

Reports

Open Access and the Future of African Knowledge Economy

Reports of the 4th CODESRIA Conference on Electronic Publishing, Dakar, March 29 - April 1 2016

Preamble

The Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) held its Fourth Conference on Electronic Publishing titled *Open Access and the Future of African Knowledge Economy* from 30 March to 1 April 2016. The Conference attracted 35 scholars and experts from about 20 countries in Africa and around the globe who gathered in Dakar, Senegal, to discuss various aspects of the theme. The Conference also had representatives from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), which has its headquarters in Paris, France; the Argentina-based Latin American Council of Social Sciences (CLACSO) and Senegal's Ministry of Communication and Culture.

The countries represented at the meeting included: Nigeria, South Africa, Senegal, Cameroun, Sudan, Kenya, Uganda, Egypt, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Congo Brazzaville, France, the United States, the United Kingdom, Argentina, India, Italy, Ireland, and the Netherlands. The three-day conference was organized around an opening ceremony, nine panel sessions, and a closing ceremony.

The Opening Ceremony

The conference opening ceremony, moderated by CODESRIA's Programme Officer, Dr. Williams Nwagwu, featured the following speakers: CODESRIA's Executive Secretary, Dr. Ebrima Sall; UNESCO's Programme Manager, Dr. Bhanu Neupane; Vice Chancellor of the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, Professor Abel Idowu Olayinka; Vice Chancellor of ICT University, Cameroun, Professor Beban Sammy Chumbow and the Chief of Staff to Senegal's Minister of Communication and Culture.

Dr Sall welcomed the participants to the meeting, and focused his remarks on the challenges to scholarly communication,

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knowledge production, dissemination, access, and visibility in Africa. Among the challenges are low sustainability of regularly published journals, difficulty in increasing the visibility of African scholarship, the increasing commercialization of knowledge and the high cost associated with dissemination of print publications, and the large teaching load of faculty in African institutions of higher education, which affects their ability to allocate sufficient time to research. He highlighted CODESRIA's leadership role in addressing a number of these challenges via methods such as the OA convening in Dakar, building strategic partnerships to advance policy initiatives, with African governments and multi-lateral agencies such as UNESCO and CLASCO, and launching the African Citation Index, expected to go live in 2016, to provide exposure to research conducted by African scholars.

Professor Olayinka spoke of the challenges of both conventional publishing and OA scholarly communication in Nigeria. For conventional publishing, such challenges include: the high cost of postage, slow delivery speed, the quality of the peer-review process, low sustainability of print journals, high journal subscription costs, and access and copyright restrictions. OA challenges include: access to and speed of the Internet (bandwidth), awareness of OA benefits, and OA's reputation and respect within the academic community. Professor Olayinka noted that his university, with its 26,000 students and 1600 academic staff, does not have an OA policy. He noted that the University of Ibadan would

leverage the advances in technology and scholarly communication to fashion a homegrown OA policy to advance faculty research, dissemination, and visibility. The policy would address the peer review challenges confronted by open access in order to assign equal weights to publications disseminated through print publications or through OA journals.

Professor Chumbow's remarks focused on the value of OA in an increasing global knowledge economy and the need for the African scientific community to employ OA technologies to drive change and development in Africa. Dr. Bhanu Neupane, UNESCO's representative at the conference, expressed the organization's commitment to the expansion of OA in Africa, including the development of stronger South-South dialogue and cooperation on OA and scholarly communication to advance the visibility of African scholarship and to use such visibility to support the continent's development agenda.

The Minister of Communication and Culture (represented by his Chief of Staff) commended CODESRIA for ranking among the three best in Africa in the 2015 *Go-To-Think Tanks Index* and renewed his government's commitment to work with CODESRIA in advancing research in Africa. He noted that the government of Senegal provides funding support to enable Senegalese scholars pay article publication charges for peer-reviewed scientific journals.

Open Access: Concepts and Issues

This first session intended to provide a theoretical and the evolutionary information about OA movement featured three presentations. The presenters were Peter Ogom Nwosu from the California State University, Fullerton, California in the United States; CODESRIA's Williams Nwagwu; and Eve Gray of the University of Cape Town, South Africa.

