

***DATAD Workshop on  
Intellectual Property, Governance, Dissemination,  
and Funding Strategies  
Accra, Ghana  
February 19-20, 2004***

**Report**

**I. Introduction**

The Association of African Universities (AAU) organized a workshop on behalf of the Database of African Theses and Dissertations (DATAD) initiative. Entitled “Intellectual Property, Governance, Dissemination, and Funding Strategies,” the workshop brought together representatives of the DATAD project participants to consider strategies for DATAD’s transition from its pilot phase to an ongoing, sustainable program.

The workshop, developed in close collaboration with the Center for Research Libraries (CRL), represented the first step in developing a copyright guide for dissertations and other unpublished materials produced by African universities and made available through DATAD. It provided an opportunity for current and potential DATAD participants and other stakeholders (e.g., university librarians, faculty, and administrators) to become more familiar with the rights and intellectual property issues peculiar to dissertations, theses, and other forms of “gray literature.”

It also served as a forum to begin building consensus around prospective practices and policies that will govern dissemination of information and content by DATAD. The discussions and outcomes will assist DATAD and its partners develop an organizational business plan for the sustainable management and dissemination of theses and dissertations.

**Mary Materu-Behitsa**, DATAD Project Coordinator, welcomed participants and thanked those who took their time to travel to the meeting.

**Dr. Akilagpa Sawyerr**, Secretary General of the AAU, gave a welcoming presentation, noting that the DATAD project is one in which the AAU is strongly invested. The work and the intellectual output of the AAU’s members are very valuable, and the project is now in the position to move forward at a different pace. The need for expansion and development has been made clear. The issues of copyright and governance are crucial elements of the project that need to be addressed.

**Bernard Reilly**, President of CRL, introduced the agenda and intended outcomes of the workshop. Development of a business model and IP regime is not just about dissemination of theses, he noted, but is about the exchange of knowledge, and enabling African societies to derive the full benefit of the energy, knowledge, and creativity of its scholars. He stressed that the presentations were merely openings to further discussions and feedback from the participants, and encouraged participants to be forthcoming and candid in their feedback.

**Participants** introduced themselves and expressed their aspirations for the conference. The participants were eager to learn more about Intellectual Property and emerging strategies for electronic dissemination of theses and dissertations. They expressed interest in harmonizing activities at the local level with those of DATAD. As a whole, the participants shared the desire that African contributions to science and scholarship should be disseminated, acknowledged, and utilized throughout the world. A list of workshop attendees is attached in Appendix 1.

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**Part II. Paper Presentations**

**Mary Materu-Behitsa** presented a summary of the purpose, accomplishments, and next steps of the DATAD project.

DATAD was initiated by the Association of African Universities in 1998. The program began with a feasibility study, and launched a three-year pilot with 11 institutions in 2000 and concluded in 2003. DATAD falls within the AAU strategic activity relating to sharing information. The objective of DATAD is to create capacity in African universities for the collection, management, dissemination of these and dissertations in electronic form. DATAD also aims to provide stability and improved access to the work of African scholars, as well to facilitate the development of copyright procedures and regulations for the protection of intellectual property rights of African university graduates and researchers.

For pilot implementation: AAU selected 11 institutions based on regional balance, ICT infrastructure, leadership commitment, and the existence of a graduate program. To select the model used in the pilot, needed to consider general ICT infrastructure environment, successes of existing models (Australian model provided many successful elements), and looked at options of central vs. decentralized implementation.

In considering the shape of the program, DATAD wanted to develop a research resource, not a bibliographic database. Therefore, the information should help researchers disseminate their findings, help in networking of researchers, and provide information for bibliometric studies (to see areas of research in particular institutions, etc.).

Lessons learned in the course of the project:

- The mixed model used was well suited for the project.
- Institutions need both technical and financial support at least at the beginning
- Quality control is necessary at local and centralized level.
- While the abstracts are useful, provision of full-text is critical.
- The project will need to devote attention to the challenges of preservation and archiving. For example, centralized storage of dissertations at institutions, preservation of these
- Sustainability is possible, with institutional commitment of the participants.

