs is crucial for seamless data exchange and system integration across diverse technologies and international boundaries.

Engaging with interoperability and digital repository experts can offer guidance on overcoming specific technical and strategic challenges.

Building and maintaining robust APIs can facilitate seamless data exchange between repositories and global platforms

Enhancing interoperability among African institutional repositories is crucial for promoting knowledge sharing and collaboration across the continent

Regularly assessing the impact of interoperability initiatives to identify successes and areas for improvement. Data-driven insights can help refine strategies and enhance effectiveness.

Encourage African librarians to share success stories to learn best practices

Conclusion

While African University Institutional Repositories have made strides in providing platforms for scholarly dissemination, their current scope and content remain limited when juxtaposed with the vast intellectual capital yet to be revealed or assessed within African institutions. Despite this limitation, the potential for these repositories to contribute immensely to global scholarly discourses is undeniable. The openness demonstrated by many African IRs is a crucial hallmark of a vibrant and accessible scholarly ecosystem, laying the foundation for broader engagement.

However, to truly realise their global impact, visibility and interoperability of African IRs must be significantly enhanced. Increased discoverability through improved metadata practices and wider adoption of interoperability standards will ensure that African research is more readily accessible to the global academic community. The scholarly outputs housed within these repositories have both direct and indirect bearings on global developments and sustainability, offering unique African perspectives and research findings that can

contribute to addressing worldwide challenges.

Moving forward, strategic efforts focused on increasing content submission, enhancing technical infrastructure, promoting awareness among researchers, and fostering collaborative networks will be crucial for unlocking the full potential of African Institutional Repositories. By addressing these areas, African universities can amplify their research visibility, elevate their global standing, and ensure that their invaluable contributions are more prominent in shaping global scholarly conversations and fostering sustainable development worldwide. Conclusively, the IR managers aptly stated as thus:

While facing challenges like funding and infrastructure, African institutional repositories are gradually increasing the global visibility of African research and scholarship, offering open access to valuable local knowledge.

Institutional repositories significantly impact the global research landscape by advancing open access and enhancing the visibility of scholarly work. They provide a crucial platform for sharing research data, supporting reproducibility, and fostering collaboration across borders. By making research outputs freely accessible, repositories contribute to the democratisation of knowledge and strengthen the global research community. They also help institutions build their scholarly identity and engage with international efforts to address global challenges, ultimately accelerating scientific discovery and innovation. Investing in and promoting the use of institutional repositories can greatly enhance their global influence

and support the advancement of knowledge.

They offer a wonderful platform for access to institutional memory, so there has to be a deliberate move to advocate for their usability.

Recommendations

To enhance the visibility and global impact of African Institutional Repositories, the following recommendations are proposed:

1. Capacity Building: Investing in reskilling programmes for librarians and researchers to effectively manage and utilise IRs. This includes training on repository software, metadata standards, copyright issues, and strategies for increasing content submission and usage. Librarians should be empowered to promote the benefits of repositories and provide support to researchers.

2. Open Access Policies: Developing and implementing clear and comprehensive open access policies at the institutional and national levels to advocate for and mandate the use of IRs. These policies should address content submission guidelines, copyright restrictions, and preservation strategies to ensure the sustainability of the repositories.

3. Standardised Metadata for Global Interoperability: Adopting and adhering to standardised metadata schemas to ensure that the content within African IRs is discoverable and interoperable with global repositories and search engines. This will enhance the visibility of African research outputs in the global information space.

4. User Engagement Promotion: Implementing strategies to promote user engagement among researchers, faculty, and students to encourage content submission and

usage. This can include awareness campaigns, training workshops, highlighting the benefits of increased visibility and citation impact, and integrating IRs into teaching and learning activities. Incentives could be provided for researchers to deposit their work in IRs.

5. International Collaborations: Fostering collaborations with international libraries, research institutions, and open access initiatives to share best practices, enhance technical infrastructure, and increase the global visibility of African research. Explore opportunities to link African IRs with global networks and platforms to broaden their reach and impact.

By implementing these recommendations, African institutions can strengthen their Institutional Repositories, enhance the visibility of their research, and contribute more significantly to global scholarly discourses, ultimately impacting global developments and sustainability.

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