Join us remotely for EIFL’s IGF presentation

At this year’s Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in Nairobi, Kenya, the findings from the EIFL commissioned research study to explore perceptions of public libraries in 6 African countries will be discussed. IGF is the major policy making forum that emerged from WSIS (World Summit on the Information Society).

Presenting at IGF is an excellent opportunity to reach a broad audience of policy makers (over 1,000 attendees, from 100 countries). And, in accordance with this year’s theme (Internet as a catalyst for change: access, development, freedoms and innovation), our workshop will also provide an excellent forum for demonstrating innovative ways that public libraries are using the Internet to benefit their communities.

Remote Participation

You can participate remotely by watching videocasts or listening to audiocasts from the meeting rooms and reading real-time closed captioning. Learn more

Workshop details

Title: Do policymakers understand the role of libraries in mobilising the internet as a catalyst for development, innovation and freedom?

Date and time: 28 September 2011, 11 am
Workshop Number: 185

Workshop description: This workshop will discuss the findings of a recent study of perceptions of public libraries by policy makers in 6 countries in Africa. The study reveals that policy makers still think of libraries in terms of printed media, and not as spaces for catalysing internet access and use. Yet there is substantial evidence that innovative and ICT enabled library services contribute to development. Case studies will be presented to demonstrate how some developing countries have made use of ICTs in libraries to mobilise the internet for development. The workshop will be interactive and engage participants in helping to identify mechanisms that can convince policy makers to recognise the potential of internet in libraries to strengthen access and diversity.

Speakers
- Annette Esterhuysen, Director, APC (Moderator)
- Richard Atuti, Director Kenya National Library Service
- Geoffrey Kimani, Director of Research and Insights, TNS International
- Monika Elbert, EIFL Public Library Innovation Programme
- Government representative from Finland
- Government representative from Latin America or Kenya (to be confirmed)

EIFL-Licensing Update

New! Browse EIFL-licensed resources by subject

A complete list of e-resources available through the EIFL-Licensing programme can now be browsed by subject under the following headings:
- General Reference
- Humanities
- Social Sciences
- Business & Management
- Medicine & Health Sciences
- Applied Sciences
- Earth Sciences
- Life Sciences
- Physical Sciences & Mathematics

Agreements for EIFL-licensed resources can also be browsed by:
- Title - with links to detailed information about each resource
- Vendor - with links to further information about each publisher/distributor
- Type - journals, aggregated full text and bibliographic databases, e-book collections, databases
- Country - listing the licensed resources available to consortium members in each EIFL country

A list of journals included in each EIFL-licensed resource is available here.

EIFL-OA Update

Ghana: The first results of OA advocacy campaigns

Ghana’s Open Access Institutional Repositories Advocacy Campaign is proving to be very successful. It is implemented by Ghana’s consortia, CARLIGH, c/o Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in partnership with AAU and with financial support from EIFL. Their advocacy campaign is designed to raise awareness of open access with government officials and the research community.

Among their activities was a two-day workshop on Open Access Institutional Repository Advocacy, 18-19 July 2011, that they organised in collaboration with AAU (Association of African Universities), Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Ghana (CARLIGH), and the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT, the Netherlands).

The workshop resulted in press coverage in ‘Ghana News Agency’, which included interviews with professors and the Deputy Minister of Education discussing the importance of knowledge sharing and open access publishing; read the article: 'African can ensure sustainable development through knowledge sharing'.

Their campaign was also featured on a national radio show. Helena R Asamoah-Hassan, University Librarian and EIFL Country Coordinator and Richard Bruce Lamprey, the project coordinator and EIFL Open Access coordinator presented open access benefits for researchers, policy makers and the general public and also announced that Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) repository will serve as a national repository in Ghana.

A follow-up meeting at the Ministry of Education took place in the beginning of September at which they discussed an action plan in order to continue to move their OA agenda forward.

Workshop details

The workshop was organized to enhance the visibility and to improve accessibility to the work of African scholars both within and outside of the continent, and to facilitate the development of relevant copyright regulations. It was attended by about 60 educational representatives from the African Continent.

