



ETD 2024

27th 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

Peru

Argentina

E.

N.

Asia

India

Hong Kong

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

Day 2. Tuesday, November 5, 2024

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

12:00–12:20	CT	Vivek Ranjan 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	Zillur Rahman Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology	Designing a plan for sharing ETD among the University Libraries in Bangladesh
12:40–12:60	CT	Kamani Perera 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	Session 1B. Policies and Practices		
	Chair: Gabriela Mejias		
	Venue: Convention Centre		
12:00–12:20	CT	Shahzeb Hassan Akal University	Future-Proofing Research by Long-term ETD Preservation: Challenges and Opportunities
12:20–12:40	CT	Jive Lubbungu Kwame Nkrumah University	E-Theses and Dissertations in Zambia: A Case Study of Two Universities in Kabwe
12:40–12:60	CT	Kamani Perera 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	Lunch		
14:00–15:30	Session 2A. Impact and Utilisation		
	Chair: Olatunbosun Obileye		
	Venue: Convention Centre		
14:00–14:20	CT	Juliana Sousa Instituto Brasileiro de Informação em Ciência e Tecnologia	Characterization of Scientific Production on Electronic Theses and Dissertations Based on a Bibliometric Analysis
14:20–14:40	CT	Mark E Phillips University Of North Texas	Extracting and Registering References to Improve Scholarly Impact of ETDs

14:40–15:00	CT	Ana M B Pavani Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro	International Visibility of ETDs in Portuguese and in English on a Brazilian Repository
15:00–15:20	CT	Behrooz B. Rasuli Iranian Research Institute for Information Science and Technology (IranDoc)	Do More Complete Dissertations' Metadata Get More Engagement?
14:00–15:30	Session 2B. ETDs in Developing Countries		
	Chair: Hussein Suleman		
	Venue: Convention Centre		
14:00–14:20	CT	Joseph P Telemala Sokoine University Of Agriculture	Improving the Mkulima Repository Content: Utilizing Theses, Dissertations, and LLMs for Agricultural Knowledge Dissemination in Kiswahili
14:20–14:40	CT	Kenneth K Rotich Egerton University	The Changing Landscape in Research Data Management in Kenya's Universities: An Analysis of Development and Implementation
14:40–15:00	CT	Kamani Perera Chartered Institute Of Personnel Management	Empowering HRM Professionals: Advancing Research Culture with ETDs in The Chartered Institute of Personnel Management (CIPM), Sri Lanka
15:00–15:20	CT	Kamani Perera Chartered Institute Of Personnel Management	Unlocking the Potential of ETDs: Implementation Novel ETD Repository in Chartered Institute of Personnel Management in Sri Lanka
15:30–15:45	Tea/Coffee		
15:45–17:00	Session 3A. Infrastructure and Technologies		
	Chair: Kaoma Daka		
	Venue: Convention Centre		
15:45–16:05	CT	Elijah Chileshe University of Zambia	A Pre-Processing Pipeline for Improved ETD Metadata Quality in Downstream Services
16:05–16:25	CT	Adrian Chisale University of Zambia	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		Session 3B. ETDs in Developing Countries	
		Chair: Fabian Kakana	
		Venue: Convention Centre	
15:45–16:05	CT	Mpundu Chilonga Kwame Nkruma University	Examining the Cultural and Institutional Factors Impacting ETD Visibility in Zambia: Policy and Practice Implications
16:05–16:25	CT	Lamia Salsabil Old Dominion University	ETD MS v2.0: A New Schema Draft for Electronic Theses and Dissertations
19:00–22:00		Mukuni BOMA Cultural Experience Welcome Reception	

