DISSEMINATION OF RESEARCH OUTPUT THROUGH OPEN ACCESS IN KENYA: A CASE STUDY OF EGERTON UNIVERSITY INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORY

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EGERTON UNIVERSITY

WORLD CLASS UNIVERSITY FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF HUMANITY

OUTLINE OF THE PRESENTATION

- What is an Institutional Repository

- Purpose of an Institutional Repository

- Research Methodology

- Statement of the problem

- The Egerton University IR

- Benefits of the EUIR

- Components of EUIR

- Key stakeholders

- Research findings

- The challenges

- The opportunities & way forward

Brief on Egerton University

- Egerton University was established in 1939 as an Agricultural College.

- It became a constituent college of the University of Nairobi in 1986 In 1987 became a fully fledged University.

- It has since grown to a modern institution of higher learning.

- The student population has grown from the first 3 students to 19824 in the academic year 2022/2023.

- The staff population too has increased tremendously to 1392.

- It has over 38 Academic programs

- Has 9 Faculties, 2 schools and 3 Directorates

Definition Of Institutional Repository (IR)

An IR may be defined in various ways using different terminologies.

i.   An (IR) is a set of services and technologies that a university provides for its community members to collect, store, disseminate, and preserve digital materials created by its community members (Ammarukleart, 2017).

ii.   For the purpose of this paper, we choose to adopt the definition by Crow, who in 2002 defined an Institutional repository as the digital collection used for capturing and preserving the intellectual output of a single or multi-university.

Problem Statement

- IRs have been for over a decade at most academic institutions in as avenues for providing Open Access content.

- However, there's a concern that teaching staff, researchers and postgraduate students may not be fully aware of them, using them to their full potential, or contributing the widest range of content.

Research Methodology

- Employed documentary analysis, observation and questionnaires targeting academic staff, researchers, postgraduate students, and librarians.

- Documentary analysis enabled the researchers to systematically and quantitatively review and interpret reports, policies, and guidelines related to the EUIR.

Egerton University IR (EUIR)

- The idea of starting Egerton University Institutional Repository (EUIR) started way back in 2011 following a KLISC organized sensitization workshop held at the University of Nairobi.

- The actual proposal to develop and implement the EUIR was however done in 2013.

- The installation of DSpace software and training was done in 2013.

- Initially, access was provided only at abstracts level.

- From 2020 the IR captured and provided access to full text

Benefits of the IR to the University

The benefits of developing and managing an effective open access IR are well documented:

- Capture and preserve the intellectual output of the University, both published and unpublished;

- Ensures the University research output is accessible to a larger audience both within and outside the institution, hence enhancing the value and impact of research to the society.

- Expose the University's intellectual output to researchers and funders around the world who might who might want to partner with the university;

- Increase University's role as a viable partner in the research enterprise;

- Reduce the amount of time taken between discovery and dissemination of research findings;

The Key components in building the Repository

In building the IR we required a lot of resources including

- Physical infrastructure that is computers, servers, scanners and backup system;

- Sufficient and skilled human resource to do the technical work;

- Relevant software;

- Reliable source of power; and

- Internet connectivity.

The Key Stakeholders

In establishing a vibrant Institutional Repository there are various stakeholders that must work together as a team. These include:

- the University Management;

- The University Library

- the system administrators;

- the Depositors; and

- the ICT experts.

Content of EUIR

❑ The initial and major focus of the EUIR was majorly

  ▪ theses and dissertations,

  ▪ research articles,

  ▪ research reports and

  ▪ conference proceedings.

❑ Later the IR also captured the

  ▪ university policies,

  ▪ research preprints.

  ▪ Graduation booklets,

  ▪ Public Lectures & Speeches

  ▪ administrative reports among others.