The workshop provided the opportunity for government officials, academic and research community to learn about the benefits of open access, to share ideas with colleagues, and to inspire wider participation in establishing open access as a norm in scholarship and research and also being able to develop a national policy on open access. Furthermore the meeting served as a platform for participants to discuss the policies for the establishment and smooth running of open access institutional repositories. Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) institutional repository was designated as the national Open Access repository.

At the end of the workshop the target group - Government officials in Ministries, Departments and Agencies, academic and research community - was aware of open access policies (mandates) which ensures that research funded by institutions/ government is made freely available.

There are great prospects for growth for African universities and research institutes in practicing open access, since good suggestion came from the participants. For example the Deputy Minister of Education of Ghana praised the cordial
relationship between the AAU and her ministry and lamented on the fact that even though a lot of research is done in Africa, African research output is not readily available unlike what is happening in Europe and North America. She therefore stressed the need to showcase African research output to the world and that efforts like the workshop were an important right step.

Below are the photos provided by Richard Bruce Lamptey, the project coordinator and EIFL Open Access coordinator.

Learn more about the EIFL-OA Open Access advocacy campaign grants.

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**Capacity building for OA repository administrators and managers: EIFL-OA – KIT – COAR online workshop**

On July 27, we hosted EIFL-OA – KIT – COAR online workshop Capacity building for open access repository administrators and managers.

The guest speakers were:

- Africa Jumanne Bwamkuu, Information and Communication Technology Advisor/Trainer, Information Research & Advisory Services, ILS, Royal Tropical Institute (KIT), Amsterdam, Netherlands
- Dominic Tate, Repository & Digital Assets Manager, Library Services, Royal Holloway, University of London, and External Liaison Officer of the United Kingdom Council of Research Repositories – the professional organisation for UK open access repository administrators and managers

Dominic Tate presented the United Kingdom Council of Research Repositories (UKCoRR, http://www.ukcorr.org) – an independent body for repository managers, administrators and staff in the UK that promotes repository management as a recognised and respected profession, provides a forum for discussion and exchange of experience, represents the views and concerns of those who work with repositories in organisational, policy and strategic development – and provided some recommendations on how this model can be replicable in other countries.

And Iryna Kuchma, EIFL Open Access (OA) Programme manager and a Chair of COAR (Confederation of Open Access Repositories) Working Group (WG) 3: Repository and Repository Networks Support & Training presented the COAR WG 3 activities and plans.

View the recording of the session here.

Downloads from the session:
• Africa Jumane Bwamkuu, Royal Tropical Institute (KIT), Amsterdam, Netherlands: Institutional Repository Capacity Strengthening Programme IR Communication Platform (http://www.ir-africa.info) [ppt]
• Dominic Tate, External Liaison Officer, UK Council of Research Repositories UKCoRR [ppt]
• Iryna Kuchma, EIFL-OA Programme manager, COAR Working Group 3: Repository and Repository Networks Support & Training [pdf]

Sudan: Training on OA and DSpace for researchers and librarians

As part of the EIFL-supported Open Access awareness raising campaign at the Faculty of Science, University of Khartoum (U of K) a training course on Open Access and DSpace@ScienceUofK (their recently launched repository) was organised. The training was held during a week of OA planned events. The workshops targeted researchers, to increase their awareness of open access; and librarians, to provide them with the skills to create and manage an institutional repository.

In addition to training, during the week, meetings were held with faculty and key administrators. At the meetings, there was support for promoting open access and concrete next steps were discussed, including an agreement to cooperate to make U of K institutionally published journals available Open Access.

A lot of momentum was built during the week that U of K will now capitalize on to expand their Open Access efforts. In particular, there were many participants from outside of U of K, so it provided them with a great opportunity to start building an Open Access network.

Additional funders and partners of this project were GrandIR CB and Carlos III University Madrid.

Further information
The project blog is available here
Pablo de Castro reports in his blog on the training that he and Rania Baleela (Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science, University of Khartoum) jointly organized on July 27th at the Old Lecture Theatre in the University of Khartoum.
See a Report from the OASCIR (Open Access Scientific Institutional Repository) Training Week (Jul 24-30th).

