

## INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION (of UNESCO)

Eighteenth Session of the IOC Committee on International Oceanographic Data and  
Information Exchange (IODE-XVIII)  
Oostende, Belgium, 26-30 April 2005

### 6.3.1.5 E-repository for Africa

Marc Goovaerts  
Coordinator OdinPubAfrica  
University Library – LUC (Belgium)  
Diepenbeek, 15 April 2005



#### **OdinPubAfrica:**

Development of an African repository for electronic publications in marine science and oceanography

#### **Realisations in 2004 – Planning of 2005**

The goal of OdinPubAfrica is to develop an electronic platform to collect scientific documents (articles, conference papers, working papers ...) produced by members of African research institutes in the field of oceanography and marine science. A two year project was accepted by the government of Flanders in the FUST-program to realize the goal. The University Library of LUC (Belgium) is coordinating the project, which started officially on August 1, 2005.

#### **2004: Realisations**

1. Development of the technical infrastructure.

The OdinPubAfrica repository/website was installed on a Linux server at LUC (<http://doclib.luc.ac.be/odin>). Dspace was chosen as the repository software, which is primordially developed for a Tomcat web server and a Postgresql database.

The layout of the website was adapted. The implementing of the repository structure was started. Basically OdinPubAfrica will have three levels: 1. Country or region, 2. Institutes, 3. Document collections. Every participating country and organization can be identified directly in the database and has a presentation page. The documents can be searched globally and on every level.

The implementation of this structure started with the import of 86 documents from different organisations and collected by KMFRI. During the further development of the project other institutions will also submit documents and the appropriate structure will be created.

In August the LUC Library developed extra functionalities in the Dspace software (bibliographic output screen, controlled input for authors and keywords). Different technical problems were resolved during the following months: the OAI-compatibility, the use of diacritical signs, the use of the unique identifier system and a bug in the upload procedure.

## 2. Preparation of the training program

The success of OdinPubAfrica depends on the participation of the different marine research centres in Africa. Training is essential for realising this goal. Therefore a self-training package is being developed. It is also necessary to train a group of information managers in a traditional training course. The trained information managers are crucial in sustaining the development of the project and by helping colleagues with the self-training package. Extended training will be possible for 16 persons, while nearly all Odinafrica partners will have the possibility to have a basic training in the goals and working of OdinPubAfrica (see further).

The announcement of the launching of OdinPubAfrica was sent by email to all the Odinafrica partners on September 29. The email was also a general invitation to participate actively in the project.

Then the preparation of the first training course started. Originally planned between January 17-21, 2005 at LUC University in Diepenbeek – Belgium, it was delayed for practical reasons, principally funding problems, until February 21-25, 2005. (For more details: see further).

Before November 15<sup>th</sup> we tried to make a selection of the participants of the first training course. The selection was based on the response we received to the invitation email, on the survey of Mrs. Aramé Keïta (Questionnaire On Status And Requirements Of Odinafrica Information Centres/Libraries) and on the advice of the Odinafrica Management Group.

The most important selection criterion was the availability of good Internet connection and computer infrastructure in the centres. By the deadline of 15 November not all of Odinafrica partners had send back the survey mentioned above. We gave preference for this first training to candidates that already were involved in training courses and meetings in the Odinafrica context for information managers. Training facilities will be organized in the near future for the Odinafrica partners that are not invited now.

Ten institutes were selected and finally eight information managers were invited for the first training course.

- Amartey, Patrick A. – Marine Fisheries Research Division – Ghana
- Benjaddi, Mohamed – Université Mohammed V-Agdal, Faculté des Sciences – Morocco
- Sakho, Cheikh Ibrahima – IMROP – Mauritania
- Alfredo, Ana Maria – INAHINA – Mozambique
- Keita, Arame G. Ndiaye – Direction des Peches Maritimes Dakar – Senegal
- Josette Confait – Seychelles Fishing Authority – Seychelles
- Nyika, Edna Asheri – Institute of Marine Sciences – Tanzania
- Messaoudi, Saida – INSTM – Tunisia

In November we started with the self-training modules. A training server was set up at <http://bib12.luc.ac.be/odin>. The submitters of OdinPubAfrica have the possibility to train the whole submission procedure and to give advice about the development of the OdinPubAfrica structure.

A webpage was created at LUC to collect all the self-training modules. The documents are available in English ([http://www.luc.ac.be/bibliotheek/demos/OdinPubAfrica\\_e.htm](http://www.luc.ac.be/bibliotheek/demos/OdinPubAfrica_e.htm)) and in French ([http://www.luc.ac.be/bibliotheek/demos/OdinPubAfrica\\_f.htm](http://www.luc.ac.be/bibliotheek/demos/OdinPubAfrica_f.htm)). It contains documents about the organization and the challenges of the development of the OdinPubAfrica repository. But it focuses mostly on practical aspects of the project, from workflow organization to submission procedures. More documents will be uploaded during the project development (e.g. policy documents, action plans, folders created by the trainees). They will be made available at the ODIMEX website too.

The following modules are already available:

1. Introduction to repository and open access publishing:
  - Document Repositories and Alternatives for Electronic Journals
2. *Setting up a repository policy in an organization*
  - Setting up a repository policy at the institute level
3. Copyright and publishing on a repository
  - Document repositories and the copyright issue
  - License Agreement document
4. The OdinPubAfrica repository - practical sessions
  - Choosing a Password
  - Submission of documents
  - Going through the submission procedure
5. Other documents
  - OdinPubAfrica: Realisations in 2004 – Planning of 2005
  - ASFA-Thesaurus
  - OdinPubAfrica-Training Course - 21-25 Feb 2005

These modules have now been used as an introduction to the training courses. The trainees had to prepare three tasks before the start of the course. During the course they have given us feedback about the use and content of the documents.

