

**OPEN ACCESS AND DSpace@ScienceUofK IR TRAINING WEEK AT THE
FACULTY OF SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF KHARTOUM (Jul 24-30th, 2011):
A REPORT**

دورة تدريبية
لأعضاء هيئة التدريس و أمناء المكتبات
و طلاب الدراسات العليا

GrandIR

يقوم مشروع المستودع الرقمي بكلية العلوم/ جامعة الخرطوم دورة تدريبية
لأعضاء هيئة التدريس و أمناء المكتبات و طلاب الدراسات العليا بالقاعة
القديمة (OLT) بكلية العلوم يومي 27 و 28 يوليو تمام التاسعة صباحاً.

محتوي الدورة:

DAY 1

- Open Access basics
- Collecting U. of K. research output
- How to publish OA: direct and delegate submission
- OA mandates (departmental, institutional or wider) & other OA policies
- DSpace@ScienceUofK & the OASCIR project: history and objectives
- Authors and DSpace@ScienceUofK

DAY 2

- What can be filed into DSpace@ScienceUofK and how to do it
- Intellectual property & copyright issues
- Practical session: finding out the publisher copyright policy for several publications what are the author's chances?
- Practical session: depositing content into DSpace@ScienceUofK (workflow)
- DSpace@ScienceUofK statistics module: getting real-time usage info
- The impact of OA on research assessment

و هذا بمثابة دعوة للحضور.

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 <http://oascir.uofk.edu> يمكنك استخدام المستودع الرقمي بالدخول للموقع
لزيد من المعلومات عن هذا المشروع قم بزيارة المدونة الالكترونية
uofkoascir.blogspot.com/

This event is sponsored by an EIFL.net fund for OA advocacy campaign at U. of K.

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See also OASCIR Project blog: <http://uofkoascir.blogspot.com/>

Along the week from Jul 24th to 30th, a series of training courses and dissemination activities on Open Access and the [DSpace@ScienceUofK](#)¹ pilot Institutional Repository (IR) [were held](#) at the University of Khartoum (U of K) in the framework of the [eIFL.net-funded OASCIR Project](#) (Open Access Scientific Institutional Repository). OASCIR is a 10-month project aiming to promote awareness of Open Access-related issues among the U of K researchers and librarians. OASCIR started in March 2011 with the objective of setting up a DSpace-based pilot Institutional Repository (IR) for the Faculty of Science in the first place, then carrying out an Open Access advocacy campaign once the IR was running. Once the DSpace@ScienceUofK repository was released for the University of Khartoum IP address range on July 4th, **two training courses on Open Access and the IR management** were scheduled for the end of July, the first one mainly oriented to U of K librarians to be held on Jul 24-25th at the Electronic Library Computer Lab and [the second, more researcher-focused one](#), to be carried out on Jul 27-28th at the Faculty of Science Old Lecture Theatre (OLT).

The training courses were planned to have a **strong practical focus**, in order to: a) be able to train a team of librarians who can deal with the IR future management and b) to show researchers how they can directly upload their research works into the already available DSpace@ScienceUofK repository. The second day at both courses was therefore mainly devoted to show the practical aspects of working with DSpace@ScienceUofK for content ingest and system administration purposes, after a first session in which the basics of Open Access and OA repositories were introduced. The **list of topics** for both courses was very similar and is shown below:

- Introduction to Open Access
- Open Access repositories
- Advantages of having an Institutional Repository
- DSpace@ScienceUofK features
- Usage statistics in Institutional Repositories
- Populating DSpace@ScienceUofK: potential sources
- Practical training: uploading and editing contents
- Open Access policies

Sixteen U of K IT professionals attended the first DSpace@ScienceUofK course, most of them affiliated with the Faculty of Science. Representatives from other U of K Faculties such as Medicine, Arts or Agriculture attended this course as well, expressing their hope that a similar tool would soon be available at their Faculties too. Results from the evaluation questionnaires delivered at the end of the second session of this course showed attendees were not too aware of Open Access and its implications before having the course, that they found very interesting what they had the chance to learn and that they were willing to cooperate in the IR dissemination and future development.