In his presentation, Nwosu traced the history of OA through the birth and implementation of an idea rooted in the Budapest Open Access Initiative (BOAI) of December 2001. The goal of OA, according to him, was to remove certain access barriers such as production and subscription costs, restricted access to scholarly journals and pressure on library budgets. The paper traced the development of OA from 1966, dividing OA's history into five major periods: The beginning years of electronic publishing (1966-1989), which included such online repositories as ERIC and BITNET; The pioneering years (1990-1999), which saw major developments in OA such as the African Journals Online (AJOL); The innovation years (2000-2004), which saw increased discourse on OA, formal organizing, coalition building, and development of guidelines such as the Budapest Open Access Initiative, the Bethesda Statement on Open Access Publishing, and the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities; The consolidation years (2005-2009), which saw a growth in OA journals; and The enduring years (2011-present), where scholars in various regions, especially in the Global South, have focused on expanding the frontiers of access to new knowledge through the internet. The latter is the basis for the CODESRIA Open Access Conference.

The paper highlighted a few impediments to creating an enabling environment for OA in Africa: limited awareness about the benefits of OA, ambivalent response of African scholars to OA, and the different policy environment for OA. The paper concludes with a call to action- an African Declaration on Open Access, urging conference participants and CODESRIA, as the foremost pan-African research agency, to set an agenda for 2026 with clear milestones for shaping the discourse on Africa's full and active participation in the definition and the content of the global OA project.

Why do researchers do research? This was the core question in Dr. Nwagwu's paper. Relating this question to OA, he noted that research is done to inform, enlighten, and educate. The paper relates the role of the town crier in traditional society to that of the university teacher (researcher) in the modern era. The town crier, who pasted his reports on notice boards, was rewarded by the community to perform his function, just as the

university teacher is paid to conduct research and write research reports that should be made available to the public. These reports are then published in journals for public consumption. According to him, scholarly publishing started with open access model.

He traced the origin of open access to the beginning of formal science in 1675, noting that the first journals were not commercial goods, but that they were circulated free of charge in the interest of the public good. He also noted that the current conflict between scholars and publishers over the negative impact of pay-walls on scholarly papers, is not new, dating it back to 1922. According to him, UNESCO attempted to address this problem by commissioning a study by Phelps and Herings (1959). The 'Separates Distribution Model' which was recommended by Phelps and Herings involved using radio and television broadcasts, tape recordings, microprint and auxiliary publications to share scientific information. Nwagwu described the present day revolutions in the management of scholarly publications such as open access and use of social media as a mere resurgence of old consciousness.

Eve Gray's paper discussed how OA could be deployed to make African research available to Africans and other users, despite attempts by huge external commercial publishing groups to monetize the research. The paper posits that OA should be key in the African struggle to decolonize research because it represents a change in the medium of scholarly communication. However, she also noted that several forces appear to be threatening this change: the increasing use and presence of academic publishers in the African academic community and other parts of the world; the impact factor regime; and the green and gold routes for OA, which are being advocated by publishers to weaken the fight for democratization of scientific publishing, making the OA movement vulnerable to the manipulation of the wealthy publishing companies like Elsevier that have promised to establish OA journals for African publications. Another major threat in OA publishing in Africa is the reward systems that are skewed in favour of authors publishing in journals indexed by Euro-American indexing organisations.

Key issues that emerged from discussions during this session included: the

absence of OA policies in most African countries and universities; the urgency for such policies to enhance African participation in the OA project; the inability of many African universities to develop, as South Africa has done, a list of journals in which their researchers are expected to publish to clarify the requirements and expectations for the academia; the reward systems in African universities and other higher education institutions, which often demean the value of OA journals; the problem of predatory OA journals which is seriously affecting African scholarly publication and the need to develop a citation index of African origin for proper bibliographic control of African scholarly literature.

Open Access: New Challenges

This session, chaired by Muthu Madhan, featured three presenters: Pippa Smart, a publishing communication consultant from Oxford, United Kingdom; Beban Sammy Chumbow, ICT University, Yaoundé, Cameroun; Dominique Babini of the Latin American Social Sciences Council, Buenos Aires, Argentina; and Daisy Sellematsela of the National Research Foundation, Pretoria, South Africa.