Day 3. Wednesday, November 6, 2024

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

		Chair: Dokwe Tembo Venue: Convention Centre	
10:00–11:00	IT	How do we set up Successful ETD Projects in Zambia? Moderator: Hussein Suleman	Participants: Gabriela Mejias (DataCite) · Manoj Kumar (INFLIBNET) · Lighton Phiri (UNZA) · Zachary Zulu (UNZA)
11:00–11:30		Session 6A. Poster/Demo Session: Minute Madness	
		Chair: Lombe Tembo Venue: Convention Centre	
11:00–11:03	CT	Kamani Perera Chartered Institute of Personnel Management	Enhancing Access to Scholarly Knowledge: Strategies for Promoting Open Access ETDs in Sri Lanka
11:03–11:04	CT	Okhakhu O. David 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	Kamani Perera Chartered Institute of Personnel Management	Total Quality Management in ETD Repository at Chartered Institute of Personnel Management (CIPM)
11:06–11:08	CT	Martin C Musonda University of Zambia	Automatic Summarisation of Electronic Theses and Dissertations for Increased Media Engagement
11:08–11:10	CT	Lwiime Shansonga University of Zambia	Automatic Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Guideline Verification For Consistently Formatted Manuscripts
11:10–11:12	CT	Elijah Chileshe University of Zambia	Design and Implementation of an Interoperable Zambia National Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Portal
11:12–11:14	CT	Vivek Mr Ranjan INFLIBNET Center	Exploring AI-driven strategies for enhancing the visibility of E-Theses in Shodhganga Repository
11:14–11:16	CT	Rajabu Mr Simba AHILA	Assessing the Efficiency of Data Science Programs in Enhancing Big Data Analysis Skills among Health Libraries and Information Scientists

11:16–11:18	CT	Zainabu H LILUTU Mbeya University of Science and Technology	Optimizing Electronic Theses and Dissertations Management for Broad Audience Engagement at Dr. Magufuli Library of Mbeya University of Science and Technology, Tanzania
11:18–11:20	CT	Zillur Rahman Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology	Determining the factors influencing the utilization of open source digital repository software in the preservation of ETDs in academic libraries in Bangladesh
11:20–11:22	CT	Zillur Rahman Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology	ETDs in Ensuring Quality Education for Economic Growth to Achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Experience of SAARC Countries
11:22–11:24	CT	Mutali M Lithole University Of Johannesburg	The University of Johannesburg's journey to enhance the content of the Institutional Repository (IR) and improve discoverability
11:24–11:26	CT	Mduduzi Ntetha UNISA	The conversion of printed theses and dissertations into digital formats: A case study of the University of South Africa library
11:26–11:28	CT	Sukanta Kumar Patra Vidyasagar College for Women	Global Visibility of National ETD Repositories of G20 Countries: comparative studies with respect to NDLTD's meta repository
11:28–11:30	CT	M A M Mominur Rahman University Of Rajshahi	Managing ETDs in Rajshahi University Central Library : Problems and Possibilities
11:30–11:32	CT	Nobbie kandira Zimbabwe Open University	Creating an ETD database using OMEKA. The Zimbabwe Open University Experience
11:45–12:30		Tea/Coffee	
11:45–12:30		Session 7A. Poster Session with Tea/Coffee	
		Chair: Thabiso Mwiinga	
		Venue: Convention Centre	
12:30–13:00		Closing Ceremony	
		Chair: Buumba Dubeka	
		Venue: Convention Centre	

12:30–12:45	IT	Lighton Phiri Chair - ETD 2024	Closing Remarks
12:45–13:00	IT	John Hagen Executive Director - USETDA	ETD 2025 Presentation
13:00–14:00	Lunch		
14:00–15:00	Mukuni Village Tour		
14:00–15:00	Victoria Falls Tour		

List of Abstracts

Workshops

ETDs 101: No Experience Required!

Charles Greenberg, Networked Digital Library of Theses& Dissertations, United States

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 concensus 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, 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, Virginia Tech, 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, ORCID, Zambia

This workshop proposal aims to explore strategies for leveraging ORCID and Persistent Identifiers (PIPs) 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 (PIPs) play a crucial role in enhancing the discoverability of ETDs by providing unique and persistent links to scholarly output.

Through the implementation of PIPs 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 PIPs for ETD management and dissemination. By engaging with this workshop, participants will be empowered to maximize the impact of ETDs through PIPs 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, 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, INFLIBNET, 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.

E-Theses and Dissertations in Zambia: A Case Study of Two Universities in Kabwe

Jive Lubungu, Kwame Nkrumah University, Zambia

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.

