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

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Background

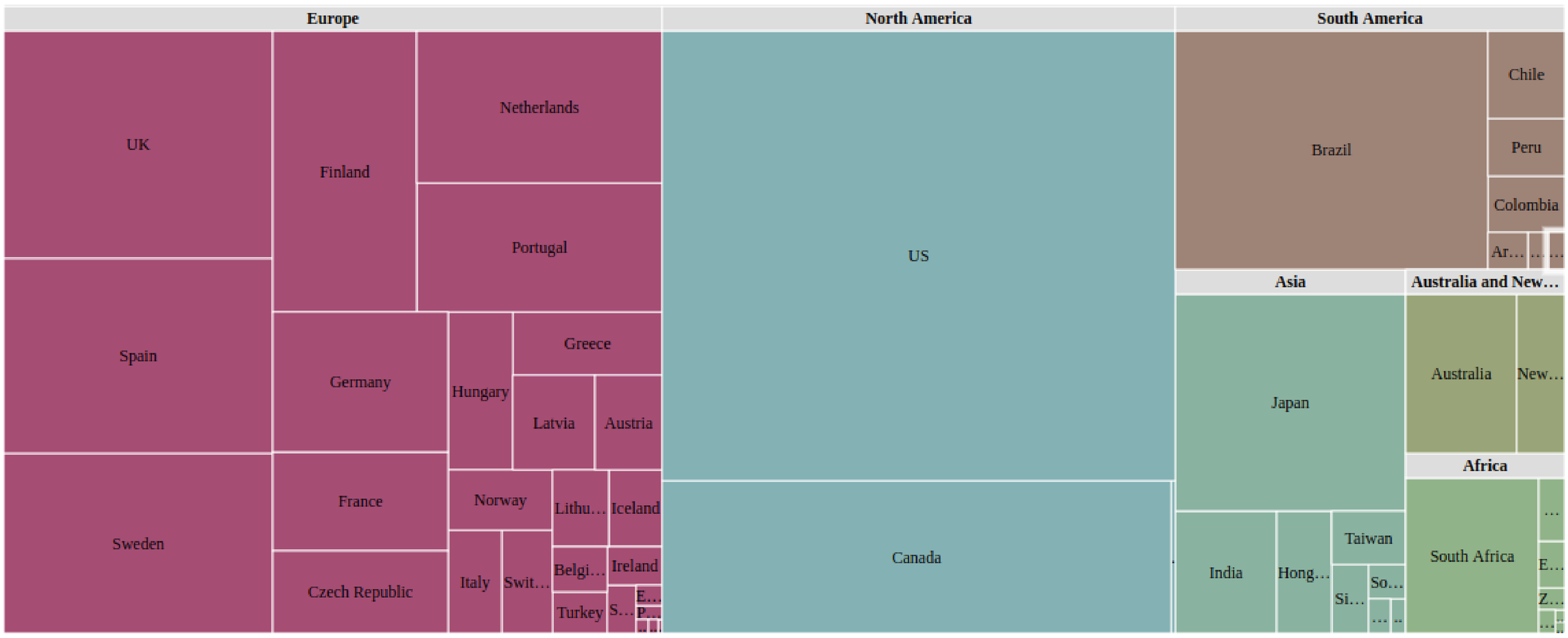
There is noticeably low online visibility of scholarly research output generated by Higher Learning Institutions (HEIs) from the so-called "Global South". This study is aimed at exploring the extent of the low online visibility of scholarly research output from public HEIs in Zambia.

Methodology

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

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

Figure 1. OATD.ORG: World-Wide Distribution of Electronic Theses and Dissertations



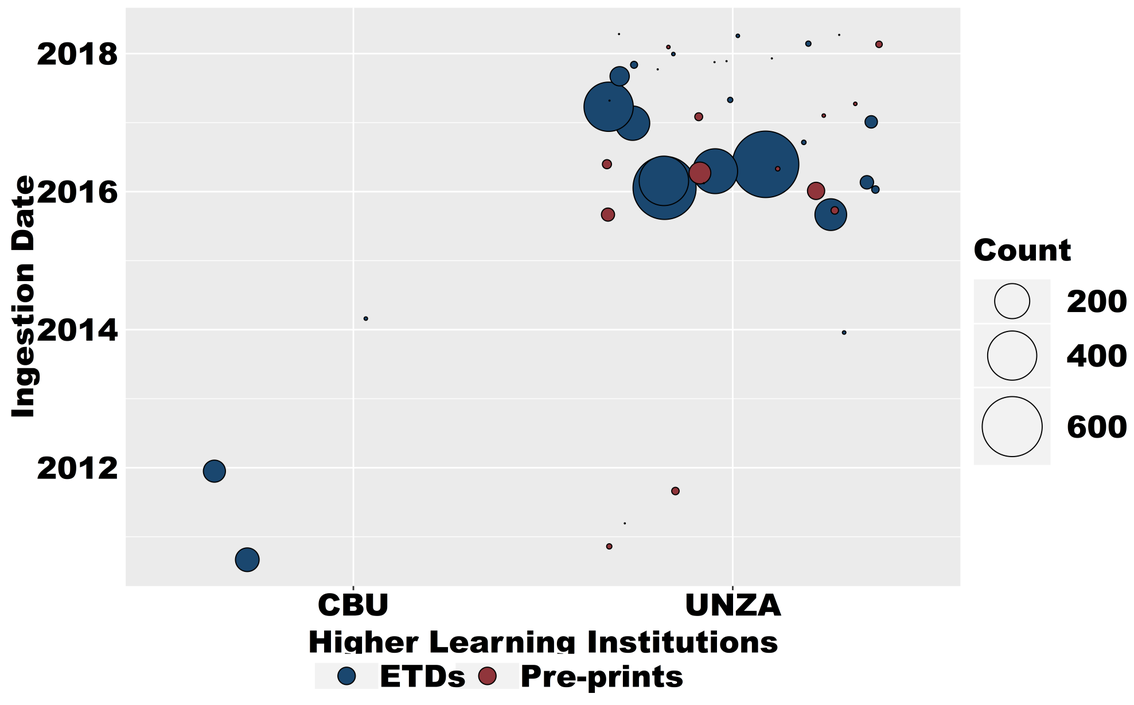
Results

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

University of Zambia	3323
Copperbelt University	168
Chalimba University	—
Kwame Nkruma University	—
Mulungushi University	—
Mukuba University	—

Figure 2. Public HEIs IR Timegap Analysis



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

1. Phiri, L. Research Visibility in the Global South: Towards Increased Online Visibility of Scholarly Research Output in Zambia. In 2nd IEEE International Conference in Information & Communication Technologies. URL: https://goo.gl/28fdTR

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