Towards Increased Online Visibility of Scholarly Research Output in the Global South

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Background
There is noticeably low online visibility of scholarly research output generated by Higher Learning Institutions (HEIs) from the so-called “Global South”. This study is aimed at exploring the extent of the low online visibility of scholarly research output from public HEIs in Zambia.

Methodology
Pre-prints and Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) were harvested from Public HEIs Institutional Repositories (IRs). Detailed analysis restricted to ETDs due to availability of data.

- OAI-PMH protocol used to harvest metadata.
- OAI-ORE protocol used to harvest bitstreams.

Results
1) Only two (2) HEIs have functional IRs.
2) Lack of use of controlled vocabularies and missing descriptive metadata.
3) Large timegap between publication and ingestion of content in IR.
4) Self-archiving strategies not used.

Table 1. Public HEIs IR Content Analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University of Zambia</th>
<th>3323</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Copperbelt University</td>
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<td>Chalimba University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mukuba University</td>
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</tbody>
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Initiatives for Increased Visibility

- Identifying barriers to Open Access Publishing.
- Feasibility of using Subject IRs.
- National ETD portal downstream service.

Future Work

1) Automatic classification of digital content types.
2) Automatic generation of descriptive metadata.
3) IR perception and self-archiving challenges.

Bibliography