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Designing a plan for sharing ETD among the University Libraries in Bangladesh

Zillur Rahman, Ahsanullah University Of Science and Technology, Bangladesh

Purpose – ETDs have a great impact on exploring higher education in all higher educational institutions of the world. Sharing of ETDs among the universities can prevent repetition of research and guide new research direction. It assures in averting plagiarism, controlling theft and copyright of one's intellectual property. Hence, the purpose of this research is to design a plan for sharing ETD among the University Libraries in Bangladesh within the existing consortium and networking and resource sharing framework.

Design/methodology/approach – This study uses both qualitative and quantitative approaches along with review of related literature. This paper begins with an overview of consortium and networking and resource sharing framework currently being employed by the university libraries of Bangladesh in electronic and digital platforms. It moved into a discussion of necessity of consortium and networking and resource sharing among the libraries as a whole and particularly in higher education. It closes by stressing a suitable model plan for developing countries like Bangladesh. Data has been collected through survey questionnaire. The conceptual and textual information related to the present study have been collected from primary and secondary sources of information such as books, journals, magazines, newspapers, conference proceedings, official documents, and unpublished sources. Websites of the sampled University Libraries have also been used for collecting information. Literature has been reviewed and extraction has been presented in the form of figure and tables. After processing and analysis of the data, appropriate physical meaning and interpretation to the numerical results in real life given for each of the Table and Figures.

Findings – The study reveals that ETDs have a great role in disseminating knowledge among the academic communities. ETDs can be shared and impart in academic community locating any corner of the world. In such a paradox, no standard University Consortium has been built in Bangladesh since the independence in 1971. Several initiatives were taken by different organization including University Grants Commission (UGC), BANSDOC and universities individually but failed due to administrative skills and national guidelines. In case of university library consortium the situation is worse than other research organizations. There was no library consortium in Bangladesh before 2007. In 2006, an initiative was taken by the UGC of Bangladesh to form a Digital Resource Consortium for university libraries in Bangladesh for sharing integrated library resources including e-resources and computer database (Uddin Chowdhury, 2006, p. 490-3, Uddin, 2009, p. 196). In 2007, one consortium formed in Bangladesh was named Bangladesh INASP-PERI Consortium (BIPC), presently LiCoB with the participation of major public and private universities and a few research institutions under the guidance and supervision

of Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (Uddin, 2009, p.196). Digital Archive on Agricultural Theses and Journal (DAATJ) found only established network in Bangladesh. In 2009 UGC has formed UDL consortium under HEQEP to provide electronic resources among the universities with the financial support of World Bank.

Research limitations/implications – There are around 172 universities in Bangladesh now. Data collections from these universities are important to come in any concrete conclusion.

The study depends on questionnaire on selected public and private universities only.

Practical implications – This study divulges a simple and cost effective Model Plan to implement within the existing framework of resource sharing to support in the digital environment. The research findings will direct the students of Library and Information Science, Faculty Members, and Policy Makers in further decision making and research.

Implementing Persistent Identifier Infrastructure for Effective Management of ETD Repositories: A Case Study from Chartered Institute of Personnel Management, Sri Lanka

Chartered Institute Of Personnel Management , Sri Lanka,

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ntroduction: Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) have become integral components of scholarly communication, offering valuable insights into academic research and contributing to the advancement of knowledge across diverse fields. As the digital landscape continues to evolve, the management and accessibility of ETDs present both opportunities and challenges for academic institutions, libraries, and researchers alike. In this context, it is important to establish a vibrant infrastructure for persistent identifiers (PIPs) to proper management of ETDs. Persistent identifiers are essential tools that enable the unique and unambiguous identification of digital objects, ensuring their long-term discoverability, accessibility, and citability. In the context of ETD repositories, implementing a comprehensive PIP infrastructure is paramount to streamline access, enhance interoperability, and facilitate scholarly communication. In this research study, it is described the significance of implementing a persistent identifier infrastructure for the effective management of ETD repositories. By examining the role of PIPs in improving discoverability, ensuring integrity, and fostering collaboration within the scholarly community, this study seeks to provide insights into best practices and strategies for implementing PIP systems tailored to the unique needs of ETD repositories.