Smart's presentation, entitled "Open Access: Avoiding Unforeseen Consequences," centered on the global context of OA publishing. Noting an increase in the number of OA publications by about 38 per cent between 2003 and 2013, the paper also highlighted researchers' concerns about copyrights, licensing, and the republishing of research articles. She observed that less than 50 per cent of the sampled researchers indicated that they did not want others commercialise their research papers, while a great majority were happy for others to reuse their works. However, the same research could be accessed free of charge by a group of consumers while others pay for it. The paper advised OA publishers and authors should be more knowledgeable about publishing rights.

Beban Sammy Chumbow's presentation focused on the role of language and OA knowledge in supporting Africa's development agenda. The author reminded participants that most African governments have long-term development visions that require OA knowledge to support the development process. Open access knowledge can benefit Africans,

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he noted, but it is not accessible due to language barrier. In this respect, the paper called for a strong focus on the four pillars of the knowledge economy: knowledge production, knowledge dissemination, knowledge management, and knowledge appropriation. He concluded by proposing a model of the knowledge appropriation process relevant to the discourse on OA in Africa.

Dominique Babini's presentation entitled "Accord on Guiding Principles for Open Access to Research Data (ICSU, TWAS, IAP, ISSC)" discussed the principles of open data responsibilities of research institutions and universities. She explained that the guidelines, which were developed by an ICSU-IAP-ISSC-TWAS working group, holds that research data needs to be open. The author equally advised that it is necessary to upload research data in institutional repositories for them to be valued and reutilized. She identified the challenges of culture and the technical and content issues.

In her presentation entitled "The Spectrum of Possible Open Access Opportunities in Africa: Funding and Sustainability," Daisy Selematsela sought to explain South Africa's National Research Foundation (NRF) OA statement for the country. The statement requires that research data be deposited in a trusted repository with the caution that what is published also reflects the integrity of the author. The statement explains that within the context of the NRF, raw data, such as what is jotted down during field studies, is an important part of the repository content. Based on Selematsela's presentation, the state and practice of repository in the continent is weak. She indicated that some frequently asked questions on OA adoption include the kinds of research to cover, how to disseminate the information and the available funding, and whether there will be embargoes limiting when the research will be made available to the public, among others. In addition, OA challenges highlighted in her presentation include its alignment with national priorities, its alignment with key and emerging research strengths, its links with international activities, and the challenge of predatory journals, among others. She concluded by emphasizing the role that senior researchers could play as mentors in supporting junior researchers not to fall prey to predatory journals.

From these presentations, a number of key conclusions emerged: OA policies should be developed to serve as guidelines to scholarly communication and the benefits of OA far outweigh the potential problems of emerging predatory journals in the OA environment.

Open Data and Data Sharing

This session featured four presentations: "Current data sharing practices amongst communities of scientists in resource constrained environments" by Brian Rappert of the University of Exeter, United Kingdom; "Open research data: implications for scholarly publishing in sub-Saharan Africa" by Omwoyo Bosire Onyancha of the University of South Africa; "Africa in the open access environment: advancing research productivity to global visibility" by Ifeanyi J. Ezema and Omwoyo Bosire Onyancha of the University of South Africa and the University of Nigeria, respectively; and "Knowledge, indexation, and research productivity in India: experience of Indian Citation Index" by Prakash K of the Indian Citation Index, New Delhi, India.

Rappert's presentation focused on what gets in the way of open data and what to do about it in resource-constrained environments. For researchers, constraints include the absence of skills training on OA use, funding challenges, transport problems, low internet bandwidth, and confusing OA with predatory publishing. Other constraints include personal, communal, organisational, economic, epistemic, and infrastructural factors, which affect data engagement conversion factors and the dissociation between open data theory and open data practices.

Onyancha's paper sought to find out how much of African research data is available globally. The paper noted that OA is not only for research articles, but also for patents, datasets, and software. The Data Citation Index was used to get Sub-Saharan Africa's globally available data. Sub-Saharan Africa had 846 out of the 3 million submissions, and South Africa ranked highest in terms of open research data sharing. The author recommends the sharing of open research data because it leads to improved research impact, increased institutional visibility, and increased research collaboration. It also ensures the sharing of research findings, an improved level of scholarship, and improved development. The author called

for the development of a citation index for Sub-Saharan Africa.

