DATAD WORKSHOP:
Kenyatta University Update

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Kenya
By
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Introduction

- Kenyatta University was among the 10 Universities that were in the DATAD Pilot Project
- KU formally joined in early 2003
- Project Coordinator was the late Prof Paul Musau, then Director of Board of Post Graduates Studies (BPS).
- An implementing unit was setup in the library
A library staff member was seconded to the project and four casual staff were engaged to assist in retrospective data entry and scanning of abstracts.

- By the end of the pilot project period 1900 records had been created.
- Included almost all catalogued theses and dissertations.
- By June 2007, some 540 abstracts and bibliographic records had been added.
- 390 records already classified, catalogued and sent to AAU DATAD office.
Local Collaborations

- KU is a member of Kenya Information Preservation Society (KIPS),
- KIPS is establishing a database of theses and dissertations presented in Kenyan Universities.
- Therefore necessary to share some data to avoid duplication of effort.
Local Collaborations, Contd

- Daystar University has been keen in joining the DATAD project
- Kenyatta University lent out the Procite Program and data structure.
Access

- Access to the database is mainly through the Internet within Kenyatta University.
- Last year the Library conducted an exhibition of e-resources that included DATAD
- User access DATAD from
  - Library network,
  - Wireless access using their own laptops within the library building and in
  - Departments and labs where there is Internet connection
Benefits

- Expose theses and dissertation undertaken in the University to the global audience.
- Enhanced access to abstracts, independent of time and place within KU Intranet. Not restricted to the Library’s Africana Section.
- Researchers in the University are able to determine the direction and diversity of research in their areas of interest.
Challenges

- Speed of data entry and scanning process.
- Occasional delays in the delivery of submitted theses and dissertations from departments to the library.
- Inability to capture all research presented elsewhere by members of staff.
- Lack of access to online fulltext theses and dissertations.
Suggestions

- Improve Delivery of Print Documents
- Students be required to submit bibliographic details and a copy of abstract through a defined online procedure.
Suggestions

Because theses and dissertations present primary literature and make valuable contribution in every field of study,

- Students should be encouraged to publish their research online
  - Either, submitting fulltext copies of their reports to the library, or
  - Be required to publish a paper on their research finding with the University and then such publication made accessible through the DATAD databases
Suggestions, contd.

- Acquire digitization and repackaging equipment and software
- Install a controlled access and secure computer server in the Library
- Train personnel to effectively handle DATAD activities
- Document procedures for submitting print and electronic version of research reports.
- Establish policies in regard to access, citations and sale of fulltext reports.
Conclusions

- To enhance control and visibility of research in African Universities. DATAD should not only establish online bibliographic database with abstracts but facilitate access to fulltext reports.

- Similar programs have been implemented successfully in other countries such as Australia and United States of America, DATAD should also grow to be a leading and indispensable information resource for research in Africa.
Thank you and long live DATAD!