Learn more about the EIFL-OA Open Access advocacy campaign grants.

Botswana: Stakeholders learn about OA repositories

On August 11 Botswana Library Consortium (BLC) organized a workshop on Open Access platforms/software and repositories at the University of Botswana. The event took place within the EIFL-funded national open access advocacy campaign “Advocacy for Open Access to Researchers/Deans/Graduate Students/Editors/Policy Makers/Educators/Library Professionals” implemented by Botswana Library Consortium and University of Botswana.

The workshop was among the strategies of their national advocacy campaign to reach out to the research community and policy makers to inform them of the importance of Open Access. In addition, they will be holding meetings with policy/decision makers, sharing case studies, and organizing an additional workshop with key institution leaders.

In addition, BLC FOSS team was recently tasked with overseeing the creation of institutional repositories in BLC member country institutions, using DSpace FOSS.

Background
Following the first OA workshop held in Botswana in September 2010 for researchers, research managers, policy makers, librarians, ICT specialists, journal editors, and publishers to understand the concept of open access, the best approaches to collaborative promotion of research outputs, and how to manage open access repositories and journals, there were indications of lack of understanding and knowledge gaps about the concepts of open access and institutional repositories.

Based on this knowledge gap, lack of awareness, and the need to start, Botswana Library Consortium and the University of Botswana have agreed that running another workshop/training for BLC members would be appropriate to help them to start open access repositories in their Libraries.

Workshop details
The workshop organized by BLC and UB and funded by EIFL, addressed the following:
• the drivers for open access research repositories (new methods of scholarly communication; improving research quality - much effort is frequently placed in the administrative processes which gather and submit information about research for quality assessment exercises and the institutional repository is well placed to add value to this process of collecting information about research, in particular being able to offer a detailed and systematic method of collating bibliographic information about research publications; increase the visibility and impact of the research works; digital preservation);
• technical set-up process for open access repositories (hardware and software: defining requirements; reviewing and comparing FOSS, especially DSpace software; integrating the repository with other systems such as local authentication systems; creation of technical policies for long-term aspects such as metadata, workflows and file formats; technical promotion of the repository (to ensure that other systems such as external search engines index or harvest content properly);
• repository management framework: to guide a repository manager through the initial planning process for establishing an institutional repository. These include the planning approach, making a business case, identifying key stakeholders, the costs and benefits of a repository, risk management, strategic planning and a selection of practical planning tools covering repository staffing and training;
• policies and legal issues: content, submission, re-use, preservation, copyright, take-down and embargoes policies.
Last year the University of Botswana has launched University of Botswana Research, Innovation and Scholarship Archive (UBRISA) as a joint project of Office of Research and Development and University Library. They shared their experiences with policy environment, workflows, and ran a training session on using DSpace software for repository management.

Further reading

- Isaac N Mazonde, Office of Research and Development, University of Botswana. "Is on-line publication the panacea to journals with a narrow and limited subscription base? Special focus on the University of Botswana," paper presented at a Workshop on Digital Scholarship at the University of Botswana, 26th May, 2010 [doc]
- Learn more about the EIFL-OA Open Access advocacy campaign grants.

EIFL presents TLIB at IFLA 2011

TLIB, the draft international treaty on copyright exceptions and limitations for libraries and archives proposed by IFLA, EIFL, ICA and Corpoacor Innovate was presented at the IFLA World Library and Information Congress 2011 by Teresa Hackett, EIFL-IP Programme Manager at the CLM session “You spoke - IFLA acted: our International Treaty for libraries and archives”.

The presentation briefly described the context for the work - WIPO Member States agreed in 2008 to re-evaluate exceptions and limitations - and its intention as a constructive proposal to feed into discussions at WIPO, and to help resolve some of the copyright-related problems raised by librarians worldwide at CLM focus sessions in 2005 and 2009.

The presentations were followed by a panel discussion with Trevor C. Clarke, Assistant Director General at WIPO, Ruth Okedji and Luis Villarreal. Teresa chairs the IFLA Working Group on Exceptions and Limitations responsible for drafting TLIB.