Ezema and Onyancha's paper discussed the benefits of OA for developing countries: cost reduction for library subscriptions, increased visibility, and enhanced global rankings. The Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), Directory of Open Access Repositories (OpenDOAR), and Registry of Open Access Repositories (ROAR) guided their study. They found that South Africa is the leader in Africa in term of using ROAR and DOAR, 90 per cent of the content on repositories are research articles, followed by theses and dissertations. DSpace is the most used software (73%), followed by EPrints (9%) while English, French, and Arabic are the most used languages (in that order) and local languages are the least used. The authors noted the need to improve ICT infrastructure for the African OA environment to improve and democratise access to information in Africa.

Chand's paper on indexation discussed the Indian Citation Index and its role in promoting open access. According to him, the Indian Citation Index (ICI) has 900+ journals, covering 50 broad subject categories. About 290+ titles are on OA: 152+ titles are in the health sciences, 41 are in pharmacology and pharmaceutical science, and 34 are in biological sciences. There are also 174 countries, 44 of which are African, whose research outputs appear in ICI indexed journals.

Case Studies/Roles of Institutions about Open Access in Africa

This session featured case studies and the role of institutions in advancing OA, with presentations from Omer Hassan Abdelrahman, University of Khartoum, Sudan; Wanyenda Chilimo, Technical University of Mombasa, Kenya; Adalbertus Kamanzi, Virtual University of Uganda, Kampala; Jos Damen, African Studies Centre, Leiden, Netherlands; and Romeo S. Madouka, *Centre d'études et Politiques économiques*, Brazzaville, Congo.

Abdelrahman's presentation was a case study of the University of Khartoum's institutional repository system. The paper traced the development of the repository in the university and explored the attitudes of graduate students. The paper addressed issues such as current status of institutional repository, copyright, and management. It also makes the conclusion

that electronic thesis and dissertations are the most frequently used in such repositories at Khartoum.

Chilimo's presentation focused on institutional repositories (IR) in Kenya, which she sees as the second largest contributor to repositories in Africa. The study was based on five of Kenya's universities: Strathmore University, Jomo Kenyatta University, University of Nairobi, Kenyatta University of Science and Technology, and Pwani University. The conclusion from the paper was that academics from most universities are not much aware of OA publishing and institutional repositories. The paper recommends the need for OA and IR awareness given the value of OA in knowledge development.

Kamanzi and Damen discussed the role of African institutions in promoting OA, focusing on the challenges and opportunities. The presentation described the benefits of OA to Africa. They recommended that African governments and institutions promote OA to enhance its benefits to the continent's developmental agenda. Modouka's paper was a comparative analysis of the use of ICTs in Asia and Africa. It observed the divergent experiences in the use of ICTs in Africa and Asia, and it argued that there was the need to seriously inculcate the inclusion of African local languages in the use of ICTs.

Overall, all the presentations were punctuated with lively, rigorous and constructive debates surrounding the various topical issues on OA and the case studies that were presented.

Awareness about Open Access in Africa

Four papers were presented in this final session of the conference. Elie Walter Mbeck, *Université de Yaoundé 1*, Yaoundé, Cameroun, gave a presentation which re-confirmed the impressions at the conference about the limited awareness of OA across most universities in Africa. His paper was based on a survey of four universities in Cameroun. These universities produced 1200 articles, and a total of 250 respondents were sampled. Findings indicate that only 40 per cent of the respondents know about OA and 37 per cent have published in OA journals, while 63 per cent published in subscription-based print journals. Only 20 per cent of post-graduate students have heard of OA. The study also found that

researchers use OA websites without actually knowing that they are open access services. Incidentally, the biggest universities in Cameroun are not aware of OA, while the university libraries have very weak infrastructures for the development of OA repositories. The paper recommends awareness raising, adequate funding of research and development of the ICT infrastructure in the country's universities.

