

OERs initiatives in Nigerian Universities: A Library Perspective

By

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OER Initiatives in Nigeria

The regulatory body of Nigerian Universities, the National Universities Commission (NUC) has been the driving force for the adoption of Open Educational Resources (OER) initiatives in Nigeria.

OER Initiatives in Nigeria

The Federal Ministry of Education through the NUC developed a National OER policy for Higher Education in Nigeria which was approved in 2018. Sixteen years after UNESCO introduced the idea of Open Education Resources (OER)

The National OER policy for Higher Education and advocacy workshops held at NUC served as an impetus for Universities to create a OER website accessible from their websites.

OER Initiatives in Nigeria and The Library

Many Nigerian Libraries have long before 2018 keyed into the OER initiative by:

- Deployment of Institutional Repository that host different categories of OERs
- facilitating access to OER resources created outside their institutions

OER and the Library

The motivating factors for many Nigerian Libraries keying into the OER initiatives:

- To address the high cost of information resources
- increases access to various format of information resources
- To increase the visibility of the scholarly works of their institutions
- To improve the webometric ranking of their institutions

OER and the Library

Reason most Nigerian Libraries *use* OER created by other institutions is to:

- introduce and create more awareness of OERs amongst faculty members and students.
- Keep faculty members updated with current teaching and learning materials

OER and the Library

OER in Nigerian Libraries have also helped address the following problem:



- shortage of teaching and learning materials
- lack of exposure faculty members to current research trends in their respective fields
- lack of access to teaching and learning materials 24/7
- inability of faculty members and students to access teaching and learning materials remotely



Open Educational Resources (OER) website of Federal University Lokoja

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Keynote Addresses

Repository

News Archives

Tutorial Kits



Availability and Visibility of OER

Long-term access and preservation of OER created in Nigeria is ensured by:

- The use of Institutional Repository systems such as Dspace and E-print for hosting OERs
- The use of Dspace to create metadata for the OER ensures its discovery and visibility

Availability and Visibility of OER

Library ensures the discoverable of OER created by others by our patrons through:

- Putting the relevant links on the University OER/ Library Website
- Some Libraries download and upload OERs materials on their Library E-book management system (e.g Calibre)

Availability and Visibility of OER

- ❖ Some OERs material are printed and put on the shelf and catalogue in the Library Management System
- Point members of the university community to OER websites during Information literacy skills classes or workshops

Relationship Between OER and Other Types of Educational Resources in the Library

- OER compliments other types of educational resources in our collection, hence there is no differences between the systems/platform used in managing OER and other Types of Educational Resources in the Library

Systems/Platforms used in managing OER and Other Educational Resources

- Dspace IR is use to host OERs and other Open Access resources
- Access to OERs created outside and within the institutions are facilitated via their University OER/Library websites
- Printed copies of OERs are included in Library management system such as Koha

Library Collection Budgets and OER

The Library Budget provide for:

- acquisition of computer hardware for Dspace IR for OER materials
- design and hosting of library website to facilitate access to OERs
- No library budgets use to support the creation of OERs

Challenges Face by Libraries in their Support for OER Initiatives in Nigeria

- ▶ National OER policy for Higher Education and advocacy workshops are not cascade to institutional and departmental level
- ▶ Lack of capacity for creating some OER materials such as courseware, video etc
- ▶ Very low level of participation of librarians and faculty members and other stakeholder in creating OER
- ▶ Poor ICT infrastructure for creating and dissemination of OER as well as its utilization

Way Forward

- ▶ Institutional support for OERs via senate, faculty, or departmental
- ▶ Library associations, and LIS education programs to engage with the OER movement
- ▶ Advocacy and sensitizing of stakeholders on benefits of OERs should be intensify
- ▶ Build and support capacity that facilitate creation, sharing and use of OERs
- ▶ Investment on ICT infrastructure for OER deployment and utilization

Thank you