

ASC-CODESRIA Conference: Bridging the North-South Divide in Scholarly Communication on Africa. Threats and Opportunities in the Digital Era

Kenniscentrum Leiden, Archimedesweg 31, 2333 CM Leiden, The Netherlands

Rapporteur: Ursula Oberst, ASC Leiden

Session 3	Publishing models for Africa
Chair	Titia van der Werf (ASC, Leiden)
Rules of procedure	Limited time for questions and debate after the presentation of each paper

Seven papers were presented during the third session.

1. Jean Pierre Benoît Idrissa Diouf (Conservateur des bibliothèques, CODICE, CODESRIA, Dakar)

Paper: La publication académique en panne: Quelles perspectives pour l'Afrique?

Questions and comments:

- A participant asks whether the researchers in the CODESRIA network are making use of new technologies such as blogs and wikis? Mr Diouf explains that CODESRIA offers training programmes for young researchers to introduce them to new technologies and to teach them how to write scientific publications.
- A participant stresses the need to make it easier for African booksellers to offer academic titles. Publications of the Nordiska Institute are not visible in African bookshops. Mr Diouf agrees that the distribution of publications to libraries is not a problem but distribution via booksellers is.

2. Cyril Belshaw (TheAnthroGlobe Journal)

Paper: From print to Internet: An editor's experience

Questions and comments:

- A participant asks what steps the AnthroGlobe journal has for long-term preservation. Mr Belshaw answers that he is confident and happy that the Canadian National Library will take care of the long-term preservation of the AnthroGlobe journal.
- A participant points to the fact that language is a factor in the distribution of publications. There is a tradition that Francophone publications are primarily distributed in Francophone countries and Anglophone publications in Anglophone countries. Where do you find Kenyan journals in Mali? Internet overcomes a lot of physical disadvantages.

3. Daisy Ouya : (International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), Kenya)

Paper: Open access survey of Africa-published journals

Questions and comments:

- Ms Ouya's paper triggers a discussion about successful OA publishing models and the significance of subscriptions. Subscriptions are not only of economic importance, they also show that there are people who want your journal, who are interested in its content.

4. Garry Rosenberg (Director HSRC Press, Cape Town)

Paper: Open access publishing in an African academic press and the development of an 'Intellectual Commons' of knowledge on Africa

Questions and comments:

- A participant points to the fact that the role of the media is problematic in Africa. There is no link between the media and academia.
- Participants further address the ethical need to make research findings available to society.

5. John Paul Anbu Koilpillai (Head of the Periodicals section of the University of Swaziland Libraries)

Paper: Institutional repositories: Time for African universities to consolidate the Digital Divide

Questions and comments:

- Mr Koilpillai's presentation triggers a discussion about quality control. Which content should be chosen for the repository? Who does quality checks? According to Mr Koilpillai, it is the user who judges the quality of a publication. Many participants disagree. A participant stresses that the worst articles receive the most citations.

6. Jacob Jaygbay (Managing Editor, JEPS Publishing Services, Ltd., Annandale, Virginia, USA)

Paper: Consortia repositories and content management for African scholarly publishers

Questions and comments:

- According to a participant, publishing models in the West are far too complicated. Africans are great at handling things in an uncomplicated way. That's why they should take the lead in creating an uncomplicated publishing model.

7. Joed Elich (Brill Academic Publishers, Leiden)

Paper: Electronic publishing: Some thoughts and ideas for the future

Questions and comments:

- Mr Elich's presentation triggers a discussion about cooperation with local publishers and cost-efficiency issues (printing in Africa versus printing in Europe).