OPEN ACCESS INITIATIVES IN THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI, By Rosemary Otando

Open Access (OA)
Making resources freely available to researchers globally for development
- Denotes free access to scholarly literature/knowledge
- No charge to the user

http://www.google.co.ke/imgres?q=open+access+pictures
Benefits of Open Access?

- Equity of Access to Knowledge
- Increased Readership
- Expanded opportunities for teaching and learning
- Increased Citation
- Maximum Visibility
- Better Return on Research Funding
Promoting Open Access at the University of Nairobi:

**Initiatives**

* **Green Road** – Spearheaded by the University of Nairobi Library
  * Development of Digital Repository to capture local content including College of Agriculture & Veterinary sciences (CAVs) content that includes agricultural theses & dissertations, conference proceedings etc - [http://erepository.uonbi.ac.ke/](http://erepository.uonbi.ac.ke/)
  * Development of Open Access Policy and Implementation of the policy

* **Gold Road** –
  * Making Institutional Journals and conference proceedings Open Access e.g IBIMA publishing, School of Business
  * Development of Open Journal System (OJS) – CBPS
  * Publishing in Open Access Journals e.g DOAJ,

**Agricultural Resources**
Promoting Open Access Initiatives at UoN: Activities

- Digitize local content that is in print form-outsourcing
- Works with scholars to avail their research papers to be uploaded on UoN IR
- Sensitize stakeholders to increase adoption rate
- Initiate & educate researchers on OA publishing platforms & options e.g. OJS
- Participating in OA week & exhibitions
- Enhancing IL program to incorporate OA courses
- Budget allocation for OA Initiatives

- Library working with UoN ICT to develop infrastructure and staff skills
- Entrenching OA in UON and Library strategic plan
- University and Library annual performance contract incorporates OA initiatives
- Increased collaboration globally to enhance sharing information
- Identify staff & students to form an effective frontline outreach team for OA
- Use of social media - YouTube
- Promote OA on UoN Website, Library home page & promotional materials, publications & newsletters
Handling OA INITIATIVES IN UON:

**Workflow**

- **Green Road**
  - Identifying Institutional Content, gathering/collecting, scanning, indexing and uploading to the University Institutional Digital Repository for preservation for posterity

- **Gold Road**
  - Publishing in OA journals

**Policy Issues**

- **UoN OA Policy** approved by Vice Chancellor in 2012 - mandatory for UoN stakeholders to deposit their research in UoN repository

- **UoN Plagiarism Policy** approved in 2013

- Implementation of the policies are on course
Current Updates for UoN IR

Over 80,000 docs covering:

- Archives [4935]
- Books [1892]
- Conference/Workshop/Seminar/Proceedings [7042]
- Journal Articles [25592]
- Lectures and Speeches [659]
- Policies/Reports/Newsletters [504]
- Research Papers [2055]
- Theses and Dissertations [28604]
- Undergraduate Projects [8718]
- UoN Open and Distance Learning Modules [36]

Increase of hits/searches on IR – 2,784,595 hence enhancing UoN visibility
Challenges

* Infrastructure and facilities in place
* Lack of awareness and understanding of the concept – OA Sensitization
* Acquiring content can be difficult
* Fear of exposure of the intellectual work rated globally may affect support from researchers and supervisors
* Involving top level management - Lack of high level management support though UoN management has fully supported OA initiatives
* Finance/funding and sustainability of the project can be demanding - budget allocation for OA initiatives
Challenges

* Bureaucracy in Procurement of ICT/IR equipment slows adoption of the concept
* Plagiarism challenges and cost of detection software
* Populating IR & publishing in OA journals - Researchers resistant to OA concept
* Possessiveness of institutions to their output
* Low ICT skills and other staffing issues
* Copyright and intellectual property rights issues
* OA policies established but there are challenges in implementation of the policy
* Lack of prioritizing IR in library activities – now incorporated in strategic plan and PC
Suggestions/Recommendations

- Library to take up and spearhead the OA initiatives
- Support from top management required
- Institute required infrastructure - book scanners, indexing software, upgrading IR system etc, to enhance full text
- Due to more audience there is need to enhance training and sensitization of the OA concept
- Participate in OA global and regional activities
Conclusion

* Success of OA Initiatives depends on commitment by all parties in institutions – administrators, researchers, librarians, users, ICT support, publishers
* Sensitization/advocacy required
* Capacity building/training
* Instituting required infrastructure
* Share Information – key to achieving goals and improving outcomes and development

OPEN ACCESS WEEK 19TH – 25TH OCTOBER 2015
THEME: OPEN FOR COLLABORATION
www.openaccessweek.org