Future plans, under development in the transitional stage under which DATAD is operating, include the management of copyright and intellectual property (as part of the grant, DATAD and CRL will produce an intellectual property guide and copyright documentation), and the development of a viable business plan capable of supporting growth and sustainability for the project. The plan will encompass expansion, preservation, sustainability, and the move towards full text access and the support of ETDs.

In the next phase, DATAD will move towards supporting institutional efforts to produce ETDs. Those institutions ready to accept full-text dissertations will be able to move ahead, while new participants can contribute abstract metadata until they are ready.

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**Elizabeth Kiondo**, Director of University Library Services at the University of Dar Es Salaam, presented a paper on the “Historical Practice in Managing Theses and Dissertations at African Universities and university libraries.” In the introduction of the paper, Kiondo discusses the historical challenges to information dissemination in Africa. “In a nutshell,” she stated,

More often than not intellectual contributions from Africa lack wide accessibility within African and beyond. To a great extent, this is due to lack of major abstracting and indexing services and initiatives such as the Database of African Thesis and Dissertations (DATAD) aimed at organizing and disseminating information and knowledge generated from Africa.

Additional complications include the fluidity and uncertainty of copyright and intellectual property rights for African intellectual contributions. Within this context, Kiondo analyzed the life cycle of theses/dissertation production processes in selected African Universities, with special attention given copyright policies and restrictions on utilization. “Historically, in most African Universities, with or without copyright statements, the library has assumed the role of the guardian and in most cases the library gives permission to users to reproduce theses or part of theses on behalf of both the University and Author.” Her assessment found wide variations among how institutions handled development, deposition, and access to this class of material.

The presenter also described scholarly use of theses and dissertations and identifies any variations among categories of discipline. The paper concludes with an assessment of the major issues in the management of theses/dissertations in African universities. Kiondo notes “Although there are guidelines guiding the process of managing the life cycle of a thesis/dissertation from the conception of the idea to the dissemination of the final product, the main weakness is that policy documents on copyright and intellectual property issues are still lacking in most African Universities.”

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**David Easterbrook**, George and Mary LeCron Foster Curator of the Melville J. Herskovits Library of African Studies at Northwestern University, presented a paper on “African Theses and Dissertations in Academic Libraries in the United States: Background and Current Practices.” In his presentation, Easterbrook describes the historical development of Africana collections in U.S. institutions and the important precedents set by early collectors in considering knowledge produced in Africa, including dissertations, of paramount interest. Easterbrook also stresses the importance of, and reliance on, cooperative activities among libraries in the field of African studies.

The presenter went on to discuss the benefits of institutional linkages to exchange knowledge resources such as dissertations, but notes the challenges of maintaining these links. Over time, these linkages, usually driven by personal relationships, were abandoned in favor of vendor-supplied approval plans and cooperative acquisition programs of the Library of Congress. While the deficit of strong exchanges has led to a dearth of dissertation literature in U.S. libraries, most institutions are unwilling to acquire these materials through vendors without assurance there has been strict adherence to permissions and rights to sell.

As interested as American African Studies Librarians are in acquiring for research purposes in our libraries copies of African theses and dissertations, we are also committed to acquiring only those legitimately available. We furthermore have always been clear with our post-graduate students and faculty researchers the importance of the African Studies Association’s ethical guidelines for research the full text of which is found on the ASA’s website.<sup>13</sup> The relatively small numbers of theses and dissertations in our libraries that have been successfully acquired have for the most part been acquired through the very labor intensive processes of letter writing and personal contact.

Easterbrook concluded with an assessment of interest from U.S. scholars in consulting African dissertations. Due in part to increasing connectivity and renewed connections among scholars, “in recent years growing numbers of postgraduate students and faculty members have shown increased interest in actually accessing dissertations and theses from African universities and increased knowledge about precisely what they want.”

