OPEN ACCESS INIATIATIVES IN THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI, By
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Open Access (OA)

Making resources freely available to researchers globally for development

˝Denotes free access to scholarly literature/knowledge

˝No charge to the user

Benefits of Open Access?

| Equity of Access to Knowledge | Increased Readership | Expanded opportunities for teaching and learning | Increased Citation | Maximum Visibility | Better Return on Research Funding |

Promoting Open Access at the University of Nairobi Initiatives

* **Green Road** – Spearheaded by the University of Nairobi Library

  * Development of Digital Repository to capture local content including College of Agriculture & Veterinary sciences (CAVs) content that includes agricultural theses & dissertations, conference proceedings etc - http://erepository.uonbi.ac.ke/

  * Development of Open Access Policy and Implementation of the policy

* **Gold Road** –

  * Making Institutional Journals and conference proceedings Open Access e.g IBIMA publishing, School of Business

  * Development of Open Journal System (OJS) – CBPS

  * Publishing in Open Access Journals e.g DOAJ,

Agricultural Resources

Promoting Open Access Initiatives at UoN: Activities

* **Digitize local content that is in print form-outsourcing**
* **Works with scholars to avail their research papers to be uploaded on UoN IR**
* **Sensitize stakeholders to increase adoption rate**
* **Initiate & educate researchers on OA publishing platforms & options e.g. OJS**
* **Participating in OA week & exhibitions**
* **Enhancing IL program to incorporate OA courses**
* **Budget allocation for OA Initiatives**

* **Library working with UoN ICT to develop infrastructure and staff skills**
* **Entrenching OA in UON and Library strategic plan**
* **University and Library annual performance contract incorporates OA initiatives**
* **Increased collaboration globally to enhance sharing information**
* **Identify staff & students to form an effective frontline outreach team for OA**
* **Use of social media - YouTube**
* **Promote OA on UoN Website, Library home page & promotional materials, publications & newsletters**

Handling OA INITIATIVES IN UON:

Workflow

* Green Road
  - Identifying Institutional Content, gathering/collecting, scanning, indexing and uploading to the University Institutional Digital Repository for preservation for posterity

* Gold Road
  - Publishing in OA journals

Policy Issues

* UoN OA Policy approved by Vice Chancellor in 2012 - mandatory for UoN stakeholders to deposit their research in UoN repository

* UoN Plagiarism Policy approved in 2013

* Implementation of the policies are on course

Current Updates for UoN IR

* **Over 80,000 docs covering;**
  * **Archives** [4935]
  * **Books** [1892]
  * **Conference/ Workshop/ Seminar/ Proceedings** [7042]
  * **Journal Articles** [25592]
  * **Lectures and Speeches** [659]
  * **Policies/ Reports/ Newsletters** [504]
  * **Research Papers** [2055]
  * **Theses and Dissertations** [28604]
  * **Undergraduate Projects** [8718]
  * **UoN Open and Distance Learning Modules** [36
* **Increase of hits/searches on IR – 2,784,595 hence enhancing UoN visibility**

Challenges

* Infrastructure and facilities in place
* Lack of awareness and understanding of the concept – OA Sensitization
* Acquiring content can be difficult
* Fear of exposure of the intellectual work rated globally may affect support from researchers and supervisors

* Involving top level management - Lack of high level management support though UoN management has fully supported OA initiatives
* Finance/funding and sustainability of the project can be demanding - budget allocation for OA initiatives

Challenges

* Bureaucracy in Procurement of ICT/IR equipment slows adoption of the concept
* Plagiarism challenges and cost of detection software
* Populating IR & publishing in OA journals - Researchers resistant to OA concept
* Possessiveness of institutions to their output

* Low ICT skills and other staffing issues
* Copyright and intellectual property rights issues
* OA policies established but there are challenges in implementation of the policy
* Lack of prioritizing IR in library activities – now incorporated in strategic plan and PC

Suggestions/Recommendations

* Library to take up and spearhead the OA initiatives
* Support from top management required
* Institute required infrastructure - book scanners, indexing software, upgrading IR system etc, to enhance full text
* Due to more audience there is need to enhance training and sensitization of the OA concept
* Participate in OA global and regional activities

Conclusion

* Success of OA Initiatives depends on commitment by all parties in institutions – administrators, researchers, librarians, users, ICT support, publishers

* Sensitization/advocacy required

* Capacity building/training

* Instituting required infrastructure

* Share Information – key to achieving goals and improving outcomes and development

OPEN ACCESS WEEK 19TH – 25TH OCTOBER 2015
THEME: OPEN FOR COLLABORATION
www.openaccessweek.org