Research4Life (R4L) programs for developing countries

Tandi Lwoga

R4L User representative
Deputy Rector (Academic, Research and Consultancy)
Associate Professor (Information Science)
College of Business Education
Tanzania
Goals of Research4Life Programmes

• To **connect** developing world researchers with the international scientific community

• To **reduce the ‘publishing gap’** and improve the quality of locally produced articles and journals

• To ‘**ensure public access to information** and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements’ (UN Sustainable Development Goal #16)
Who is eligible for R4L Programmes

- National universities
- Professional schools (medicine, nursing, pharmacy, public health, dentistry)
- Research institutes
- Teaching hospitals
- Government: ministries and agencies
- National medical libraries
- Locally based non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Partners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Key Publishers</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Elsevier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Springer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Wiley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Sage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Taylor &amp; Francis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Lippincott/Williams &amp; Wilkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• BioOne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Oxford University Press</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Nature Publishing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Other science/technical/medical publishers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Programme Partners</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• World Health Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• United Nations Environment Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• World Intellectual Property Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• International Association of Scientific, Technical and Medical Publishers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Yale University Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Cornell University Mann Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• National Library of Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Information Training and Outreach Centre for Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Librarians Without Borders®/MLA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Coordinated by WHO and Yale University.
Currently, more than 6400 registered institutions.
Offering up to **14,000 journals / 60,000 books** / 120 other information resources / **170 publishers' content** included.

[www.who.int/hinari](http://www.who.int/hinari)
Online portal to access information on agriculture and related sciences

Coordinated by FAO/Cornell University, USA

Up to 6,000 journals / 22,000 books / 55 other information resources / 75 publishers' content included

OARE

- Online portal to access environmental information

- Coordinated by UNEP/Yale University

- Over 11,000 journals / 22,000 books / 55 other information resources / 75 publishers' content included

- www.unep.org/oare
ARDI was launched by the World Intellectual Property Organization in 2009 and joined R4L in 2011.

Up to 7,500 journals; 22,000 books; 25 other resources; 40 publishers’ content

www.wipo.int/ardi
The programme initially has access to over **10,000 legal titles** from 60 publishers.

Partners include the **International Labour Organization (ILO)**, Brill Nihoff (founding publisher and initiator of the programme), Lilian Goldman Law Library at Yale University and Cornell Law School Library.

[www.ilo.org/goali](http://www.ilo.org/goali)
Users’ perspective from Sub-Saharan Africa

• 118 respondents responded to the online survey in June 2019

• Average age was 44 years

• Masters holders were predominant

• 110 Institutions from 20 countries

• Gender
  – Male (63.6%)
Benefits

• High impact on
  – research design,
  – article writing,
  – preparing teaching materials

Help you write articles for publication?

- Never: 19
- A few times: 34
- Lots of times: 39
- Once: 12
- Not applicable: 14

Research design

- Not applicable: 6
- Lots of times: 51
- Once: 10
- A few times: 40
- Never: 10

Prepare teaching material?

- A few times: 34
- Lots of times: 28
- Never: 19
- Not applicable: 16
- Once: 20
Benefits

• Moderate impact
  – Train others

Moderate-low impact
  – Grant writing,
  – Establish contacts with other researchers

- Improve practice
- Accepted publications
Challenges of using R4L

- Poor internet connectivity & electrical power
- Lack of awareness of R4L
- Need for more training
- Need to improve the search functionality

"….. The search is much better than it used to be but still not up to Google"

"…..lack of budget to offer a training for University researchers, academicians, students and librarians. If I get a small grant I can offer a training for the purpose of using R4L programs"

"…..need access to interactive online training materials such as video"
Challenges of using R4L

• Limited access to local content

• Extraction of usage statistics is a challenge

• Need to adequately cover other disciplines e.g. business, computer science

• Limited access to some content from certain publishers

• Challenges with the R4L registrations
Way forward

• R4L programmes & institution need to:
  1. Conduct more training
     • Local in-country training
     • face-to-face, online, blended learning
     • Several languages (Portuguese, French)
     • Show content that is not covered with R4L
  2. Sensitize local publishers to contribute content
  3. Ensure constant marketing of the R4L programmes

• Institutions need to
  1. Ensure reliable electrical power
  2. Enhance internet connectivity

• R4L programmes need to
  1. Improve user interface
  2. Negotiate with publishers for more content
  3. Negotiate for closed-access articles to be accessible at least one article per day
  4. Conduct regular M&E to users
  5. Cover other disciplines e.g. business, computer science, education, management
  6. Open possibilities for users to access the usage statistics online
Thank You

Tandi Lwoga

R4L User representative
Deputy Rector (Academic, Research and Consultancy)
Associate Professor (Information Science)

College of Business Education
Tanzania
t.lwoga@cbe.ac.tz