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**Mary Summerfield**, Director of Business Development and Planning at the University of Chicago Press, presented a paper entitled “The economics of scholarly communications, with special bearing on unpublished materials and emerging models of electronic text publishing.” The paper first discusses current key factors in the economics of scholarly communication. Summerfield goes on to assess cost elements of the scholarly communications industry in the print and electronic environment. These elements include factors such as the original creation of the intellectual property, fixed (first-copy) costs, and incremental access by additional users.

Summerfield asserts “an optimal business model for disseminating scholarly publications would cover all of the costs of providing the materials while maximizing access to them. Such a model would include price discrimination. ... Ideally wealthier communities would pay more of the fixed costs of publishing and distributing these materials and those with a lower ability to pay would be charged a price that covers little or none of the fixed costs but equals at most the cost of serving them and their ability to pay.”

However, as electronic publishing is not yet mature and the technology is still evolving, the economics of electronic publishing are unclear. The presenter broke out the cost elements by activity, focusing on the many players involved in the complex process of authoring, publishing, disseminating, preserving, and using scholarly materials.

Finally, Summerfield outlined the main elements of programs that disseminate scholarly materials electronically—with a particular focus on gray literature. The disperse elements, from type of material produced, dissemination,

payment models, all have an impact on the cost of a sustainable program and need to be considered in the development of such a resources.

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**Peter Jaszi**, Professor of Law and Director, Program on Intellectual Property and the Public Interest at American University, presented on “Basic issues of Francophone, Anglophone, and international intellectual property, with regard to unpublished materials.”

The presentation addressed the basic premises of Intellectual Property (copyright, patent law, trademark) and the differences among the various kinds of rights. All qualifying works, published or not, are protected by copyright from the moment of creation. By comparison, only some qualifying inventions will ever receive patent protection. This is because the inventor has to go through a difficult process to secure official recognition. Copyright is inexpensive and automatic, while patent is expensive and requires considerable affirmative effort to be put into place.

The presenter then discussed the basic differences between the Anglo American tradition of intellectual property (emphasizing an institutional claim) and the Francophone (continental) traditions emphasizing the individual. He posited that, regardless of Anglophone or Francophone system, in the default tradition, with no modifications by private agreement, it is the person who conceives the work that is the owner in the first instance. However, in reality, IP ownership and control over use of IP in the university environment tends to be governed by contractual agreements superimposed upon the above-mentioned default conditions.

Within an academic context relating to theses and dissertations, universities are permitted with the rights of intellectual property to hold copies in their collections, lend within or across institutions, and allow scholars to consult, make use of, or build upon those copies. Institutions cannot multiply additional copies (digital, reprographic) without limitation. They cannot engage in activities that would involve making the texts of those copies available to a much wider audience by way of the World Wide Web or other internet facilities. This distribution of work is impermissible without the agreement of the copyright owner. Therefore, it is imperative to construct a system of securing the authorization of owners in the first instance for the purpose of making dissertations and theses available in the electronic environment.

The presenter made a case for the rationale of making theses and dissertations widely available, under the legal protections of Intellectual Property. He stressed the importance of working within institutional, national, or international policies in doing so. He concluded his presentation with some cautions about prematurely exposing patentable material, securing prior consent by research subjects, and heeding the developments of legal protection of traditional knowledge sources.

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**Shalini Urs**, Director of the Vidyanidhi Digital Library and Chair of the Department of Library and Information Science at the University of Mysore, gave a presentation on the “Vidyanidhi Indian digital library of electronic theses and E-scholarship portal project.”

Vidyanidhi began as a pilot project in the year 2000 to demonstrate the feasibility of ETDs in the Indian context. At the end of the pilot phase of Vidyanidhi, an online library with two main-layers/products of full text of theses and metadata records/bibliographic records was developed. An understanding of the workflow and methods was another important outcome. Vidyanidhi is now expanding and enlarging its horizons from a pilot to a National Programme with support from the Ford Foundation and the Microsoft Corporation.

