

The Research Repository Stewardship Programme

Background

Africa has about 2,390 universities, of which only about 350 have Open Institutional Repositories (OIRs), many of which are not functional or do not operate at their full potential. Without OIRs, the bulk of universities' output in the form of theses, dissertations, research reports, monographs, etc, remains invisible to the world. In addition, many institutions lack adequate ICT staff to customise and maintain the back-end of the OIRs.

The Research Repository Stewardship Programme provides an intensive, hands-on, in-person training programme for librarians on establishing or upgrading OIRs and curating them in line with Open Science best practices. The programme, funded by the Invest in Open Infrastructure Fund, is part of a project that seeks to enhance the discovery, accessibility, and reusability of research outputs from and about Africa. The programme's expected output is to build librarians' capacity, enabling them to establish or strengthen sustainable OIRs in line with OS best practices. Figure 1 presents an overview of the IOI project.

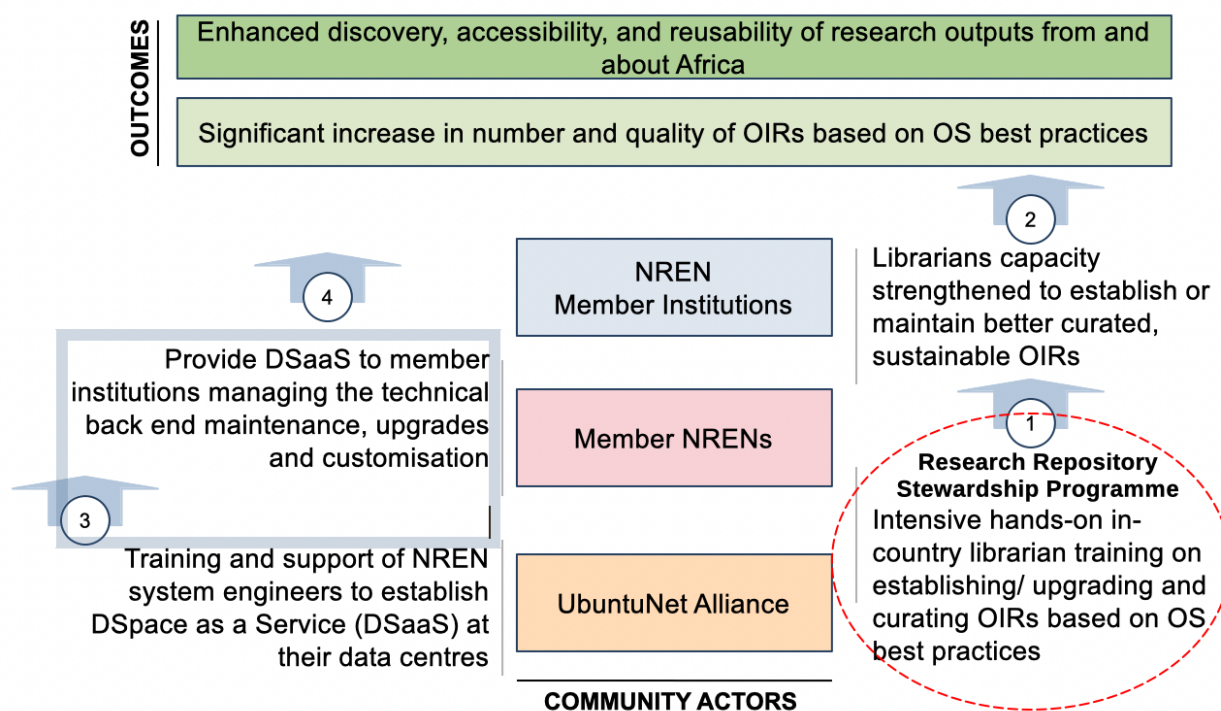


Figure 1: Unlocking Potential: Elevating Open Institutional Repositories in Africa for Global Impact

TRAINING PROGRAMME

	Expected Learning Outcomes
Day 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Session 1 – By the end of the session, participants shall be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Define an Open Institutional Repository clearly and accurately. ◦ Explain why repositories matter to research visibility, access, and institutional reputation. ◦ Describe the librarian’s role as manager, steward, trainer, and advocate. ◦ Assess their own institution’s starting point. • Session 2 – By the end of the session, participants shall be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Explain the core structure of DSpace clearly and accurately. ◦ Distinguish between communities, collections, items, and bitstreams. ◦ Describe the main user roles, permissions, and workflow stages. ◦ Navigate a DSpace repository with confidence. ◦ Recognise the librarian’s operational responsibilities inside the platform. • Session 3 – By the end of the session, participants shall be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Assess institutional readiness for repository implementation or strengthening. ◦ Identify the minimum governance, policy, people, and workflow requirements for success. ◦ Develop audience-specific advocacy messages for leadership, researchers, and partner units. ◦ Draft practical next steps for action at their own institutions.
Day 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Session 1 – By the end of the session, participants shall be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Explain what metadata is and why it matters for repository visibility. ◦ Apply the logic of core Dublin Core fields in a DSpace environment. ◦ Recognise common metadata quality problems and how to correct them. ◦ Interpret FAIR and CARE principles in practical repository work. • Session 2 – By the end of the session, participants shall be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Curate metadata based on FAIR and CARE principles ◦ Recommend appropriate licenses and rights • Session 3 – By the end of the session, participants shall be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Have a clear understanding of the distinct roles of authentication and authorisation ◦ Understand, assign and manage the appropriate roles and responsibilities within the DSpace environment

	Expected Learning Outcomes
Day 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Session 1 – By the end of the session, participants shall be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Understand, assign and manage the appropriate roles and responsibilities within the DSpace environment (Continued) • Session 2 – By the end of the session, participants shall be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Explain how metadata aggregation works and why it is critical for research visibility. ◦ Assess whether their repository is ready for metadata aggregation. ◦ Identify and correct common metadata quality issues that affect discoverability • Session 3 – By the end of the session, participants shall be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Identify the core policies required for a university repository ◦ Distinguish between mandatory (must-have) and recommended (should-have) policies ◦ Understand the purpose and risks addressed by each policy ◦ Outline the key components that each policy should contain ◦ Begin drafting or reviewing institutional repository policies

All participants shall be on-boarded to UbuntuNet’s Open Pan-African Repository Community of Practice, <https://opar-cop.ubuntunet.net> .

Funded by:

