



# ETD 2024

## 27<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Electronic Theses and Dissertations

*"Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Visibility at a Global Scale"*

**November 4-6, 2024**  
**Livingstone · Zambia**

North America

US

Canada

South America

Brazil

Colombia

Chile

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E.

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Asia

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Sing.

Taiwan

Thail.

Jap.

Australia and New Zealand

Australia

New Zeal.

Africa

South Africa

Ghana

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## 27th International Symposium on Electronic Theses and Dissertations

The 27th International Symposium on Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD 2024) aims to bring together global leaders and researchers working in the broad areas of digital libraries, institutional repositories scholarly research and electronic theses and dissertations. The theme of ETD 2024 is "ETD Visibility at a Global Scale", and will explore innovative approaches that make use of Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs), including the use of modern-day Artificial Intelligence techniques such as Large Language Models and exploration of advances that will result in increased visibility of ETDs at a Global Scale.

Thank you so very much for coming to Livingstone Zambia to participate in the ETD 2024 conference events. We sincerely hope you enjoy the conference and your short stay in Livingstone, and, more importantly have productive and worthwhile discussions and meet new people!

Zikomo Kwambili!

Best Wishes  
Lighton Phiri (Chair)

## **Local Conference Organizing committee**

Lighton Phiri, UNZA	Denny Nsokolo, HEA	Francina Makondo, UNZA
Phyela Mbewe, UNZA	Thabiso Mwiinga, UNZA	Kaoma Daka, UNZA
Matildah Muchinga, LAMU	Stein Mkandawire, ZAMREN	Buumba Dubeka, ZCAS
Adrian Chisale, UNZA	Dokwe Tembo, ZCAS	Cecilia Kasonde, KNU
Habeeazu Mulunda, UNZA	Francis Kawesha, HEA	Fabian Kakana, UNZA
Brian Munkondya, MU	Elijah Chileshe, UNZA	Mpande Ntumbo, ZAMREN

## **Programme committee**

Ana Pavani	Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro
Charles Greenberg	NDLTD
Edward Fox	Virginia Tech
Gabriela Mejias	DataCite
Hussein Suleman	University of Cape Town
Iryna Kuchma	EIFL
Jian Wu	Old Dominion University
Joachim Schöpfel	University of Lille
Lazarus Matizirofa	University of the Witwatersrand
Lighton Phiri	University of Zambia
Maïté Roux	ABES
Mirjana Brkovic	University of Novi Sad
Nabi Hasan	Indian Institute of Technology Delhi
Ramesh Gaur	Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts
Shantashree Sengupta	P.E.S Modern College of Arts Science and Commerce
Tainá Batista De Assis	Brazilian Institute of Information in Science and Technology
William Ingram	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

# Partner Institutions and Sponsors

The ETD 2024 conference was organised by the Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (NDLTD) and, additionally hosted by The University of Zambia (UNZA) and co-hosted by The Higher Education Authority (HEA) of Zambia and Zambia Research and Education Network (ZAMREN).

## Gold, Silver and Gold Sponsors



## Partner Institutions/Organisations



# Timetable

## Day 1. Monday, November 4, 2024

8:30–9:00		<b>Registration</b>	
08:30–10:00	CT	<b>Charles Greenberg, Hussein Suleman, Lighton Phiri</b> NDLTD	Workshop 1. ETDs 101: No Experience Required!
08:30–10:00	CT	<b>Lombe Tembo</b> ORCID	Workshop 2. Leveraging ORCID's Global Participation Program
10:00–10:15		<b>Tea/Coffee</b>	
10:15–13:00	CT	<b>Charles Greenberg, Hussein Suleman, Lighton Phiri</b> NDLTD	Workshop 1. ETDs 101: No Experience Required!
10:15–13:00	CT	<b>Lombe Tembo</b> ORCID	Workshop 2. Leveraging ORCID's Global Participation Program
13:00–14:00		<b>Lunch</b>	
14:00–16:00	CT	<b>Gabriela Mejias, Olatunbosun Obileye</b> DataCite	Workshop 3. DataCite Connect
14:00–16:00	CT	<b>Yinlin Chen, Bill Ingram, Ed Fox</b> Virginia Tech	Workshop 4. Globalizing Knowledge
16:00–16:15		<b>Tea/Coffee</b>	
16:15–18:00	CT	<b>Gabriela Mejias, Olatunbosun Obileye</b> DataCite	Workshop 3. DataCite Connect
16:15–18:00	CT	<b>Yinlin Chen, Bill Ingram, Ed Fox</b> Virginia Tech	Workshop 4. Globalizing Knowledge
18:15–20:00		<b>NDLTD Board of Directors Meeting</b>	
18:00–20:00		<b>University of Zambia Ranking Committee Meeting</b>	

## Day 2. Tuesday, November 5, 2024

07:30–18:00		<b>Registration</b>	
08:30–09:45		<b>Openning Ceremony</b>	
		<b>Chair:</b> Habeenzu Mulunda	
		<b>Venue:</b> Convention Centre	
08:30–08:35		<b>National Anthem</b>	
08:35–08:40		<b>Prayer</b>	
08:40–08:50	IS	<b>Lighton Phiri</b> Chair, ETD 2024	Welcome Remarks
08:50–09:00	IS	<b>Edward A. Fox</b> Executive Director, NDLTD	Opening Remarks
09:00–09:10	IS	<b>Stein Mkandawire</b> CEO, Zambia Research Education Network	Opening Remarks
09:10–09:20	IS	<b>Trywell Kalusopa</b> DVC of Research and Innovation, University of Zambia	Opening Remarks
09:20–09:30	IS	<b>Kazhila C. Chinsembu</b> Director General, Higher Education Authority	Opening Remarks
09:30–09:50	IS	<b>Minister of Education</b> Ministry of Education	Welcome Speech
09:50–11:00	KL	<b>Hussein Suleman</b> University of Cape Town	TBA
11:00–11:30		<b>Tea/Coffee</b>	
11:30–11:45	IT	<b>Sylvia Kgorane</b> ProQuest, a Part of Clarivate	Sponsor Talk
11:45–11:55	IT	<b>Deane Kearns</b> EBSCO Information Services	Sponsor Talk
12:00–13:00		<b>Session 1A. Infrastructure and Technologies</b>	
		<b>Chair:</b> Charles Greenberg	
		<b>Venue:</b> Convention Centre	

12:00–12:20	CT	<b>Vivek Ranjan</b> INFLIBNET	Landscape of Open Access Repositories with Special Reference to Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD) across SAARC and BRICS Nations: A Comparative Analysis
12:20–12:40	CT	<b>Zillur Rahman</b> Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology	Designing a plan for sharing ETD among the University Libraries in Bangladesh
12:40–12:60	CT	<b>Kamani Perera</b> Chartered Institute of Personnel Management	Implementing Persistent Identifier Infrastructure for Effective Management of ETD Repositories: A Case Study from Chartered Institute of Personnel Management, Sri Lanka
12:00–13:00	<b>Session 1B. Policies and Practices</b>		
	<b>Chair: Gabriela Mejias</b>		
	<b>Venue: Convention Centre</b>		
12:00–12:20	CT	<b>Shahzeb Hassan</b> Akal University	Future-Proofing Research by Long-term ETD Preservation: Challenges and Opportunities
12:20–12:40	CT	<b>Jive Lubbungu</b> Kwame Nkrumah University	E-Theses and Dissertations in Zambia: A Case Study of Two Universities in Kabwe
12:40–12:60	CT	<b>Kamani Perera</b> Chartered Institute of Personnel Management	Nurturing Advanced Research Culture among Medical Practitioners through ETDs: A case study from University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka
13:00–14:00	<b>Lunch</b>		
14:00–15:30	<b>Session 2A. Impact and Utilisation</b>		
	<b>Chair: Olatunbosun Obileye</b>		
	<b>Venue: Convention Centre</b>		
14:00–14:20	CT	<b>Xxxxx</b> XXXXXX	Characterization of Scientific Production on Electronic Theses and Dissertations Based on a Bibliometric Analysis
14:20–14:40	CT	<b>Xxxxx</b> XXXXXX	Extracting and Registering References to Improve Scholarly Impact of ETDs