Chiparuasha and Chikwanda's paper from Bindura University of Science Education in Zimbabwe highlighted the development and benefits of OA in their country, focusing on the experience of their university's institutional repository. This public university established its repository in 2008, with the IR policy approved in October 2014. The repository currently has over 800 records. Using survey design and analysis of the website, the presenters found that the IR contents include post print, ETDs, conference papers, books, and book chapters, among other items. University librarians acquire the skills of management of the repository from in-house training, workshops, library school, personal training, and ICT support staff. Users of the repository include academic and administrative staff as well as students. Promotion of the use of the repository was through word of mouth, information literacy, web pages, social media, posters, and meetings. The study identified the following challenges facing the repository: poor infrastructure, resistance from researchers, intellectual property rights, and underutilization of uploaded contents.

Awareness and use of OA educational resources by students in Cameroun universities were the focus of a paper by Jude N. Kimengsi, Emmanuel E. E. Oben, Jeff M. Molombe, and Fiona M. Mojoko, all from the University of Buea, Cameroun. The study targeted final year, postgraduate students and library staff of the University of Buea and Catholic University of Cameroun (CATUC). Findings indicate that very few students are aware of OA journals. The majority of the few that know about them got the information from library staff or lecturers. Sixty-six per cent of post-graduate students and 20 per cent of undergraduate students got the information through the Internet. The university has an E-Library, but the majority of the students do not know about it. The paper then suggested a number of strategies

for creating awareness, including implementing an OA week and training librarians on OA knowledge and skills.

Munamoto Chemhuru from Great Zimbabwe University discussed OA and the African indigenous knowledge system (IKS). The system argues that OA is a good platform for wider dissemination of African indigenous knowledge, which hitherto has been suppressed. IKS has been an oral issue for a very long time, and many of them have been lost because they were never recorded. There is, however, a debate as to whether to open up IKS to the wider global community, bearing in mind that much of the knowledge is transferred within a family cycle or clan. The paper concludes that there is a space for IKS in the OA platform since it has been transmitted freely from generation to generation. The following issues were raised during the session: The possibility of opening up IKS to the public when many are shrouded in secrecy and only transmitted within a family, the implication of wider dissemination of IKS to the global community when there is no patent for them, the challenges associated with adoption of OA in African universities, handling job loss and skills acquisition among librarians in the era of OA and open access and the issue of endangered languages.

The South-South Panel – Scholarly Community Open Access Publishing in Africa

Objectives of the Panel

The South-South Panel was convened by CODESRIA, UNESCO and CLACSO, and chaired by the UNESCO's representative, Bhanu Neupane. The panel comprised of seven other members: Williams Nwagwu (Africa), Muthu Madhan (Asia), Mandy Taha (Arab countries), and Dominique Babini (Latin America) each of whom discussed OA with respect to their regions. Three other experts (Eve Gray, Susan Murray, and Susan Veldsman) discussed general South-South OA matters.

What emerged from the presentations from the four panel members was a potpourri of similarities and variations in regional OA matters and implementation. Nwagwu traced the history and challenges of academic publishing in Africa, and he observed that the industry never prospered. He cited a number of challen-

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ges to OA in Africa: the absence of the infrastructure (e.g. power supply) and capacity to support publishing, along with its cost-intensive nature; changing policy terrains such as the collapse of the publishing business in Nigeria following the indigenization decree in 1979; the controversies of the 3-P journals (probable, potential or predatory journals); the generational divide about the value of OA; absence of OA scholarship; the absence of OA policies, statements, mandates, and initiatives (except in South Africa) at the national and institutional levels; the problem of article publishing charges (APC) and the fragmented nature of science policies in Africa, among others. He called for intra- and inter-country collaboration, saying it is critical for expanding the OA footprint in Africa.

Discussing OA in the Arab world, Mandy Taha noted that with 22 countries and 381 million people in the region, the research infrastructure is weak due to poor funding for research. There are variations in spending among the 22 countries, with Qatar spending the most and Algeria the least. In terms of the OA environment, no national policies or initiatives exist. Only Algeria has institutional mandates. Overall, the key challenge to OA in the Arab world is the absence of general awareness about its benefits.

Muthu Madhan discussed OA in Asia, focusing on China and India. OA emerged in India in 2000, and it has been growing slowly. Madhan notes that for OA to remain valuable, it has to be both affordable and mindful of the region's context. He cited the current research evaluation system as a problem, noting that the impact factor was invented for a different purpose, but that it is now used to evaluate and recruit professors. He also cited the high cost of APCs as a major inhibitor to OA publishing and wondered why Indian scholars should be subjected to such fees to sustain multinational publishers in the global North.

