

OPEN ACCESS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE



**SOUTH AFRICAN
RESEARCH CHAIR:**

Intellectual Property,
Innovation and Development

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UCT-SPARC Africa

Open Access Symposium 2019

Overview

1. Social justice
2. Social justice goals in (a) international, (b) regional and (c) national regulatory frameworks
3. Libraries' contributions as social justice actors
 - a) The author cost of OA as a challenge (APCs)
 - b) Possible solution(s)?

Social justice

- A quest for **equity** and **fairness** in many aspects of life incl economic justice, public participation and social cohesion
 - Context specific e.g. in education, health
 - Keynote # OASymp2019 December 4, 2019

- the library is is both **a site for social justice struggles** and **a social justice actor**
 - May face own equity and fairness challenges (e.g. in higher education sector)
 - Provides access to information and engages in advocacy and training

Social Justice & Regulatory frameworks (A)

- UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Sustainable Development Goals



Libraries and SDGs, some examples

- The National Library of Uganda: ICT training program designed for female farmers
- Uganda Health Information Digest, print resource from Makerere University library

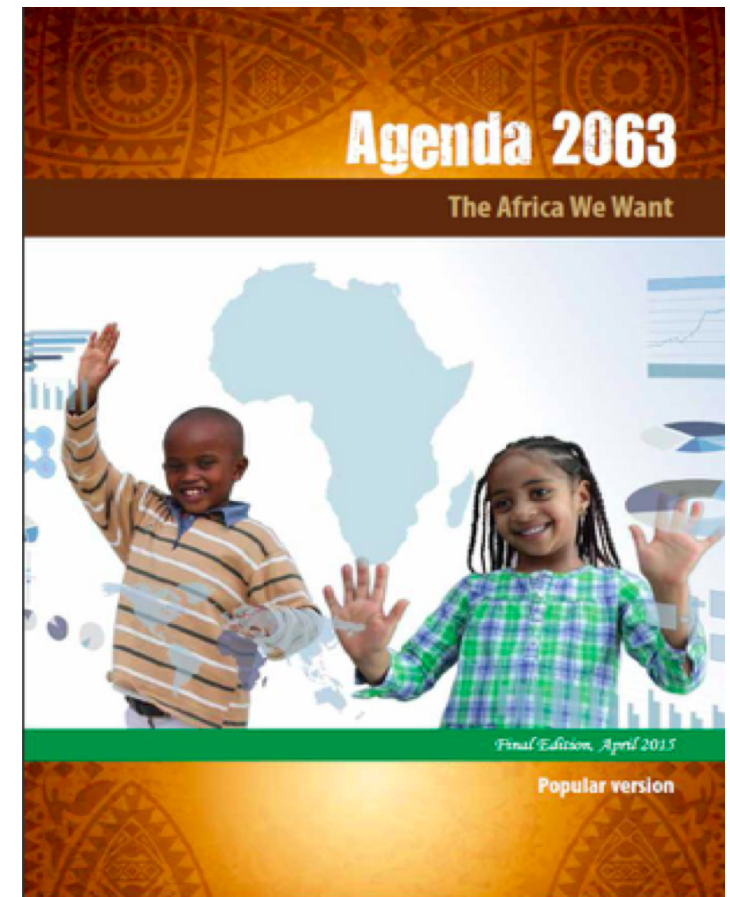


Source: [What are the UN SDGs and what do they mean for libraries?](#) Fiona Bradley, IFLA Manager Development Programmes IFLA World Library and Information Congress, 80th IFLA General Conference and Assembly, 16-22 August 2014, Lyon, France

Social Justice & Regulatory frameworks (B)

Aspiration 1: A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development

- We are determined to eradicate poverty in one generation and build shared prosperity through social and economic transformation of the continent.
 - Goal 2: Well educated citizens and skills revolutions underpinned by science, technology and innovation
 - developing Africa's human and social capital (through an education and skills revolution emphasizing science and technology)



Encouraging a reading culture in Africa; AUC and AfLIA sign MOU

May 20, 2019



Addis Ababa 20 May 2019: The African Union Commission (AUC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the African Library and Information Associations and Institutions (AfLIA) to foster closer collaboration between the two institutions, as a strategic move to drive sustainable development of the continent, through education and skills revolution.

The collaboration seeks to encourage a reading culture in the continent and to enhance human intellectual capital, through provision of relevant resources.

Social Justice & Regulatory frameworks (C)

- Constitutions, legislation and policy
 - Human rights framework
 - Legislation e.g. copyright
 - Policy e.g. education, health, climate change, food security ...
- National Development Plans
 - Focus on inclusive development
 - through, inter alia, quality education which is dependent on unhindered access to information and open science (**Libraries!**)
 - Libraries have committed to contribute to efforts to achieve social justice.
 - Each social justice issue has a regulatory system that is a call to action...

Example: education

- Article 26 of the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#)
- Articles 13 and 14 of the [International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#)
- [UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education, 1960](#)
- [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, 1981](#)
- [Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2006](#)
- Article 17 of the [African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights](#)
- National constitutions, legislation, policies, development plans



Constitutional imperative

–Section 29(1) of the Constitution:

*“Everyone has the right to a basic education, including adult basic education and further education, which the State, through **reasonable measures, must progressively make available and accessible”.***



The basis of library OA efforts

‘At the outset, it is necessary to **distinguish** between realization of **the human right to education** and **the belief that copyright's role is to facilitate learning**. Copyright protection has always extended to educational materials. *Since its beginnings, copyright law has been premised on the idea that the **flourishing of private markets** in copyright-protected works will promote learning.* In contrast, the human right to education imposes public law **obligations on governments, including the provision of free educational materials (particularly to primary school children)**. *The human right to education must therefore mean something other than the existence of markets for copyright-protected works, which anticipate that educational materials will be sold rather than distributed free of charge*’.

