

IASSIST REGIONAL REPORT: AFRICA

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Lynn Woolfrey

African Open Data Initiatives

Ghana

The University of the Cape Coast in Ghana established a data centre in 2013, to make Ghanaian data more widely available to local researchers. The University of Cape Town in South Africa and the University of Michigan in the US are working with University of Cape Coast staff to support data curation best practice at the new centre, with funding from University of Michigan's African Social Research Initiative.

Regional

Central Microdata Catalogue for Discovery of African data

The World Bank's microdata catalog continues to be the only reliable discovery tool for African microdata. More African data was listed during this period and more data from African countries place in the public domain.

ADP Open Data Projects

The Accelerated Data Program is an OECD project to make African government data more accessible. This project works to install data dissemination software with government data producers such as ministries and statistics offices. Currently data is available from statistics offices in several countries which are using this platform. These include Ghana, Kenya, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, and Tunisia.

Data Curation Training Events

Botswana

A [data management workshop](#) took place at the University of Botswana in Gaborone in February 2014 to train data managers from Statistics Botswana. Training was given by IASSIST member Lynn Woolfrey and staff from DataFirst at the University of Cape Town, South Africa. The workshop was run under the auspices of the OECD's [Accelerated Data Program](#). Staff from the statistics office learned how to prepare data for dissemination, including the creation of metadata to assist data users.

Lesotho

Data managers at the government Statistics Office in Maseru, Lesotho, underwent [data management training](#) in November 2013. The training was given by IASSIST member Lynn Woolfrey and a consultant working for the OECD's Accelerated Data Program (ADP). 20 participants from the Lesotho Bureau of Statistics were trained in how to curate and disseminate their data products. The

project aims to better curation of data produced by African governments, to improve policymaking in the region

Malawi

Government employees working with data in Malawian Ministries and the University of Malawi participated in [data management training](#) at the University of Malawi in September 2013. These included staff from Ministries of Agriculture, Education, Energy, Health, Trade, and Justice. Training was undertaken by ADP consultants.

Mozambique

In September 2013 data managers at the Mozambican statistics office, the Instituto Nacional de Estatística (INE) in Maputo took part in a [data management workshop](#) organised by the Accelerated Data Program. Various government data producing agencies are now sharing a common data dissemination portal under the country's current national statistical system.

Rwanda

A data management workshop was held in Huye, Rwanda, in February 2014. The workshop, organised by the Accelerated Data Program (ADP) of the OECD, trained data managers from the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR). IASSIST member, Lynn Woolfrey provided training, assisted by a consultant from Ethiopia, Biniyam Tadesse Awoke. The Rwandan government makes country data available on their website and is actively working to upgrade the data skills of their statistics office staff.



Training government data managers in Rwanda

Zambia

Data curators from government Ministries and the Statistics Office in Zambia received data management training at a workshop in Lusaka in August and September 2013. The workshop was co-

facilitated by ADP staff and a trainer sent from the Statistics Office in Ethiopia to promote collaboration between African governments in data management.

Regional

Two regional data management training workshops were held by the OECD's Accelerated Data Program (ADP) in Tunis, Tunisia in June and December 2013. The workshops were aimed at upgrading the training skills and knowledge of data management trainers from several African countries, including Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Rwanda, South Africa, and Swaziland, Tanzania, The Gambia, Uganda, and Zambia. Lynn Woolfrey of IASSIST attended the December workshop as a regional trainer and is involved in editing of training documentation for the project.

Research Data Management Developments

The University of Cape Town in South Africa has been engaged Research Data Management policymaking in 2013-2014, with IASSIST member Lynn Woolfrey and a team from the University Library undertaking research in this area. The undertook a University data needs survey and a scoping study of policies of other Universities completed a report and draft policy document which will be built on by Stakeholders at the University to form final policy for managing research data into the future.

Support for African Data Users

South Africa

A data users' conference was held at the University of Stellenbosch in Stellenbosch, South Africa, in July 2013. At the conference data users presented on their use of national data in their work. IASSIST member Lynn Woolfrey gave a presentation on the data services her university provides to researchers.

Data Conferences and Meetings

South Africa

The [South African National Committee on Data for Science and Technology](#) (CODATA) had several meetings during the period under review. CODATA is a Committee of the International Council for Science (ICSU), which works to improve the quality of science and technology data. CODATA South Africa is based at the country's National Research Foundation. IASSIST's Lynn Woolfrey was elected to the CODATA Committee for 2014.

Regional

The Ethiopia-based African Group for Statistical Data Management (AGSDaM) held a meeting on "Africa and the Data revolution" in Johannesburg, South Africa, in December 2013. The meeting discussed the post 2015 development agenda around the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which has called for a data revolution to support the achievement of the MDGs. These were

examined in relation to data work being undertaken by the Group to support better data curation at African National Statistics Offices. Attendees represented nine African countries, including Ethiopia, Kenya, Liberia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, and Uganda.

In February 2014 the African Development Bank [launched their data portal](#) the *Africa Information Highway* in Pretoria, South Africa. The portal was developed by the African Development Bank's Statistics Department and provides aggregated data on African countries. The launch was attended by researchers, government officials, and representatives of private sector agencies, and development partners, as well as representatives from the media.

[5th African Conference for Digital Scholarship and Curation](#) was held in Durban, South Africa, in June 2013. The Conference brought together data experts from African countries under the theme of *Research data in the advance of education, research, and innovation*. IASSIST's Lynn Woolfrey gave a presentation on data curation best practice at a post-conference workshop organised by South Africa's [Network of Data and Information Curation Communities](#) (NeDiCC).

The annual [eResearch Africa Conference](#) was held in Cape Town, South Africa in October 2013. Under the banner *ICT Enabling Research* presenters from Australia, the UK, and African countries discussed eResearch projects and brain-stormed future e-Research strategies. IASSIST member Lynn Woolfrey presented research undertaken on [data accessibility for research on Africa](#).



Delegates at the 5th Africa for Digital Scholarship and Curation