

Afrika Focus



Afrika Focus (journal):

- impulse Ghent Africa Platform (GAP): co-publisher
- since 2008: Open Access Journal

Ghent Africa Platform (GAP):

- academic platform (2007)
- bringing together diverse Africa related ‘actors’, activities & initiatives of AUGent (Ghent University Association)
 - actors = individual researchers and administrative staff, associations, and research centres, all of which focussing on Africa

Objectives

- **internal**
 - stimulating interdisciplinary cooperation & Africa research interest
- **external**
 - promoting/publicizing Africa expertise at AUGent
 - setting up sustainable relationships with other centres in Belgium, Europe, and, of course, Africa
 - acting as a liaison between AUGent and the non-academic world (NGOs, local and national authorities, media, etc.)
- **journal**

Afrika Focus

- an interdisciplinary, biannual journal dealing with Africa
- A2 status, double-blind refereed (peer-reviewed)
- since 1985
- since 2008
 - GAP co-publisher
 - open access journal (all articles online)
 - traditional subscription-based journal (gift subscription for Africa, “digital divide ”)

GAP & Open Access

- GAP strongly believes in the movement towards open access to scientific information.
- journal Afrika Focus: focus = Africa
- Access for Africa = Open Access model
- specifically the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ): all articles online

Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)

- Budapest Open Access Initiative (BOAI)
- congress 2001–2002: impulse Open Society Institute (OSI, Soros Foundation)
- aim: to make scientific information (research articles) freely available on the internet
- BOAI: follow-up congresses

Lund & DOAJ

- 2002: the First Nordic Conference on Scholarly Communication, Lund University/Copenhagen
- cooperation between Lund University, the Open Society Institute (OSI) & SPARC (Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition):
foundation of the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)
2003
- implementation: (2003) the Directory itself and (2004) a search system for article-level content (full-text & metadata)
- quick realization through existing web technologies and the support of the OSI

Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) 2009

- 4.372 journals in the directory from 102 countries
- 1.667 journals are searchable at article level (38%)
- today 316.646 articles are included in the DOAJ service
- over 8 million monthly hits
- Belgium: 12 journals in DOAJ (Liège, Gembloux, Antwerp, Louvain, Ghent: Afrika Focus)

Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)

- authoritative webservice:
 - scientific journals
 - all subject areas, all particular languages
- definition Open Access Journal (BOAI):
 - a journal that uses a funding model that does not charge readers or their institutions for access
 - the right to "read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of these articles"

Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)

- Open Access journal quality control: through an editor, editorial board and/or a peer-review system
- requirements
 - full text (search operations)
 - target group primarily researchers
 - all content should be available in full text
 - no embargo period (Open Access without delay)
 - ISSN (International Standard Serial Number)

Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)

- metadata: catalogued on journal title level
 - fields:
title, author(s), abstract, keywords, issn, year, volume, issue, pages, url (article online: local webserver = Ghent University)

Workflow

- “all content should be available in full text” (DOAJ): all this content has to be put into the digital archive
- paper archive of Afrika Focus
 - digitalizing:
 - scanning
 - optical character recognition (OCR)
 - exporting
 - creating metadata
 - uploading

Workflow: scanning

- scanning of the paper archive :
 - high resolution (300 dpi)
 - file format: PDF
- file = image of the original paper (typewritten or printed text)

Workflow: Optical character recognition (OCR)

- image file: translation into editable and searchable text file through optical character recognition (OCR)
- OCR software:
 - intelligent reconstruction of complex document structures
(headers and footers, images, captions to images, tables, graphics, columns, footnotes, page numbering and other non-textual components)

Workflow: Optical character recognition (OCR)

- automatic language recognition
- character analysis (also font, size): reference material
- word analysis: extra dictionary support

Workflow: Optical character recognition (OCR)

- total accuracy can only be achieved by human review:
 - badly scanned parts or incorrectly interpreted words (often even indicated by the software itself!) can be corrected manually
- the result is a “full text” document: a formatted output that closely approximates the original, scanned page (editable and searchable)

OCR software: Abbyy Finereader

- high recognition accuracy (recognition of multilingual documents)
- accurate conversion of complex document structures
- number of supported and recognized languages: 186
- number of dictionaries: 38 (several dictionaries available at the same time)
- uncomplicated and easy-to-use user interface

Workflow: export

- export
 - searchable PDF files have to be put on a local public server
 - available for DOAJ

Workflow: metadata

- Endnote
 - bibliographical software package for publishing and managing bibliographies
 - software is available via Athena (UGent software platform)
- bibliographic (meta)data is manually entered into the records
 - by filling out a template that displays the proper fields for a given type of reference (journal)
 - additional fields: e.g. field “url” (file location on local server)

Workflow: upload DOAJ

- metadata (Endnote): xml format
- DOAJ: 2 input systems
 - xml
 - all records at the same time
 - manually via login and password: easy-to-use user interface
 - record by record

Workflow: Numbers

- Afrika Focus concrete: 150 articles (volumes 1985–2008)
 - scan, ocr, export, metadata, upload
- time span: about 1 month
- team: 7 persons (employed on a temporary / permanent basis)

Evaluation

- Afrika Focus in DOAJ:
 - freely available for Africa & the rest of the world
 - increased visibility, usage & impact

Knowledge is wealth, let's share it!