Example: Education, Inequity and Social Justice

- Varied and complex challenges across the education spectrum (basic to tertiary)
- the question is two-fold:
 1. how can education contribute to the attainment of social justice?
 - SDG 4
 - inextricably linked to other SDGs
 2. how can libraries contribute to social justice initiatives aimed at solving the challenges in education?
 - **Open Access + equitable production of distribution of context appropriate & up-to-date materials in a variety of formats**



Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Equity and Open Access

- **Open Access + equitable production of distribution of context appropriate & up-to-date materials in a variety of formats**
 1. Multiplicity of authors/voices/perspectives
 2. Relevant and relatable to the audience's context
 - > able to meet a global challenge with a local solution
 3. Distributed equitably including in hard copy, where online access is a challenge
 4. Available in multiple formats to serve persons with physical/visual/aural/cognitive impairments or disabilities

Reference: HODGKINSON-WILLIAMS, Cheryl Ann; TROTTER, Henry. A Social Justice Framework for Understanding Open Educational Resources and Practices in the Global South. **Journal of Learning for Development - JL4D**, [S.l.], v. 5, n. 3, Nov. 2018. ISSN 2311-1550. Available at: <<https://jl4d.org/index.php/ejl4d/article/view/312>>. Date accessed: 03 Dec. 2019.

CAPE TOWN DECLARATION

Cape Town, South Africa—14 August 2015



We, the Ministers and country representatives from Angola, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cote D'Ivoire, Lesotho, Guinea, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa, South Sudan and Swaziland met to discuss the status of libraries and implementation of access to information agenda on 14 August 2015 in Cape Town, Republic of South Africa. The IFLA President, AFLIA President and national librarians were also present;

Deliberated on the status of libraries in the continent and the progress required to meet the global sustainable development goals;

Inspired by the principles enshrined in the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance and global sustainable development agenda;

Inspired by the level of commitment to prioritise and resource libraries as part of Africa Agenda 2063;

Aware that resources are still a challenge in most countries;

Mindful that libraries around the world are powerful knowledge partners in delivering services like literacy, ICT skills and local knowledge to communities;

Recognised that conflict, instability and underdevelopment on the continent, hinder free flow of information, skills transfer and people to people contacts;

Reminded that access to information is a universal human right and a basic tool for sustainable development;

Noted the need for the improvement of library services for the blind and people with sight impairment as well as other forms of impairment; and,

Welcomed the IFLA position regarding the post 2015 sustainable development agenda.

Provide the necessary resources for the development of African libraries to respond to modern day challenges and provide access to emerging technologies;

Support the establishment of a Pan African library organisation to provide a platform for networking and resource mobilisation;

Encourage the establishment of institutional partnerships between libraries in the continent for exchange of knowledge and experiences;

Fast-track implementation of continental innovative strategies to improve ICT and knowledge management;

Encourage the implementation of fair and balanced copyright laws to facilitate access to information for all;

Fast-track the implementation of the outcomes of Library Summits held in 2011, 2013 and 2015 respectively;

Support the work of the African Library and Information Association and Institutions (AFLIA); and National Libraries, National Library Services, National Library Associations and Councils;

Encourage the use of e-books and virtual libraries more effectively to facilitate cultural and scientific exchange and encourage a culture of reading in the continent;

Promote library policies on access to information as part of a universal human rights approach as well as rights of people to knowledge;

Encourage the development and promotion of local content in African libraries as part of the promotion of African Renaissance and Pan Africanism;

Encourage the sharing of skills, collection and preservation of African stories from our own communities;

Commit that the African Ministers responsible for arts and culture, libraries and access to information will meet regularly;

Adopted In Cape Town, Republic of South Africa on 14 August 2015.

How, now, are libraries to contribute?

- “Open access services must become mainstream for academic and research institutions in Africa as open access is one of the most significant conduits for inclusive and free access to scholarship for the marginalised and has the mandate and potential to strongly promote unhindered participation in knowledge production.”

CHALLENGE

- Cost of openness
 - APC often exclude global South scholars and social sciences & Humanities scholars who cannot afford them

SOLUTION

- Library as publisher
(workshops OASymp2019 December 2 - 3, 2019)

Source: The Concept Model #OASymposium2019
<http://www.sparcafricasymp.uct.ac.za/sparc/aboutus>

APC challenges & solutions cont'd

- University and library APC funds are very quickly depleted because of the high cost of APCs and they can only cover a small number of authors
- It has been suggested that these funds would more equitably used to fund library publishing which would cater for a greater pool of authors
- Collective library publishing efforts would be more efficient and effective than individual initiatives
- Policies and practices to ensure quality, equity and sustainability would be required
- This is a conversation ripe for discussion at a forum like this, let's talk!
- Source: [Jeff Pooley](#) "[The Library Solution: How Academic Libraries Could End the APC Scourge](#)" *Items: Insights from the Social Sciences*, September 3, 2019

Thank you!



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