Open Access publishing support in South Africa

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Introduction

• The open access (OA) movement started to gain momentum in Africa in the mid-2010s

• South Africa early adopters
   ➢ Has relatively strong culture of research production
   ➢ Strong information technology infrastructure

• South Africa adopted open access practices through the development of institutional repositories (IRs)
   ➢ University libraries taken responsibility for repositories
   ➢ OA roles and responsibilities becoming mainstreamed as a service provided
Areas of open scholarship engagement

Beneficiaries:
researchers, institutions and public

Open Source Software
Open Access
Open Education Resources

Green route
Gold route
MOOCs
OERs

Open Scholarship
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of institutions</th>
<th>Offerings</th>
<th>Foci</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Six universities of technology (UoTs)</td>
<td>Focus on vocationally oriented education and offer diplomas</td>
<td>Focus on teaching and learning - research production is secondary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six comprehensive universities</td>
<td>Combination of academic and vocational diplomas and degrees</td>
<td>Focus on both teaching and learning and research – expectation for research production is higher than UoT but lower than traditional university</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eleven traditional universities</td>
<td>Theoretically oriented university degrees</td>
<td>One of the core goals of these institutions is research production</td>
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Growth of repositories in South Africa
Average number of items in the repositories as per category of institution

- Traditional universities: 10012
- Comprehensive universities: 2326
- Universities of Technology: 652

Publishing: Green Route – institutional repositories
Type of content in IRs

- Chapters in books: 13
- Conference presentations: 5
- Data sets and other data: 10
- Full conference papers: 9
- Inaugural addresses: 4
- Research articles: 7
- Theses & dissertations: 9
- Working papers: 13
Publishing: Gold Route

Article Processing Charge (APC)

• Publication fee for authors publishing in an open access journal

• Three institutions in South Africa that currently support APCs

• Some institutions are spending up to 5% of their total journal acquisition budget on APCs

• Institutions are facing an increase in journal subscriptions budget of up to 45% - relook at the affordability of APCs
Publishing: Gold Route
Library as publisher
UR@UCT: Undergraduate Research

UR@UCT journal publishes excellent undergraduate research that has been mentored by a supervisor. The journal will publish two issues annually as well as, if, the need arises, a special issue on a specific topic. UR@UCT is an open access journal that is easily discoverable by all search engines, making UCT’s undergraduate research available to an international audience.

Vol 1, No 1 (2015): Undergraduate Research

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Three discussion questions

• Is there place for APCs in the open access movement of the future?

• In light of the fact that institutions use repositories to showcase their research output, should subject or discipline repositories take precedent over institutional repositories?

• Is the offering of a hosting or publishing service part of a new suite of services that will be offered as a mainstream service by academic libraries?
Thank you!

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