Objectives

- To enhance discoverability
- To improve accessibility and long-term preservation
- To foster interoperability and integration among different ETD repositories
- To enable accurate and reliable citation of ETDs

Methodology: A comprehensive review of existing literature, scholarly articles, reports, and best practices related to persistent identifiers, electronic theses and dissertations, repository management, and digital preservation were conducted. This review provides a foundational understanding of the current state-of-the-art, challenges, and opportunities in implementing persistent identifier infrastructure for ETD repositories. Various persistent identifier systems and frameworks such as DOI (Digital Object Identifier), ARK (Archival Resource Key), were evaluated to identify the most suitable system for the repository.

Results and Conclusion: Implementation of persistent identifier infrastructure led to a significant increase in the discoverability of ETDs within repository systems and external databases. By assigning unique identifiers to each document, ETDs became more easily searchable and identifiable, thereby improving their visibility among scholarly community. Further, it ensured the long-term accessibility and preservation of ETDs. Stable links provided by persistent identifiers enabled continued access to ETDs over time, even as

technologies evolved and platforms changed. In this context, ETDs remained accessible to future generations. It promoted collaboration and knowledge sharing across institutional boundaries, facilitating interdisciplinary research and fostering a more interconnected scholarly ecosystem. Persistent identifiers streamlined the citation process for ETDs, promoting accuracy, reliability, and proper attribution to authors. Stable references provided by persistent identifiers were easily included in scholarly publications, citations, and bibliographies, supporting transparency, reproducibility, and scholarly communication.

The implementation of persistent identifier infrastructure has proven to be instrumental in enhancing the management of ETD repositories. By providing unique PIDs for ETDs, this infrastructure has improved the discoverability, accessibility, interoperability, and citability of scholarly works, thereby facilitating broader dissemination of knowledge and fostering collaboration within the academic community. PIDs support the long-term preservation and accessibility of valuable research outputs for the benefit of future generations.

Empowering HRM Professionals: Advancing Research Culture with ETDs in The Chartered Institute of Personnel Management (CIPM), Sri Lanka

Kamani Perera, Chartered Institute Of Personnel Management, Sri Lanka

Introduction: The Chartered Institute of Personnel Management (CIPM) plays a key role in the professional development of Human Resource Management (HRM) practitioners.

To enhance this development, there is a growing recognition of the importance of fostering a culture of advanced research within the HRM community. This study focuses on the utilization of Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) as a means to empower

HRM professionals in CIPM, enabling them to engage in rigorous research practices.

Objectives: •To assess the current state of research culture among HRM professionals in CIPM•To identify the potential benefits of ETDs in advancing the research culture, and •To provide recommendations for integrating ETDs effectively into the professional development framework in the field of HRM

Methodology: A mixed-methods approach was employed, starting with a comprehensive literature review to establish the foundation of research culture, the significance of ETDs, and their potential impact on HRM practitioners. This was followed by a survey distributed among a sample of HRM professionals within CIPM to gather insights into their awareness, usage, and perceptions of ETDs. Additionally, qualitative interviews were conducted with HRM leaders to delve deeper into the challenges and opportunities associated with integrating ETDs into professional development.

Results: The findings reveal a varied kind of utilization of ETDs among HRM professionals in CIPM. While there is a general awareness of ETDs, their full potential in enhancing research skills and knowledge dissemination is yet to be realized. Challenges such as limited access to ETD repositories and inadequate training opportunities were identified. However, respondents expressed enthusiasm for incorporating ETDs into their professional development, higher education activities recognizing the value they hold in expanding their research capabilities and staying updated with current HRM trends.

Conclusions: In conclusion, this study highlights the importance of advancing research culture among HRM professionals in CIPM through the effective utilization of ETDs. Recommendations include developing tailored training programs on ETD usage, improving access to ETD repositories, and nurturing collaboration between HRM professionals to share research findings. By embracing ETDs, HRM professionals can not only enhance their individual skills but also contribute to the overall knowledge base within the field. This research serves as a call to action for CIPM and similar organizations to prioritize the integration of ETDs into their professional development strategies, ultimately empowering HRM professionals to excel in their roles and drive innovation in the field for the sustainable economy of the country.