14:40–15:00	CT	<b>Xxxxx</b> XXXXXX	International Visibility of ETDs in Portuguese and in English on a Brazilian Repository
15:00–15:20	CT	<b>Xxxxx</b> XXXXXX	Do More Complete Dissertations' Metadata Get More Engagement?
14:00–15:30	<b>Session 2B. ETDs in Developing Countries</b>		
	<b>Chair: Hussein Suleman</b>		
	<b>Venue: Convention Centre</b>		
14:00–14:20	CT	<b>Xxxxx</b> XXXXXX	Improving the Mkulima Repository Content: Utilizing Theses, Dissertations, and LLMs for Agricultural Knowledge Dissemination in Kiswahili
14:20–14:40	CT	<b>Xxxxx</b> XXXXXX	The Changing Landscape in Research Data Management in Kenya's Universities: An Analysis of Development and Implementation
14:40–15:00	CT	<b>Xxxxx</b> XXXXXX	Empowering HRM Professionals: Advancing Research Culture with ETDs in The Chartered Institute of Personnel Management (CIPM), Sri Lanka
15:00–15:20	CT	<b>Xxxxx</b> XXXXXX	Unlocking the Potential of ETDs: Implementation Novel ETD Repository in Chartered Institute of Personnel Management in Sri Lanka
15:30–15:45	<b>Tea/Coffee</b>		
15:45–17:00	<b>Session 3A. Infrastructure and Technologies</b>		
	<b>Chair: Kaoma Daka</b>		
	<b>Venue: Convention Centre</b>		
15:45–16:05	CT	<b>Xxxxx</b> XXXXXX	A Pre-Processing Pipeline for Improved ETD Metadata Quality in Downstream Services
16:05–16:25	CT	<b>Xxxxx</b> XXXXXX	Seamless Integration of Koha and DSpace for Enhanced Management of Theses and Dissertations in Hybrid Environment: a case of University of Zambia Library
15:45–17:00	<b>Session 3B. ETDs in Developing Countries</b>		
	<b>Chair: Fabian Kakana</b>		

Venue: Convention Centre			
15:45–16:05	CT	<b>Mpundu Chilonga</b> Kwame Nkruma University	Examining the Cultural and Institutional Factors Impacting ETD Visibility in Zambia: Policy and Practice Implications
16:05–16:25	CT	<b>Lamia Salsabil</b> Old Dominion University	ETD MS v2.0: A New Schema Draft for Electronic Theses and Dissertations
19:00–22:00	<b>Mukuni BOMA Cultural Experience Welcome Reception</b>		

## Day 3. Wednesday, November 6, 2024

07:30–18:00		<b>Registration</b>	
08:30–09:30		<b>Session 4A. Invited Talks: ETD Initiatives in Zambia</b>	
		<b>Chair: Denny Nsokolo</b>	
		<b>Venue: Convention Centre</b>	
08:30–08:40	IT	<b>Benaia Akombwa</b> University of Zambia	Scholarly Research Infrastructure
08:45–08:55	IT	<b>Zachary Zulu</b> University of Zambia	University of Zambia Institutional Repository
09:00–09:10	IT	<b>Clement Sinyangwe</b> Chalimbana University	Chalimbana University Institutional Repository
09:15–09:25	IT	<b>Buumba Dubeka and Dokowe Tembo</b> ZCAS University	ZCAS University Institutional Repository
09:30–09:40	IT	<b>Mpundu Chilonga and Cecilia Kasonde</b> Kwame Nkruma University	Kwame Nkruma University Institutional Repository
09:45–09:55	IT	<b>Eness Chitumbo and Mosebjadi Petje</b> University of Zambia and Times Higher Education	University Ranking
10:00–11:00	<b>Session 5A. Panel Discussion</b>		
	<b>Chair: Dokowe Tembo</b>		
	<b>Venue: Convention Centre</b>		