¹ DSpace@ScienceUofK is presently only accesible from the University of Khartoum IP range. According to the Project planning, it will be released in Sep 2011 after some enhancements on its interface have been made and an increase in its contents has been achieved.

ID	E-mail	Last Name	First Name	Language
Select 29	mohdmahdi@hotmail.com	Abdelrahman	Mohammed E. S.	en
Select 20	bshrahmed51@gmail.com	Ahmed	Bashir	en
Select 1	malmazan.grandir@gmail.com	Almazan	Miguel	en
Select 28	embabiker@uofk	Babiker	Elsiddig M.	en
Select 10	makaremshabo@uofk.com	Bakhiet	Makarem Osman Elsayed	en
Select 11	baleelareem@yahoo.com	Baleela	Reem Mohammed Hassan	en
Select 3	raniabaleela@gmail.com	Baleela	Rania Mohammed Hassan	en
Select 2	pcastromartin@gmail.com	de Castro	Pablo	en
Select 21	hajaae@yahoo.com	Elbashir	Abdalla Ahmed	en
Select 17	mohamedyousifibrahim@yahoo.com	Ibrahim	Mohamed Yousif	en
Select 25	tarik2009h@hotmail.com	Ismail	Tarik	en
Select 19	hagirmababiker@gmail.com	Madani	Hagir Madani Babiker	en
Select 24	souadmirghani@yahoo.fr	Mirghani	Suad Ali	en
Select 22	mkhadijja@yahoo.com	Mohamed	Khadijja	en
Select 13	hibatoof@yahoo.com	Mohamedeen	Hiba Modathir	en
Select 8	marlano.navarro.c@gmail.com	Navarro	Mariano	en
Select 18	insaf_g@hotmail.com	Osman	Nada Mohamed Ibrahim	en
Select 16	mohammed2003w@hotmail.com	Osman	Mohamed Hassan	en
Select 23	haseebose@hotmail.com	Saad	Haseeba A.	en
Select 15	nwadrna@hotmail.com	Saeed	Yassir Mohammed	en
Select 12	sarakhider@hotmail.com	Saeed	Sara Abdalla Khidir	en

Email addresses from this 1st course attendees were collected along the first session in order to create DSpace@ScienceUofK accounts for them, so they could be doing some practical work on the IR along the second session. However, some technical problems regarding connectivity to the repository prevented individual work on the second day, so the practical session was actually a demonstration on how the different processes were carried out. Accounts were nevertheless available and the participants were encouraged to do some practical work by themselves after the course.

DSpace accounts were created as well for attendees to the second course, whose number was larger and reached 25 people, mainly researchers both from the University of Khartoum –all Faculty of Science Departments were represented in the audience– and other external institutions such as the Nile College or the Red Sea University. Attendees to this course were very participative and a good number of interesting questions were asked along the presentations, such as whether non published papers may be filed into the IR, how can the quality of research works submitted to the repository be assessed, what the procedure would be for the University of Khartoum [to sign the Berlin Declaration](#) and whether publishing a research paper into DSpace@ScienceUofK may be considered an alternative to traditional publishing.

