

**UNIVERSIDADE EDUARDO MONDLANE
DOCUMENTATION SERVICE DEPARTMENT**

DATAD REPORT

1.Introduction

This report gives general and specific information on the state of the African Thesis and Dissertations Database initiative launched in January 2002 at the Universidade Eduardo Mondlane (UEM) Documentation Services Department under the supervision of the Association of African Universities (AAU). The AAU provided the necessary equipment, i.e. Two Computers, a Printer and a Scanner. After the installation of the equipment, followed the training of three technicians, two of who were involved in the project. At the beginning, Drs. Carlos Zimba and Aissa Issak were given charge of the project. However, Dr. Eliana replaced Dr. Issak after the latter was transferred to another department of the University. The above persons worked in collaboration with a computer expert of the UEM.

A) DATAD REPORT

1. Number of theses and dissertation in the collection

The Department of Documentation Services (DSD) has 700 theses. However, there are a significant number of theses that are not yet in print. Consequently, only 110 theses are in print.

2. The total number of records already indexed in the DATABASE

The DATABASE has presently 1291 records related to degree works, Masters degree dissertations and doctorate degree theses. This number stated here contradicts what was reported in 1. above. This is because, information on work done in the different libraries of the various faculties in the University has not been made available to the DSD. Furthermore, because the faculties have only single copies, extra copies have to be handwritten.

The DSD-UEM before the start of this project had a database of records of Mozambican authors. These records were given to the AAU computer expert that was in Mozambique to install the conversion equipment. Conversion to the software was possible, but the existing data needs some correction. Unfortunately, this has not been possible because the room housing the equipment has been invaded by ants, thus making work there impossible.

Besides this, the computer expert of UEM is not always available to work on the project. One of the computers has a programming problem that has not yet been solved because the expert is not available.

3. Contributions of the institutions facilitating smooth implementation of the project

Related to this is the change in management. The project started off with a management that is no longer in charge, it has been replaced by another. The new management came with new ideas, giving priority to internal affairs even though, it has identified itself with the project. What is happening is that, there is no synchronisation. Despite all these difficulties, management has been giving its support. It is hoped that the instruction given in this workshop, would encourage better management of the project.

4. Proposals and suggestions to enhance implementation of the project

- a) More of such meetings where experiences can be shared, should be held to help with the co-ordination of the project.
- b) Without being too ambitious, I would suggest that Technicians involved in the project should pay visits to other Universities where similar projects are being run. This would serve as some kind of attachment/on-the-job training, where the more experienced technicians can help the less experienced with regards to methodology/procedures
- c) Co-ordination should be improved to help keep us in touch frequently. This is especially important where geographical distance is a barrier.
- d) Other proposals would be in relation to human resource in my Department. Currently, we have only two persons and one of them needs training. We also ask for support in terms of paper for the printing of the data collected, and also an incentive for the computer expert to boost his involvement in the project.

5. Related activities undertaken by the institution

In the past, the Rector of the UEM entrusted the collection of the theses undertaken at UEM, to the Department of Documentation Services (DSD). This project started in 1995 but faced great challenges the individual faculties rarely submitted their theses to the DSD, as directed by the rector. Nevertheless, the DSD through Drs. Carlos Zimba and Aissa Issak (now transferred) has been making some effort in the collection of the theses from the faculties. Although the copies are acquired by Photostatting and writing by hand, 700 theses have been collected and can be consulted.

One of the main aims of the project was to centralise all the information on the theses and their authors and to make it available to interested parties in catalogue form. (Win Isis can be produced a catalogue for 1997.)

This project provided a foundation for the DATAD project. The big difference however is that in this project, we summarised the theses that had important

information. Another difference is the way the data is entered. The programme used for this project was Windows Isis (Win Isis).

The plan is to maintain both databases, but respecting the differences.

6.The challenges that have to be dealt with in implementing project activities and solutions

The project itself is a challenge for every one of us in this institution. To overcome challenges in future, we must all put in more effort. The amount of data to be dealt with is enormous and given the inadequacy of our human resource, which is not only engaged in the project but also in other activities, working overtime is inevitable.

B) COMPLETED RECORDS ON A CD

This has still not been done because all the converted 1291 records have some details that need to be corrected. Secondly, we were in training stage when Dr. Aissa was transferred and the replacement, Dr. Eliana, took sometime to acclimatise, thus causing more delays. Given this situation, I will bring along a CD with the 1291 records but with some incomplete. However, some details would be corrected for exhibition at the workshop. Copies of the contents of the Database will also be brought along.

C) SKILL ENHANCEMENT

I would like to be tutored on the process of going from Procite to Omnipage and then back to Procite. Also, there are some stages I would like to see automated.

Report by Dr. Carlos Zimba