## 2005: Realisations

### Training Program

From February 21-25, the 1<sup>st</sup> training course has been organized for the 8 information managers mentioned above with the following program:

#### Course program:

- Mon, 21 Feb 09-12: Arrival at LUC + practical arrangements
- Mon, 21 Feb 12-13: Lunch
- Mon, 21 Feb 13-14: From information delivery to information access: 20 years of information service in marine science in Africa - LE
- Mon, 21 Feb 14-17: OdinPubAfrica: presentation of goals and tasks - MG
- Tue, 22 Feb 09-12: Creation pdf-documents (electronic/paper) - AK
- Tue, 22 Feb 12-13: Lunch
- Tue, 22 Feb 13-16: Uploading documents in the repository – MG
- Tue, 22 Feb 19-22: Discussion about the structure of the repository (communities and collections in OdinPubAfrica)
- Wed, 23 Feb 09-12: Upload of documents in the OdinPubAfrica repository – practice - AK
- Wed, 23 Feb 12-13: Lunch
- Wed, 23 Feb 13-15: Upload of documents in the OdinPubAfrica repository – comments – MG
- Wed, 23 Feb 15-18: Gaining content: Experiences at the University of Southampton with the organization of an e-repository - PS
- Thu, 24 Feb 09-12: The copyright issue - PS.
- Thu, 24Feb 12-13: Lunch
- Thu, 24 Feb 13-17: Uploading documents in the repository – AK / MG
- Fri, 25 Feb 09-13: A repository policy – guidelines and action plan  
Presentation of AFRILIB -comments  
Call for Regional Coordinators
- Fri, 25 Feb 13- ...: Reception - Lunch

The program was adapted during the course because the trainees did their homework well and went through the documents on the OdinPubAfrica training website. At the same time, it took more time to realize the practical organization of the different collections. Therefore the discussion about the repository policy document and the action plans was started but not yet finalized. The regional coordinators were not yet appointed. A profile of their task will be send to all participants and in the next weeks a choice will be made for one or even two regional coordinators.

It is clear that after the training course a follow up program for the participants is needed in which the implementation of the repository will be sustained.

## **2005: Planning**

A 2<sup>nd</sup> training course will be organized for another 8 persons. The selection will be made on the same base as for the first course.

In August 2005 the ODINAFRICA Marine Information Management training course will take place for the new countries participating in Odinafrica and for other countries, which have new information managers. An introduction course of 3 days about OdinPubAfrica is planned. The 2<sup>nd</sup> OdinPubAfrica training course for the remaining countries is planned in August 2005, combined with the ODINAFRICA Marine Information Management training course, the WIOMSA symposium and the Afriamslic meeting in Mauritius. Odinafrica centres that do not have the capacity (technical, Internet, ...) to participate directly in OdinPubAfrica, will be invited to send documents in electronic (or even in paper) format to LUC, where they will be uploaded. With both these courses we hope to introduce the OdinPubAfrica project to all Odinafrica members.

With the feedback of the trainees of the 1<sup>st</sup> training course the self-training program will be finalized and made available on the ODIMEX website. Information Managers of Odinafrica that have followed the training can use these documents for their own resource and to train people at their institute. Other marine institutes that join OdinPubAfrica find here all the necessary documents to set up their collections. The regional repository administrators and the information managers of the Odinafrica institutes are the human resources, which they can rely on.

After the training courses the input of documents will start. We expect to have about 500 documents in August and between 1200 and 1500 documents uploaded at the end of the year. This input is the responsibility of the information managers. As coordinator I will follow up their progress and also do at first time the quality control of the submitted documents. This task and the structuring of the website will be taken over by the repository administrators appointed at the training courses from November 2005 on. A special training session will be organized for the repository administrators.

### **2. Further development of the technical infrastructure.**

In the period June-September technical changes will be realized. In the first place a dedicated server will be acquired. The software and the database of the OdinPubAfrica repository will be transferred to that new server. He will then be installed at the IOC office in Oostend (Belgium). A French interface will also be developed for the repository. The integration of the repository metadata in the Odinafrica catalogue will be prepared.

### **3. Public relations and publicity**

Finally it is important to start a publicity campaign around the resulting product. In Odinafrica we will have reached most of the information managers through the training courses. They will have the task to inform the people of their institute. They will have the task to invite other institutes to use the repository and participate in OdinPubAfrica. Specific presentation modules will be developed, which can be adapted to the local situation.

To reach the potential users we will have to depend on the newsletters, the regional/local journals and regional/local organisations (e.g. AFRIAMSLIC with their mailing list) besides the Odinafrica and IOC channels. Press announcements will be prepared therefore. The regional coordinators (and the information managers too) of Odinafrica can help us with identifying the relevant journals and organisations.

It will be also necessary to attract the attention of the global marine and oceanographic community. Therefore a similar strategy can be used: sending press announcements to leading journals in the field and organisations of marine scientists and librarians.

The repository will also be announced in the open access community. After the transfer of the server to IOC, it will be included in the different lists of repository on the web and more important the content will be made searchable through search engines like OAIster (specific for repositories) and Google/Google Scholar (hopefully).

The regional repository coordinators will develop with the help of LUC the public relation tasks.