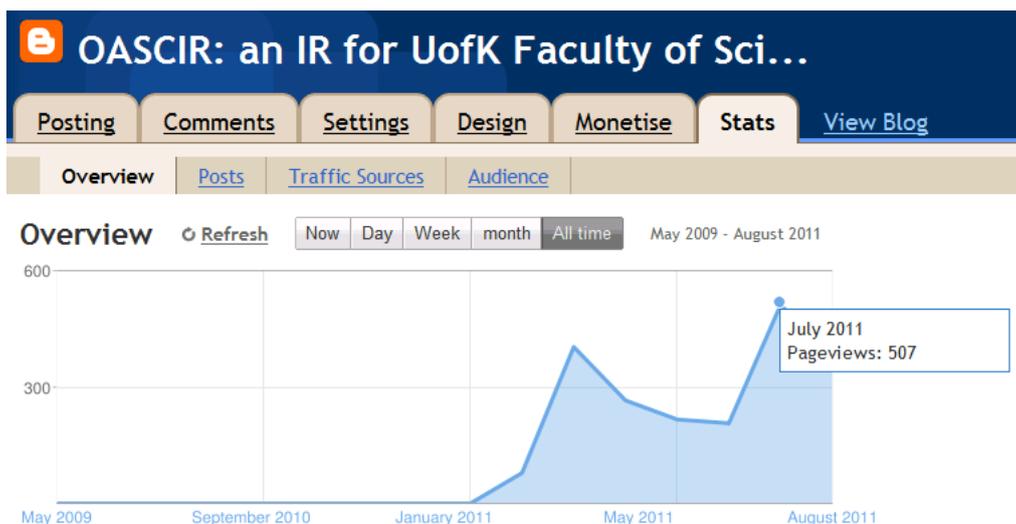
An overview was offered along this course on how the OASCIR Project managers would like it to develop: first the DSpace@ScienceUofK IR should grow and consolidate with contributions from Faculty of Science researchers. Once the model has been proved valuable for a Faculty, the repository should spread into other U of K faculties such as Medicine, Engineering, Mathematics, Agriculture or Arts, thus becoming a real Institutional Repository for the whole University along the process. Finally, as the availability of an IR shows a significant increase in the U of K research output visibility and impact, some other universities and research centres in Khartoum should become interested in Open Access availability of their own research results, this way starting to build a network of Open Access platforms following the [Accretion Model](#) mentioned in the Project blog that would make Sudanese high-quality research available to researchers worldwide.

Along the DSpace@ScienceUofK practical demonstrations for the second training course –which worked out significantly better than in the course previous edition– examples were shown for archiving of different kinds of research works, such as articles, conference papers or dissertations. Researchers were eager to provide examples of journal titles they publish with so that different [publisher copyright policies](#) could be checked – copyright issues being in fact one of the main aspects of the presentation– and some of them would even rush to their office later at the depositing demo in order to bring a printed copy of their work to be deposited into DSpace@ScienceUofK.

The presentations were later uploaded and are now [available](#) at the Faculty of Science Institutional Repository as well as filed at [GoogleDocs](#) for those who do not work from an University of Khartoum institutional IP address.

Besides the training activities, some **meetings** with University of Khartoum representatives and Faculty of Science prominent researchers were also held at the DSpace@ScienceUofK training week. These meetings were as important as the courses for securing the Project future. For instance Dr. Sumaia M. Abukashawa, U of K Deputy Vice Chancellor and a strong OASCIR supporter herself, [met](#) Rania Baleela and Pablo de Castro, OASCIR Project managers, for learning on the Project evolution and for discussing the possibility of U of K eventually signing the Berlin Declaration and becoming a BioMed Central Foundation Member in order to promote Open Access within the institution. U of K research assessment criteria were also discussed at this meeting, the OASCIR Project managers stressing the fact that there are already plenty of high impact factor Open Access journals published by PLoS or BioMed Central that may be worth taking into account for research evaluation purposes. Prof. Sami M. Sharif, U of K Academic Affairs Secretary, also a strong advocate of Open Access and open source software, later joined this meeting and agreed with the OASCIR Project managers on a series of initiatives to be jointly performed, such as collecting a list of e-resources already offered Open Access at the University of Khartoum or cooperating for trying to make U of K institutionally published journals available Open Access (an Open Journal System being presently implemented by U Sharif's Office with this purpose). Brief meetings were also held with Dr. Salah Bashir, Faculty of Sciences Dean, with Dr. Siddig Babiker, Head of the Department of Zoology, Dr. Abdelkarim Hassan, Deputy Dean Digital Library U of K and Dr. Arbab Ibrahim Arbab, member of the Physics Department and editor of the [Sudan Journal of Science](#), the Open Access Journal published by the Faculty of Science U of K. All of them showed their support to the new DSpace@ScienceUofK IR and proposed different actions for improving its impact on the scholarly community, such as publishing a brief notice on the DSpace@ScienceUofK training activities at the [University of Khartoum Bulletin](#).

