African Scholarship Online
An ONIX melodrama

EDItEUR 41st International Supply Chain Seminar
Frankfurt  - 15 October 2019

Andrew.Joseph@wits.ac.za
It’s all about us...

• How are we different from you?
  – Resources
  – Networks
  – Coordination

• GDP vs Ranking

• African share in global research
  2.31% in 2010
  3.24% in 2016

South African output 2012 - 2016

- 32.40% increase in journals
- 290.68% increase in books

# What is an African author?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Total titles published</th>
<th>Retail (trade) titles published %</th>
<th>Educational titles published %</th>
<th>SAS titles published %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>6,339</td>
<td>24.9%</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
<td>65.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>57,786,991</td>
<td>18.4%</td>
<td>42.4%</td>
<td>39.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>103,534</td>
<td>69.4%</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
<td>20.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.K.</td>
<td>149,443</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>93,526</td>
<td>59.6%</td>
<td>32.3%</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>136,403</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>&gt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mauritius</td>
<td>324</td>
<td>75.9%</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


- 1365 titles (IPA) vs 90 titles (PASA) vs 167 titles (SA)
- Origin? Location? Subject?
- **WE** don’t publish most of our authors!
When you sneeze... we get a cold

- Power
- Internationalisation and Decolonisation
- National and commercial advantage
- The postcolonial tango - Direction of research to readers
What do we deal with?

- Dependence and isolation
- Inferiority and relevance
- Skills deficit
- Languages
- Lack of reach into our own territories
- Copyright Amendment Bill

- Change management
- Coordinated action
- Institutional competition and support
- The state
Needs assessment

• Output vs Publication in country of origin
  (Nielsen vs PASA vs IPA)
• Sources of African scholarly publication details?
• Discoverability and availability
• Our lack of engagement and presence
• Sustainability
• No systems – spreadsheets and email!
Audit

- Institutional libraries
- South African National Library
- Aggregators and library wholesalers
- Potential partner presses
- ORCiD, Crossref...
What we’ve done at Wits Univ Press

Previously

• Traditional print model to meet local demand
• International sales through large distributors and licensing content
• Systems and technology through internationals

In the past 5 years

• XML driven workflow
• ORCiD integration limited but embedded
• Direct relationship with major aggregators
• Modest but active OA
• ONIX generation
• Journal
• To drive discoverability and accessibility of partner publications for researchers and librarians internationally
African Scholarship Online

- Needs assessment
- Mapped to ONIX guide
- Spreadsheet developed based on ONIX guides
- BooksONIX discussions and contracted
- BDS discussions and contracted
- Data collation

“They sentenced me to twenty years of boredom,
For trying to change the system from within.”
Partner relations

- Meetings at PASA meetings, direct phone calls and visits to the partners
- Contracts signed
- Metadata compilation by partners begun
What we need to do

- More partners, more records - Anglophone
- Expand dissemination channels and regions
- Clearly articulate requirements
- Deepen engagement & overcome dependence
- Relationships
- Explicitly political and subtly commercial
Where we want to be

- Coordinated action
- Equitable partnerships
- Ownership and control
- Politics of standards
- Interoperability and internationalism

Andrew.Joseph@wits.ac.za