Vidyanidhi has adopted a multi pronged approach – bottom up and top down. Vidyanidhi is liaising and working with the University Grants Commission to evolve a national policy of eTheses (including submission, archiving and accessing). Vidyanidhi is also in continuous dialogue with select universities to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding that would not only be mutually beneficial but also contribute to scholarship and society.

The Vidyandhi Theses Database currently has 65,000 records and 500 theses in full-text. Vidyandhi will be a catalyst driving the eTheses activities in Indian academic institutions in the next couple of years. The program is not only a repository, but a partnership to develop capacity to submit theses in electronic form (sensitizing students, training, promoting standards, developing policy frameworks, etc.).

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**Peter Lor**, Professor Extraordinary in the Department of Information Science at the University of Pretoria, presented a paper on "Knowledge production, international information flows and intellectual property: an African perspective." In the paper, Lor and Johannes Britz examine the moral aspects of IP rights in the exchange of information to (North-South), from (South-North), and within (South-South) Africa. The moral framework proposed in dealing with information flows are based on three claims, detailed further in the paper:

- i) There are universal information related human rights;
- ii) There is a common good that consist of those things that society shares to everyone's benefit;
- iii) Social justice is the primary tool that must provide the moral standard for assessing a society.

Dr. Lor discussed current developments in scholarly publishing and intellectual property rights (IPR) that affect the North-South information flow, and consider current responses, such as the open access movement, to the growing imbalance between rights holders and authors. These relations also affect South-North information flows, where both exploitation (of indigenous knowledge, for example) and neglect (of Africa's scholarly contributions to the world) need to be countered. He then examined the importance of South-South information flows between African countries.

Dr. Lor concluded with a discussion of implications for the management of the intellectual property manifested in African theses and dissertations. The principles of commutative justice (fairness in exchanges), distributive justice (fair and equal distribution), contributive justice (obligation to contribute to the common good), and retributive justice (sanctions for inappropriate behavior) all apply to the production and distribution of theses and dissertations along all flows of information.

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### **Part III. DATAD discussions**

#### **Discussion and comparative analysis of existing and emerging models for self-sustaining management of academic gray literature. (Simon)**

As an introduction to the workshop discussions on business models for DATAD, James Simon presented a broad overview of existing models utilized in the traditional and electronic dissemination of dissertations and theses.

The **traditional dissemination model** favors distribution of the physical dissertation through purchase or Interlibrary Loan. Material is delivered in print or microform, though it may also be distributed through electronic document delivery (fax, Ariel©). Dissemination is handled by research institutions or scholarly publishers (such as the U.S.-based UMI/ProQuest). Examples of successful implementation of the traditional model include the "British Thesis Service," supplying access to 500,000+ theses; the Center for Research Libraries' international doctoral dissertation program, providing access to nearly 800,000 dissertations produced outside of North America; and the commercial services of UMI, providing on-demand duplication and distribution in paper and microform from a print master.

The emerging **electronic dissemination models** vary widely, ranging from self-publishing to broad international collaborations. The categories discussed included commercial distribution, institutional models, consortial, and national/international dissemination. Simon focused on broad aspects of cooperation and sustainable activity, indicating that any cooperative activity would require a high level of institutional commitment to sustain activities.

Determining the model for DATAD will be a complex process, drawing from the best practices of the many institutional models presented. The model will need to reflect the reality of the environment in institutions in Africa.

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### Construction of DATAD business model framework (Reilly)

Bernard Reilly led a discussion with the participants to begin identifying the ideal characteristics of a business model to support future operations of DATAD. In developing these specifications, the participants first examined DATAD's mission and enumerated its prospective activities.

