

18th IFLA Interlending and Document Supply Conference

Global to Local: Diversity and Inclusiveness in Resource Sharing

December 2-4, 2024 / ADA University

ENHANCING RESOURCE SHARING THROUGH DIGITAL KNOWLEDGE ACCESSIBILITY IN THE MODERN ERA IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

By

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Introduction:



In order to maximise access and reduce effort duplication, libraries, institutions, and communities work together to leverage information resources, technology, and services.

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Sharing resources has become a practical way to alleviate resource scarcity, save expenses, and improve information sharing as the demand for knowledge resources rises rapidly.

The rapid growth of digital technologies has brought unprecedented opportunities for knowledge dissemination and resource sharing globally. However, the extent to which developing countries can leverage these opportunities remains limited due to a variety of socio-economic and infrastructural challenges.

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Literature Review

Several studies have examined the impact of digital knowledge platforms on education and research in developing countries. For instance, research by Gupta and Jain (2018) suggests that digital repositories can significantly enhance the visibility of local research outputs, thereby increasing the global impact of research from developing regions. Other studies have emphasized the importance of digital literacy and capacity-building initiatives in ensuring the effective utilization of digital resources.

Significance of Resource Sharing in Developing Countries

Resource sharing in developing countries is a key driver of educational and research development. These Significance include:

- ❖ Overcoming budgetary constraints and lack of resources by collaborating with other entities to access a wider range of information materials.
- ❖ Optimization of collection development strategies for greater variety of learning and research materials to their communities.

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Key Strategies for Enhancing Digital Knowledge Accessibility

- Establishing Open-Access Repositories and Collaborative Platforms
- Promoting Digital Literacy 
- Leveraging Mobile Technologies 
- Encouraging Public-Private Partnerships  

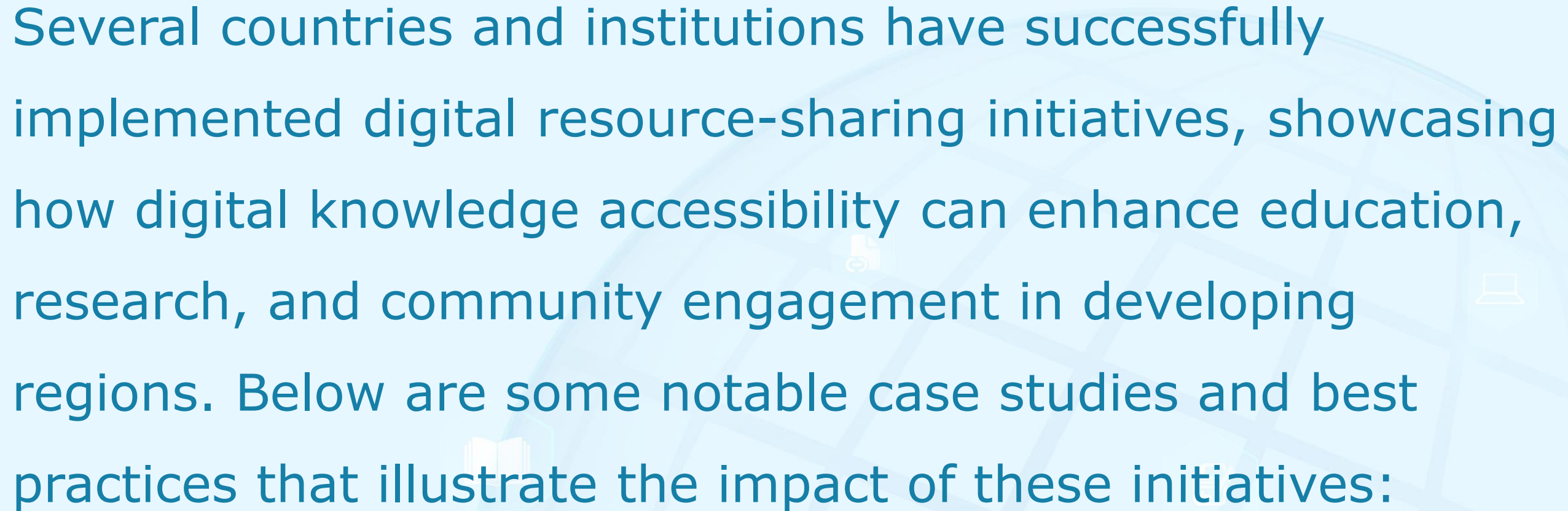
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Case Studies of Digital Resource Sharing in Developing Countries

Several countries and institutions have successfully implemented digital resource-sharing initiatives, showcasing how digital knowledge accessibility can enhance education, research, and community engagement in developing regions. Below are some notable case studies and best practices that illustrate the impact of these initiatives:

