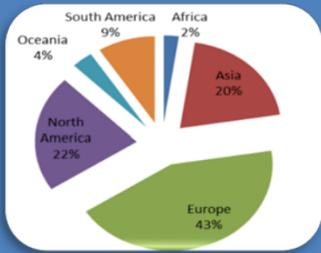


# Usability of Digital Institutional Repositories (DIR) by Faculty and Postgraduate Students: Case Study of University of Namibia University of Science and Technology

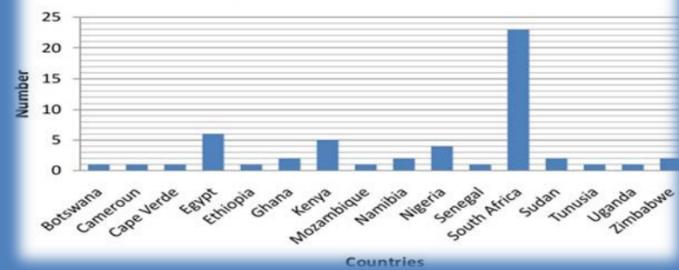
## Background and outline of research problem

The adoption DIR by potential users has been limited for various reasons including usability constraints imposed by system interfaces. The quantity of deposited content remains quite modest.



In the context of Namibia the participation of scholars in depositing their publications and making use of the IRs remains very low.

**Distribution of Academic Research IRs in Africa per Country**



## Preliminary literature

- Stanton and Liew (2011) study found that, while awareness of open access and repository archiving was still low.
- Kim and Kim (2008) Results showed that the overall user experience, but also indicated a number of usability issue that were problematic.
- Zhang, Maron and Charles (2013) study found that effectiveness, efficiency, aesthetic appearance, terminology, navigation, and learnability are key attributes of system usability while relevance and currency were found to be key attributes of system.

- It was found that there was general dissatisfaction of users with usability features of the Africa University digital library, especially in terms of the adequacy of the collection and the system response time.
- Bandwidth problems, lack of user training, were also cited as the main inhibitors to the attainment of the highest degree of usability for the digital library in terms of satisfying user needs and expectations.

## Statement of problem

- The use of the content of the repositories at the University of Namibia and Namibia University of Science and Technology was also reported to be low for reasons that are not clearly known or understood.
- The literature reviewed seem to point to a number of usability and other factors limiting usage such as interface usability efficiency and effectiveness, lack of skills among faculty and librarians, lack of connectivity and ICT facilities, lack of awareness, preference for print resources, and lack of IR policies.

## Principal theories upon which the research project will be constructed

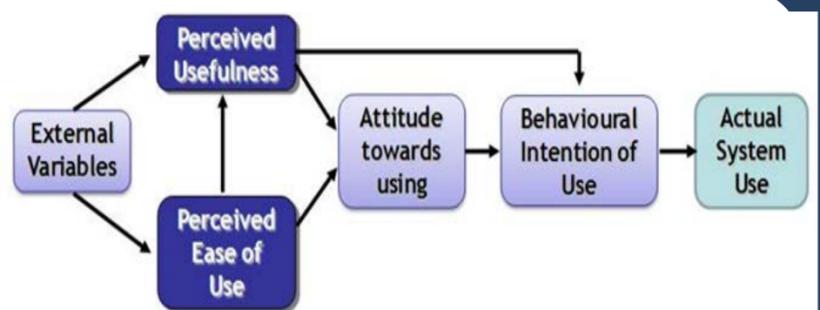
- The Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) model has been chosen to underpin this study.
- This is a well-known and extensively utilised technology acceptance model that is robust and parsimonious.

## Research Objectives

- To determine the usability of the digital institutional repositories by faculty and postgraduate students at UNAM and NUST
- To determine the behavioral intention of faculty and postgraduate students to self-archive their research output in DIRs
- To find out the extent of use of DIRs by faculty and postgraduate students UNAM and NUST
- ❖ **Broader issues to be investigated are:** Open access, digital archiving; open access; scholarly communications; and preservation and dissemination of research output.

## Population of study and sampling procedure

- The target population for this study will be faculty and postgraduate students and Librarians UNAM and.
- A sample size of 278 is adequate to provide representativeness.



TAM model. Source: Davis, Bagozzi, and Warshaw, 1989)

## Research methodology and methods:

- This study will adopt the multiples methods approach.
- For the purposes of breadth and depth of understanding and corroboration and Various data collection methods including survey questionnaire, interviews, observations and Heuristic evaluation will be employed.
- Survey self-administered questionnaires will be used to collect data from students and faculty while interviews will be administered to Librarians.