Regional Content Factor

Panel:
The Role of Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship in developing local content

Ousmane Moussa Tessa
West and Central African Research and Education Network (WACREN)
Késako (What is) local content ?

« An expression and communication of a community’s locally generated, owned and adapted knowledge and experience that is relevant to the community’s situation »

Abdul Waheed Khan
(Former Assistant Director-General for Communication and information UNESCO)
WACREN Community

- 22 countries in 2 REC = ECOWAS (15) + CEMAC (7)
- Surface Area : 9.3 mio km² & Population : 345 mio
- Registration of WACREN as not for profit association in August 2010 in Accra (*Initiative supported Association of Africa Universities since 2007*)
- 8 established National Research and Education Network
- Targets : HE & Research Institutes (≥ 150)
- 2.2 millions potential end-users (students and staff)
Mission and Objectives of WACREN

Mission: Build and operate a world-class network infrastructure for academic and research collaboration and knowledge sharing.

Objectives:

- develop knowledge and skills of the research and education community;
- improve research and education through collaboration between NRENs of WACREN and with their peers at continental and international levels.
- build up a high-quality information and telecommunication infrastructure, based on open standards using the most advanced technologies available.
Which target audiences for contents produced by WACREN's researchers?

The scientific sub-community:
- Research articles + Review articles
- Communication to Congress + Colloquium + Workshop
- Monograph

The academic sub-community:
- Thesis, memory + Teaching work

The Professional circles:
- Patent of Invention (protection of the invention) + Technical Article, technical specifications, manuals

The administrative departments, policy makers:
- Activity Report

The general public:
- Newspaper article + Poster + Newsletter
The future of the “hidden” or local ‘offline’ contents of our NRENs?

• “Visibility” of our contents to:
  • national/regional audiences? (sure! but which %?)
  • international audiences? (perhaps?)

• What are (will be) our typical end-user online needs?
  • Academics Contents
    VS.
  • Entertainment Contents (movies, music, games, social networks)

• More connected end-users in our Campus Networks!
Towards a sustainable local content development process in Africa?

- Support programs for digitizing and putting «academic and research» relevant contents online, focusing on multilingual applications;
- Setting technical standards for incorporating local languages in ICT applications;
- Encourage NRENs to acquire, to adapt, to translate and to share contents on a non-commercial basis (at National /Regional IXPs?);
- Foster the emergence of local/regional publishers to explore business models able greater accessibility for HE/RI community.
Thank You

Ousmane Moussa Tessa

ousmane@wacren.net

Visit our website : www.wacren.net