



OPEN ACCESS IN AFRICA: PROVIDING NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR KNOWLEDGE DEVELOPMENT

Buhle Mbambo-Thata,
Executive Director, Library Services
University of South Africa

Outline

- Context
- Open Access Expression
 - IR
 - OER
 - OA publishing
- Challenges
- Way forward
- Conclusion

CONTEXT

- “The emergence of Africa will ultimately be measured by its ability to sustain itself,....to create, store and disseminate its own knowledge and technology.” *Shamsa Abdulrasak 2009*
- Southern Africa
 - SARUA support of OA, Gaborone 2007
 - Institutional repositories
 - Open Educational Resources
 - Open Access Publishing

Open Access Expression

- 2000.....
 - Open archiving/institutional repository
 - Open access journal publishing
- 2005.....
 - Open educational resources
 - Open broadcasts

Potential of Open access to Africa

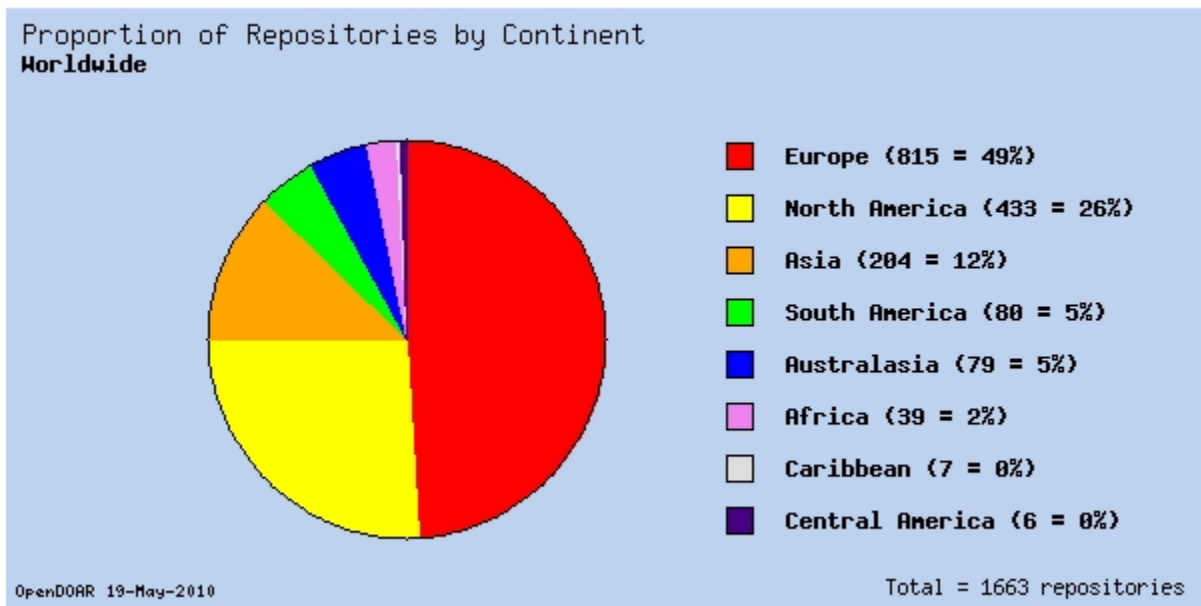
- Visibility of African scholarship
- Opportunity to shape digital knowledge space through contribution---not mere consumers of digital content
- Expanding intellectual and knowledge development sphere
- OERs, and digital repositories expanding African ways of learning, teaching & research

INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORIES

Institutional repositories

- Mainly located at universities
- Open Standards
 - D-space
 - E-prints
- Language : English and local languages
- African knowledge in the web
- Enhancing visibility of African academics

Proportion of Repositories by Continent Worldwide



Proportion of Repositories by Country in Africa

Proportion of Repositories by Country
Africa



OpenDOAR 18-May-2010

Total = 39 repositories

Geographical Distribution of Repositories in Africa



OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Open Educational Resources

- OERs university and NGO based
- OER-Africa project
- TESSA project
- Virtual University of Small States of the Commonwealth led by the Commonwealth of Learning

OERs ...(cont)

- While many OERs are developed in the industrialised countries, less industrialised countries ought not to be merely consumers of these.
- OERs are to be *shared, exchanged, expanded and adapted* with appropriate attributions

- OER Africa

- is an innovative new project, headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, under the auspices of the South African Institute for Distance Education (SAIDE).
- OER Africa has been established to play a leading role in driving the development and use of Open Educational Resources (OER) on the African continent.

