

**ADLSN Address, by Africa Jumanne Bwamkuu on 28th of November, 2016. Kwame Nkrumah
University of Science and Technology (KNUST) , Kumasi, Ghana**

Hello everyone,

I am here on behalf of ADLSN, which is African Digital Library Support Network, a network of people who are united on common goal of preserving and making African content accessible globally.

Back, in October, 2012, I was invited to symposium titled something like Participation in Research IN The Hague, Netherlands, the theme of this symposium was along the thinking on How to get Global South to participate in contributing to the global knowledge.

The general understanding of these kind of events is that global South in particular Africa are 'ACTIVE KNOWLEDGE CONSUMER and very PASSIVE KNOWLEDGE CONTRIBUTOR '

Being among the speakers of this event, I was only one person who pointed out the fact that Global South in particular Africa are ACTIVELY PRODUCING knowledge / content , the only problem is we don't properly CAPTURE, ORGANIZE and effectively SHARE it with the rest of the world.

There are so much research activities and research output but we left the generated knowledge/ contents in the forgotten corners of our offices/ building.

Recently I read an article by Bill Gates, written 20 years ago, I guess in 1996. In the article, Bill Gates predicted the world we have now, That CONTENT IS THE KING.

He boldly stated that , it does not matter the size of company/ organization , whether it's 2 - people organization or 100 plus- organization, all have equal potential to make fortunate if they are effectively managing the content.

Despite the fact that , in today World , the most important asset for any institution is ' INSTITUTIONAL KNOWLEDGE' if effectively managed and shared but in Africa , we are pretty much lagging behind in recognizing this fact or at least in exploiting our locally produced content.

The most obvious example of importance of visibility of knowledge is in educational world, whereby the ranking of educational organizations are highly influenced by the visibility of their research output.

Therefore, at the modern times, librarians have a very unique position to take their organizations to the next level of excellence, if you abandon the old ways of doing things, and embrace digital technology.

If you (librarians) start to effectively exploit simple and yet proven tools exist in information and communication technology to CAPTURE, MANAGE, AND effectively SHARE Institutional Knowledge, you will raise image and brand of your organization to the global platform.

And you can do this by;

- Learning these ICT tools and understand their potential to transform your organization

- Collaborate with ICT department and create joint projects to manage organizational content

On joint projects, is where African Digital Library Support Network (ADLSN) comes in, as said earlier, we are group of people passionate in making African content visible globally.

We are doing this by forging collaboration with local institutions across Africa, and jointly conceptualize projects that use Open Source Software to address local challenges and build capacities by offering training and identify funding opportunities globally to fund the collaborative projects that maximize the visibility of Africa content.

Thank you very , I will explain more about ADLNS during class sessions, when I do my presentation !!