Electronic Libraries in Partnership: BEEP for Africa

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BEEP (Bibliothèques électroniques en partenariat)[1] is a hosting web site created by the Department of Scientific Information Technologies of IRD[2] (Research Institute for Development). Under greenstone[3], it provides access to several collections of scientific documents produced by the Universities of Burkina Faso, Mauritius, Senegal.

The development of Internet access on digital documents can be difficult due to poor connections, the unavailability of servers, frequent power cuts, a complex implementation of IT projects ...

BEEP provides concrete solutions for African institutions that meet these challenges. It proposes a temporary hosting, before permanent solutions are implemented locally. This cooperative approach is the desire of producers of information to enhance their publications and make them quickly accessible to the scientific communities in the Internet world.

BEEP provides to all its partners value-added services. Statistical analysis of accesses on the pdf files can develop strategic indicators pointed to the nature and origin of research. The implementation of effective tools to ensure better indexing by major search engines and the deployment of OAI gateways provide high visibility to content that is hosted.

The results of statistical analysis that we present show that a large number of consultations comes from African countries.

These data are particularly interesting for the debate about the practices and constraints of users of African countries vis-à-vis the electronic resources on the Internet.

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[1] www.beep.ird.fr
[2] Institut de recherche pour le développement. Web site : www.ird.fr
[3] www.greenstone.org