<http://www.oerafrica.org/Default.aspx?alias=www.oerafrica.org/aboutoer>

The screenshot shows the OER Africa website homepage. At the top, the logo features the text "OER Africa" next to a graphic of orange and yellow dots. Below the logo is the tagline "Building African higher education capacity through openness" and a search bar. A navigation menu includes links for HOME, BLOG, FORUMS, FAQ, CONTACT US, LOGIN, and JOIN. Below the menu are five main sections: ABOUT OER AFRICA, COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE, OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES, OER TOOLKIT, and INTERACT. The main content area is divided into three columns. The left column contains "About OER Africa" and "Join the OER Africa Facebook Group". The middle column contains "Partnership for Higher Education Africa - Educational Technology Initiative". The right column contains "OER AFRICA NEWS & EVENTS" with a list of recent news items.

OER Africa
Building African higher education capacity through openness

Search

HOME | BLOG | FORUMS | FAQ | CONTACT US | LOGIN | JOIN

ABOUT OER AFRICA | COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE | OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES | OER TOOLKIT | INTERACT

About OER Africa

OER Africa has been established in the belief that Open Educational Resources (OER) have a tremendously powerful positive role to play in developing and capacitating higher education systems and institutions across Africa. The project has been set up to ensure that the power of OER is harnessed by Africans for Africans to build collaborative networks across the continent. [More about OER Africa.](#)

Join the OER Africa Facebook Group

OER Africa seeks to work with its growing network of partners to enable African academics and universities to harness the power of OER, develop their own capacity, and become integrated into global OER networks as active participants rather than passive consumers. We invite anyone interested in supporting this cause to join this Facebook Group to help us bring the vision to reality.

Partnership for Higher Education Africa - Educational Technology Initiative

The purpose of the project is to support interventions in universities supported by the [Partnership for Higher Education in Africa \(PHEA\)](#) to make increasingly effective

OER AFRICA NEWS & EVENTS






4 - 9 May 2009
OER Africa will attend the 13th General Conference of the African Association of Universities (AAU)...

24 March 2009
Sharing Resources: OER in Higher Education in Africa - an interview with the eLearning Africa...

12 - 13 March 2009
Neil Butcher attended a Joint Seminar on Quality Assurance in E-Learning and Open Educational Resources...

3 March 2009
Catherine's address at the Hewlett Foundation grantee meeting...

Example of OER Resources



ALL GOVERNANCE ▾ ECONOMY ▾ SECTORS ▾ ENVIRONMENT ▾ EDUCATION ▾ HEALTH ▾ SOCIETY ▾ CULTURE ▾ SCIENCE & TECH ▾

Sort by ▾

- New comments
- New posts
- Most popular

Filter by ▾

- All
- News
- Posts

Highlights ▾

[Science, Technology and Innovation: Capacity Building for Sustainable Growth and Poverty Reduction](#)


[What Role for Sub-Saharan Africa in Europe's Energy Policies?](#)

[The Global Fund is looking for experts to serve on its Technical Review Panel](#)

Education → **Higher education** × **South Africa** ×

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First of its kind South African study finds low HIV rates among university students ↓ +1 ↑



[plusnews.org](#) – HIV prevalence rates among South Africa's university students remain low, but risk is never far off according to one of the largest surveys ever conducted in the country. The study of almost 24,000 students and staff found a national HIV prevalence rate among college students of about 3 percent – a sharp contrast to the national prevalence rate of around 18 percent estimated by UNAIDS. A combination of individual questionnaires, interviews, and dried blood spot HIV testing was used.

Added by [Laura Lopez Gonzalez, PlusNews](#) on March 30, 2010

Use of School-based Telecentres by the broader Community and Possibilities for Revenue Generation by Schools in South Africa ↓ 0 ↑




[info.worldbank.org](#) – South Africa as a young democracy is going through interesting and innovative changes, especially at this stage of heightened transition. These changes and developments are very


zunia.org here [more](#)

Contribute

[+ New post](#)