In developing the optimal model, DATAD planners must identify and examine all potential audiences and stakeholders in the effort; and analyze the appropriate prospective organizational structures, governance models, and funding strategies. Through presentation and discussion participants expanded a draft list of the major stakeholders, i.e., those parties having an interest, or potentially having an interest, in DATAD. Such parties include extant and prospective contributors to DATAD, and potential users or beneficiaries of DATAD content and services. Development of the business model will take into account the nature and scale of each stakeholder's investment in the production and dissemination of D/Ts, and the degree to which each stakeholder stands to benefit from DATAD output. Discussion also explored which markets can help bear costs or provide revenue for DATAD activities.

Some considerations in constructing the DATAD business model:

- The importance of having an exhaustive inventory of stakeholders, because an international effort will not succeed if it does not mesh with the individual interests of the participants.
- The importance of identifying and engaging "champions" in the further development of DATAD, as these will be key players in successful implementation. The most obvious "champions" are the university librarians. But this will vary from institution to institution, country, and region. Other possible champions are the academic departments – embodied in a Chief Academic Officer or Deputy Vice Chancellor.
- Non-monetary contributions will be essential in sustaining DATAD and will need to be taken into account in structuring the business model. These contributions come in the form of influence, "clout," and in-kind work.

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It was essential to begin development of the DATAD business model with a comprehensive list of the **activities and processes** that make up the DATAD program. The draft list of activities in the "DT lifecycle" presented by CRL was expanded and refined through discussion. This list will likely become longer, as activities scale up.

Some activities will be performed centrally by DATAD and others will be distributed among the partner institutions. Yet others might be undertaken by third parties on a contractual basis .

Participants identified three desirable characteristics of the DATAD business model:

- 1) Scalability -- Participating institutions should be able to participate at the level which they can afford, since available resources, capabilities, may differ from one institution or country to the next . The effort should also permit other existing or emerging ETD projects to participate or federate with DATAD when they are willing and ready, but the arrangement should be structured in a way to ensure long-term commitment to DATAD, to provide stability to the program.
  - 2) Distributed -- The effort should take advantage of expertise where it resides locally, and should reconcile the good of the larger DATAD community with the local needs and obligations of the participant institutions.
  - 3) Extensibility -- The DATAD effort should be open to participation by geographically dispersed and nationally diverse institutions. A broad and diverse membership should hedge against changing conditions or economic failure in any single country or region.
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## **Governance**

Discussion then turned to the question of what form of governance will best promote the fulfillment of DATAD's mission. DATAD is now a part of AAU, and as such is governed by that organization. The AAU currently has responsibility for the direction, welfare, and assets of the project. The AAU has included DATAD in its 10-year Strategic Plan, providing some assurance for the future of the project. However, because DATAD will evolve from a project to an ongoing program under the auspices of the AAU, and will begin to generate more informational and monetary assets, the DATAD business plan will have to address certain governance matters. The activities discussed earlier will generate a variety of assets for the project, whose ownership and control will have to be determined.

Two prospective governance models that should be considered for DATAD are federation and corporation.

*Federation* – an informally constituted association organized around a common mission or effort. This is a “lighter” form of organization than a corporation. Characteristics of this model include:

- Governance by an Advisory Board (informally appointed body that exercises guidance).
- Standards and policies based on consensus (not binding)
- Low accountability (minimal obligations)
- Distributes benefits and liabilities among participants, as the federation in itself has no legal standing.

Most grant projects are undertaken by federations.

*Corporation* – a legally constituted organization based in a particular jurisdiction for legal purposes. Its characteristics include:

- Governance by elected officers accountable to participating organizations
- Formal structure (under a charter and/or by-laws) to decide and manage operations and rights.
- Legal standing; can own property (including rights). Has liability and constraints as well.
- Can create binding partnerships and agreements (come with protections of law).

The corporation concept does not imply becoming a commercial organization. DATAD will continue to be a non-profit enterprise, based on the character and mission of its participants.

The more that is invested in the program, the more the program needs to be concerned about level of formality. As one scales up, one needs to put on layers of formal governance.

