

DATAD

**1st ERINA4AFRICA workshop
KIGALI, RWANDA, 21st April, 2010**

***The Database of African Theses and Dissertations
(DATAD)***

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AAU's programs and activities

- **DATAS is part of AAU programs and activities and *has been integrated into the AAU strategic plan: Improving management and access to African scholarly work.***
- Developing Quality Assurance Systems in African Universities
- African Universities Responding to HIV/AIDS
- Ford Foundation International Fellowships Program (IFP)
- Research Education Networking Initiative (RENU)
- Leadership Development
- Staff Exchange
- MRCI: Mobilization of regional capacity initiative
- Roster of African Professionals (ROAP)

DATAD Objectives

- Contribute to the creation of an environment conducive to research and publication in Africa;
- Create capacity in African universities for the collection, management and dissemination of theses and dissertations electronically.

DATAD Objectives

cont...

- Provide visibility and improved access to the work of African scholars, both within and outside of the continent;
- Facilitate the development of copyright procedures and regulations for the protection of the intellectual property rights of African university graduates and researchers;
- Provide support for other AAU programs

Implementation

- Considerations for selection of pioneers
 - regional and linguistic balance
 - basic ICT infrastructure
 - leadership commitment
 - graduate program

Implementation *cont...*

- Factors for determination of model
 - Feasibility study
 - general ICT infrastructure environment
 - working models
- Adopted: Mixed model (Centralized, decentralized)

Implementation *cont...*

- Management and administration
 - Advisory Committee
 - DATAD management teams at institutional level
 - Graduate School, Computing Center, Library, Graduate Students, Faculty
 - Regional coordination at AAU Secretariat

Record content

- African research resources to facilitate
 - dissemination of research findings
 - networking of researchers: students, lecturers, others
 - bibliometric studies
 - All disciplines

Record fields

- Author, Title, Degree, Year, Supervisor(s)
- University (faculty/dept, town, country)
- Availability statement, Location (of e-copy if available), Call number, Copyright
- Abstract, Keywords

Requirements for success

- Financial and technical support
- DATAD model
- Quality control
- Full text access
- Preservation and archiving
- Sustainability

Challenges

- Management of copyright and intellectual property: Higher level of advocacy
- Sustainability
- Expansion model
- Preservation, Full text access, Link to others Thesis Network, Open access, ETDs...

Challenges *cont...*

- New institutions and pioneers
- Software (for full text); EndNote
- Dissemination (In collaboration with others institutions)
- Promotion and Visibility activities

Current situations of thesis in African Universities...challenge

- Thesis in only in hard copies
- Thesis in soft copies
- Thesis on servers
- Thesis online
- Members universities from:
 - Cameroon; Egypt; Ethiopia; Ghana; Kenya ; Mozambique; Senegal; Tanzania; Uganda; Zimbabwe; Malawi; Nigeria;
 - Benin; Togo; Lesotho, Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina, CAMES (francophone network).
 - **IR:** Zimbabwe; Ethiopia; Malawi, CAMES
 - **Institutions:** CODESRIA; ACBF; the Arab Thesis network base in Jordan

Next step

- DATAD model
- ETD initiatives and national repositories
- Open Thesis
- DATAD's sustainability
- Exploring new strategy for the outputs of African HEIs to the wider research community
- Open Access ...

