OPEN JOURNAL ONLINE SYSTEMS (OJS)

THE PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE PROJECT
(http://pkp.ubc.ca)

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African perspectives
by

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Public Knowledge Project

- Enhancing academic and public value of knowledge
- Promote a world where knowledge is free
- Globally accessible form
- Collaborative knowledge management – participatory design
- Reducing theory / practice – research/policy gaps

SOME PKP ACTIVITIES

- Impact of open access and public domain

- Cameroon
- South Africa
- Kenya
- Canada

OPEN JOURNAL SYSTEM

- Open source software
- Manage and publish e-journals
- Installed and run locally - minimal technical skills
- Precise metadata indexing - Open Archives Initiat.
- Tools to support greater use of published research (http://pkp.ubc.ca/demos/rsttour)

KENYA

Increasing local and global exchange of knowledge through new technologies

- Perspectives of whether online journal publishing can:

- Build research capacity at Kenyatta University and govt. depts

- Contribute to local knowledge creation

- Contribute to info sharing and networking among peers

PROJECT SEEKS TO

- Informed analysis of possibilities and challenges – serve as a guide for OJ's in different fields

- Active scholarly participation in knowledge creation and dissemination

- Greater global visibility for African journals

- African voice to come through

Existing capacity

Print

- Only 3 journals published – sporadic due to economic crisis
- Since 1980's sharp decline – at times not even 5 journal subscriptions
- This year – increase – I journal/dept.
- Halt for 2 years now - African journals thro' INASP's African Journal program

Existing Capacity 2

Online resources

- Only postgrads and academics have access
- Databases – 8000 journals available mainly on CD Rom
- INASP/PERI project – major role in e-access, training and publishing

State of ICT's

- Use of ICT's increasing
- ICT Board chaired by Dep V-C. Library is a member
- Home to ICT donor project – African Virtual Univ., eSAP, Insti for Continuing Ed.
- Depository for World Bank publications: P/e
- Many internet cafes

Challenges for online publishing 1

- Access to technology, infrastructure and reliable connections

eg INASP had to move base to Holland

- Inadequate training in computer application

- Lack of technical support staff

Challenges 2

- No funds for editing, reviewing

- Little awareness of new technologies

- Heavy reliance on sponsors and donations

- Sustainability after donor withdrawal

Successes of online J's

- Greater visibility – wider readership/exposure
- Voice for African research beyond our borders
- Can publish and access faster
- Encourages collaboration & partnerships

Recommendations for OP

- Awareness of OJ systems and their benefits
- Funds for computers and related techno equip
- Capacity building – editors, reviewers, library and technical staff
- Programs to motivate authors, editors, reviewers, e.g. workshops, get-together lunches for sharing

SOUTH AFRICA

GLOBALIZATION Vs DEMOCRATIZATION

The Third Way

Higher education

Corporatization Vs Social Responsibility/accountability

Purpose of study

- Impact of globalization and democratization on research capacity at SA universities
- Whether new technologies can enhance RC, OA and PD.
- Give impetus to transformation project
- Social Justice and new democratic order
- Here, OJS as an example of open access

Questions

- Access to scholarly resources
- Different for HWU's and HBU's

- Issues confronting researchers and librarians

- How can OJS increase OA & PD – thereby build research capacity

University	HBU	HWU - Afrikaans	HWU - English
		[2003 – 807]	
Print Journals 1997	850	1559	1200
2002	462 (54% decrease)	1057 (34% decrease)	1500 (25% increase)
Electronic database 2002	14	13 (Swets 16000 Ebsco 000's Infotrac 250)	21

University	HBU	HWU - Afrikaans	HWU - English
Library computers with www connections	73	94	100
Student use	nil	8	42 (incl public)
Faculty use	nil	nil	68

All academics have their own computers with www access.