Poster session Moldova - Advocacy for Fair Copyright Laws: the role of libraries

Mariana Hanjevschi, EIFL-IP librarian with the consortium Resurse Electronice pentru Moldova (REM) in Moldova presented a poster at the 2011 IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Puerto Rico. The poster described how librarians in Moldova, a country in transition, succeeded by working together and building alliances with civil society to advocate for information for all. It focused on the partnership between EIFL, REM and the Library Association and highlighted the innovative tools and learning resources developed in the project "Advocacy for Fair Copyright Laws: the role of libraries".

As a result of the project, the library community were consulted as stakeholders when the copyright law was being updated, and succeeded in having their viewpoints taken into account. Librarians in Moldova were motivated by the belief that libraries have a key role to play in the development of democratic societies, and are a force that enables all members of the community to access global knowledge resources, ideas and opinions.

As copyright is the legal cornerstone of everyday library work, they advocate for fair and balanced copyright laws that support local libraries in providing inclusive services, especially to those beyond the physical library - people living in rural areas, distance learners and blind and visually impaired people.

The poster content was appreciated by the many people who visited and the design captured the interest of librarians from Romania, Croatia, Lithuania, Taiwan and the Bahamas, as well as representatives from the American Library Association and IFLA. We learnt that the poster was an inspiration for librarians interested in learning about experience of libraries in Moldova as an example to follow.

EIFL-FOSS Update

Koha - making the case for FOSS

Advoating for FOSS can be a difficult task. Providing the right kinds of information, exemplars of where it has been successful, and the benefits it may bring to your library, takes a lot of time and effort to compile, and then has to be presented in a way that will inform but not bore the decision-makers. Many technicians and librarians can face an uphill battle in convincing senior managers of its value and the benefits of moving to FOSS.

Koha is perhaps one of the most successful FOSS tools currently, and as such the case for advocacy around Koha is stronger than it may be for software that is less well known. Koha is a well-established FOSS ILS and several EIFL libraries are now using it (see 2010 updated case studies at http://www.ecf.info/koha-foss-integrated-library-system)

To begin to address some of these issues, EIFL-FOSS held a Themed Week session focussing on Koha and library FOSS advocacy.

This workshop featured contributions from three people who can all help you to advocate for FOSS tools, through their experiences with Koha. Their presentations can be downloaded from this page.

- David Parkers, Associate Director Information Services, Staffordshire University, UK (the first UK University to move fully to Koha). Download David's presentation here: dparkescaseforkoha.ppt
- Dibyendra Huyoj, Madan Puraskar Pustakalya, Nepal (currently working on a pilot to establish a Koha Union Catalog between 3 libraries). Download Dibyendra's presentation here: dibyendra_virtual_union_catalog_using_koha ils.ppt and
download the Shockwave Flash presentation Dibyendra made here: dibyendravirtual_union_catalog_using_koha_ils_presentation.swf

The workshop is supported by an open access wiki for Questions and Answers about Koha and FOSS advocacy. If you have any questions about Koha or FOSS advocacy please add them to the wiki at www.titanpad.com/eifl-foss-koha-advocacy

Coming soon: Library Directors FOSS Advocacy Resource - a resource designed to enable library staff to provide the right information in the right way to enable library directors and decision makers to understand the benefits of FOSS. The first draft will be presented at the EIFL General Assembly and the finished resource will be published in the autumn.

Investigating mobile-phone access to libraries in Zimbabwe

Providing mobile access to library services is a vital way of increasing access to information and e-resources.

Following the EIFL-FOSS Call for Participation in October / November 2010, The University of Zimbabwe Library expressed an interest in providing mobile access to their library online services. They have since been researching potential Open Source technologies that they could use.

Initially, they were going to use the mobile package that was a part of their existing Millennium (non-FOSS) OPAC (online library catalog). However, during the development process a FOSS product caught the eye of the project staff.

MobileCat was developed at the Tri-College libraries in the USA (written in PHP). It provides a mobile-ready interface to Web OPACs. You can see an example of a MobileCat interface in action at http://m.tripod.brynmawr.edu – below is a screenshot showing their clean and simple mobile display.

The University of Zimbabwe library are now working to integrate MobileCat into their OPAC and will report on the project later in 2011.

