



Fiesole Retreat 2024

Connecting Global North and Global South: African Perspectives in Scholarly Communications

Join leading publishers and librarians in Cape town to contribute to the discussion around themes of both local and international importance as we seek strategies to reflect, protect and preserve the heterogeneity and richness of the world's scholarly information channels and the cultural heritage collections for the future.

Programme

Monday May 6th

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| 13:00-16:00 | The ITOCA-Elsevier Foundation Workshop (by invitation)
@Vineyard Hotel: <i>Building a Brighter Future for Research Librarians with LEGO Serious Play</i> |
| 17:30 | Cocktail event (open event) @Vineyard Hotel, sponsored by Elsevier |

Tuesday May 7th

- 8:30-9:00 Welcome coffee
- 9:00-9:15 Welcome and Introduction
- 9:15-10:00 Keynote: Kepi Madumo, National Librarian & CEO - National Library of South Africa, Gauteng, South Africa

Session 1

Framing Current Scholarly Communications Challenges and Opportunities for Africa

Coordinated by Ann Okerson, Director - Offline Internet Consortium, Tempe, USA

Our opening session will set the stage for this global conversation, with the African continent as its special focus, as we all continue to bridge the gap between the global North and South. We will begin with two framing overviews of societal challenges for different regions in the African continent, particularly in the sphere of scholarly communication and access to information - challenges that are poorly understood by others in the information chain. We will then hear about two significant efforts aimed at redressing some of these challenges: (1) the building of the African Open Science Platform, which aims to position African countries at the heart of scholarly discourse; and (2) the influence of colonization on access to information and efforts to redress the current, long-lived situation. After a break, there will be a far-ranging discussion between the speakers and the audience.

- 10:00-10:30 Ujala Satgoor, Executive Director, The Libraries - University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa: *Including Africa in Global Publishing, Scholarly, and Research Systems*
- 10:30-11:00 Biliamin Oladele Popoola, Senior Librarian, Systems & Evidence, Based Medicine - University of Medical Sciences, Ondo City, Nigeria: *An African Researcher's Perspectives: Successes and Challenges*
- 11:00-11:30 Coffee Break
- 11:30-12:00 Nokuthula P. Mchunu, National Research Foundation, Deputy Director - AOSP (African Open Science Platform), Pretoria, South Africa: *Visions and Opportunities for the African Open Science Platform*

- 12:00-12:30 Acquinatta Zimu-Biyela, Senior Lecturer - University of South Africa (UNISA), School of Art, Department of Information Science, Pretoria, South Africa: *Decolonisation and re-Africanisation of Libraries. A Necessity for Africa*
- 12:30-13:00 Discussion
- 13:00-14:00 Lunch

Session 2

Equity and Inclusion in the Journal Ecosystem: Access, Discovery and Exploration

Coordinated by Buhle Mbambo-Thata, University Librarian - National University of Lesotho, Lesotho, South Africa

Journals are a rich source of diverse and up-to-date content. Journals have the potential to be essential information resources for researchers searching for information on minority and marginalized groups and languages. However, journals emanating from minority groups, languages and marginalized populations are often not accessible nor discoverable, and therefore not cited. In what ways can journals amplify marginalized voices? How can librarians and information centers enable their readers and researchers to discover and use rare journals? What is the role of publishing and hosting organizations in sustaining such journals?

This session will examine issues of equity, inclusion, and decolonization as levers in a discussion of mainstreaming marginalized journals. What could be some innovative ways of keeping such journals going? How can small journals of minority languages be profiled and made accessible? This session will explore these and other issues related to discoverability, access, and sustainability of journals from marginalized languages and communities. The session will be led by library leaders, researchers and journals publishing platforms who will address issues of inclusion and equity in the journal ecosystem.

- 14:00-14:30 Susan Murray, Executive Director - African Journals Online, Makhanda, South Africa: *Attaining global equity in Research publishing. A Pan-Africa Non-Profit Organization's perspective*
- 14:30-15:00 Joseph Torn Poch, Director, Library & Information Technologies Service - European Institute, Barcelona, Spain: *The Library Response to EUI Policies on Equality, Diversity, and Inclusiveness: A European Experience*
- 15:00-15:30 Coffee Break

- 15:30-16:00 Ismail Rashid, Professor of History - Vassar College, New York, USA: *Navigating the perils and opportunities of publishing or perishing: Reflections on mentoring rising African scholars*
- 16:00-16:30 Giannis Tsakonas, Director, Library & Information Center - University of Patras, Patras, Greece: *Big cultures and small languages: a new paradoxography in a shifting research system*
- 16:30-17:00 Discussion
- 18:15-20:45 Social Dinner, sponsored by EBSCO

