# AFRICAN INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORIES

AS CONTRIBUTORS TO GLOBAL INFORMATION: A SOUTH AFRICAN CASE STUDY

# OUTLINE

- Introduction
- Institutional Repositories in Africa
- Institutional repositories in Southern Africa
- The University of Zululand
- UZSpace
- Challenges and success Factors
- Current Status of the project
- Insights gained
- Future Plans
- Conclusion

# INTRODUCTION

Open access IRs are entrenched  in developed world

**African IRs still experience challenges**

**SA leading country in Africa**

**Smaller institutions face challenges**

**The importance of harvesters**

# INSTITUTIONAL IR IN SA

- SA IR constantly growing
- 14 in 2009
- Currently 24
- First steps taken in 1999 – SARIS
- Funding models
- eIFL
- Mellon Foundation

# IR DEVELOPMENT

- Most started as ETDs
- University of Pretoria  one of earliest IR
- University of Zululand in rural setting
- Unique challenges to be faced
- Valuable lessons learned

# UNIZULU

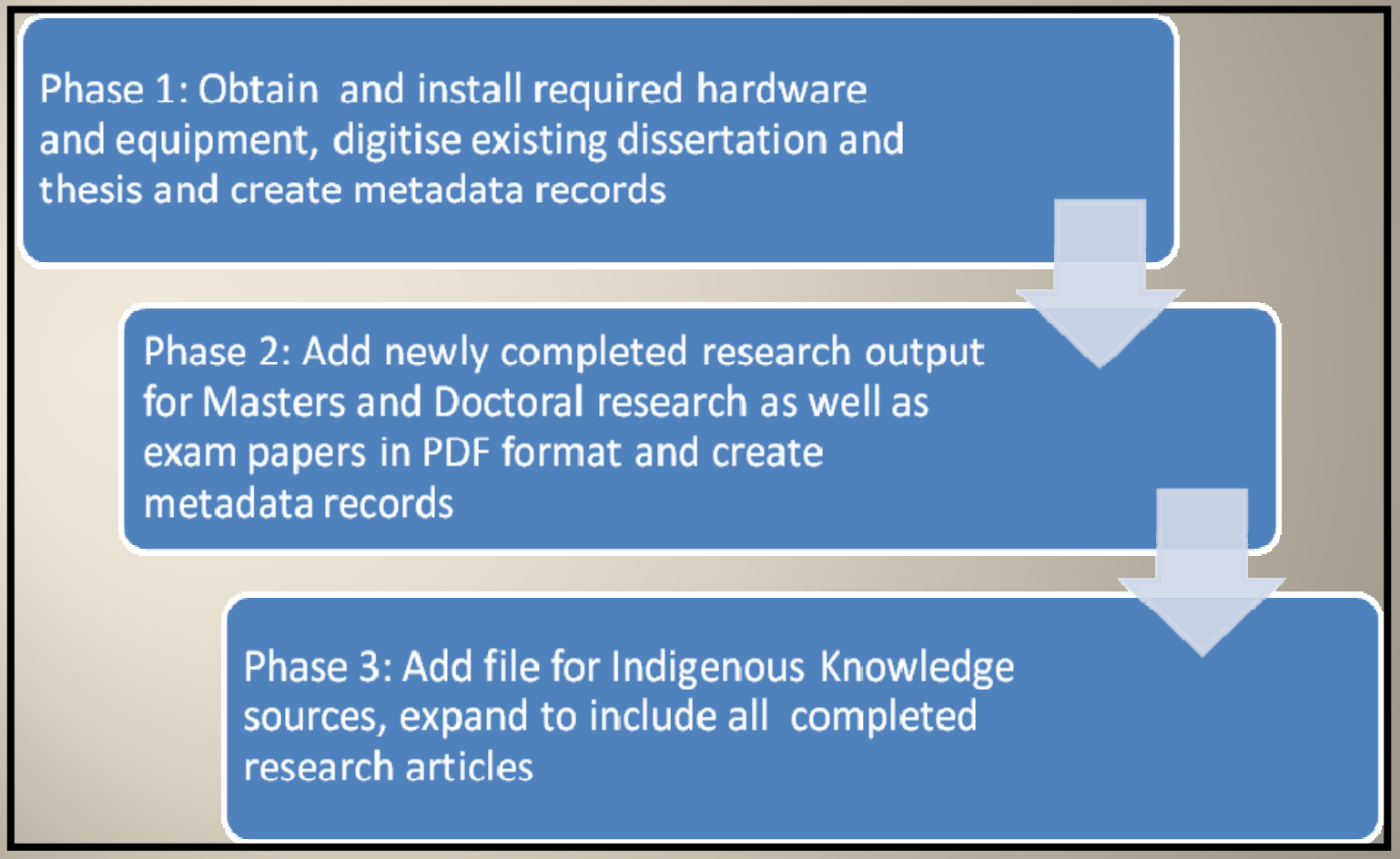
# A case study: uzSpace

- Remote rural location
- Resources not readily available
- UZSpace managed by LIS
- 16000 students, 40 plus active researchers, 450 post graduates
- Access to local content
- Uzulu hard copy collection - IKS

# The UZSpace project

- Started 2007
- IR  steering committee 2008
- Chaired by deputy director
- Linked with research committee
- Linked with eLearning committee
- A phased process adopted

# Three Phased Process



# Implementation

- Mellon Funding for server
- OCR scanner obtained
- Retrospective digitization
- External agent used
- Implementation plan with responsibilities, time frames
- Draft policy document

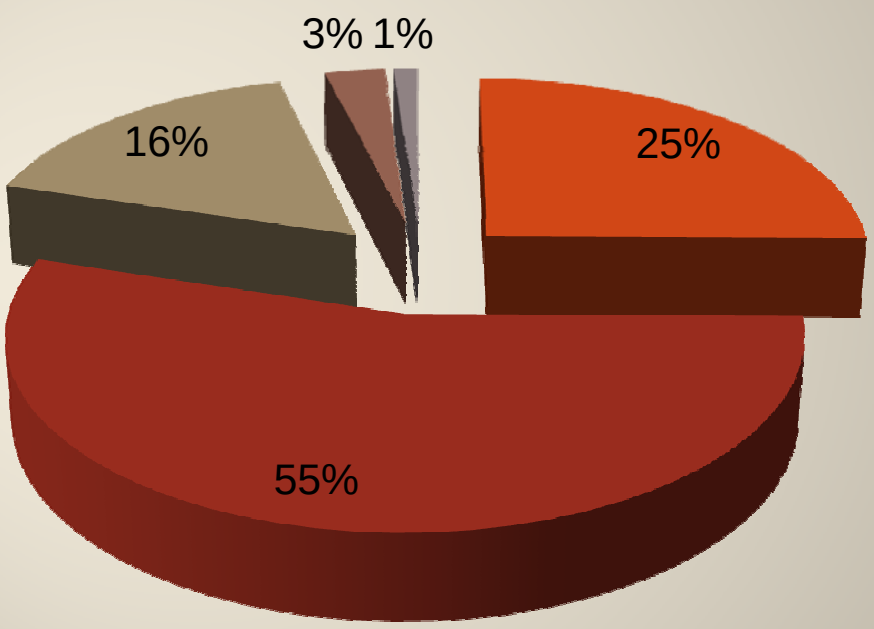
# Implementation Cont.

