LIBSENSE Regional Open Science Policy Development Workshop

Kenyatta University Open Access Institutional Repository

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Kenyatta University's profile & context

- Kenyatta University (KU) is a public university with its main campus in Nairobi County, Kenya.

- It acquired the status of university in 1985. The university has 9 campuses with 19 Schools

- Provides higher education at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

OA Institutional Repository Policy description

- The Kenyatta University OA Institutional Repository (IR) Policy was published in 2014
- The policy is registered with the Registry of Open Access Repository Mandates and Policies (ROARMAP)
- It covers the following key areas:

  - ✓ Open Access Policy Statement
  - ✓ Repository Content and Submission Policy
  - ✓ Metadata Policy
  - ✓ Selection, Retention, Replacement and Withdrawal
  - ✓ Intellectual Property/Copyright
  - ✓ Quality Control
  - ✓ Preservation Policy
  - ✓ Compliance and Monitoring

Key Elements of Change

- Increased awareness of the open access concept
- The Kenyatta University Institutional Repository was implemented using Dspace
- The Library created the Digitization Section with the mandate of implementation and management of the IR
- The IR became one of the University's metrics of measuring researchers' productivity and performance
- Retrospective digitization of thesis that were in print format became part of the library's workflows
- It became a requirement that postgraduate students submit e-thesis in addition to the print copy of their thesis

Key Elements of Elements

- E-thesis made it easier to spot cases of plagiarism
- This accelerated the development of the KU plagiarism policy
- Kenyatta University developed and published the Anti-Plagiarism Policy and Guidelines in 2017
- The University invested in the Turnitin text matching software
- Increased availability of resources for research
- The IR is currently one of the University's performance targets

Motivation for change

- Pressure to improve Webometric ranking. The IR contributed directly to the parameter of *Size*.

- Although the parameter was recently discontinued, IRs' content affect ranking indirectly through the parameter of Transparency or Openness which measures citations from Top authors in respective institutions.

- The OA movement spearheaded by the Library increased awareness of the emergence of and the need for Institutional Repositories

- The need to archive KU research output online

Processes and dynamics for developing, implementing and managing change

- The University's top management support was instrumental in the success of developing and implementing the OA policy
- Initially, researchers feared and were concerned that their work would be plagiarized if uploaded in the IR.
- The concerns were addressed through intensive training and awareness creation

Processes and dynamics for developing, implementing and managing change

- Laxity in submitting research work to the repository.
- The library countered this obstacle by archiving on behalf of the authors
- Legal implications in retrospective application of the policy to allow uploading of thesis done before the publication of the policy.
- This obstacle was mitigated by publishing a notice in the dailies that provided an opportunity for KU alumni and staff to raise any objections they may have had

Processes and dynamics for developing, implementing and managing change

- Some publishers declined to publish research papers that were extracted from the e-thesis on the basis that they constituted previously published works. The University allows for requests for embargo periods that give the researchers time to publish articles before the thesis are uploaded online

- The university is committed to academic integrity and the management was therefore concerned about potential plagiarism cases. To counter the risk, the Kenyatta University Anti-Plagiarism Policy and Guidelines was developed and implemented

- This was complimented by subscription to Turnitin text matching software. All thesis are checked for plagiarism before being uploaded

Timeline for the policy development and implementation

- The first document was uploaded in the KU repository on 2011-05-09
- The Kenyatta University Open Access Institutional Repository Policy was adopted on 9th January 2014
- The total number of documents uploaded by 26th October 2021 is 16608
- The first version of the Kenyatta University Antiplagiarism policy was published in 2017 The policy was revised in 2020

END

Thank You!