

EKO-KONNECT USERS CONFERENCE 21-22 JANUARY 2019: COMMUNIQUE

The two day annual conference (plus a third day for the Nigerian Youth Internet Governance Forum) was hosted for Eko-Konnect institutions and users along with interested parties from the wider research and education networking community to learn about the activities and developments taking place in the community. Due to the theme of “Role of Library in Open Science and Open Access” Day 1 had a high presence of librarians as participants while Day 2 had a broader representation of stakeholders that included researchers and principal officers. The following outcomes were reached at the end of the conference.

ESTABLISHMENT OF NIGERIAN COALITION OF LIBRARIANS FOR OPEN RESEARCH - NiCLOR

The librarians present agreed to form the Nigerian Coalition of Librarians for Open Research – NiCLOR. The established coalition was to embark on the following activities with Eko-Konnect serving as the REN provider:

1. Advocacy – Raise awareness about open science and open access in their various institutions among fellow librarians, researchers and management.
2. Support – Establish closer cooperation with the NREN (Eko-Konnect) for support with managing their information assets in repositories, defining meta data and data migration models.
3. Conduct a series of face to face and remote training activities to build the capacity and awareness librarians in the area of open research and information management.
4. Create an institution independent repository based based on open science and open access standards to store data that adhere to FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) principles. The NiCLOR repository will serve as a demonstrator repository showcasing the features and attributes that should be expected of an Institutional Repository.
5. Participate fully in the next iteration of the WACREN led “Library Support for Embedded NREN Services and E-infrastructure” LIBSENSE survey and ensure all library staff in the respective institutions of NiCLOR complete the survey.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT IN INTERNET GOVERNANCE AND CITIZEN SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

The conference determined the need to support students and youth in the promotion of Internet Governance and Citizen Science. Conference participants agreed that Eko-Konnect and other stakeholder organisation should support youth and help them participate in and benefit from Open Science and research. It was agreed that Eko-Konnect would collaborate with the institutions represented at the conference to conduct a comprehensive nationwide survey of students in higher education to understand their needs and ascertain the best methods to increase their participation in open science and science engagement as citizen scientists.

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