

E-LIS (and Open Access) in South Africa

jennifer de beer

jenniferdebeer@gmail.com

E-LIS Editor South Africa

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E-LIS in South Africa



E-LIS in SA timeline [1]

- SA Editor as of March 2004
- Modest beginnings
 - Sent announcement type of e-mails to various mailing lists promoting use of E-LIS
 - Also sent/d weekly updates to the discussion list of the Library and Information Association of South Africa

E-LIS in SA timeline [2]

- Invited Chair of LIASA to submit their annual conference presentations
<http://www.liasa.org.za>
([Conference papers 2005](#))
- Invited talk at LIASA WCHELIG workshop in June 2005 “Getting published in LIS”
- Thus far 16 records; lots of enthusiasm but difficult to gauge buy-in (quantify downloads from SA??)

E-LIS across (E)MEA

- Invited LIS professionals to be Editors from
 - Lebanon ²
 - Cameroon
 - Egypt
 - Ivory Coast
 - Kenya ²
 - Malawi ²
 - Mozambique
 - Senegal ²
 - Uganda ¹
 - Zimbabwe ¹

Legend:

1 – Editor
Registered

2 – Invited but yet
to join officially

OA in Africa and South Africa



Critical issue for developing countries

- African research increasingly marginalised (Altbach & Tefera)
- Developing countries subject to knowledge imperialism (Arunachalam) [What I call 'knowledge aid' or 'knowledge dependence']
- Constrained south–north knowledge flow

OA in South Africa

- Policy
- OA journals
- OA self-archiving
(OAI compliant archives)
- Formation of SIVULILE group

OA in South Africa [policy]

- Policy endorsements
 - mostly at level of access to data, and
 - merely hint at need for Open Access
- Implementations of IRs / ETDs / OA journals have been disparate and uncoordinated
- Thus far no emphatic high-level endorsement of OA in SA

OA in South Africa [journals]

- As per the Directory of OA Journals (www.doaj.org)
- 20 ‘African’ journals (of African origin and/or deal with African themes)
- 4 of the 20 are South African
- 2 of the 4 are SAPSE–accredited *
 - South African Journal of Information Management
 - South African Journal of Animal Science

OA in South Africa [self-archiving]

- To date 5 OA (and OAI compliant) repositories in SA
 - RAU ETD repository
 - UCT CS Dept Research document repository
 - UP ETD repository
 - Rhodes University (ETD)
 - Stellenbosch University
 - arXiv mirror at Wits
- Non-OAI compliant (closed access) ETD repositories
 - Univ. of the Free State
 - UNISA

Taking OA forward in SA

- First OA conference in SA – July 2004
- E-mail list established for conference participants
 - Major concern with taking conference’s momentum forward
- “SIVULILE” group planning meeting Nov 2004 (Durban) and lots of e-mail conversations
- Members:
 - Susan Veldsman (South African Site Licensing Initiative)
 - Dale Peters (Digital Imaging South Africa)
 - Hussein Suleman (NDLTD; University of Cape Town)
 - Jennifer De Beer (University of Stellenbosch)

SIVULILE activities

- First IR training workshop (EIFL funded)
 - 11 to 13 May 2005
 - 20 participants from southern Africa
 - How to set up a Dspace archive
 - Also sessions on policy creation
- Greenstone Workshop (Dec 2005) – Ian Witten

Survey results of interest



outline

- survey objectives
- survey methodology
- study population
- survey content
- respondents
- results in brief
- typical respondent
- other findings
- discussion

survey objectives

- gauge
 - level of **awareness** and
 - **investment / activity**
 - in four new expressions of scholarly communication:
 - publication in Open Access scholarly journals;
 - distribution of research via institutional and/or disciplinary repositories;
 - scholars making their research available via personal web homepages;
 - making research available of postgraduates via ETDs

survey methodology

- self-administered questionnaire
- design: descriptive/observational & cross-sectional
- published via the WWW
- non-probability (a.k.a. convenience) sampling method
- three e-mails (advance notification + invitation to participate + reminder)
- 114 respondents over three weeks

Survey on Open Access scholarly communication in South Africa

[Exit this survey >](#)

2. Definition of Terms

For the purposes of this study, the following definitions are used:

pre-print

version of an article which has been submitted for official publication, yet not yet accepted for publication;

post-print

peer-reviewed version of article, accepted for publication and yet-to-be published, or already published;

e-print

electronic version of a pre-print or post-print;

institutional repositories

a central storage server for the management and dissemination of digital research (and sometimes teaching-) materials created by the institution and its research staff, excluding Masters theses and Doctoral dissertations;

ETDs

acronym for **E**lectronic **T**heses and **D**issertations, signifying a central storage server for the management and dissemination of postgraduate digital research materials created by the institution's Masters and Doctoral students;

Open Access journal

journal which makes research articles freely available online immediately upon publication, or makes articles available for free six months after the original publication date.