A survey on the training courses was delivered to both course attendees in order to gather their impressions and collect their comments and suggestions. The –very positive– results of the survey have been later [published](#) at the OASCIR Project blog. Several posts were published as well along the training week in order to disseminate the activity and have as many U of K researchers attending the courses as it was possible. As a consequence of these dissemination efforts a reference to the OA advocacy campaign being held at the University of Khartoum was [published](#) at the eIFL.net OA blog, which resulted in turn in a great number of visits to the OASCIR Project blog from various countries – July becoming thus the month with the highest number of visits to the Project blog (see figure).



A fruitful **OASCIR Project meeting** was also held on Saturday July 30th –after an exciting [social event](#) was carried out on Friday– in order to plan future actions for the development of the DSpace@ScienceUofK repository. A good part of this meeting was devoted to setting the **guidelines for content gathering** for later uploading it into the Open Access repository. The U of K dissertation collection –PhDs and MScs– kept at the Sudan Library (which the Project managers had the chance to visit along the training week –see attached picture– and which a Johns Hopkins visitor researcher recently called ‘a gold mine’) were regarded as a particularly interesting institutional asset for Open Access disseminating purposes, since there’s no copyright issues attached to those documents produced at the University of Khartoum and since many of them bear a considerable research interest and have never been offered in any format other than the printed one. Plans were therefore traced for digitisation of the older U of K Faculty of Science-based dissertations (a compulsory electronic version of every dissertation must be submitted by the candidate since 2003) and their upload into DSpace@ScienceUofK, dividing the original PDF file into several ones (for instance by work chapters) in case the file resulting from scanning was too large to download from the repository on an average connection speed. The U of K institutional journals were also suggested as an interesting content to offer from the Institutional Repository, although since the full-text documents are already available at some University server, they might be just linked from the repository items instead of uploaded into it.



With regard to the researchers’ publications, several parallel strategies for content gathering were discussed: lists of publications could sometimes be retrieved from the [University staff CV webpages](#), and when these are not available requests should be made to researchers asking them to submit a list of their publications taken from their CVs. Those lists would be later analysed by the DSpace@ScienceUofK repository staff in order to establish whether the full-text versions were affected by any copyright restrictions. The result of this analysis would finally be submitted to the author along with instructions to



either self-archive the valid work versions (when available) or send them by email to the repository staff that would upload them into the IR. **Digitisation processes** should also be considered at this stage whenever there was no full-text version available or in case the publications were old enough or published by no longer existing or hardly traceable publishers (such as those based in the former Soviet Union). This strategy for content gathering was also previously explained at the second DSpace@ScienceUofK training course, which was attended by plenty of Faculty of Science researchers, so they could take the initiative themselves.

In order to collect the researchers' publication lists and to perform this copyright-oriented analysis, a **DSpace@ScienceUofK repository team** should be gradually established for carrying out the regular repository management tasks – which include as well document digitisation, description and upload. Some of the U of K Library members attending the first training course were considered as potential candidates for becoming members of the repository staff, by it was also agreed this would take some time to realise (and possibly require some help from U of K authorities along the way).