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The Key Components of the EUIR Policy

In developing the IR Policy certain key aspects need to be considered to guide the IR activities. These include the following:

- The University vision, philosophy, mission, and core values;

- Egerton university institutional repository

- Objective and scope of the IR and open access policy

- Accessing the repository

- Benefits of the Egerton University institutional repository

- Training and awareness creation activities

- Submission of content to the university institutional repository

- Eligibility and responsibility of the Depositors

Cont'd The Key Components of the EUIR Policy

- Acceptable file formats

- Preservation of the IR content

- Withdrawal of items from the EUIR

- copyright and intellectual property rights

- The roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders including

  o The University Library and Librarian

  o The Board of Postgraduate Studies

  o The Depositors/Contributors

  o Information Communications Technology Department

  o The IR and Knowledge Management Advisory Committee

Summary of Research Findings

Study carried out survey on teaching staff, researchers, postgraduate students and library staff and found out the following:

Awareness and familiarity with the IR

- 77.8% of the respondents said they are aware of the EUIR.

- 60.7% of the respondents are familiar with & have interacted with the EUIR.

- 5.5% of the respondent use the IR on daily and weekly basis, 36.8% on monthly basis while 52 .6% use it occasionally.
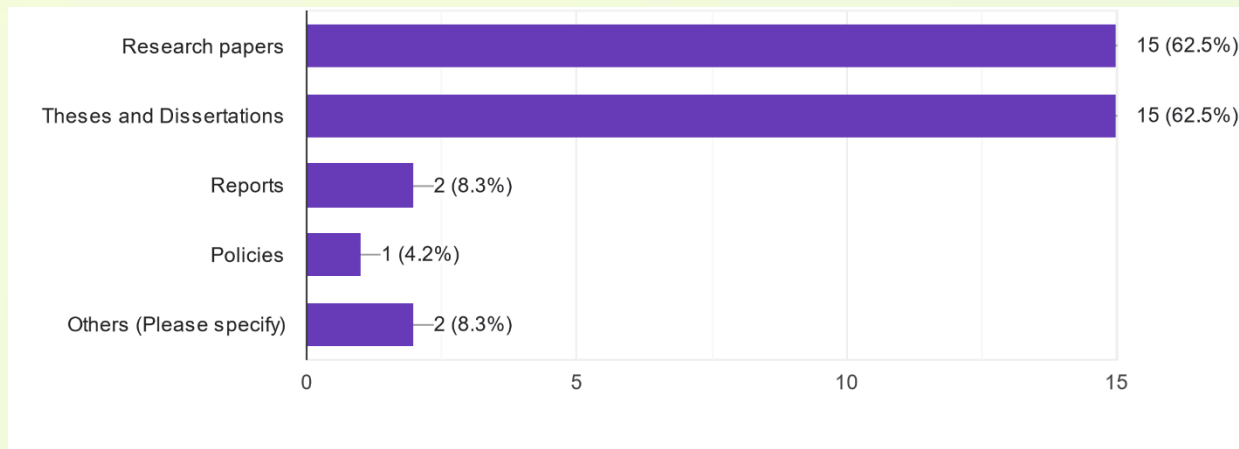
Cont'd Summary of Research Findings

Content accessed through the ir

- The IR Content is accessed for various reasons. Majority of the respondents said they accesses mainly the research papers and theses as indicated in the diagram below:

Challenges faced

- Slow pace in adoption of the ETD concept

- Persistent Identifiers (Handles)

- Exclusion of undergraduate publications/works in the EUIR

- Slow growth of the repository

- Limited funding for physical infrastructure

- Limited Self-archiving skills

- Frequent power failures

- Insufficient equipment and infrastructure

Challenges faced

- Resistance of the open Access concept from some faculty members

- Policy implementation challenges

- Sometimes when users are invited for training they do not turn up.

Opportunities and way forward

- There is still a lot of research content in print format that still has to be uploaded in the IR.

- Need for the University Library to have proper disaster preparedness and planning;

- There is need for good backup of the IR to avoid loss of data;

- Need for the Institutions to invest in large capacity generators to provide alternative power source in times of electricity power interruptions;

- Provision of sufficient financial resources to outsource some of the major works like scanning of print documents;

Cont'd Opportunities and way forward

- Undertake continuous training and awareness creation for the all stakeholders on importance and advantages of IRs.

- Institution should endeavor to use DOI to upload and access the research publications in the IR so that no one can plagiarize another's work.

- Join Dspace Community in Kenya for institutions that have installed the software so that we share experiences and get more information and knowledge on how we can solve challenges facing us to enhance our IRs.

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THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU