

Challenges of New Collaborative Web Projects with African Universities

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Collaboration is growing between African and European universities in building digital archives, research databases, online publication series and related projects. New technology and enhanced ICT infrastructure open new possibilities for virtual research, data sharing and management of Higher Education. At the same time, the need for strategic planning and organisation of data and information becomes more obvious. How can we organize our data collections on African Studies to assure long-term availability and the most widespread accessibility as possible?

Besides some general remarks about the topic, the new project SEED, a collaborative project of Bayreuth University and Moi University, Eldoret, Kenya, will be presented. The project starts in 2011 with funding of the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service). The idea is to develop new ICT strategies for the enhancement of Higher Education management, a core area of cooperation of both universities. To validate theory, a joint digital information platform with key technologies in e-teaching/e-learning and archiving applications will be configured. The project involves the University Management and ICT directorates, relevant faculties on African Studies like the Institute of African Studies (Bayreuth) and the School of Arts and Social Sciences (Eldoret), the chairs of Applied Computer Science, and the University Libraries of both institutions. At Bayreuth University, mainly DEVA (Digitization, Editing, Networking in African Studies) and BIGSAS (Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies) are concerned with the adaptation of archiving and e-learning applications. SEED shall serve as a model which can be amplified to other partner universities.