Click "Next" to get started with the survey. If you'd like to leave the survey at any time, just click "Exit this survey". Your answers will be saved.

[<< Prev](#) [Next >>](#)

study population: who

- South African Computer-, Library-, and Information science, and Information Systems professionals

This survey is directed at South African practitioners/researchers in the abovementioned disciplines, who are required to present and/or publish their research findings.

Typically, persons in the target audience will be situated in Academia, Research Units, the IT industry, and Library- and/or Information Services within South Africa.

study population: how

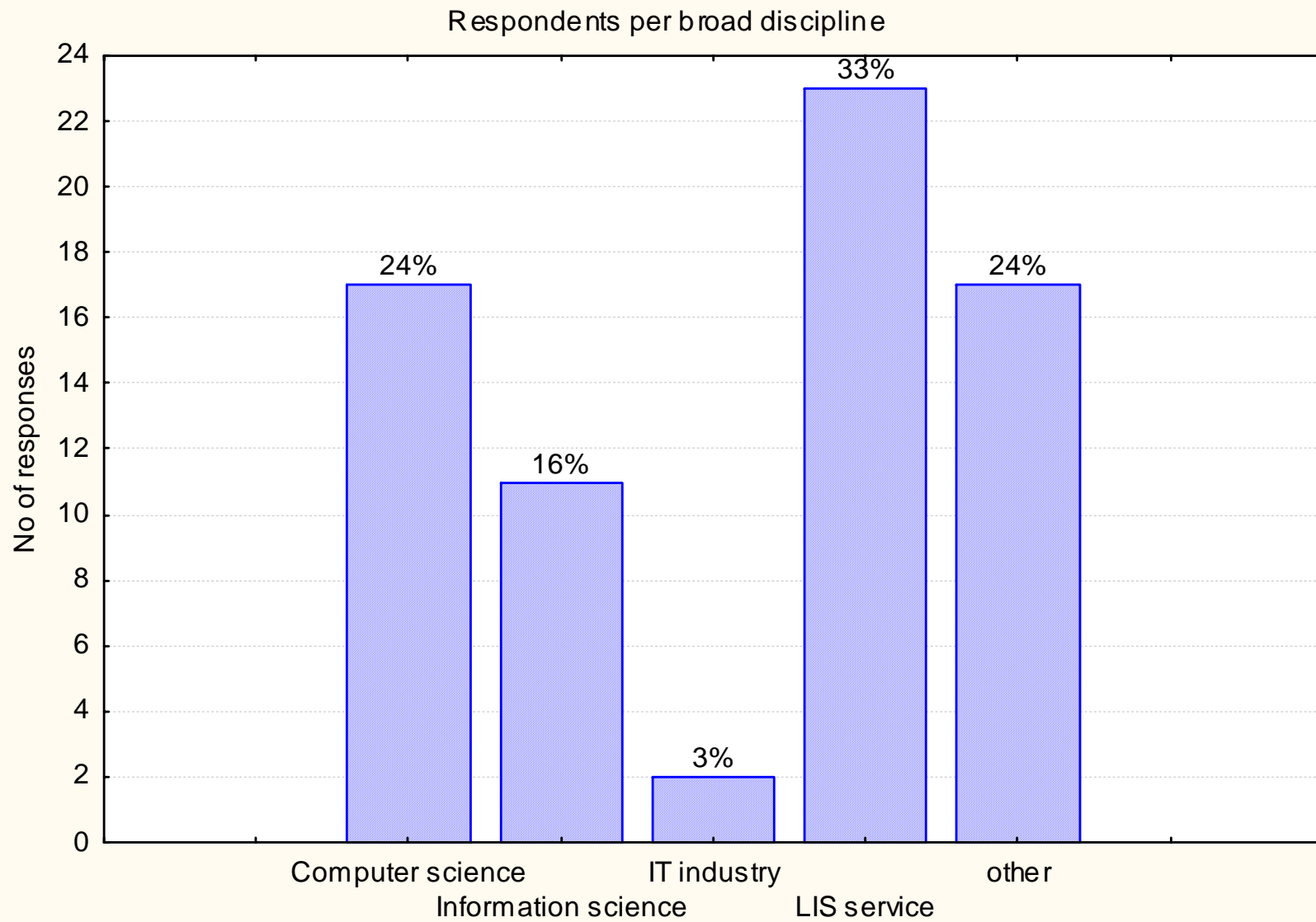
- Potential participants identified on an individual and group basis
- **Individuals**: Web homepages of academic departments
 - All Computer-, Library-, and Information Sciences, and Information Systems academic departments were identified
- **Groups**: subscribers to electronic discussion lists.
- **Library Directors** at higher education institutions within South Africa
- **IT Directors** at higher education institutions were targeted via a Tertiary Education Network (TENET)[\[1\]](#) mailing list. (The latter list however comprised of individuals other than just the IT Directors.)
- Other electronic **mailing lists** also identified for broad disciplines
 - LIASAonline (Library and Information Association of South Africa)
 - SABINEWS (South African library vendor)
 - SAICSIT (South African Institute for Computer Scientists and Information Technologists)
 - CSSA (Computer Society of South Africa)
- presenters for the 2004 annual SACLA (South African Computer Lecturers Association) conference

