

## Edifice of Institutional Repositories in UNISWA Library: A Challenge

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### Abstract

*Institutional repositories have largely taken place in universities. Librarians are taking leadership roles in planning and building these repositories, fulfilling their roles as experts in collecting, describing, preserving, and providing stewardship for documents and digital information. The UNISWA Library has taken a step forward for building up an institutional repository of its own. The purpose of this paper is to document UNISWA Library experiences in developing its Institutional Repository. It will also describes how UNISWA Library planned to set up its institutional repository. The main aim is to create a permanent record of the institution's scholarly output in digital format, and to make the Repository globally and openly accessible.*

**Keywords:** EPrint, Institutional repository, UNISWA, Swaziland.

### 1. Introduction

Swaziland is a landlocked country that shares borders with Mozambique and South Africa. It was founded by Bantu peoples from Mozambique in the 18th century and became a British protectorate when colonial rule was established in 1903. Swaziland was led to independence by King Sobhuza II in 1968, and is now a dual monarchy with a King (currently King Mswati III since April 25, 1986) and the Queen Mother. UNISWA (University of Swaziland) is the only university in the country with an enrolment of over 5,000 students. The University of Swaziland developed from the University of Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland (UBLS), formerly known as the University of Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland (UBBS), which had its headquarters in Lesotho between 1964 and 1975. The UBBS had developed from the Pius XII Catholic University College at Roma - itself the product of a long-held desire for an institution of higher learning for Africans, of the Catholic hierarchy in Southern Africa. The University's first Congregation for the Conferment of Degrees in 1982. Since its inception, the mission of the libraries is to provide efficient service and access to quality academic information resources in support of instructional, learning, research and administrative functions of the University. With the mission to support learning and scholarship and their expertise in collection access and management, the library is playing a leading role in the development of the institutional repository. The building of an Institutional Repository is needed in the present scenario of digital world mainly due to technological changes and the increase in research publications.

### 2. Institutional Repository

An institutional repository is a digital collection of a university's creative output. It is a set of service that a University offers to the members of its community for the management and dissemination of

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digital material created by them. Institutional repositories also form part of a larger global system of repositories, which are indexed in a standardized way, and searchable using one interface, supporting the foundation of a new scholarly publishing model. Collaboration among Librarian, Archivist, Record Managers, Faculty and University Administrators and Policy Makers are obligatory in making an effective Institutional Repository and at any given point in time it should be supported by a set of Information technologies. The management of technological changes the migration of digital content due to the advanced in technology is the key part for IR. An Institutional Repository is the best way to provide Open Access to research output.

### **3. Impetus for Emergence of Institutional Repository**

- ◆ Growing volume of born-digital research material
- ◆ Various publication types and formats
- ◆ Represent organization's intellectual output
- ◆ Innovative Internet use by scholars to disseminate their research findings
- ◆ Dropping storage & computer costs
- ◆ Researchers' interest in digital publishing
- ◆ Discipline archives
- ◆ Initiatives for alternate open access publishing.

### **4. Importance of Institutional Repositories**

Institutional repository enables a University to publicise its research and teaching programmes by enabling access to the work of its staff and students. The quality of a university's academic output forms an effective advertisement for the institution. Institutional repositories benefits the scholar and the institution by bringing timely access, broader dissemination, increased use, and enhanced professional visibility of scholarly research, teaching materials and a wide range of creative output while potentially raising the institutional profile. The other benefit includes:

- ◆ Enhanced research capacity
- ◆ Avoid duplication
- ◆ Raise the status and profile of the institutes
- ◆ Managing institutional information assets
- ◆ Accreditation / performance management
- ◆ Long term cost savings
- ◆ Opportunities to simplify and extend dissemination
- ◆ Enabling of IPR to be exploited more effectively at institutional level
- ◆ The highlighting of the quality of intellectual capital
- ◆ Opportunities for new forms of scholarly communication
- ◆ Flexible ways to develop existing scholarly communications.

Realizing these benefits University library has just started the ground work of building an institutional repository for their community with an aim to create a permanent record of the institution's scholarly output in digital format.

## 5. Setting up an Institutional Repository at UNISWA Library

The UNISWA library started along with its parent body the University of Swaziland in the year 1982. Since its inception, the Library supports the **educational, research and learning functions** of the University and a number of services are directed to these efforts. It also caters to the needs of the students and teachers of the University at large. The Mission of the library is to "efficiently provide services and access to quality academic information resources, irrespective of format and location, to University staff, students, and associates in support of the instructional, learning, research and administrative functions of the University" but the library is not able to fulfilled the mission entirely due to lack of inadequate funding, budgets cut, the fluctuation of currency and the continued escalation of the costs of journals. The rising cost of journal subscriptions compelled the UNISWA Library to reduce the total number of subscriptions but still the Library has motivated to build an innovative institutional digital repository to collect, preserve, and enable distribution of research, teaching and learning material generated by UNISWA scholars, teachers and researchers and make the repository globally and openly accessible.