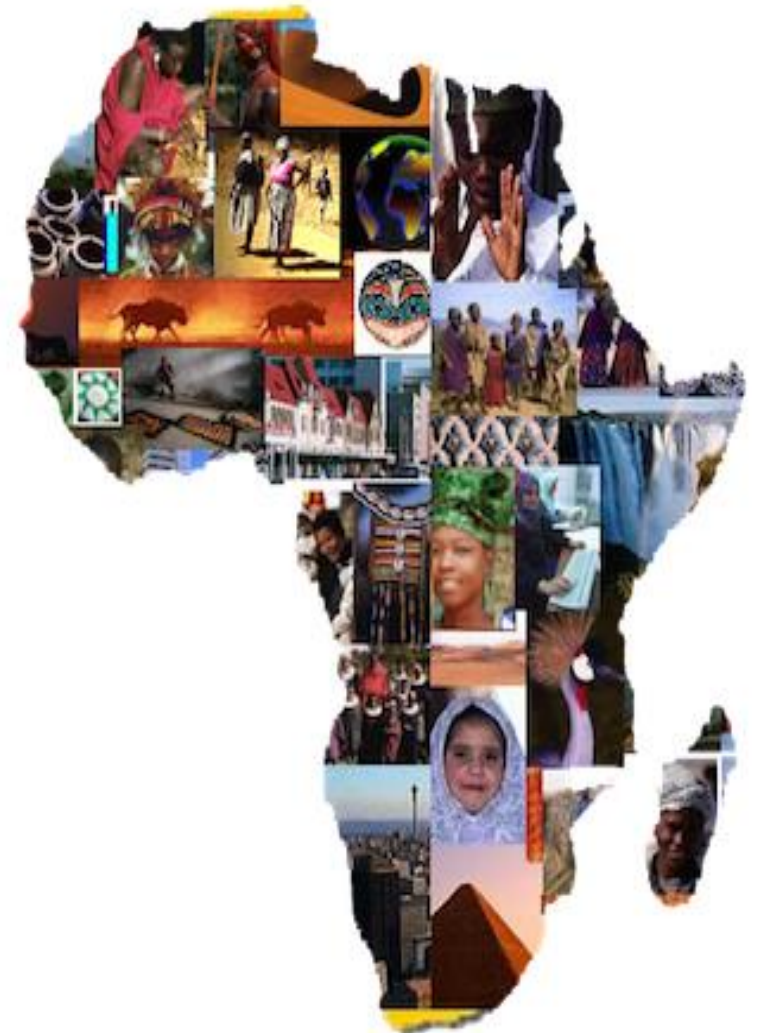


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African Online Digital Library (AODL), South Africa: The African Online Digital Library (AODL) was established to provide open access to African cultural heritage materials, scholarly resources, and educational content. This initiative brought together various academic institutions and libraries to digitize and share materials that were previously



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National Open Access Repository of Ghana: Ghana's National Open Access Repository is an initiative aimed at increasing the visibility and accessibility of Ghanaian research. By digitizing and sharing theses, dissertations, and research publications, this repository has become a critical resource for students and researchers across the country.



Nigerian Research and Education Network

(NgREN): NgREN is a high-speed network established to enhance research and educational collaboration among Nigerian institutions. This platform allows for the sharing of research resources, datasets, and educational materials across member institutions.







Nigerian Research and
Education Network

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Key Benefits of Resource Sharing in Developing Countries:

- *Increased Access to Knowledge Resources*
- *Cost Efficiency and Resource Optimization*
- *Enhanced Research and Academic Collaboration*
- *Promotion of Digital Literacy and Technological Adoption*
- *Supporting Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*

Challenges in Implementing Digital Resource Sharing

- Inadequate digital infrastructure
- High cost of technology and software 
- Lack of digital literacy among both users and information professionals 
- Unreliable Internet Connectivity
- Frequent power outages 
- Lack of well-defined policy framework for resource sharing 

Conclusion:

Enhancing resource sharing through digital knowledge accessibility is a transformative strategy for developing countries. By implementing strategic initiatives that leverage digital technologies, developing nations can overcome barriers to knowledge access and promote equitable resource sharing.

Recommendations:

- ❖ Governments, international organizations, and private sector players should collaborate to build and strengthen the necessary digital infrastructure.
- ❖ Promotion of Open Access and Digital Repositories
- ❖ Implementation of Digital Literacy Programs
- ❖ Preservation of Cultural and Indigenous Knowledge

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Gupta, R., & Jain, P. (2018). Digital libraries in developing countries: Expanding access to information and knowledge. *The Electronic Library*, 36(4), 684-699.