survey content

- 35 questions + declaration
- 10 sections
 - introduction
 - definition of terms
 - knowledge about OA initiatives (2 qstns)
 - electronic scholarship (15 qstns)
 - institutional electronic archives (5 qstns)
 - degree of involvement in journal publication (2 qstns)
 - use of others' scholarly output (4 qstns)
 - demographic information (7 qstns)
 - declaration (required)
 - thanks for participation

respondents per broad discipline

- majority of survey respondents were from:
 - Library– and Information services (33%);
 - the Computer Sciences and Information Systems disciplines (24%);
 - and Other (e.g. Non–governmental organizations which research ICT issues, and / or Information Technology units within Libraries) (24%).
- full respondent profile indicated in Fig.1 below.



Q30 recoded: N = 70

Q30 recoded

Fig. 1 – Respondents per broad discipline

'Other' respondents

- educational technology unit
- education oriented NGO
- professor in a science faculty
- professor in engineering
- an im dept at a chemical engineering firm
- geography and environmental management
- professor at a graduate business school who serves on the senate library committee
- NGO conducting technology research

results in brief

- It is shown that notional knowledge about and awareness of Open Access predominated
- that respondents have favourable attitudes to Open Access
- but that SAPSE accreditation constrained their publishing in Open Access journals.
- Furthermore, it was shown that researchers in this study publish in order to share their research results with peers and are not primarily motivated by the SAPSE incentive of funding linked to publication rate.

‘typical’ respondent

- used e-mail daily
- Used departmental Web site – teaching material
- Used e-mail to disseminate his/her research prior to formal publication
- In favour of Open Access journals,
- Produced many working papers and conference papers, with post-prints constituting a percentage of research output, a subset of which was SAPSE accredited.
- He/she published in order to inform peers
- Chose the journal in order to obtain prestige and funding
- Believed research institutions should promulgate and fund Open Access initiatives
- Strongly in favour of publishers permitting self-archiving
- He/she ceded copyright reluctantly
- Prone to not discussing copyright when submitting work for publication.
- Would support Open Access journals if they were listed as SAPSE accredited.

other findings

- who should manage these archives (IRs / ETDs) (N=72) (percent total = 100%)
 - 53% : the central library
 - 26% : pre-existing central structure
 - 15% : purpose-built central structure
 - 6% : a structure with connections to my faculty
- who should promulgate and find funding for OA (N=79) (percent total: >100%)
 - 75% : research institutions
 - 63% : governments
 - 61% : academic departments
 - 56% : professional associations / societies
 - 42% : funding agencies

discussion (1)

- large number of responses from LIS services: keen awareness of issues
- percentage of respondents from across the research disciplines indicates (notional/profound) awareness (at most) and interest (at least)
- make postprints available via OA journals(?)
- levels of activity and investment in Open Access methods of information dissemination?

discussion (2)

- though 26% of respondents (N=78) reported making their research results available via personal or departmental web pages (secondary to e-mail then),
- significant that the more 'formal' means of doing so such as Institutional Repositories (9%) and Discipline/subject archives (1%) have not found a greater level of investment.

thank you

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