### 5.1 Evaluation of Software

Evaluation of the software is one of the essential for setting up a successful institutional repository. Perhaps the most important is identifying the right software before we go for it. There are many open source packages available freely and by focusing on a few, we may find the appropriate one. Some of the selected software which is used by different institution and available freely is listed below:

- ◆ **Dspace** developed by MIT Libraries and Hewlett-Packard Company.
- ◆ **Eprints** University of Southampton, U.K
- ◆ **Fedora** digital object repository management system university of Virginia, USA
- ◆ **CDSware** CERN Document Server Software (CDSware), CERN, Geneva, Switzerland
- ◆ **ARNO** Academic Research in the Netherlands Online, Tilburg University, the Netherlands
- ◆ **i-Tor** tools and technologies for Open Repositories Netherlands Institute for Scientific Information Services.
- ◆ **MyCoRe** Essen University Library, University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany
- ◆ **Archimede** Software developed by Laval University Library, Canada

The above software systems is designed to meet the original requirements of developing an institutional repository. But there is a need for technical support and training in using the software.

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The UNISWA Library has selected the Eprints for their Institutional Repositories. EPrints is the most flexible platform for building high quality, high value repositories, recognised as the easiest and fastest way to set up repositories of research literature, scientific data, student theses, project reports, multimedia artefacts, teaching materials, scholarly collections, digitised records, exhibitions and performances.

Though we have selected the software, the work is still in infant stage, as there are lots of issues and challenges to be addressed before implementing the system.

## **6. Issues and Challenges**

In setting up the IR, the organizational, administrative and culture set-up of an institution must be considered as they impact on the success or failure of managing such repositories. In establishing repositories there are a variety of decisions to make. Policies, systems architecture, and other elements will depend on institutional context and the scope and purposes of the repository. Institutions have unique purposes and cultures that will dictate how their repositories are formed and maintained. The key issues to consider when developing repositories are as follows:

### **6.1. Funding**

Funding is the key issue that involve the long-term commitment. A repository cannot run by itself. It needs constant attention and requires funding in perpetuity. The following are to be look upon before setting up the Institutional Repository.

- ◆ Funds to purchase a Server that will be dedicated to the IR
- ◆ Overhead costs in terms of personnel to manage the Repository
- ◆ Maintenance, sustenance of the system, as well as long-term preservation costs
- ◆ Funding policy will need to be thoroughly mooted by the University management.

### **6.2 Stakeholders**

Stakeholders play a key role in the planning of a system in UNISWA and to build up a successful Institutional Repository it is necessary that there should be co-ordination among the different stakeholders.

- ◆ Library staff
- ◆ Administrators, authors, managers, researchers, lectures
- ◆ Researchers and Faculty including, Departments, Faculty Boards; Units and Research Centers; such as: Swaziland Institute for Traditional Medicine, Medicinal and Indigenous Plants, (SIRTMMIP), Consultancy and Training Centre (CTC), Health Information and Counselling

Centre (HICC), Information and Technology Centre (ICT), University Planning Centre (UPC), Academic Development Centre (ADC) and UNISWA Research Centre

- ◆ University Management (i.e. University Senate and the University Council).
- ◆ Students;
- ◆ Publishers, funders, institutions and service providers.

### 6.3 Copyright Challenge

- ◆ Currently, 90% of some 9000 surveyed publishers, including the Science & Technology publishers have agreed that authors may archive copies of their published papers in their institutional archives. The remaining 10% of the publishers have not yet been approached (Chan, Leslie et al. (2005))
- ◆ To determine, if our scholars publish in the listed journals
- ◆ To seek permission from publishers that are not listed under SHERPA/RoMEO
- ◆ Eifl.net also provides assistance and support to members for addressing copyright issues in relation to IR.

### 6.4 Policy Issues

- ◆ Library Staff development Policy
- ◆ Policy on content
- ◆ Policy on systems

## 7. Conclusion

Technology continues to evolve exponentially and as the amount of electronic information mushrooms, it is a natural task for a Librarian to establish an Institutional repository. Librarians are uniquely qualified to rise to the challenge and take on the task of evaluating the information needs of their constituents and ensuring that a solid infrastructure is developed for the repository. Additionally, librarians will profit from the new relationships and collaborations that emerge as a result of implementation. Institutional repository is a very powerful idea that serves as an engine of change for the institutions of higher education, and more broadly for the scholarly enterprises that they support. If properly developed, it advances a number of goals, and addresses an impressive range of needs. Some of the results seem clear, though there are also likely to be any number of unexpected consequences. This is an area where the universities need to invest aggressively, but where they also need to implement thoughtfully and carefully, with broad consultation and collaboration across the campus community (with intellectual leadership from the faculty and the library working in

partnership) and with a full understanding that if they succeed they will permanently change the landscape of scholarly communication. So the challenges faced by the UNISWA library should be perceived as stepping stones in establishing the Institutional Repositories.

### References

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