He noted that three funding agencies in India have established policies for publication in repositories, and that China is creating similar conditions through the Chinese Academy of Sciences. He noted that repositories are highly negligible in terms of cost; they are maintained and hosted in the cloud, and there are human resources capacity exists. Overall, Asia is expanding OA through efforts on

institutional repositories. Asian countries that have made strides in this regard include Cambodia, Laos, Nepal, Mongolia, Myanmar/Burma, and Thailand.

Latin America has made huge strides in OA. Discussing the region's progress, Dominique Babini noted that OA is not outsourced to commercial publishers but it is rather funded mainly through the government, and published research is open. There is not a tradition of APC for scholarly journals. Repositories are new and focus mainly on theses and journal articles. Regional agreements on repositories exist among nine countries, and they currently contain more than one million digital objects; there is also \$1,000,000 initiative funded through the Inter-American Development Bank. Babini noted that there is a strong tradition of cooperation in Latin America for OA because scientific information is not seen as a commercial venture.

The panel included a guided conversation on general OA matters in the South-South. In her remarks entitled "The trap of multinational publishers' megajournal project," Gray drew participants' attention to current social media misinformation about OA, and she lamented that the OA movement appears to be losing its values. She cited the new mega-journal project by Elsevier, which makes no mention of Africa in its documents, while claiming that it is intended to address African research. She warned that Elsevier, as a commercial publisher, and its mega-journal project, which challenges the current publishing consciousness, coupled with its research evaluation system, should be rejected. She described the mega-journal project as a business designed to colonize science in Africa, exploiting the absence of infrastructure and capacity in the universities, absence of marketing and low production expertise, lack of digital integration and high cost of collaboration

Susan Murray's presentation entitled "OA and Deceitful/Dodgy Publishing," discusses what to do in the Global South about doubtful publishing. She provides a framework through which the academic community might view dodgy publishing platforms: taking public funds from authors and sharing funds with shareholders in the name of profits; creating a reward system for promotion and tenure that does not advance scholarship and predatory journals masquerading as

credible journals, and more. Murray provides some suggestions as follows: rethinking the use of impact factors as an evaluation system; carefully examining the list of predatory journals beyond what Beall provides; learning from the approach used by Latin America; and drawing lessons from the work done by the African Journal Online's (AJOL) publishing standards framework, and its policy on blacklisted journals.

Susan Veldsman's presentation on "Whodunit: Must we publish abroad?" examined OA from the South African experience and discussed what the country has done to improve quality and encourage research productivity within the higher education community. In South Africa, the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) accredits scholarly journals; 297 South African titles are currently accredited, in addition to those listed in the Web of Science, among others selected databases. Some 48 per cent of these titles are OA (146 titles), while 40 per cent (59 of the 146 titles) of those are listed on the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) and 22 per cent are indexed by Web of Science. About 16 per cent of South African journal titles are published abroad by Taylor and Francis, a small percentage by Elsevier, and 15 per cent by NISC in partnership with Taylor and Francis. UNISA Press also partners with Taylor and Francis.

She informed about the new policy on research productivity in South Africa which redefined a South African journal as one in which the editor is South African. Prior to the development and implementation of the publishing guidelines in South Africa, scholars cited three major reasons for publishing in journals abroad: recognition, promotion and ratings. Since the development of the publishing guidelines, there has been a steep rise in publications, with incentives from the government driving the research agenda and research output.

The outcome of the panel's deliberation could be summarized as follows:

OA and Science Communication in the Global South: Major Problems

1. Lack of recognition of the role and significance of scholarly communication in development discourse
2. Increasing commercialization of scholarly knowledge / Increasing cost of publishing

3. Low level of consciousness/understanding about OA a befitting scholarly communication as strategy
4. Poor funding/incentives for research and research publishing
5. Poor human, material and finance infrastructure
6. Weak/absence and overwhelming influence of foreign science policies
7. South North knowledge/capital flight due to "gold-rush" in the north/ The persisting impact factor pressure
8. South South disconnect due to cultural differences