MobileCat version 1.0 was only released in March 2010 so there is not yet a large user community. However, it is fairly straightforward to implement and is based on the widely-used Z39.50 protocol.

EIFL-FOSS free, online workshops providing solutions

Launched in January 2011, EIFL-FOSS Themed Weeks are addressing the challenges and opportunities that digital libraries are facing. In particular, an area of focus has been providing solutions that will make it easier for librarians to manage e-resources (commercial and open access) and end users to access them.

Through our sessions, we have connected with people from EIFL partner countries and the larger community; the online sessions were attended by over 260 people, from 46 countries.

We would like to extend a special “THANK YOU” to all our presenters who have so generously given their time!

Tools for next generation librarians

Through our Themed Weeks we have showcased a wide variety of FOSS solutions that enable librarians to build services that simplify and expand access to e-resources. In keeping with users demands for easy-to-use anywhere/anytime services, the workshops have covered technologies such as faceted searching, which allows users to easily explore collections of information (such as databases, catalogues, or repositories). We also demonstrated CUFTS/GODOT, a serials management system that has been widely adopted by academic institutions to help them manage collections effectively and to facilitate access to e-journals; as well as Shibboleth, a federated identity tool that facilitates off-campus access to commercial e-resources.

In addition, we held two sessions in which we explored a variety of FOSS tools (ePrints, Dspace and Fedora) for the management and access of open access digital assets in local repositories.

Finally, we also explored a selection of disability tools that are available as a means of enhancing access to information for library users with disabilities.

The recordings for each online workshop, and a wealth of information on each of the topics – overviews, key benefits, case studies and links to more resources – are freely available on our website:
• Disability Tools
• Shibboleth
• CUFTS
• Faceted Search
• Apache Solr
• EPrints
• Koha
• DSpace and Fedora
Join us!

We encourage you to attend future sessions. To stay informed, visit our website, Facebook or Twitter.

The online workshops are open to anyone; however since places are limited, if a workshop is oversubscribed, priority will be given to participants from EIFL partner countries.

Future Themed Weeks

We have the following EIFL-FOSS themed weeks scheduled; see all EIFL-FOSS themed weeks.

- SEPTEMBER 26-30 - Evergreen
- OCTOBER 10-14 - SubjectsPlus
- OCTOBER 24-28 - PKP / OJS (in partnership with EIFL-OA - NOTE this is Open Access week)
- NOVEMBER 21-25 - Mobile phone access to libraries
- DECEMBER 12-16 - SimpleSAMLphp (Federated identity to e-resources)

EIFL-PLIP Update

PLIP results – libraries rise to the challenge

The first phase of PLIP has sparked 12 new and sustainable library services that fulfill community development needs.

In May 2010, PLIP gave small grants to 12 libraries to use technology in innovative ways to serve vulnerable and hard-to-reach communities in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America.

After a year, impact assessment demonstrates that libraries can rise to the challenges of community development, with remarkable results.

We are now building on the success of our pioneer libraries through a service replication process. In PLIP’s second phase, we invited public libraries in developing and transition countries to apply for grants to replicate ideas and best practices from Phase 1.

We have received over 100 applications, which are now being evaluated by our international selection team of librarians and experts in the relevant development areas. Grants will be awarded in October.

Read more about our 12 pioneer PLIP libraries...

Six-country Africa Library Perception Study published

Read this month’s Spotlight to learn more about the study and PLIP’s work

Findings of groundbreaking research into perceptions of public libraries in six countries in Africa show that most people associate public libraries with traditional book lending and reference services rather than technical innovation and provision of community development services.

At the same time, most people believe that public libraries can make a difference in vital development areas, including health, employment, agriculture and e-governance. They also believe that public libraries need and deserve more funding.

EIFL’s Public Library Innovation Programme (PLIP) commissioned the study to deepen understanding of the status and role of public libraries in Africa, and of the vision, aspirations and expectations of the general public, librarians and national and local government officials. The study was conducted by the social research company, TNS RMS East Africa Ltd., in Kenya, Ghana, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Ethiopia.