## **Basis of Funding**

Participants discussed the different possible bases of funding that could support the activities of DATAD. Some funding schemes enable strategic growth better than others. Different types of schemes have different effects on the accountability, sustainability, and direction of the program. The types of funding schemes discussed, and their properties, were:

*Government / nation-based funding.*

- Funding drawn from one or several governments
- Relatively stable and transparent, based on appropriated funding.
- Sensitive to shifts in public need (national security, healthcare, education).
- Government funding is accountable to a much larger set of participants (competition for funds)
- Also subject to government oversight, political agendas, and power inequities.

*Philanthropic*

- Catalyzes and supports new and innovative projects, useful for capacity building.
- Longer term participation is not reliable; interest is in short-term sustainable efforts.
- Interests of donors change over time.

*Subscription / pay-per-use*

- Payment by beneficiaries (individuals, institutions) on annual or per use basis.
- Accountable to the immediate demand – content must appeal to the consumer, and may dilute or forsake the long term perspective. The Free Market supports broad-based, high volume materials.

The employment of this model may depend on whether the project is more market driven or is focused on a broader spectrum.

*Consortium / Producer payment*

- Members of the community put direct support into project,
- Participating institutions respond to the market through the mediation of the universities, faculty, researchers, etc.

The last model perhaps best reconciles the shared long term goals with individual local interests.

DATAD's business model might be a hybrid, like many non-profit organizations, relying on a multiple kinds and sources of funding. The ideal mix depends on how the participants see the model developing. Funding may be supported, in part, through cooperation with commercial organizations (software for purchasing, server supply, text or metadata conversion, or bigger issues). Parts of DATAD content can be shaped to capitalize on lucrative markets (focusing on market-driven approaches, for example, for Sci/Tech material). Government support to any great extent was believed to be difficult, given the number of divergent interests throughout Africa.

The participants voiced enthusiasm for the AAU providing a framework for community support of the project, and discussed means of such support, either through AAU fees or direct participation in DATAD. Some expressed a preference for a subscription basis, whereby support would be derived from the libraries themselves.

Additionally, there was general consensus that the project would be of broader interest on a national, regional, and continental level. Possible funding sources proposed included NAPAD (to fund specific leading projects), the UN Economic Commission of Africa, and the African Union (which was once very involved in higher education).

Participants believed that the time is ripe to approach the broader sector, as the case for DATAD as a pan-African cooperative effort is strong. DATAD contributes to the utilization of information and knowledge for development of African capacity.

Some participants believed that many African governments are committed to revitalizing Africa, and that a case can be made that the DATAD project supports this. Others felt that some governments would prefer a country-focused effort instead. There was an appeal to the participants to disseminate ideas of the project among institutions, administration, and educate and lobby ministries and governments about the importance of the project.

**Copyright**

The presenter then led a discussion on the contents of the intellectual property guide. The appropriate intellectual property management regime for DATAD must be adapted to current "environmental" conditions of the region and the broader communities. These include an increasingly restrictive international copyright climate, where laws and statutes are increasingly augmented by licenses and contracts, which strengthen control of the use of knowledge by its creators.

- DATAD has to protect African authors against exploitation of their knowledge for commercial or destructive purposes.
- It also has to deal with legal exposure incurred with mounting materials on the Web.
- It has to address widely varying regimes for managing IP from one university to the next, which differ with respect to matters like control over the content and revenue sharing from scientific discoveries.

In order to deal with the legal implications and the individual fluctuations in policies, the DATAD intellectual property regime will involve a system of negotiated grants and licenses transacted between the authors, universities, and DATAD governing authority within the framework of applicable copyright laws and treaties.

Participants then critiqued an outline for the DATAD Intellectual Property guide drafted by CRL. Revisions are incorporated in *DATAD Intellectual Property Guide: an Outline*.