Enhancing OA Publishing in the South

1. What is open access movement and what should it mean in the development agenda of the Global South? How do we build and sustain capacity in open access in the universities, research institutions and government?
2. How do we generate the support and participation of governments and their agencies as well as policy-makers? What mechanisms should be adopted in institutionalizing open access in the region? What are the roles of policymakers, researchers, students and other publics and institutions in enhancing the role of open access in the South in this regard?
3. Can the Global South successfully cope with the current APC regime often at the market prices of the North, and which often outstrips the salaries of researchers in the South?
4. How will the Global South strengthen the quality of publications and publication channels in the South to meet world class standards? What mechanisms should be put in place to demystify the mantra of publishing abroad for foreign visibility instead of publishing at home for local utility?

Emergence of New Enclosures and dealing with them

1. The Article Processing Charges (APC), a fee supposedly payable by the institution of the author or a funding agency to defray the cost of publication production is posing a constraint to open access development in the South.
2. APC in the North is paid by governments on behalf of their scholars through their institutions, but many governments in the South cannot

afford or will not be willing to fund APC.

3. APC is causing a disruption in the birthing of open access movement in the South - the global pressure in academe to publish or perish has spawned exponential sprout of fake e-journals that copy the APC model.
4. The evidence that African scholars are paying APC through their salaries or borrowing, has prompted the multinational publishers to repackage and rebrand the APC model to destroy the benefits of open access in Africa, for example, through the African Megajournal project.
5. Scholars in the South must uphold knowledge production and dissemination managed by the scholarly community, taking advantage of OA publishing platforms that provide unique opportunities for publishing research findings.
6. Universities and research institutions should build open access initiatives, such as journals, megajournals and repositories using routes that discourage APC.

Strengthening the Scholarly Community to Lead OA Publishing in the South

1. Raise awareness/consciousness/knowledge about OA and build OA technology skills among university/institute administrators, lecturers and students
2. Raise awareness/consciousness/knowledge about OA and build OA technology skills among education ministries, universities to scholarly communication
4. Rebranding and re-orientating the universities, their presses and libraries to play the role of information packaging, production and distribution
5. Encourage and support universities to establish OA initiatives and prioritize publishing in OA journals and depositing in repositories
6. Incorporate OA and Creative Commons in the curricula of the universities

The State of Scholarly Publishing and Open Access in Africa

This session featured four presenters: Stephanie Kitchen of the International African Institute, London, United Kingdom; Dayo Zogang Rosine, a

doctoral student at the Université de Ngaoundéré, Cameroon; Susan Murray, African Journals Online, South Africa; and Franck Aurélien Tchokougueu, a demographer from Cameroon. Stephanie Kitchen's paper provides an overview of OA developments in African Studies and anthropology journals. It discusses the progress of ten, mainly British, Africanist journals in extending access using some of the criteria set out in John Willinsky's *Access Principle*. The paper suggests that the development and aggregation of institutional repositories may offer a faster route to green OA for journal articles in Africa and the UK, as well as making other publication types, including research theses, available online.

Dayo Zogang Rosine's presentation assessed the efficacy of digital tools in scholarly publishing. He noted that digital tools are new in Cameroon, but that they present new opportunities for knowledge production and dissemination geared towards social development. He cited the example of the consortium of libraries and research, a collaboration involving the use of electronic communication, to disseminate information in Cameroon. He called for the creation of national groups to help disseminate information about OA and for improved Internet connectivity in the country.

Susan Murray's paper was based on a survey done by AJOL in 2014. The survey received 330 responses from 32 African countries. Some of the findings of the study indicate that most journals in Africa:

- are standalone journals managed by academics during their spare times
- maintain a print version alongside the online version – this makes journal publishing expensive
- are characterized by resource and financial scarcity
- constrained operate in a context where authors are encouraged to publish overseas
- face a general confusion between a journal being online and a journal being OA
- lack government support and involvement

Franck Aurelien Tchokouagueu's paper discussed factors related to the quality of works published in OA in Francophone Africa. These factors include: the low level

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of funding for research, the need to incentivize publication of journals on an OA platform, and the use of peer-review committees to create an optimum system for improving journal quality.