International Visibility of ETDs in Portuguese and in English on a Brazilian Repository

Anna B Pavani, Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

01. Background and Introduction: Portuguese is the 9th most spoken language (4th Western language) in the world according to Berlitz (<https://www.berlitz.com/blog/most-spoken-languages-world>) or the 8th (4th Western according to Statista (<https://www.statista.com/statistics/266808/the-most-spoken-languages-worldwide/>)). Both numbers mean that Portuguese has a large number of speakers. The Comunidade de Países de Língua Portuguesa (<https://www.cplp.org/>) lists nine countries that have Portuguese as one of the official languages – Angola (36.7M), Brazil (216.4M), Cape Verde (0.6M), Guinea-Bissau (2.2M), Equatorial Guinea (1.7M), Mozambique (33.9M), Portugal (10.2M), São Tomé Príncipe (0.2M) and Timor-Leste (1.4M). Their populations in 2023 were informed on Worldometer (<https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/population-by-country/>). It can easily be observed that Brazil holds 71.302. Objectives The objective of this work is to examine if the patterns of accesses (numbers of accesses and the numbers and languages of the countries where they originated) are different for ETDs in en and in pt.

03. Method: This work is based on the analysis of data available on the Institutional Repository and organized in an OA dataset available on the same repository. Data on the dataset are numbers of ETDs and of OA ETDs, average numbers of partitions, numbers of accesses and the countries where they came from. The dataset shows that the percentages of ETDs in each language are very different. The percentages of ETDs in en are contained in the interval from little less than 5.0 (2019) to a little over 8.0 (2023).
The

04. Results and Conclusions: Most results are not surprising. The first is that accesses from Brazil account for almost 75

ETD-MS v2.0: A Proposed Extended Standard for Metadata of Electronic Theses and Dissertations

Lamia Salsabil, Old Dominion University, USA

The growth of Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) in academic repositories requires comprehensive and robust schemas for compliance with the FAIR (Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, and Reusability) principles. Dublin Core and ETD-MS v1.1 were established as the metadata standards for general scholarly documents and ETDs. We identified several gaps between the existing schemas and the need to represent ETDs comprehensively toward a better digital service. The content-level data, including objects comprising ETDs, become increasingly crucial to facilitate the development of machine learning models to mine scientific knowledge from ETDs, and scholarly big data services in general. By organizing content-level data into a new schema, this paper addresses the critical need for enhancing the expressiveness and depth of metadata for ETDs. The schema proposed includes a Core Component building on the existing ETD-MS v1.1 schema, and an Extended Component that captures objects, their provenance, and user interactions for ETDs. The schema covers 28 entities with a total of 160 metadata fields. To demonstrate applicability, we implemented the schema using MySQL and populated it with data derived from 1,000 ETDs collected from U.S. university libraries. This work provides a comprehensive and flexible approach that addresses the limitations of existing standards by enabling the description of content-level data, laying the groundwork for integrating advanced AI techniques into academic repositories.

Nurturing Advanced Research Culture among Medical Practitioners through ETDs: A case study from University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka

Lanka Ranaweera, Faculty Of Medicine, University Of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka

Introduction: In the context of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka, electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) play a pivotal role in fostering an advanced research culture among medical practitioners. This study delineates the multifaceted contributions of ETDs across various academic programs, including the Master of Public Health (MPH), BSc Degree in Speech and Hearing Sciences, BSc Degree in Occupational Therapy, and PhD dissertations from the Molecular Medicine Unit.

Purpose of the Present Study: The aims of the present study were to highlight the significance of ETDs in advancing medical research data and showcase the diverse applications of ETDs across different academic programs at the Faculty of Medicine.

Methodology: A comprehensive review of ETDs produced by students across various academic programs within the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Kelaniya was conducted. The review encompassed ETDs from the MPH program, BSc Degree programs in Speech and Hearing Sciences and Occupational Therapy, and PhD dissertations from the Molecular Medicine Unit. Data were analyzed to identify key themes, contributions, and impacts of ETDs on healthcare services and research activities. The Master of Public Health (MPH) program equips students with evidence-based approaches to promote health and prevent diseases, with ETDs contributing substantially to evidence-based public health interventions and policy formulation. PhD dissertations from the Molecular Medicine Unit provide consultancy services in Molecular Diagnosis and DNA typing and engage in research on infectious/vector-borne diseases and genetic diseases, thereby enhancing healthcare services in Sri Lanka. Importantly, it was noticed that the students of the BSc Degree program in Speech and Hearing Sciences produce compact discs (CDs) rather than ETDs. The BSc Degree program in Occupational Therapy commenced only two years ago and has not yet produced any theses.