10:00–11:00	IT	<b>How do we set up Successful ETD Projects in Zambia?</b> Moderator: Hussein Suleman	Participants: Gabriela Mejias (DataCite) · Manoj Kumar (INFLIBNET) · Lighton Phiri (UNZA) · Zachary Zulu (UNZA)
11:00–11:30		<b>Session 6A. Poster/Demo Session: Minute Madness</b> <b>Chair: Lombe Tembo</b> <b>Venue: Convention Centre</b>	
11:00–11:03	CT	<b>Kamani Perera</b> Chartered Institute of Personnel Management	Enhancing Access to Scholarly Knowledge: Strategies for Promoting Open Access ETDs in Sri Lanka
11:03–11:04	CT	<b>Okhakhu O. David</b> Lead City University	Enhancing Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Visibility: A Focus on Institutional Repository Platforms and Inherent Challenges in the Nigerian Context
11:04–11:06	CT	<b>Xxxxx Xxxxx</b> XXXXXX	Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx
11:06–11:08	CT	<b>Xxxxx Xxxxx</b> XXXXXX	Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx
11:08–11:10	CT	<b>Xxxxx Xxxxx</b> XXXXXX	Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx
11:10–11:12	CT	<b>Xxxxx Xxxxx</b> XXXXXX	Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx
11:12–11:14	CT	<b>Xxxxx Xxxxx</b> XXXXXX	Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx
11:14–11:16	CT	<b>Xxxxx Xxxxx</b> XXXXXX	Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx
11:16–11:18	CT	<b>Xxxxx Xxxxx</b> XXXXXX	Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx
11:18–11:20	CT	<b>Xxxxx Xxxxx</b> XXXXXX	Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx Xxxxx

11:20–11:22	CT	<b>Xxxxxx Xxxxxx</b> XXXXXX	Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx
11:22–11:24	CT	<b>Xxxxxx Xxxxxx</b> XXXXXX	Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx
11:24–11:26	CT	<b>Xxxxxx Xxxxxx</b> XXXXXX	Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx
11:26–11:28	CT	<b>Xxxxxx Xxxxxx</b> XXXXXX	Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx
11:28–11:30	CT	<b>Xxxxxx Xxxxxx</b> XXXXXX	Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx
11:30–11:32	CT	<b>Xxxxxx Xxxxxx</b> XXXXXX	Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx Xxxxxx
11:45–12:30		<b>Tea/Coffee</b>	
11:45–12:30		<b>Session 7A. Poster Session with Tea/Coffee</b>	
		Chair: Thabiso Mwiinga	
		Venue: Convention Centre	
12:30–13:00		<b>Closing Ceremony</b>	
		Chair: Buumba Dubeka	
		Venue: Convention Centre	
12:30–12:45	IT	<b>Lighton Phiri</b> Chair - ETD 2024	Closing Remarks
12:45–13:00	IT	<b>John Hagen</b> Executive Director - USETDA	ETD 2025 Presentation
13:00–14:00		<b>Lunch</b>	
14:00–15:00		<b>Mukuni Village Tour</b>	
14:00–15:00		<b>Victoria Falls Tour</b>	

# List of Abstracts

## Workshops

### ETDs 101: No Experience Required!

**Charles Greenberg<sup>1</sup>, Hussein Suleman<sup>1,2</sup>, Lighton Phiri<sup>1,3</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations, United States

<sup>2</sup> University of Cape Town, South Africa

<sup>3</sup> University of Zambia, Zambia

Many universities do not yet participate in the global network of digitized student theses or dissertations. The Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (NDLTD) wants to help universities to get started by sharing experiences of those that started ETD programs from nothing. Among the topics to be covered are: (i) Lifecycle Management of ETDs; (ii) Institutional Partnerships; (iii) Technology–Institutional repositories and OAI-PMH; (iv) Intellectual property issues; (v) Building an institutional consensus and (vi) Regional, National, and International support.

Please bring questions for the NDLTD Board members and paper presenters.

# DataCite Connect: Global visibility for your ETDs and beyond with PIDs

**Gabriela Mejias<sup>1</sup>, Olatunbosun Obileye<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> DataCite, Germany

PIDs and their associated metadata can be considered the building blocks of research infrastructure (Meadows et al., 2019). In addition, PIDs play a central role in the Open Science framework as they can increase transparency and recognition in research, and facilitate integration and interoperability, as well as making research FAIR (Wilkinson et al. 2016).

