

**OPEN REPOSITORIES IN UGANDA: GAINS AND
SUSTAINABILITY MECHANISMS FOR INSTITUTIONAL
REPOSITORIES OF THREE INSTITUTIONS THAT
PARTICIPATED IN THE CONCLUDED
EIFL/SPIDER PROJECT**

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OUTLINE

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ABOUT THE EIFL/SPIDER PROJECT

- Born out of the need to advocate for the access to online research by East African Researchers to the world after a 2010 OA Workshop in Kenya supported by the Open Society Foundations (OSF)
- Hence increasing the availability and visibility in the Region through the OA Journals and OA Repositories
- In 2013, EIFL – Electronic Information for Libraries received funding from SPIDER (the Swedish Programme for ICT in Developing Regions DSV, Department of Computer and System Sciences, Stockholm University) to cascade OA initiatives in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda
- Still through EIFL, SPIDER extended the funding to 2016 which was further extended to SPIDER II from 2018-2019

PROJECT PURPOSE

- The 2013 Project had these objectives
- Increase in the number of OA Repositories
- Increased content in the OA Repositories
- The 2016 Project was mainly concerned with
- Developing Institutional OA Policies in order to mandate researchers to deposit their journal articles, theses and dissertations

EIFL/PROJECT UGANDA

- In Uganda, EIFL partnered the Consortium of Uganda University Libraries (CUUL) to implement these objectives.
- Three objectives were identified;
- Researchers and students/learners have ICT-based access to research materials.
- Increased number of OA policies in Uganda.
- Improved OA repositories in Uganda that help better discover and use the digital content.
- The Project included 11 institutions both Public and Private

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- Advocacy meetings and campaigns – 8 meetings were held with top management officials at 8 different institutions. Main issue discussed was pending Policy Approvals
- Capacity building for OA Repository Administrators and Managers e.g. content submission workshops, DSpace-CRIS Demo, Mentoring and consultation
- Repository best practices – a repository audit was carried out following the EIFL Repository Checklist
- At the end of the Project, all the institutions had installed their repositories

PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

- This presentation follows up three institutions (1 Private and 2 Public) and how they have gained from participating in the Project and sustainability strategies put in place these are;
- Islamic University in Uganda – <http://ir.iuiu.ac.ug>
- Muni University – <http://dir.muni.ac.ug>
- Makerere University – <http://makir.mak.ac.ug> and <http://dissertations.mak.ac.ug>

CHALLENGES EXPERIENCED

- Before participating in the project, some lived challenges were;
- never had this institutional repository
- Low levels of understanding of how the repository works
- Policy formulation and bench marking
- Lack of spaces to exchange ICT technical knowledge and skills for improvement of the institutional repository

GAINS

- The institution ranking have improved.
- The institution has a central place where all the scholarly works by the staff are archived and easy to access
- Public access to information is now possible
- Increased visibility, ability to archive research done by the University staff.
- Increased visibility and discoverability of research output.
- People are able to access them for references and also check for plagiarism.

SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIES

- Continuous training of librarians for the knowledge and skills passed to all librarians
- Backing up the data regularly in addition
- Ensuring that the system is locally managed by the institution and getting information from the community portals
- Training of library staff and continuous upgrade of the system.
- Role institutionalisation and distribution of tasks.
- Training members of the usefulness of these resources and also uploading them.

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ANY QUESTIONS

THANK YOU