Discussion: The findings from this research highlight the significant contributions of various academic programs to the field of public health and healthcare services in Sri Lanka. Each program plays a crucial role in advancing health-related knowledge, practices, and policies. The MPH program emphasizes evidence-based approaches to health promotion and disease prevention, equipping students with critical skills. Their ETDs contribute substantially to public health interventions and policy formulation, enhancing the effectiveness of interventions and policies at both local and national levels. PhD dissertations from the Molecular Medicine Unit illustrate the program's pivotal role

in advancing healthcare services through specialized research and consultancy, directly enhancing healthcare delivery. In contrast, the BSc Degree program in Speech and Hearing Sciences has been producing CDs rather than ETDs, hindering accessibility and dissemination of research findings. Transitioning to ETDs could facilitate interdisciplinary research and collaboration. The BSc Degree program in Occupational Therapy, established only two years ago, has not yet produced any theses. Adopting the practice of producing ETDs from the outset would ensure that student research contributes to the global body of knowledge in occupational therapy and aids in developing evidence-based practices. ETDs serve as catalysts in identifying potential opportunities for collaborative research endeavors, driving innovative solutions despite financial constraints.

Conclusion: It is imperative to encourage the initiation of ETD production for newly established degree programs that have not yet commenced research activities. Transitioning from CDs to ETDs is highly recommended to amplify the impact and accessibility of student research outputs. The widespread adoption of ETDs in all Faculty of Medicine programs is crucial for promoting interdisciplinary research, fostering partnerships, and innovating health care solution.

Future-Proofing Research by Long-term ETD Preservation: Challenges and Opportunities

Shahzeb Hassan, Akal University, India

This paper examines the challenges and opportunities in preserving Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs). It highlights the significance of ETDs in academia and public knowledge while addressing technological hurdles such as digital obsolescence, data integrity, cybersecurity threats, and infrastructure limitations. The paper explores technological advancements like digital preservation tools, open-source platforms, cloud storage, and automation that can mitigate these challenges. Organizational and policy issues, including institutional policies, funding, legal considerations, and the need for collaboration, are also discussed. The study advocates for comprehensive preservation policies, strategic funding, enhanced legal frameworks, and strengthened institutional collaboration. It calls for a proactive approach to ensure ETDs' long-term accessibility and reliability, urging stakeholders to prioritize and invest in preservation efforts to safeguard these critical academic resources for future generations.

Do More Complete Dissertations' Metadata Get More Engagement?

Behrooz B. Rasuli, Iranian Research Institute For Information Science And Technology(IranDoc) , Iran

This study investigates the role of metadata quality in Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs), focusing on its completeness and its impact on discoverability and user engagement within institutional repositories (IRs). Using DSpace@MIT as a case study, the current research analyzed 22,276 doctoral dissertations to assess metadata completeness and its correlation with the number of views and downloads. Various metadata fields and usage statistics were extracted for detailed analysis. The study identified a moderate positive correlation between the number of unique metadata fields and both the Department Views Ratio (DVR) and Department Download Ratio (DDR), suggesting that enhanced metadata can improve the visibility and accessibility of dissertations. Additionally, the length of abstracts is positively correlated with engagement metrics. In contrast, title length does not significantly influence the visibility.

These findings showed the importance of high-quality metadata in enhancing the discoverability of ETDs.

Examining the Cultural and Institutional Factors Impacting ETD Visibility in Zambia: Policy and Practice Implications

Mpundu Chilonga, The University of Zambia, Zambia

This study delves into the cultural and institutional factors influencing the visibility of Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) in Zambia and their implications for policy and practice. Employing a mixed-methods research design comprising surveys, interviews, and document analysis, the research seeks to illuminate the multifaceted landscape surrounding ETD accessibility. The findings of this study unveil a nuanced understanding of the challenges and opportunities in the Zambian context. They reveal a complex interplay of cultural attitudes towards digital scholarship, institutional infrastructures, technological literacy, and policy frameworks shaping the accessibility of ETDs.