This half day workshop will explore how Persistent Identifiers (PIDs), particularly Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs), can significantly boost the global visibility of Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) and other research outputs. We'll cover the basics of PIDs, showing how DOIs improve visibility and discoverability for academic work. Through case studies, you'll see real-world examples of research organizations that have successfully integrated PIDs into their ETD repositories and other workflows. The session culminates in a breakout discussion to share best practices and explore implementation strategies. This workshop offers valuable insights for enhancing the visibility of your research through DataCite's PIDs, providing a unique opportunity to connect with the broader research community. Proposed activities:

- (20 min) Welcome and Ice breaker activity
- (30 min) Introduction to Persistent Identifiers (PIDs) and how they support open research
- (30 min) Discover the role of Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) in making ETDs more visible and discoverable on a global scale.
- (30 min) Improving ETD and other research workflows with PIDs.
- (20 min) Coffee break
- (40 min) Case studies featuring invited guest speakers from research organizations implementing PIDs in their ETDs, research data repositories (and other!) workflows
- (50 min) Breakout session to discuss best practices and implementation workflows
- (10 min) Adjourn

Details of similar previous workshops:

<https://datacite.org/event/datacite-connect-gothenburg-dataciteconnect23/>

<https://datacite.org/event/datacite-connect-buenos-aires-dataciteconnect23/> ETD Open Science: Maximizing the Discoverability and Impact through Persistent Identifiers (PIDs) <https://etd2023.inflibnet.ac.in/programme.php>

Facilitators: Gabriela Mejias, Bosun Obileye (DataCite). Guest speakers from research institutions will be confirmed upon workshop acceptance notification.

# **Globalizing Knowledge: Leveraging Large Language Models to Enhance Accessibility of ETDs**

**Yinlin Chen<sup>1</sup>, William A Ingram<sup>1,2</sup>, Edward A Fox<sup>1,3</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Virginia Tech, United States

<sup>2</sup> Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations, United States

Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) encapsulate significant research findings and innovative ideas but often have limited visibility and accessibility, particularly in regions and disciplines with restricted digital reach. This workshop introduces an LLM-based application using a Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) architectural approach to address these challenges. By utilizing LLMs to translate and standardize ETD metadata and content into a user's native language, a unified vector database is established as a knowledge source for retrieving relevant information. This information is then supplied to the LLMs to generate comprehensive responses, enhancing searchability tailored to local or remote ETD collections.

This approach improves the indexing and discoverability of ETDs and ensures accessibility across linguistic boundaries. During the workshop, we will present the details of this system's components, illustrating the program workflow and the interaction dynamics between the query, retrieval, and response generation phases. Participants will learn how to integrate these technologies into their digital library systems and repositories, adapting them to various institutional needs to enhance their ETD collections' global visibility and utility.

# **Leveraging ORCID's Global Participation Program and Regional Consortium Approach to enhance Global ETD discoverability and reuse**

**Lombe Tembo<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> ORCID, Zambia

This workshop proposal aims to explore strategies for leveraging ORCID and Persistent Identifiers (PIDs) to enhance the discoverability and reusability of Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) on a global scale. ETDs represent a vital component of scholarly communication, providing valuable insights and contributions to research across various disciplines. However, their full potential often remains untapped due to challenges related to visibility, accessibility, and interoperability.

ORCID, providing an open registry and a unique identifier for researchers, offers a transformative solution to address these challenges by placing researchers at the center of scholarly communication. With over 6000 connected systems worldwide, ORCID provides a robust infrastructure to facilitate trusted data exchange through integrations with global scholarly systems and indexes. By adopting ORCID in ETD repositories, institutions can enhance the quality of data associated with ETDs, improve interoperability with other scholarly systems, and increase visibility and reuse on a global scale.

In addition to ORCID, other Persistent Identifiers (PIDs) play a crucial role in enhancing the discoverability of ETDs by providing unique and persistent links to scholarly output.

Through the implementation of PIDs in ETD repositories and connected systems, institutions can ensure that ETDs remain discoverable and accessible over time, thus maximizing their impact and visibility within the research community.