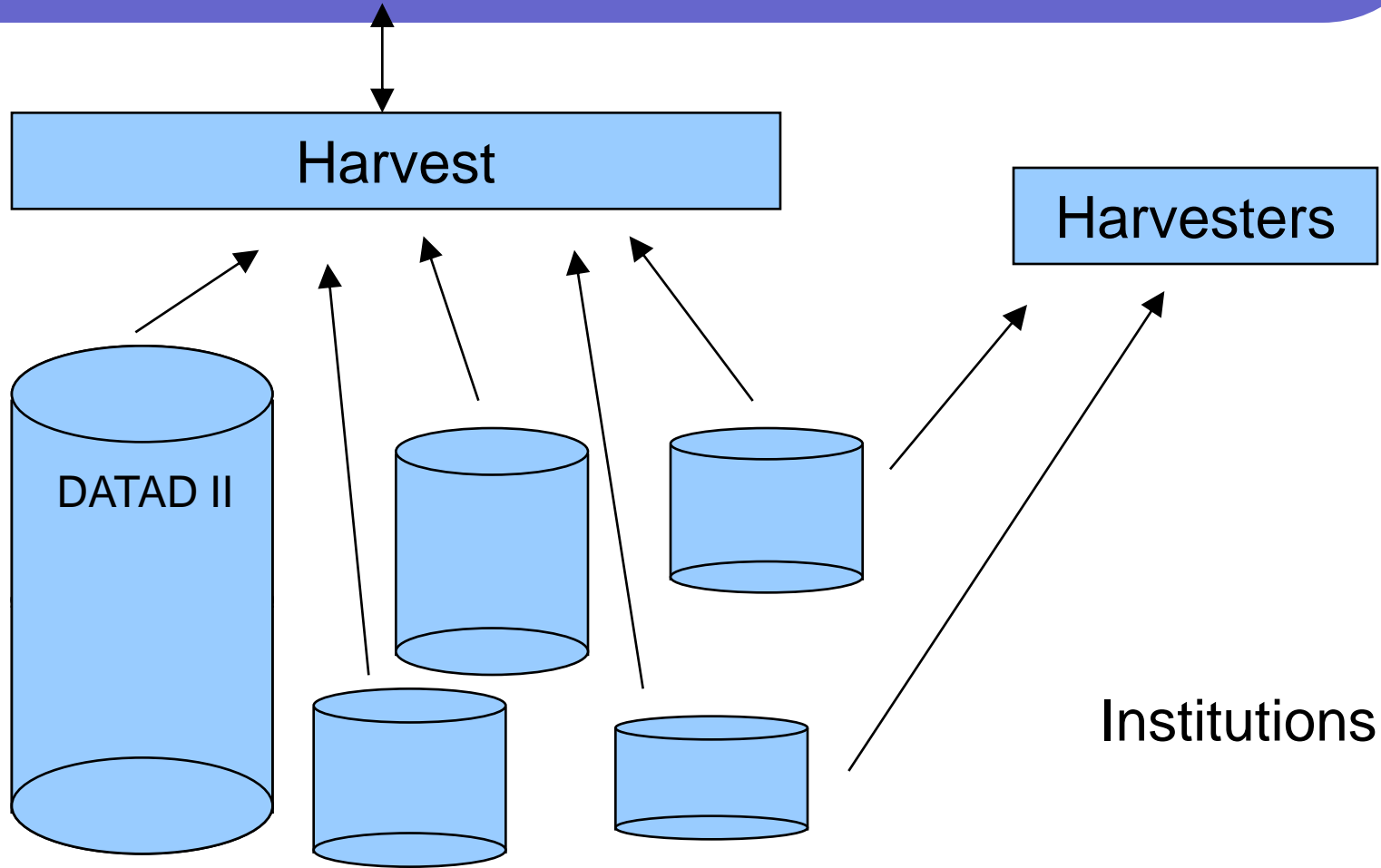
New strategy for capacity development needs...

- Open Archive Initiative
- Metadata Harvesting Protocol
- Open standards: Dublin Core, University of Michigan
- System requirement for ends users, partners, servers, bandwidth etc..

..And Flexible

- Full text
- Simple to contribute to
- Simple maintenance and Expandable
- All research material and Serving local knowledge
- Accessibility online but also offline
- Respect copyrights
- Quality controlled at each level

Scientist/researcher



END

- *Thank you*
- *Phoba @aau.org*
- *KIGALI, RWANDA, 21st April, 2010*