



Institutional Repositories in Ghana: a CARLIGH perspective

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A little history

- Interest in IRs in Ghana goes back at least 10 years
- INASP through CARLIGH organized and funded at least 2 workshops before 2008 on IRs and Dspace
- CARLIGH / INASP IR workshop in 2011
- CARLIGH / INASP workshop on FOSS – 2012
- AAU and DATAD project for these
 - Workshops in Ghana – 2009
 - DATAD – R, February 2018



IRs: the “good” and “not-so good” – a disconnect?

Good

- Makes individual visible
- Makes research more visible
- Makes institution more visible
- Makes traditionally less visible works visible – theses, projects, reports, etc
- Preservation of output/research
- Dissemination of research
- Avoidance of research duplication
- International collaboration
- Attraction of research funding/grants
- Benefits institution in international ranking system

Not so good

- Destroys publishing industry
- Encourages plagiarism
- Lowers publication's quality
- Lack of incentives for writers
- Academics/faculty/researchers feel publishing in an IR carries less weight for promotions – associated with preference for “traditional” publications
- Fear of cybercrime
- Copyright issues



What are some of the challenges facing IRs in Ghana?

- ▶ Institution related
 - ▶ Awareness – at various levels
 - ▶ Scholarly communication – role of IRs
 - ▶ Management buy-in
 - ▶ Staffing – numbers, skills to manage workflows
 - ▶ Policies, procedures, standards
 - ▶ Reluctance on part of faculty/ academics to have their publications on IR – related to difficulty in populating repository
- ▶ IT related
 - ▶ Connectivity
 - ▶ IT support, interest & staffing
- ▶ Library related
 - ▶ Resources: financial, IT, people
 - ▶ Many active IRs do not have policies
 - ▶ Copyright issues
- ▶ Financial resources
 - ▶ For IT resources (equipment, staffing, access to internet,
- ▶ Power

“

What have we achieved so far?

”

We could do more...

Out of 204 tertiary institutions listed on the National Accreditation Board (NAB) website, 9 have working, public institutional repositories (IRs) as of 27 Feb 2019.

Only 5 Ghanaian IRs are registered on http://v2.sherpa.ac.uk/view/repository_by_country/gh.html

Only 2 Ghanaian IRs are listed on <http://roar.eprints.org/>

IRs currently working in Ghana

| Institution | Year | URL | Items | OK? |
|---------------------------------|-------|---|---------|-----------------|
| KNUST | 2008 | http://ir.knust.edu.gh/ | 10,900* | Yes |
| Univ of Ghana | 2011 | http://ugspace.ug.edu.gh/ | 8,757* | Yes |
| Univ of Education, Winneba | 2010 | http://ir.uew.edu.gh/ | 1,756* | No, 22-02-19 |
| Univ for Development Studies | 2014 | http://udsspace.uds.edu.gh/ | 1,744* | Yes |
| Univ of Cape Coast | 2012 | https://erl.ucc.edu.gh/dspace/ | 1,267* | yes |
| Presbyterian Univ College | 2012? | http://ir.presbyuniversity.edu.gh:8080/jspui/ | 3,109 | Yes |
| Ashesi University | 2013 | https://air.ashesi.edu.gh/ | 335 | Yes |
| Univ of Mines & Technology | ? | http://41.66.220.90:5000/xmlui/ | 2 | Yes |
| CSIRSpace | ? | https://csirspace.foodresearchgh.site/ | 1,211 | Yes |
| Regional Maritime Univ | ? | http://erl.rmu.edu.gh:8080/xmlui/ | 105 | Yes |



IRs not working in Ghana

| Institution | Comments |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Central University | Link not working as of 22-02-19 |
| Wisconsin Intl Univ College | None found; not public? |
| GIMPA | Link not working as of 22-02-19 |
| UHAS [not a CARLIGH member] | Listed, but no working link |
| Methodist Univ College Ghana | Link not working as of 22-02-19 |
| University of Education, Winneba | Link not working as of 22-02-19 |



So how do we move forward?

