

Towards the creation of a S.A. National Repository

Oversight project team:

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- Primary content in repositories are research output (research articles and such) and theses and dissertations
- Challenges - visibility, discoverability and accessibility of that research output
- Factors that contribute to challenge - inadequate metadata, low levels of interoperability, and harvesting
- Working in isolation
- Continuous process of reinventing the wheel without sharing solutions
- Exacerbation of gap between institutions

No institution is left behind in sharing South Africa's theses and dissertations research production

- PhD dissertations are original pieces of research
- Critical need for this research to be easily and freely accessible by all
- Theses and dissertations are sparingly indexed in major databases - research must become more discoverable and accessible

Provide a single point of access of South Africa's theses and dissertations

- Aid in the identification of areas to research and/or expand on current research
- Benefit to international students who search for supervisors and/or institutions to complete senior degrees
- Academics - one repository for reviewing the contribution of researchers (NRF rating)
- Accessibility to the student output will enhance the recruitment process of academics/researchers

Improve discoverability and accessibility of South African research output

- Improved discoverability and visibility dependent on improved metadata and interoperability standards and application
- Inadequate metadata and interoperability standards exacerbates the already poor indexing of African content making discoverability and visibility much more of a challenge
- Development and application of ETD Metadata Standards - major implications for the discovery and long-term preservation of theses and dissertations

Linking with international networks

- Database of African Theses and Dissertations (DATAD)
 - African research is rarely indexed in major databases
 - Rich local empirical data in these theses and dissertations which needs to be discoverable to the continental and international audiences
- Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (NDLTD)
 - Promoting the adoption, creation, use, dissemination, and preservation of electronic theses and dissertations
 - Push is for the project to seek national linkages as opposed to institutional linkages

Purpose of the Survey Task Team

To review the current repository landscape and provide intelligence to build on good practices, address challenges and incorporate new trends

Objectives of the Survey Task Team

Is to identify, via the survey community,

- Current infrastructure configurations, software and such as adopted by the respondents
- Metadata requirements for improved visibility and discoverability.
- Skills requirements to sustain repositories

Tasks

- Amend the survey instrument and re-administer the survey
- Collect the data
- Analyse the data
- Provide feedback and guidance to the oversight committee

Purpose of the Infrastructure Task Team

The primary purpose of the Infrastructure Task Team is to provide technical advice and guidance in the development of an infrastructure for the hosting of a national repository

Objectives of the Infrastructure Task Team

- To determine the infrastructure requirements of various repository alternatives
- To identify the support/maintenance requirements
- To identify personnel requirements
- To identify funding requirements
- To identify potential hosting providers

Tasks

- Provide a report on existing national repository systems, including:
 - Storage systems
 - Front-end discovery options
 - Back-end repository software
 - API integration possibilities
 - Federated log-in options
 - Systems administration requirements
 - Cost implications
- Provide a report on hosting alternatives, including:
 - Cost implications
 - Access

Purposes of the Metadata Task Team

Develop capacity, resources and frameworks for the improved visibility and discoverability of South African theses and dissertations

Objectives of the Metadata Task Team

- To develop a set of standards for implementation across the country
- To identify gaps in training and develop programmes to address the gaps

Tasks

- Develop a national metadata standards framework
- Host training sessions to fill the skills void

Purpose of the Skills Development Task Team

- is to bridge the skills divide and to ensure that new skills are identified and interventions are developed to fulfill the need
- to identify collaborators for the delivery of appropriate of skills development programmes

Objectives of the Skills Development Task Team

- develop action plans to bridge identified skills gaps
- develop action plans for the delivery of identified new skills shortage

Tasks

- Do a deep analysis of the survey results
- Develop categories for development of interventions
- Identify person/s/collaborators for delivery of training
- Develop skills development plan
- Probe ‘accreditation’ of training
- Organize training sessions

Infrastructure Task Team

- ***Sean Carte (DUT) Convenor***
- Wynand van der Walt (Rhodes)
- Lizwi Njani (NWU)
- Phumlani Biyela (UNIZULU)
- Wesley Barry (TENET)
- Magodongo Mahlangu (CPUT)
- Lena Nyahodza (UCT)
- Nkululeko Magwaza (UKZN)

Survey Task Team

- ***Mark Snyders (UWC) Convenor***
- Charl Roberts (Wits)
- Neo Molemela (CUT)
- Eric Skosana (UNIZULIU)

Metadata Task Team

- ***Wynand van der Walt (Rhodes) Convenor***
- Vuyo Ngayeka (NWU)
- Jill Claassen (UCT)
- Nicolene Mkhathali (VUT)
- Mimi Seyffert-Wirth (SU)

Skills Development Task Team

- ***Lazarus Matizorofa (UP) Convenor***
- Veliswa Tshetsha (UP)
- Ansie van der Westhuizen (UNISA)
- Shirlene Neerputh (CHELSA Chair)

Action plan

- This would have to work in a phased way/mode
- First would be the completion of the survey
- Then the development of the infrastructure
- Skills development
- Populating of the repository