Access Issues

- Science & Tech among lowest % subscrip.
- 80% Western J's – 20% SAJ's – little access to African J's
- Research culture absent at HBU/HWU-A – historic reasons
- New policies – new incentives - E10000
- E-access not necessarily cheaper

Concerns about access

- Library orientation inadequate
- Info Literacy – to conduct searches & use tech optimally. Acute among black acad/students
- Lack of staff to conduct training
- ILL slow – impact on quality
-

ON INTERLIBRARY LOANS…
Sometimes when I get that book, my study is not
there. I have moved on… busy with other areas.
…but if I had made contact with that information
from the beginning, I would have learned more. It
posed (frustration) and it limits you and it makes
you to make wrong choices because the tendency is
that you are driven by the text (that is available) to
make decisions. By the time you get maybe things
that are brilliant… you have closed your mind and
made your choice and that is how you are going to
do your research. So in a way I would say 'yes, it
does limit one'

(PhD student)

Research & Publishing

- Heavy teaching loads due to understaffing Ave 20% research

- Need latest journals to create knowledge

- Impact on job satisfaction, self worth

- Brain drain – lose research base

Research & Publishing 2

- Little support for publishing
- Membership criteria – black acad/students
- Research relevant to context but better incentives for international publishing
- Hegemony of West. 34 countries with 30%
- World pop. produce 81% research
- Knowledge imperialism – sold back at exorbitant prices

Publishing concerns

- Publishing conventions – preclude periphery scholars

  Canagarajah (1996)

  Muchiri, Mulamba, Myers & Ndloloi (1995)

- Nondiscursive requirements ignores peripheral context

OA perceived

advantages

- greater access
- more sources of info
- recent articles
- home access
- student independence
- more choices
- inspires researchers
- time and energy saving

concerns

- quality & stds may drop
- peer review systems
- copyright and IPR
- plagiarism
- credibility of journals
- scholars feel "beneath" them to publish online
- only few will benefit
- slow access where technology is inadequate

OA perceived

advantages

- No more costly subscriptions
- Help declining library subsidies
- Reduce publishing costs
- No need for personal funds for articles

concerns

- Info overload
- Distinguish quality
- Lack of info literacy
- Capacity to manage info
- management & security of equipment
- No financial incentive to publish in OJ's
- Time-consuming – irrelevant info.

Perspectives on Public Domain

- "There are people **out there**, not all of them are interested in being researchers, but they are interested in being competent practitioners. If they could have access to the research that is being done that would give more solutions to the problems that they are encountering out there…That would be a useful system."

Perspective on PD 2

- New policy and funding – community involvement & public accountability
- Community centres with www
- "E-village" – schools, clinic hooked up
- SADEC & Nepad – publicize info. – regional sustainability & peace
- Botanist – water estuarine studies; Law – customary laws and women's rights

Concerns about PD

- Access to technology
- Digital divide will grow – blacks will not benefit
- Mode 2 research which calls for more collaboration will erode pure research base
- Knowledge ownership- who determines what is knowledge?

Discussion

- High expectations of HE sector to produce knowledge, innovation, high skills
- Research capacity not there due to lack of resources
- Journal decline by 50% HBU; 76% HWU-A

OJS-Possibilities

- Savings from subscriptions – recruit staff
for info literacy training – better use of existing facilities
- Academics can spend time retrieving print materials and ILL's on research
- Latest research accessible

OJS – Possibilities 2

- Quality concern – peer review
- Peripheral publishing – define foci, relevant research
- Reciprocal flow of knowledge – enrich research base in West
- Enhance public domain – practitioners/policy makers

Conclusion

- OJS is but one way of increasing access
- Minimal technology for this exists as seen above
- Minimal skills required
- Limited funding required for editors/reviewers

Conclusion 2

- Librarians report donations of irrelevant books – many copies of same books

- In future, minimal funding may be more worthwhile if spent on making open access systems like OJS available to developing countries

- This will not only develop research capacity but enhance the public domain of knowledge.

To end

" Current shortcomings in the availability of computers and the Internet should not keep researchers and scholars from seeking new ways of increasing the circulation and openness of knowledge, through the use of new technologies. As access to technology grows, so should access to knowledge."

John Willinsky