Open access in Africa

Open Research: a Global Perspective, Society of Biology, 4 October 2013

Jonathan Harle
Senior Programme Manager, Research Access & Availability, INASP
putting research knowledge at the heart of development
We work with 21 partner countries across Africa, Asia and Latin America to support access to, production of and communication of research.
Doing research in an African university
Transformative potential – but new risks and challenges
The potential

• Potential to read much more
• Making work more visible
• Contributing to global research community
• Research for development

The problems

• Free to read but paying to publish
• New forms of inequality - a new gulf between Africa and the rest of the world?
• Misunderstandings & confusion
• Still problems of access, research skills
1. Access

http://www.flickr.com/photos/darwinbell/
2. Visibility
3. Confusion & uncertainty

http://www.flickr.com/photos/joao_trindade/43624147
4. Costs

http://www.flickr.com/photos/68751915@N09/
5. African publishing

African Journals Online (AJOL) is the world's largest and pre-eminent collection of African journals. Historically, scholarly information has flowed from North to South and from West to East, but the work of other African academics has been overlooked. In partnership with hundreds of journals from all over the continent, AJOL works to change that for Africans and to the rest of the world.

AJOL is a Non-Profit Organisation based in South Africa.
Concluding thoughts

• huge opportunities – but also risks
• need to be aware of the dangers in the transition
• what happens here has an impact in African universities
How you can support this

How you can get involved
"I have loved the experience with AuthorAID. I was able to get feedback from experienced professionals in the field. My research topic was moulded through AuthorAID discussions which yielded a researchable topic for my thesis. AuthorAID is a social knowledge network, and I would say it is the way to go."

Joan Murumba, Kenya

"It’s very much comforting to know that there are many committed members of AuthorAID to help you get through your research difficulties. It’s even more comforting to be able to get their support when you most need it as an emerging scholar. Great job AuthorAID!"

Gemechu Olana, Ethiopia

"...being an AuthorAID mentor goes beyond a conventional teacher-student relationship - it is a really stimulating and worthwhile learning process for both mentee and mentor."

Dan Korbel, United Kingdom
Open access at INASP

Jonathan Harle – Senior Programme Manager, Research Access & Availability
jharle@inasp.info @jonharle

Lucy Browse – Programme Manager, Publisher Relations
lbrowse@inasp.info @lucybrowse

@INASPinfo | www.inasp.info
This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported License.