Participants also introduced the following points:

- The introduction to the guide should include the notion of the positive aspects of intellectual property – that is, that IP allows one to disclose work while maintaining control of it. Copyright provides security to the author of a DT, while permitting others to make appropriate uses of it.
- Further, there must be some provision for patentable inventions, where disclosure prior to registration would renders the author’s work ineligible for legal protection. There needs to be a decision point at which a DT can be pulled aside for different handling. This is likely to be at the university level, or a consortium activity pooled by various institutions.
- In the handling of agreements, one must determine which laws apply in cases of non-compliance. Also, in IP commercialization agreements, there must be guidelines for accrual and distribution of revenues.
- At which point are contributions validated? Requests for deposit have come in from individuals. In the pilot phase, items were submitted through libraries only. This did not involve other departments at the university. Material must be validated, and might require a change in operations in how dissertations are submitted at the university level. If not the library, the graduate school must have a standardized policy.

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In closing, the workshop participants gave thanks to the Carnegie-Ford-Rockefeller Economic Partnership for Higher Education in Africa and thanks to the Association of African Universities.

Mary Materu-Behitsa noted that she was looking forward to second stage of DATAD, which will help “move us from pilot and transitional stages to the full implementation of the activity.” The transition began with the present workshop. In the next step, the consultants will visit additional institutions to gain further insight and better determine how the ideal intellectual property regime meets with the practical realities of activity in the region. From this, DATAD will complete a copyright guide and develop a business model to move DATAD to the next stage.

Follow-on will be conducted online through the Intraspect facility. Papers will be shared widely on the public Web. CRL will create a conference listserv for participants as well.

*Summary submitted by James Simon*

**Appendix 1**  
**Workshop Participants**

M.O. Afolabi	Librarian	Obafemi Owolowo University	Nigeria
Annick Agbotame	DATAD Program Assistant	Association of African Universities	Ghana
Edward O. Ako	Professor	University of Yaounde I	Cameroon
E.A. Amartey	Senior Assistant Registrar	University of Ghana	Ghana
David Bakibinga	Director of School of Graduate Stud.	Makerere University	Uganda
Taye Assefa	Head, Communications & Services	Association of African Universities	Ghana
Gifty Boakye	Librarian	University of Ghana	Ghana
Justin Chisenga	Information Management Specialist	FAO Regional Office for Africa	Ghana
David Easterbrook	Curator, Herskovits Library of African Studies	Northwestern University	USA
Benjamin Eshun	DATAD ICT Officer	Association of African Universities	Ghana
K.N. Ganu	Director	Ghana Universities Press	Ghana
Peter A. Jaszi	Professor, Washington College of Law	American University	USA
Elizabeth Kiondo	Director, University Library Services	University of Dar es Salaam	Tanzania
Christine Kisiedu	Professor, Dept. of Information Studies	University of Ghana, Legon	Ghana
Peter Lor	Professor Extraordinary	University of Pretoria	South Africa
Mary Materu-Behitsa	DATAD Program Coordinator	Association of African Universities	Ghana
M.C. Mbago	Director of Research and Publication	University of Dar es Salaam	Tanzania
Buhle Mbambo	Librarian	University of Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe
Edward Muya	Senior Lecturer	Kenyatta University	Kenya
Rosemary Ndegwa	Ag. University Librarian	Kenyatta University	Kenya
Adakole Ochai	Librarian	University of Jos	Nigeria
Bernard F. Reilly	President	Center for Research Libraries	USA
Akilagpa Sawyerr	Secretary General	Association of African Universities	Ghana
James Simon	Director of International Resources	Center for Research Libraries	USA
Mary Summerfield	Director, Business Dev. & Planning	University of Chicago Press	USA
John Tsebe	University Librarian	University of the North	South Africa
Felix Ubogu	University Librarian	University of Witwatersrand	South Africa
Shalini Urs	Director, Vidyanidhi	University of Mysore	India
Dominique Zidouemba	Chercheur	University Cheikh Anta Diop	Senegal