

**COMMUNIQUE OF THE INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON OPEN ACCESS
REPOSITORIES –NEW MODEL FOR SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION
HELD AT THE A.B.U., ZARIA- NIGERIA, APRIL 28-29, 2008**

PREAMBLES

An International Workshop on Open Access Repositories: New Model for Scholarly Communication was jointly organized by the Department of Library and Information Sciences, ABU-Zaria, and the Electronic Information for Libraries Network (eIFL.net) between April 28 and 29, 2008 at the Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria, Nigeria. The workshop was a product of the grant proposal written by Ezra Shiloba Gbaje of the Department of Library and Information Science, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria submitted to eIFL.net. eIFL.net provided the sum of \$9,701 and full sponsorship of all the resource persons.

The workshop was declared opened by the Vice Chancellor, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. Position papers were delivered by Dr. Ochai of the University of Jos and the Deputy Country coordinator of eIFL.net. The key note address was delivered by Victoria Okojie, the President of the Nigerian Library Association. The workshop was attended by 89 stakeholders from the Universities and Research Institutes. Also in attendance were scholars and research scientists, editors of peer review journals of both scientific and academic origins, university librarians/systems librarians and ICT experts. 10 invited papers were presented that addressed variously issues of Open access repositories, current trends in the dissemination of scholarly information, case studies, strategies for the implementation of institutional repositories and a hand on practical on DSpace installation. The international workshop gave the participants an unbiased opportunity to rob minds on issues of copyright and how to develop open access and institutional repositories in Nigeria. Certificate of attendance were issued to all registered participants.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the workshop were to create awareness on the importance of open access initiatives, identify the various Institutional Repositories (IR) software and acquire skills on how to install and use Dspace, advocate and formulate appropriate policy for the implementation and sustenance of open access works, have a better understanding of copyright issues and open content licenses as it relates to OA and IR and to develop strategies for the promotion and marketing of Institutional Repositories (IR)

OBSERVATIONS

Stakeholders at the workshop observed with serious concern that:

1. Open Access Institutional Repositories are now globally accepted as one of the best model for scholarly communication.
2. Only few countries in Africa have embraced the project.
3. Nigeria with 92 Universities and several other Research Institutes, there is only one pilot Institutional repository (IR) in Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria Nigeria.
4. The Open Access Repositories (OAR) has enormous benefits to the country, research scientists, scholars and information users in general.
5. Despite the benefits of open access/Institutional repositories, there is a very low level of awareness even among Authors, publishers and other stakeholders in Nigeria.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of the above mentioned observations, the following recommendations are made:

1. The Federal Government should develop a strategic plan of action on open access repositories and open access journals with an activity timeline.
2. The Federal Government to setup a National Coordinating Committee for Open Access Repositories and open access journals in Nigeria.
3. Stakeholders should be sensitized on the need to support open access and Institutional repositories (IR) and open access journals.
4. Favourable policies should be formulated at different levels on open access repositories and open access journals in Nigeria.
5. Stakeholders should be trained and retrained on open access repositories and modality for the implementation of open access journals.
6. Stakeholders should be encouraged to source and make available funds for the open access repository projects and open access journals.
7. The stakeholders appreciate both the technical and financial contributions of eIFL.net to the development of open access initiatives in Nigeria.

Signed

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Dr. I. Annatte
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Communiqué drafting committee