Findings are that in all six countries, most public libraries are small and under resourced. All stakeholders – from national and local government to the level of library users and non-users – are concerned about the many challenges that libraries and librarians face.

A particular concern is lack of technology: 54% of local government officials and 38% of library users said libraries did not have enough computers. An overwhelming majority of librarians (89%) said their priority need was additional funding for equipment, especially computers, TV, scanners, and photocopiers. Their second concern was space and seating to enhance users’ comfort.

PLIP will use the findings to empower librarians and others to advocate for support for public libraries, so that they can meet expectations and realize their full potential to contribute to community development.

Read more here.

Library consortia news

Mali doctoral students learn about access to e-resources

On August 13, 2011, Consortium Malien des Bibliothèques (COMBI) organized a workshop on access and use of e-resources (both commercial and open access). This workshop is among their activities planned to promote the usage of e-resources. Over 20 participants from faculties across the University of Bamako attended the workshop at the Bamako Francophone Digital Campus.

One of the participants from the Center for Higher Education in Bamako expressed his appreciation “Je vous en remercie infiniment. Vous nous offrez ainsi des documents très utiles et très précieux. Vous nous faites gagner énormément de temps dans nos travaux de recherche. Nous comptons sur vous pour des compléments d’informations au besoin.”

[Translation: Thank you very much. You also provided us with very useful and valuable documents. You helped us to save a lot of time in our research work. We can count on you to provide information that we need.]
The participants learned about key topics related to e-resources including:
the importance of research information for the researcher and the teacher,
the methodology of information retrieval, and the problem of the quality of
online information. In addition, they also received hands-on training in a
variety of tools and information resources: including, websites directories
and search engines, bibliographic databases, and digital libraries.

There was a special focus on resources made freely available through EiFL
for Malian institutions and also on the various international initiatives
working to improve access to scientific information in Mali. Digital libraries
and portals for open access journals were also demonstrated.

EiFL-Thailand Consortium seeks to broaden membership

Currently, all of EiFL-Thailand’s 95 members are university
libraries; their
goal is to provide support for more libraries by
expanding membership to include different types of libraries. In
their ongoing efforts to achieve this goal, Mrs. Soeythip Sukul,
EiFL

Soeythip presented on “The Benefits of EiFL
for library members”. In addition, Dr. Adisak
Sukul, EiFL Open Access and FOSS Coordinator
gave a presentation entitled, “Give Your Patrons
the Resources They Want - and DO IT FOR
LESS!” in which he discussed the EiFL-OA and
EiFL-FOSS programmes. Adisak also took the
audience through the EiFL-licensing web pages
to demonstrate the types of resources for which
the EiFL-Licensing programme can negotiate, on
behalf of EiFL partner countries.

As a result, there was much interest to learn
more about EiFL and EiFL-Thailand
membership. In addition, Soeythip is now convinced that the strategy of focusing on a particular discipline, in this case
Business and Management, is a good one for spreading the word about their consortium. She plans to use this strategy
with other types of libraries such as Politics, Economics and Finance, Medical, public libraries, etc.

Finally, also in attendance was Mr. Chansy Phuangsokeeth, Director of Central Library, National University of Laos,
President of the Laos Library and Information Consortium (LALIC) and EiFL Country Coordinator. He will be bringing back
what he has learned to his own consortium.

Events

- 9 Sep 2011 Free online workshop - Open Access Repositories with DSpace and Fedora. Location: Online
- 13 Sep 2011 ETD 2011. Location: Cape Town - South Africa
- 23 Sep 2011 PLoS International Advisory Group meeting. Location: Cambridge - United Kingdom
- 26 Sep 2011 New Trends for Science Dissemination. Location: Trieste - Italy
- 4 Oct 2011 INFORMATIO 2011. Location: Sevastopol - Ukraine
- 14 Oct 2011 International Open Access Webinar. Location: Online
- 18 Oct 2011 Serbia’s consortium celebrating 10 years. Location: Belgrade - Serbia
- 20 Oct 2011 LMBA - Libraries for science, studies, and society. Location: Vilnius - Lithuania
- 24 Oct 2011 Open Access Week 2011. Location: all over the world

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