

Library Support for embedding NREN services and e-Infrastructure (LIBSENSE)

AfREN 2018 Meeting

Dakar, Senegal - 7 May 2018

Omo Oaiya

Omo.Oaiya@wacren.net

Aspiration

To support **Open Science**, Open Access and Open Innovation by improving the capability for African Higher Education **librarians** to collaborate with **NRENs** and leverage networked resources for improved **Information Management** capacity and services.

Broad Objectives

- Identify key institutional enablers and hindrances in current support for the evolving role of HE librarians
- Identify key areas for collaboration for stronger institutional roles in NREN advocacy and information management
- Produce framework of key policy actions to address identified issues
- Propose practical capacity-building projects to support the proposed policy changes

A Central Role For Librarians



- Focal points on campus in librarian community of practice and information sharing network for Open Science
- Adopting common standards and practices to make wealth of information through repositories accessible.
- Leveraging NREN Identity Federations and authentication infrastructure to simplify content access and subscription.
- Aggregating open access metadata for improved tracking and discovery of content, and raised visibility of research(er).

Issue-identifying survey as a first step

- Understand the evolving role of the librarian in contemporary higher education settings.
 - Role of librarians vis-à-vis digital resources
- Understand HEI support for new roles of librarians, especially regarding management of digital resources
- Elicit the NREN service requirements that librarians need to support their roles
- Gather demographic information for categorization of librarian communities of practice for better understanding of the evolving field.

Activities so far

- Pilot survey initiated in WACREN in collaboration with the Information School, University of Sheffield, UK
- Proposal to develop repository network in collaboration with Confederation of Open Access Repositories (COAR) and the Horizon 2020 OpenAIRE project accepted.
- Program extended to Ubuntunet Alliance and ASREN for consideration in AfricaConnect2 as an AfREN Initiative
- Presentation in e-Age 2017 generates interest from Library of Alexandria in Egypt and a coordination team emerges.

Coordinating Team Origins

- Sudanese Academic Library Consortium (SALC)
- Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Ghana (CARLIGH)
- Bibliotheca Alexandrina Information for Africa (BAIFA)
- Association of African Universities (AAU)
- Sheffield University
- ASREN
- Ubuntunet Alliance
- WACREN

Immediate Next Steps

- OpenAIRE project kick-off - technical meeting of global repository networks co-located with COAR Annual Meeting – May 14-15, Hamburg
- Run issues-identifying survey in each REN region and hold workshops to consolidate and produce policy-setting direction
- Sync training and projects with AAU efforts to promote research and knowledge sharing e.g DATAD
- Develop roadmap and working models for Librarian - NREN collaboration for successful capacity building in information management.

More updates soon

THANK YOU