Working towards knowledge accessibility and visibility through collaboration efforts: the case of Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST) library Open Repositories -OR2020
Presentation Outline

• Purpose
• BIUST as national economic diversification strategy
• BIUST Library Services
  • Some initiatives related to research visibility
• Library stakeholders (general)
• Library stakeholders (IR initiative)
  • Internal & their contribution
  • External & their contribution
• Conclusions & Recommendation
• To share BIUST library experiences in stakeholder engagement so as to demonstrate the importance of collaboration in creating accessibility and visibility of knowledge.

- Discussion zeros in on the experiences in the development of Institutional Repository [http://repository.biust.ac.bw/](http://repository.biust.ac.bw/).
Botswana’s Economic diversification

- The country’s economy is heavily dependent on the now threatened Mining industry
- Ineffectual efforts to support the struggling agric & Manufacturing Industry
- Institutions & strategies have been set up for innovation, research and development for a diversified economy

BIUST as part of Economic Diversification Strategy

- 2014 with a mandate to lead through quality intensive research in the areas of engineering, science and technology.
- 2 Faculties: FOS; FET & supportive centre for business management, entrepreneurship and general education –
- Full Time Enrolment of 1881 students (Degree & post grad)
Broader goal of facilitating access to flexible information resources and services

- Service initiatives aligned to the university’s strategic goals
- To promote research & manage research output for individual & national development
- To promote ethical access & usage of knowledge for development
Some initiatives related to research visibility

- Institutional Repository
- ILS teaching
- Authorship workshops
- Targeted reference services
- Social media / online consultation
- Membership in BIUST research clusters
- Mentoring & support for institutions that have BIUST MOUs/MOAs
Stakeholders defined: supportive entities with interest or rights (legal or moral); ownership and contribution towards the activity of the library.

Categorization is broad & multi-layered
- Internal & External
- Functional Role
- Supportive partners (e.g., Directorate of ICT & Research)
- Sponsorship partners: (e.g., Executive Mgt.)
- Community partners: (e.g., users & affiliated bodies)
1. Directorate of Research and Development

2. BIUST Institutional, Technology, Transfer and Incubation Park (BITRIP)
   - instrumental in guiding IR policies & processes
   - Incorporated IR policy into Institutional Research Policy

3. Directorate of ICT: both partner & enabler
   - guided & facilitated the technical infrastructure & skill
   - Dedicated IT expert for the IR project
   - Adopted initiative in Annual Performance Plan
4. Learning, teaching & researchers

- engaged sequentially from planning to operationalization
- strategies used included advocacy & lobbying; informational/educational; marketing, etc
- all phases were coupled with advocacy & education on OA Movement; ILL & ethical access & usage of information
- different library team members had different engagement roles
Benefits of Internal Stakeholder Engagement Activities

- Increased visibility of the platform.
- It instilled a sense of ownership & appreciation of the service.
- Informed development of institutional governance processes.
- Helped to sharpen advocacy and negotiation skills for the library team members.
- The engagement extended to revisiting the publishers’ contracts.
- Financial & time saving as the library did not pay for both manpower and the needed technologies for the initiative.
- Bonding and social capital for with other directorates.
• external visibility enhanced library team's confidence & morale

☐ broadened networks & professional affiliations
  • Botswana Open Data Open Science (ODOS) National Committee
  • Botswana library Association (BLA) & Botswana Library Consortium (BLC)
  • IFLA; AfLIA help to broaden the team experiences through participation in a series of webinars and conferences

☐ International stakeholders (AAU & E-resource Vendors)
  • Association of African Universities (AAU) support for long-term digital preservation of Africa's research output
  • hosted the Database of African Theses and Dissertations including Research (DATAD-R) training workshop for librarians; information technology experts and researchers in Botswana in collaboration with BIUST.
  • Electronic resource vendors & service providers as link to publisher; facilitated authorship workshops; training on research management tools for library team & users
Conclusion

• Development of IR has enhanced visibility of other library services
• low/ poor uptake of OA movement negatively impacts support for IR - need more education & campaign
• A successful partnership with one entity invites more interrelated partners & Visibility of other services.
• Partnership has to be managed: engagement; communication strategy & defined goals
• There is need to strengthen engagement with students and teaching faculty as key internal stakeholders
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