Furthermore, this workshop will explore the role of ORCID's Global Participation Program (GPP) and Regional Consortium initiatives to facilitate global communities of practice, fostering collaboration among diverse stakeholders that advance ETD management practices. By participating in the GPP and regional consortia, institutions can leverage collective expertise, resources, and networks to enhance the visibility and impact of ETDs on a global scale.

Through collaborative discussions, participants will gain actionable insights and strategies to effectively leverage ORCID and PIDs for ETD management and dissemination. By engaging with this workshop, participants will be empowered to maximize the impact of ETDs through PIDs within their institutions and contribute to the advancement of scholarly communication on a global scale.

This session can be part of a wider workshop relating to scholarly infrastructure and/or PIDs, and can also be placed within the main conference presentation line-up.

## Full Papers

### **Improving the Mkulima Repository Content: Utilizing Theses, Dissertations, and LLMs for Agricultural Knowledge Dissemination in Kiswahili**

**Joseph P Telemala<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania

The Sokoine National Agricultural Library (SNAL) at the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) faces significant challenges in disseminating agricultural information to Swahili-speaking communities, as most research outputs are predominantly in English. This language barrier hinders the effective transmission of vital agricultural knowledge to key stakeholders in the agriculture-food value chain who use Kiswahili in their daily activities. To address this gap, SNAL established the Mkulima Collection and Repository, dedicated to collecting agricultural content in Kiswahili. Despite these efforts, the Swahili content in the repository remains limited.

This study seeks to enhance the Mkulima Repository by translating abstracts from English-language theses and dissertations using MarianMT, a machine translation (MT) model based on large language models (LLMs). The selected abstracts underwent pre-processing, machine translation, and subsequent quality assessment by multilingual experts.

Our findings reveal significant challenges in using LLMs like MarianMT for low-resource languages such as Kiswahili. While the MT system offers a rapid and scalable method for translating academic content, the accuracy and fluency of the translations were found to be suboptimal, as indicated by the evaluators. Common translation errors, particularly in agriculture-specific terminology and scientific names, highlight the limitations of current MT models in handling specialized agricultural content. These issues underscore the need for a more refined approach, including the development of a curated dataset of Swahili-English pairs that focus on agricultural jargon and the integration of a knowledge base to address the translation of scientific terms.

# **Landscape of Open Access Repositories with Special Reference to Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD) across SAARC and BRICS Nations: A Comparative Analysis**

**Vivek Ranjan<sup>1</sup>, Manoj Kumar K<sup>1</sup>, Kotrayya Agadi<sup>2</sup>, Surbhi<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> INFLIBNET, India

<sup>2</sup> Central University of Gujarat, India

Research Outputs stored as softcopy and archived through Open-Access is getting with momentum across the globe. Academic and Research Institutes, meticulously following the research guidelines and policies, are systematically producing and storing research results in sophisticated ETDs in almost every nation. In the digital age, global visibility of research is crucial, with Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) playing a vital role. Open Access Repositories (OARs) have gained traction, led by Europe, North America, and increasingly by Asia. Key repositories like ProQuest Dissertations Theses Global and DART-Europe are instrumental in this movement. Noteworthy ETD repositories in SAARC and BRICS nations which include Shodhganga in India maintained by INFLIBNET Centre, the Digital Archive on Agricultural Theses and Journals in Bangladesh, Pakistan Research Repository, and Biblioteca Digital Brasileira de Teses e Dissertações in Brazil. Starting little late in 2010, India gradually created its Repository and stands out for its substantial contributions to the ETD landscape. (Open ROAR). However, a few challenges remain in establishing comprehensive ETD repositories, given the diverse characteristics of these nations in terms of population size and higher education institutions. Structure and architecture of ETDs, workflow of submissions and authentication, Metadata Standards used, harvesting methods implemented, scalability and interoperability, DRM issues etc. are major concerns while comparing the ETDs across the globe. In order to find out the commonalities and differences, a detailed analysis of ETD repositories across SAARC and BRICS nations is essential.

Objectives 1. To compare open access ETD repositories in SAARC and BRICS countries, focusing on subject coverage and regional language contributions. 2. To investigate the software used for open access ETD repositories across SAARC and BRICS nations. 3. To analyze copyright policies relevant to open access ETD repositories across SAARC and BRICS nations. 4. To evaluate persistent metadata standards within the open access ETD repositories across SAARC and BRICS nations.

