LIBSENSE and International alignment

OpenAIRE Week 2020: General Assembly

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What is LIBSENSE?

Building a community for open science in the African region(s) through library-NREN collaboration in order to:

- Support cultural change
- Provide technical support
- Build capacity
- Develop value-added services

Who is LIBSENSE?

And the entire open science community in Africa...

LIBSENSE Working Groups

Open science policies, governance and leadership

Infrastructure - open access journals, repositories for publications and data and open discovery services

Capacity building - communities of practice and training

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LIBSENSE

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Open Science Africa: Principles and Actions for Global Participation

Created by Omo Oaiya, last modified on Sep 09, 2020

This statement is prepared by the LIBSENSE Working Group on Open Science policies, governance and leadership

LIBSENSE is led by the West and Central African Research and Education Network (WACREN) in collaboration with sister regional African RENs (ASREN and UbuntuNet Alliance). Other participating partners include several national RENs, libraries, library associations, universities and research communities in Africa, in conjunction with COAR, EIFL, University of Sheffield, National Institute of Informatics (Japan), GEANT, and OpenAIRE.

WACREN | ASREN | UbuntuNet Alliance | Africa Connect 3

Preamble

LIBSENSE is building communities of practice and strengthening local and national services to support open science and research in Africa. Open science is an international trend aimed at sharing the results of research widely. Open science is transforming the way research is done, and increasing its value and impact by accelerating the pace of scientific discoveries and expanding the adoption of research outcomes for everyone.

Although global in nature, there are important local and regional considerations in how open science and open access are approached and implemented. It is critical that the policies and infrastructures created to support open science are designed and delivered to meet the needs and requirements of the research communities in different regions.

The LIBSENSE initiative was launched in 2016 to bring together the research and education networks (RENs) and academic library communities in order to advance open science in Africa and foster the continent's global open access participation.

This LIBSENSE-prepared statement for UNESCO proposes a set of principles and actions for open science indigenous to Africa, but one within a sustainable framework of international cooperation and collaboration for advancing more inclusive global scholarship.

https://spaces.wacren.net/display/LIBSENSE/Open+Science+Africa%3A+Principles+and+Actions+for+Global+Participation

Open Science Africa: Principles and Actions for Global Participation

Addressing inequality and supporting equity, diversity and social justice

Africa-led and operated open infrastructures

Indigenous/Traditional Knowledge

Addressing inequality and supporting equity, diversity and social justice

"African researchers, institutions and countries should be proactive in **defining and implementing global and local open science/research policies and practices best suited for their needs and environment**."

"Shifting the focus towards **equitable, global, long-term, non-commercial, open source, scalable and sustainable transformation of the scholarly publishing ecosystem/landscape** is crucial, **enabling equal opportunities for all researchers to publish their research in open access, regardless of field of research, funding basis, or career stage**. African repositories are already playing a role in knowledge sharing and should be strengthened and enhanced."

"**Collaborative community-based models and open public infrastructures for scholarly publishing provide a more efficient, timely, durable, local solution and ensure a smooth transition to global open access**. The result will ensure that Africa's scholarship increases and participation will enable a shift toward the epicentre of the global knowledge economy. This economy will then allow for knowledge exchanges between the Global North and Global South, thus bringing about an equitable representation of global research and scholarship."

Africa-led and operated open infrastructures

African research community should maintain control of the publishing process and ownership of the publishing and data sharing infrastructure.

Open - set up with free and open source software, public - **not-for-profit**, infrastructure **hosted and operated in Africa**; addresses the needs of African researchers.

African community governs open infrastructures and bears responsibility for reliable and trustworthy management and maintenance.

Ensure **diversity and inclusivity** in scholarly communications and supporting **multilinguality**.

Collaborative open access publishing.

Indigenous/Traditional Knowledge

Co-creating knowledge outputs with communities by following responsible research methods.

Supporting **local open access publishing**.

Ensuring **language pluralism**.

Ensuring **inclusivity of media and formats, for example, when capturing oral culture tradition**.

Open Science Africa: Principles and Actions for Global Participation: Actions

Strengthen **equitable partnerships** of editors and publishers, libraries, RENs, funders and other actors to provide **immediate open access to African research via journals, repositories and other means supported by an evolving scholarly communication landscape**.

Develop **sustainable, collaborative open access publishing models for African research**.

Design **research incentives and structures that support the open science work and equality of researchers**.

Ensure that universities and research organizations have the **evaluation practices, incentives and services needed to support open science and research**, e.g. the academic career system supports and rewards researchers who participate in a culture of sharing the results of their research; adopt open responsible research metrics, along with ways of rewarding the full diversity of outputs and contributions, capturing the broader social impact of research.

Stress **multilingualism and diversity**: ensure that in the process of expert-based evaluation, high quality research is valued regardless of the publishing language or publication channel; and when metrics-based systems are utilized, journal and book publications in all languages are adequately representative of the region.

African Continental Strategic Framework for Open Science

Why is open science important?

Principles

Stakeholders' roles and responsibilities

Infrastructure and service requirements (local, domain, national, regional)

Open science policy elements

National and institutional strategies

Key LIBSENSE deliverables in AfricaConnect3

- Community requirements and skills profiles
- Policy briefs and guidelines for OA repositories and journals
- Lighthouse demonstrators for shared OAR/OAJ platforms
- Federated identity management pilot for libraries with eduID.africa
- Human capacity development program

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Thank you

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