Wednesday May 8th

- 8:30-9:00 Welcome coffee
- 9:00-9:20 Introduction by Charles Henry, President - CLIR
- 9:20-10:00 Keynote: Vishwas Satgar, Associate Professor - Wits University, Johannesburg, South Africa

Session 3

North and South Partnering for Academic Open Access Monographs

Coordinated by Julien Roche, LIBER President; University Librarian and Director of the Libraries, University Lille, France

Though progress has been achieved in the past years, the development of Open Access monographs is still lagging behind the large expansion of Open Access journals. Moreover, most of the initiatives so far have been limited to local and national levels, where international collaboration would be relevant to scale up efforts and expand successes. This session will present collaborative initiatives, followed by a panel discussion including all the speakers as well as a senior university librarian and former IFLA President.

- 10:00-10:30 Cécile Swiatek Cassafieres, LIBER board member; University Librarian - Université Paris Nanterre, Paris, France: *Open Access projects in Europe, from a general perspective to monographs and textbooks*

- 10:30-11:00 Lidia Uziel, Associate University Librarian for Research Resources and Scholarly Communication - University of California, Santa Barbara, USA: *The Open Book Collective: Sustainable Futures for Open Access Monographs*
- 11:00-11:30 Coffee Break
- 11:30-12:00 Bastien Miraucourt, Head of publications and Managing Editor – Africae Books (French research institutes in Africa), CNRS and DOAB, Bordeaux, France: *The shift of African studies towards open access, promises and paradoxes: recent experiences from France and East Africa*
- 12:00-12:30 Ros Pyne, Global Director - Research and Open Access, Bloomsbury Publishing, London, UK: *Enabling open access for African Studies monographs*
- 12:30-13:00 Panel Discussion with previous speakers and Ellen Tise, Senior Director, Library and Information Services - University of Stellenbosch, Stellenbosch, South Africa; President of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) from 2009 to 2011
- 13:00-14:00 Lunch
- 14:00-14:10 *tbd*
- 14:10-14:30 The Elsevier Foundation Early Career Research Librarians workshop report

Session 4

Empowering Narratives: Bridging Gaps in African Research, Knowledge Dissemination, and Cultural Preservation

Coordinated by Stephen Rhind-Tutt, President - Coherent Digital, Alexandria, USA; CLIR Board Member

In this series of talks, thought leaders delve deep into the evolution and challenges faced by Africa in the realms of research, publishing, and cultural preservation. We explore the intricate dynamics of research funding in Africa, advocating for self-reliance and the decolonization of African research paradigms. We showcase the triumphs and hurdles of an African online content aggregator, highlighting the importance of homegrown digital publishing. Finally, we explore how social, scientific, cultural and historical information from Africa and the Global South as a whole is at risk. Countless non-profit and government reports are disappearing and physical artifacts are being lost. We underscore the renewed urgency to safeguard and reimagine Africa's invaluable knowledge and culture. Together, these talks illuminate the path forward for Africa's academic, scientific and cultural resurgence in the global arena.

- 14:30-15:00 Toby Green, Publisher, Policy Commons; Director and Co-Founder of Coherent Digital LLC, Paris, France: *Publishing by Institutions and Organisations in the Global South: the challenges for librarians and users*
- 15:00-15:30 Rosalind Hattingh, Managing Director - Sabinet Online: *Scholarly Publishing in the Global South: a commercial view*
- 15:30-16:00 Coffee Break
- 16:00-16:30 Mpho Ngoepe, Associate Professor, Department of Information Science - University of South Africa (UNISA), Pretoria, South Africa: *"It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark," safeguarding and reimagining Africa's scientific and cultural information at risk*
- 16:30-17:00 Discussion
- 17:00-17:30 Closing remarks by Gracian Chimwaza, Executive Director – ITOCA; Executive Council Chair – Research4Life
- 17:30-19:00 Au revoir cocktail, sponsored by CLIR

Thursday May 9th

- 9:00-11:00 Research4Life Session (open event): *Global Knowledge Exchange*
- Research4Life is transforming from its origins as a research discovery portal for books and journals for LMICs (lower- and middle-income countries). Research4Life's Theory of Change drives for increased participation of researchers from LMICs in research communications, actively publishing in peer reviewed journals, including Open Access and fully represented across editorial roles in publications worldwide. Global knowledge exchange and collaboration (south-north-south) are critical to enriching future research quality and direction and in achieving the ambitions of the UN SDGs. Equally important is the pivot for R4L to be user-led, with direction and leadership from the librarian and researcher user communities we serve. These sessions set to tackle the key challenges we have identified in building knowledge exchange to support Goal 17 'Partnership for the Goals'.*
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