

**Dr Ayanda Lebele & Ms Tuelo Ntlotlang**  
**Library Services**



**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/>.

## ❑ **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 ( eg Directorate of ICT & Research )
  - Sponsorship partners : ( eg Executive Mgt.)
  - community partners: (eg. 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 Collaboration in developing Institutional Repository

- 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

- 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



**For more information contact:**

**Dr Ayanda Lebele  
Director**

**Directorate of Library Services**

**Tel: (+267) 4931386/71256542**

**E-mail: [lebelea@biust.ac.bw](mailto:lebelea@biust.ac.bw)**



**For more information contact:**

**Ms. Tuelo Ntlotlang  
Subject Librarian**

**Directorate of Library Services**

**Tel: (+267) 4931386/71256542**

**E-mail: [ntlotlangt@biust.ac.bw](mailto:ntlotlangt@biust.ac.bw)**