Furthermore, the study uncovers significant barriers hindering the dissemination and utilization of ETDs beyond academia. These barriers include limited digital infrastructure, inadequate institutional support, and prevailing cultural norms favouring traditional forms of knowledge dissemination. The implications of these findings underscore the need for targeted policy interventions and institutional reforms aimed at fostering a culture of open access and digital scholarship in Zambia. By addressing these cultural and institutional challenges, Zambia can harness the full potential of ETDs as valuable resources for education, research, and socioeconomic development.

KEYWORDS: Digital Repositories, Resource accessibility, Research visibility

Posters

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

Nobbie Kandira, 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	
Benaiah Akombwa	University of Zambia	Zambia	
Bertrand Thomas	Abes	France	
Boniface Banda	The University of Zambia	Zambia	
Charles Greenberg	Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations	United States	
Denny Nsokolo	Higher Education Authority	Zambia	
Edward Fox	Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations	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	
Marvin Kabubi	Information and Communications University	Zambia	
Mduduzi Ntetha	Aubrey	University of South Africa	South Africa
Moses Mupeta	Information and communications university	Zambia	
Olatunbosun Obileye	DataCite	Nigeria	
Olivier Cian	ABES	France	
Shahzeb Hasan	Akal University	India	
Vivek Ranjan	Silver Oak University	India	
Wendel Fabian Chin-samy	DataCite	South Africa	

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 **Poster 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?

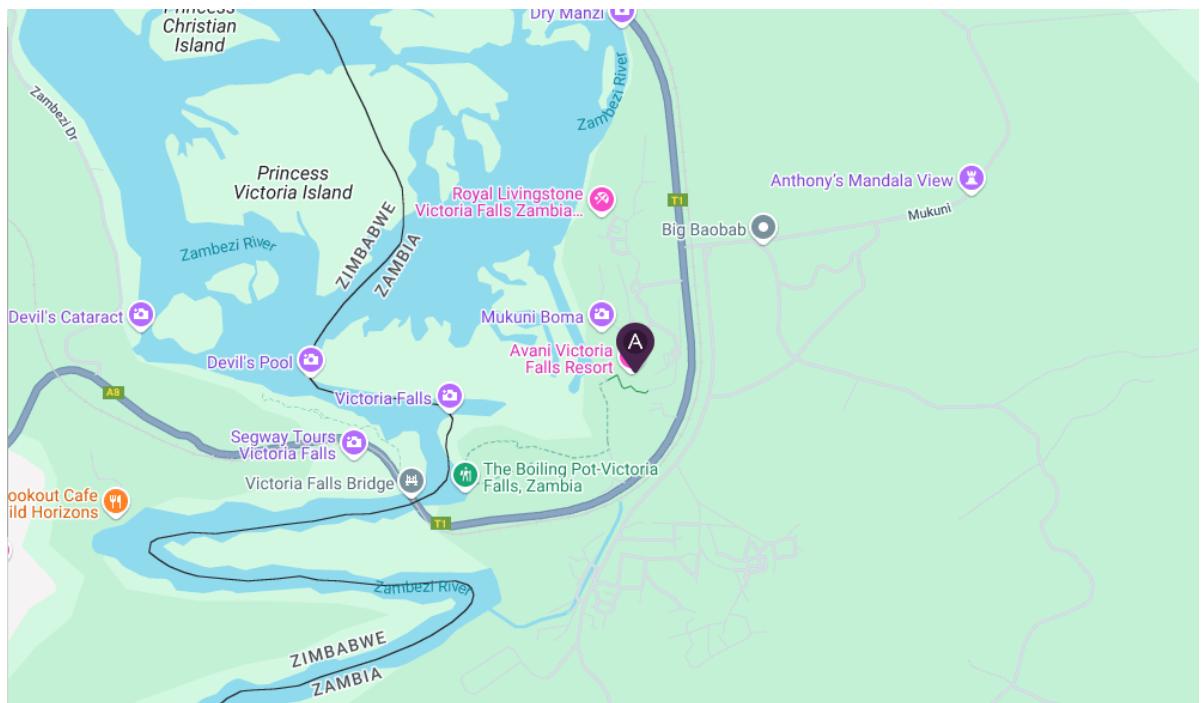
Avani Victoria Falls Resort is located on the banks of the Zambezi river with a 5-minute walk direct access to Victoria Falls.

- **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