Overall, the issues of capacity, quality, technology infrastructure, resistance among African researchers to the digital format, mentoring younger scholars and doctoral candidates, resource sharing, establishing and maintaining a list of accredited journals, predatory journals, and quality control dominated the presentations and subsequent discussions.

The Workshop on Open Access Policy

This workshop session was led by Iryna Kuchman from EIFL, Italy. Kuchman discussed the different types of OA (immediate or delayed with restrictions); benefits to institutions (e.g., preservation of output, indexing and tracking, use and reuse, profile, and collaboration); and benefits to individuals (e.g., visibility, usage and impact, impact, safe and permanent location, publication list).

She highlighted examples of best practices in OA repositories from around the globe such as in the following places: Liège University in Belgium; the European Commission; several universities in the United States; University of Nairobi has one of the strongest OA policies with about 70,000 items in its repository; some universities in Ethiopia; Kwame Nkrumah University in Ghana; Covenant University in Nigeria; University of Zambia; Bindura University in Zimbabwe. South African universities have institutional repositories: University of Johannesburg, University of Cape Town, University of the Western Cape, and Stellenbosch University, among others.

She discussed OA Policy and Guidelines for research performing organizations. In developing OA policies, questions to ask include: What is the goal of the policy? What are the guidelines to the policy? The guidelines are living documents and provide opportunities for adaptation and change. Both the policy and guidelines must go through approval and adoption, for example, by the faculty or academic senate, and they must be signed off by the president, vice chancellor, or rector of

the institution. The document should also consider the following:

- Provision for office or individuals responsible for policy implementation, including amendments to policy guidelines or policy;
- Implementation details must be left to the implementing office;
- Clarity about OA routes (green or gold); university policy must preserve faculty freedom and the guideline document should address details.
- Open educational resources (OER): OA policy should include OER. Repositories should be linked to both OA and OER and policy should be developed based on the nature of the institution and benefit to students.

The Closing Session and adoption of the *Dakar Declaration*

The closing session was chaired by the Vice Chancellor of the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, Professor Abel Idowu Olayinka. Following the executive summary by Professor Nwosu, Professor Olayinka read the draft *Dakar Declaration on Open Access in Africa and the Global South*. After addressing issues raised by some members, the declaration was adopted.

Commitments

Several commitments were made at the closing ceremony.

- The head of the UNESCO delegation, B.R Neupane, promised that UNESCO would provide the following support to OA in Africa:
 - Resources to support countries in policy development
 - Capacity building: provide a detailed curriculum/module on OA for training university librarians
 - Continuation of the South-South dialog on OA
 - Resources to evaluate competencies and indicators on OA
 - Support for the development of country-specific information for Global OA portal, and
 - Work to take the Dakar Declaration to the highest levels of Governments in Africa.

- Prof. A.I Olayinka of the University of Ibadan remarked that his experience during the conference has been rewarding and promised to initiate an OA policy for his institution as well as extend the message to sister universities in Nigeria.
- Prof. B.S Chumbow, Vice Chancellor ICT University Cameroonian, remarked that Cameroonian participants were already working hard on dealing with the issues at home, and he urged participants to go back home with the message of OA.
- CODESRIA's Executive Secretary Ebrima Sall noted that the issues addressed by the conference and the Dakar Declaration will guide the agency's work in advancing science policy in Africa. He pointed out that the presence of the vice chancellors, who participated in the conference, would assist in the implementation of the outcome of the conference. He promised to use CODESRIA's influence to disseminate the decisions at the conference to other gatherings of African leaders and intellectuals.
- The Senegalese Minister of Communication and Culture, Mr Mbagnick Ndiaye, thanked the participants for finding time to come to Senegal for the conference and congratulated CODESRIA for organizing the conference. He described the three-day meeting as a landmark event for Africa and informed that his ministry would initiate steps to develop an OA policy for Senegal as well as provide a supportive environment for OA initiatives. He urged CODESRIA to turn the Dakar Declaration into a historic document like the Kampala Declaration on Intellectual Freedom.

Concluding Remarks

The papers presented at this important conference underpinned the pertinence of open access publishing model for strengthening research capacity and improving state of public enlightenment in Africa, but they also recognize the need for multi-stakeholder awareness, infrastructure and funding to ensure that the benefits of the movement are reaped while the movement is contemporary.