Popular groups ▾

 **Aid Effectiveness**
Members (17839) | posts (5168)

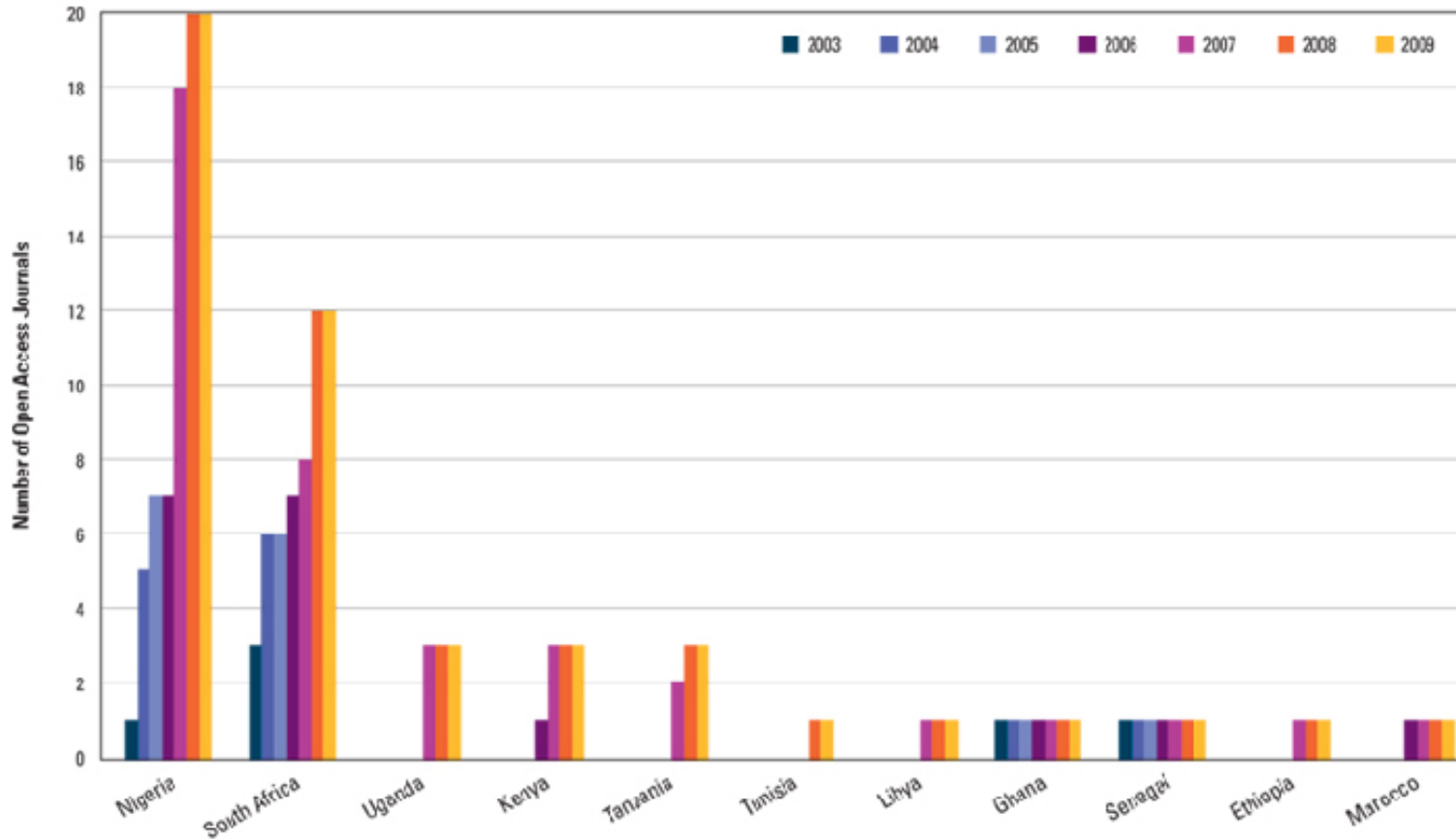
 **Open Educational Resources**
Members (10290) | posts (1987)

[View all](#)

OPEN ACCESS PUBLISHING

Growth of African Open Access Journals

Growth of African Open Access Journals



Reproduced with permission of the Directory of Open Access Journals.

- Open access publishing
 - Academy of Sciences statements- (South Africa)
 - Human Science Research Council Model (Gray 2007)
 - Avenue for limited run publications e.g journals of small learning societies (Mazonde 2010)
 - African Feminist Review – (accredited journal)

CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

Challenges and Issues

- Limited knowledge among academics
 - Nigeria Study (Richman,2009)
- National policy frameworks and Open Scholarship
 - National policy
 - Accreditation of OA publishing
 - Institutional policy
 - Tenure and promotion
- Unequal knowledge development processes
 - Exportation
 - Hegemonic

Way forward

- Alignment of OA and Academic traditions critical
- Open Scholarship Framework essential
 - Institutional Repositories-mechanism for dissemination and archiving
 - Open Access Publishing-publication of digital knowledge
 - Open Educational Resources-exchange and adaptation mechanism
 - Future

Conclusion

- OA valuable vehicle for Africa's digital content
- OA facilitates access to knowledge and also creates platforms for uploading knowledge developed in Africa.
- A new way of scholarly communication in African scholars ought to embrace and exploit to place African knowledge in digital spaces

- Welcome to Open Access day celebration!
 - Contact information:
 - Buhle Mbambo-Thata
 - mbambtb@unisa.ac.za