The best strategy for **spreading DSpace@ScienceUofK** repository into other U of K Faculties was also discussed at the Project meeting. The proposed approach was to first work on repository consolidation at the Faculty of Science and then taking on other Faculties working on closely related research areas, starting for instance with the U of K Faculty of Mathematics, which would presumably be quite Open Access friendly since Maths papers are regularly published OA by researchers worldwide. Regarding the timeline for the Project scope widening, it was agreed a good moment for checking the degree of consolidation of the Faculty of Science IR would be the time when the scheduled **end-of-project International Conference** was held at the University of Khartoum. This Conference was planned from the very beginning of the OASCIR Project as a way of disseminating its final results once a sufficiently long time had gone by since its release. The most suitable dates for this Conference to take place were also debated at the Project meeting on Saturday July 30th, and the conclusion was reached that it could ideally be held around mid-November 2011, with **Nov 14-15th** being proposed as tentative dates.

The end-of-project Conference will be aimed not just for researchers (but also for University administrators and authorities), not just for the Faculty of Science (but for all University of Khartoum Faculties interested in having the Project spread into them) and not just for the University of Khartoum (but for other Sudanese universities or research centres interested in the Open Access model), and the institutional signature of the Berlin Declaration by the University of Khartoum could be nicely scheduled to take place just a while before the Conference celebration in order to enable a wider dissemination of the event. The potential list of Conference guest speakers was discussed along the Project meeting, as well as the topics that should be included in the preliminary Conference programme and the designing of supporting material for announcing the event. Some of these supporting materials could be also previously used for regular DSpace@ScienceUofK dissemination activities, for instance among the U of K students (tomorrow's researchers), so work in this regard should start as soon as possible.

Some other ways for disseminating the OASCIR Project results were also discussed, such as writing this DSpace@ScienceUofK Training Week report and having sections thereof submitted to African newsletters dealing with research communication and Open Access, or the possibility of submitting an OASCIR presentation to the [Open Access Africa 2011 Conference](#), to be held in October 27-28 in Ghana. The project should be rather advanced by then and a fine project presentation on how to set up and develop an Institutional Repository could be delivered in case it was accepted by the Conference organisers.

Getting back to the immediate future, the OASCIR Project managers dealt with the issue of when to **release the DSpace@ScienceUofK Open Access repository**, access to which is currently restricted to the U of K range of IP addresses. It was agreed a number of enhancements were to be made on the repository prior to it becoming open, such as uploading a researcher user list to DSpace as to enable self-archiving, trying to develop an Arabic interface (at least) for the repository homepage, having a handle system installed and registering DSpace@ScienceUofK in the international repository directories such as [OpenDOAR](#) and [ROAR](#). Once those operations had been performed –starting with email address collection from Faculty of Science Departments– DSpace@ScienceUofK would be ready to be released worldwide. An (optimistic) estimation for the release date was made: **mid-September**. The document collection held in the repository should also have reached a critical mass by then, so that the statistics module to be installed on DSpace@ScienceUofK right after the repository release could yield some significant usage figures from the very beginning of its operation.

Conclusions from the DSpace@ScienceUofK training week were finally discussed:

- The event was an extraordinary chance to disseminate Open Access and the Institutional Repository among the University of Khartoum researchers and professionals, whose reactions were mainly of interest and support
- The large momentum built along the training week should try to be used to promote participation in the project by any interested stakeholder (either researchers, IT professionals or University authorities)
- Since the courses were attended by researchers and Library staff from outside the University of Khartoum, the training week was also a great opportunity to start building an **Open Access network** that might establish some coordinating guidelines in the future for further institutions interested in joining the starting² Open Access movement in Sudan.
- There are still lots of work to be faced in order for the OASCIR project to succeed, but the training week was a firm step in the right direction and allowed for planning what the next ones should be.

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² Meaning at an institutional level, since there two [Greenstone-based OA repositories](#) running in Sudan at the time the OASCIR Project started working (DSpace@ScienceUofK being the first Institutional Repository and specifically aiming to spread this research communication model to other Sudanese universities and research centres). Incidentally, the DSpace@ScienceUofK repository managers had the chance to meet **U. Kamal Salih** at the end of the second OA training course, a member of the team who created the Greenstone-based OA repository for the [Sali Library English Literature collection](#), thus contributing to spread the abovementioned national Open Access network in Sudan.