MUAST LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

MUAST
MARONDERA UNIVERSITY
OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY

MUAST DURA (Institutional Repository)

Institutional Repositories are digital collections capturing and preserving the intellectual output of a single or multi-university community to provide a compelling response to two strategic issues facing academic institutions:

- as a natural extension of academic institutions' responsibility as generators of primary research seeking to preserve and leverage their constituents' intellectual assets; and
- as one potentially major component in the evolving structure of scholarly communication.

In a general sense, an "institutional repository" can mean many things - a library, an archive, a museum, or even a warehouse that stores for use and safekeeping an organization's records or artifacts. In recent years, however an IR has taken on a more specific, but still evolving meaning that refers to the storage and preservation of an organization's digital information or knowledge assets.

MUAST Dura will be a set of services offered by the Library Department to its community. MUAST Dura will consist of formally organized and managed collections of digital content generated by faculty, staff and students. These will be the results of the library's vision to collect, secure and provide access to scholarly publication in a novel and digital way. Institutional repositories are spreading, as they have become an indispensable component for information and knowledge sharing in the scholarly world.

MUAST Dura will also contribute to the increase of the institutions prestige and nourish the idea of an "Institutional Repository" because it manages and preserves relevant informational items that otherwise would remain scattered, unattended or inaccessible.

MUAST Dura is expected to provide tools that help faculty students and researchers to disseminate the Institutional Repository work to audiences outside the institution. MUAST Dura may serve as a complement to traditional forms of publication or as an alternate.

IN THIS ISSUE

Proposed Contents of MUAST Dura:

An Institutional Repository may contain a variety of material produced by the researchers of the institution like-

1. Pre-print of articles or research reports submitted for publishing the text of journals articles accepted for publication.

2. Revised text of published work with comments from academic readers.

3. Conference papers.

4. Teaching material.

5. Student's projects.

6. Doctoral thesis and dissertations.

7. Database resulting from research projects.

8. Committee papers, administrative papers.

9. Computer software work of art.

10. Photographs and video recordings.

IMPORTANT DAYS THIS QUARTER

International Day for Universal Access to Information: 28 September, 2019

2018 is the third year of UNESCO marking 28 September as the "International Day for Universal Access to Information" (IDUAI). On 17 November 2015, UNESCO adopted a resolution (38 C/70) declaring 28 September of every year as International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI).

International Open Access Week: October 21-27, 2019

Open Access Week is an annual scholarly communication event focusing on open access and related topics. It takes place globally during the last full week of October in a multitude of locations both on- and offline. Typical activities include talks, seminars, symposia, or the announcement of open access mandates or other milestones in open access.

World Teachers' Day: 5 October 2019

Held annually on 5 October since 1994, World Teachers' Day commemorates the anniversary of the adoption of the 1966 ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers. This Recommendation sets benchmarks regarding the rights and responsibilities of teachers and standards for their initial preparation and further education, recruitment, employment, and teaching and learning conditions. The Recommendation concerning the Status of Higher-Education Teaching Personnel was adopted in 1997 to complement the 1966 Recommendation.

Database of the Quarter

CABI
Important News:
You can now access CABI for free till mid December 2019

www.cabdirect.org

CAB Direct is CABI's online database platform, providing a single point of access to all of your CABI database subscriptions.

CABI has worked with development partners from across academia and industry to develop the next generation of the CAB Direct platform. Designed around the way researchers work, CAB Direct has completely new features to help you get more out of the literature, a more intuitive user experience, and has a new look and feel.

CAB Direct is the only online platform built specifically to help you get the most out of CABI's world class databases, CAB Abstracts and Global Health.

Through CAB Direct you have access to:

- over 12.5 million bibliographic records
- over 465,000 full text articles hosted by CABI
- many other authoritative reviews, news articles and reports

You are encouraged to create accounts because Signing in to My CABI enables you to:

•save your searches,

•save your records,

•annotate and highlight your records,

•set up email alerts for saved searches, and

•create projects that contain searches and records.

PREDATORY JOURNALS

What is a "predatory" journal?

There is no agreed-upon definition, and perceptions of what the term "predatory" means vary widely. A good starting point from Shamseer (2008) is that predatory journals "actively solicit manuscripts and charge publication fees without providing robust peer review and editorial services."

Frequently, authors publishing in predatory journals do not receive the services or benefit from the attributes of the journal they are seeking and believe they have paid for. Such deceptions are a hallmark of predatory journals and commonly include promising (non-existent) peer review, fake impact factors, fake editors and even misleading journal names uncannily similar to well-known, legitimate journals.

At their core, trustworthy publishers are deeply committed to, and make significant investments in, disseminating research information that can be trusted, is relevant for research, and is presented in ways to serve efficient knowledge transfer, which in turn supports quality research. This is in direct contrast to predatory publishers, who do not show interest or invest in the integrity and relevancy of the published record in support of advancing research.

How can lecturers, librarians and students distinguish between predatory and reputable journals?

Think Check Submit is a cross-industry initiative led by representatives from ALPSP, DOAJ, INASP, ISSN, LIBER, OASPA, STM, UKSG, and individual publishers. It's an excellent example of how many parties, including Elsevier, are joining forces to address the issue of predatory publishing. Think Check Submit provides simple guidelines for authors to assess a journal before submitting an article. These guidelines also apply to readers looking for means to identify trusted sources.
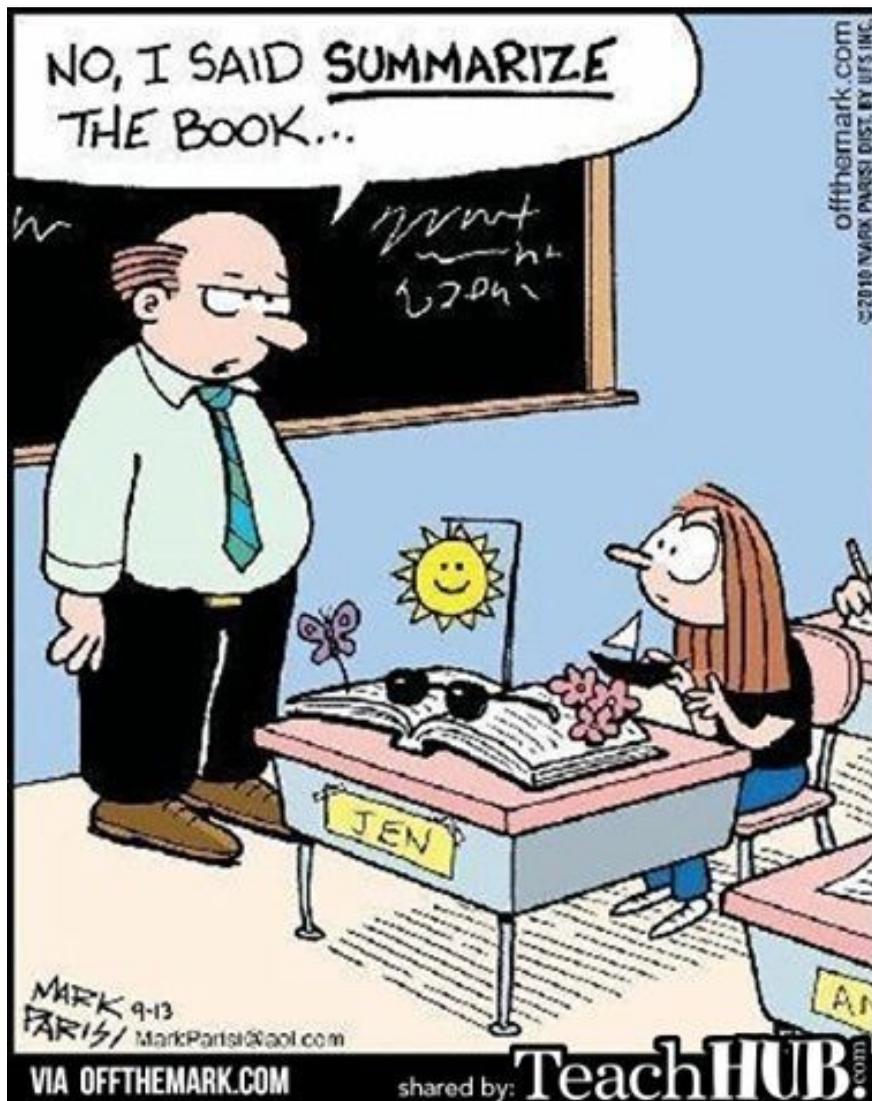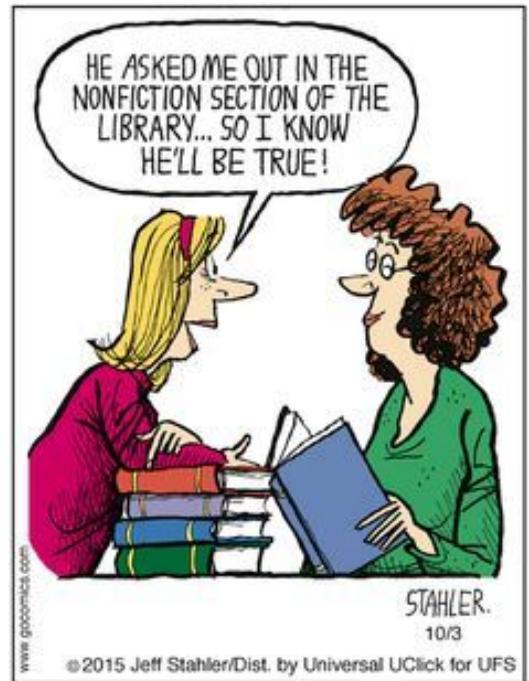
Other author education efforts exist, such as Elsevier's Researcher Academy, whose offerings include a module on "Finding the right journal."

Common characteristics of Predatory Publishers:

- Their primary goal is to make money (i.e. there will be fees).
- They do not care about the quality of the work published (i.e. no or little editing or peer-review).
- They make false claims or promises (i.e. claims of impact factors and indexing).
- They engage in unethical business practices (i.e. not as advertised).
- They fail to follow accepted standards or best practices of scholarly publishing (various).

Please visit
https://beallslist.weebly.com/
and view lists of predatory publishers

LIBRARY HUMOUR

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