Questions

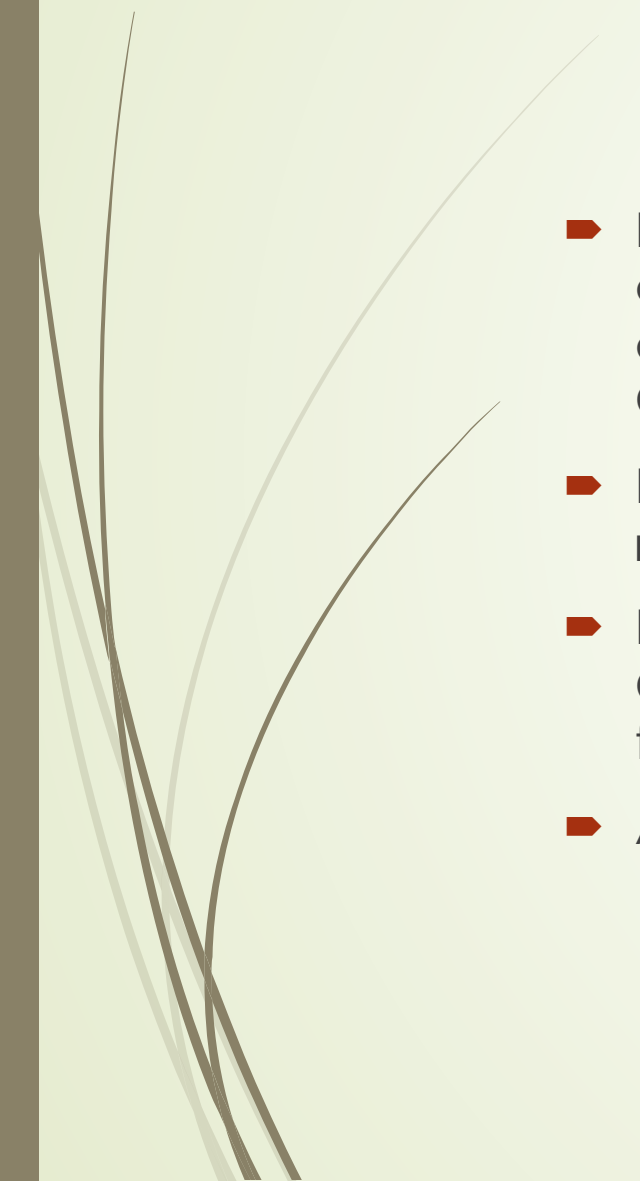
- ▶ Should all institutions have IRs?
- ▶ Should CARLIGH have a consortium wide IR?
- ▶ Should Ghana have a National IR?
- ▶ What about a regional IR?


Comments/questions

- ▶ Easier at an institutional level?
- ▶ What about an IR driven by a regional/continent wide organization?
- ▶ What has worked elsewhere?
- ▶ Is there a role for the national REN? – in Ghana GARNET?
- ▶ Is there a role for a GoG Ministry / Dept? MESTI? Min of Comms?



Thanks to the following:

- ▶ Dr Mac-Anthony Cobblah and Gloria Tachie-Donkor: for their paper “An assessment of the contribution of Institutional Repositories to the visibility and citation impact of universities in Ghana”, presented at the 3rd CARLIGH / AAU International Conference, July 2018
 - ▶ Dr Kodjo Atiso: for his insights into some of the fears of researchers regarding IRs
 - ▶ For the KNUST IR team, including Richard Bruce Lamptey, Abednego Corlety (when he was there) and of course Dr Helena Asamoah-Hassan, for constantly pushing so many of us to have IRs
 - ▶ And so many others, at Ashesi, in CARLIGH , and elsewhere...
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Questions?
Comments?
Reactions?