The available Open-Access ETD repositories under Open ROAR/DOAR are examined for deriving the sample size for analysis. The study employs a systematic approach for ETD data collection and analysis. It identifies active ETD repositories based on accessibility and content relevance. Information on software platforms, copyright policies, metadata standards, and subject coverage are gathered. Both thematic analysis and quantitative

methods are used to identify patterns and trends.

It encompasses essential steps such as conducting thorough searches to identify active ETD repositories, gathering repository information on software platforms, copyright policies, and metadata standards, categorizing ETDs based on subject classifications and language assessment, developing a search strategy for AI-related ETDs, and performing both thematic and quantitative analyses to discern patterns and trends in the data.

The analysis shows a varied landscape of ETD repositories across SAARC and BRICS nations. India's Shodhganga is a significant contributor, reflecting the country's leadership in this area. It also highlights differences in repository management software and metadata standards, with some countries adopting more advanced systems than others. Copyright policies also vary, affecting the accessibility and use of ETDs. (Details will be available in full paper)

The analysis underscores diverse open access ETD repositories across SAARC and BRICS nations, differing in subject coverage, language representation, software, copyright policies, metadata standards, and interoperability. By spotlighting regional languages and AI research, this study suggests a democratization of knowledge access and innovation.

## **Posters**

# **Creating an Electronic Thesis Database (ETD) using OMEKA. The Zimbabwe Open University experience**

**Nobbie Kandira<sup>1</sup>, Edwin T Madziwo<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Zimbabwe Open University, Zimbabwe

The purpose of this study was to establish the implementation experiences of the Zimbabwe Open University librarians in creating an Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Database (ETD) using OMEKA over Dspace software. The study explored the successes and challenges that were faced when coming up with the new institutional repository.

The objectives of the study were to: (i) Establish the benefits of using OMEKA over DSpace. (ii) Establish the challenges faced in implementing the new ETD database. (iii) Highlight the benefits accrued from establishing the ETD. The study was qualitative in nature and used the phenomenology paradigm. Data was collected from all Librarians and Library IT staff at the Zimbabwe Open University that were involved in the implementation of the new repository. An interview guide was drafted in order to collect responses from the target population. The study was significant in that it gave a comparison of DSpace and OMEKA as two open source software that were available on the market. Results of the study revealed that lack of trained staff was one of the major problems in creating the ETDs.

## **Invited Talks**

# List of Participants

Austin Mclean	ProQuest, a part of Clarivate	United States
Bertrand Thomas	Abes	France
Charles Greenberg	Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations	United States
Edward Fox	Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (NDLTD)	United States
Ernest Banda	Zynle Technologies Limited	Zambia
Gabriela Mejias	DataCite	Germany
Hussein Suleman	University of Cape Town	South Africa
Johanssen Obanda	Crossref	Kenya
Josiline Chigwada	University of South Africa	South Africa
Kudakwashe Siziva	Datacite	South Africa
Lamia Salsabil	Old Dominion University	United States
Lombe Tembo	ORCID	Zambia
Manoj Kumar K	INFLIBNET Centre	India
Martin Nkumbula	Zynle Technologies Limited	Zambia
Mduduзи Aubrey Ntetha	University of South Africa	South Africa
Olatunbosun Obileye	DataCite	Nigeria
Olivier Cian	ABES	France
Shahzeb Hasan	Akal University	India
Vivek Ranjan	Silver Oak University	India

# Useful Information

The ETD 2024 conference activities will be held at Avani Victoria Falls' **Convention Centre**.

**Tea/Coffee breaks and lunches** will be offered during the conference.

The **poster session** will be held on Wednesday, November 6 2024 and will comprise of a "**one minute madness**", followed by a textbfPoster Session with Tea/Coffee.

Wi-Fi will be available during the conference. The Zambia Research and Education Network will also provides access to an eduroam network throughout the duration of the conference.

The **conference welcome reception** will be held at the **Mukuni BOMA Village**, , on the banks of the Zambezi River.

## How to get to the Avani Victoria Falls Resort?

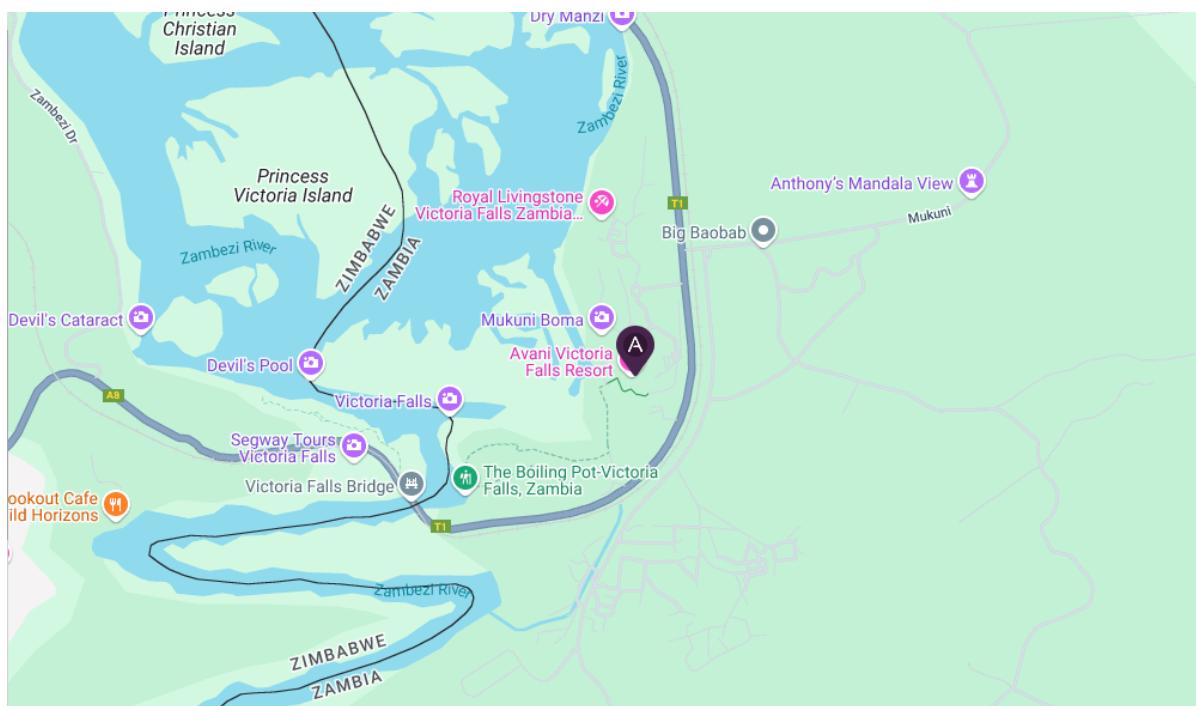
Avani Victoria Falls Resort is located on the banks of the Zambezi river with a 5-minute walk direct access to Victoria Falls.

- **Air:** From Lusaka, Kenneth Kaunda International Airport, you can fly directly to Livingstone, Harry Mwaanga Nkumbula International Airport (formerly known as Livingstone Airport). Flights are available with Proflight Zambia (daily flights) or Zambia Airways (daily flights). The journey takes around 1 hour and 10 minutes. Harry Mwaanga Nkumbula International Airport in Livingstone also has direct flights from Johannesburg (JNB), Cape Town (CPT) and Nairobi (NBO), (South Africa and Kenya). Note that the most frequent flights to Livingstone are routes from Lusaka (LUN), domestic, and Johannesburg (JNB), South Africa, with an average of 6 flights per day.
- **Bus:** Various long-distance buses operate daily between Lusaka and Livingstone. Buses leave Lusaka from 6:00 am and every half hour thereafter until 11.30 am. The journey takes around 6 to 7 hours.

- **Getting Around:**

- **Taxis:** Taxis are readily available and can be hired for specific trips, for a half-day or for a full-day.
- **Local mini-buses:** There is a network of local mini buses that connect various parts of Livingstone.

## Avani Victoria Falls Resort: Google Maps Location



## Avani Victoria Falls Resort: Convention Centre Layout