- Initially shared system support with DUT, MUT
- Not institutional archive
- Decide what is local content for inclusion
- New skills required for meta data editing etc.
- No additional staff - added responsibility
- Intensive training and marketing programme started

# Institutional Attitude

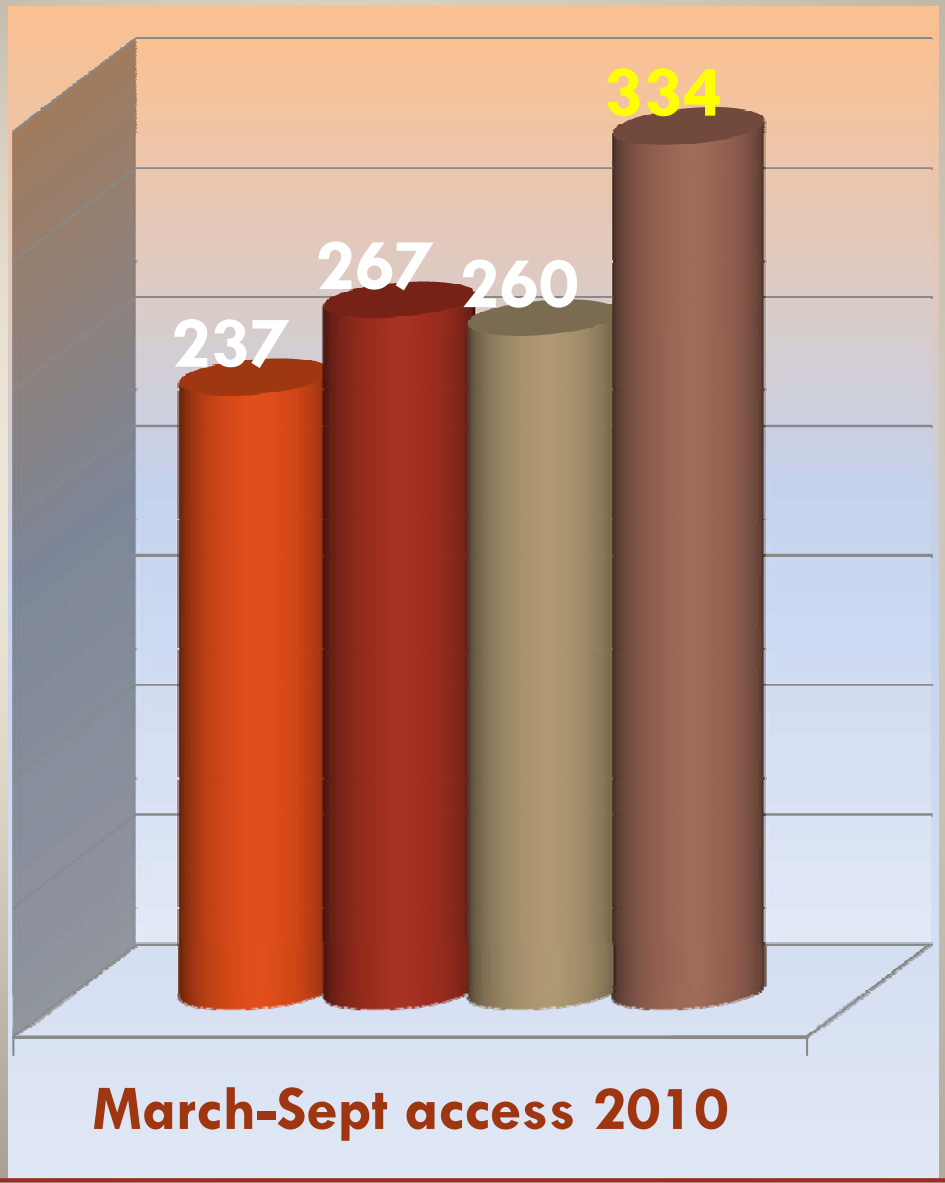
- Initial reluctance by researchers to participate
- Awareness sessions started
- Self-archiving slow to take off
- Currently 970 dissertations and theses
- Sudden increase in usage
- Registered with harvesters

# Current Unizulu Community




- First time entering undergraduates
- Returning undergraduates
- Honours and postgraduate diplomas
- Masters
- Doctorates

# COMMUNITY USAGE



# Short, Medium term planning

- First phase completed successfully
- Long term preservation and curation needs addressing

# USAGE

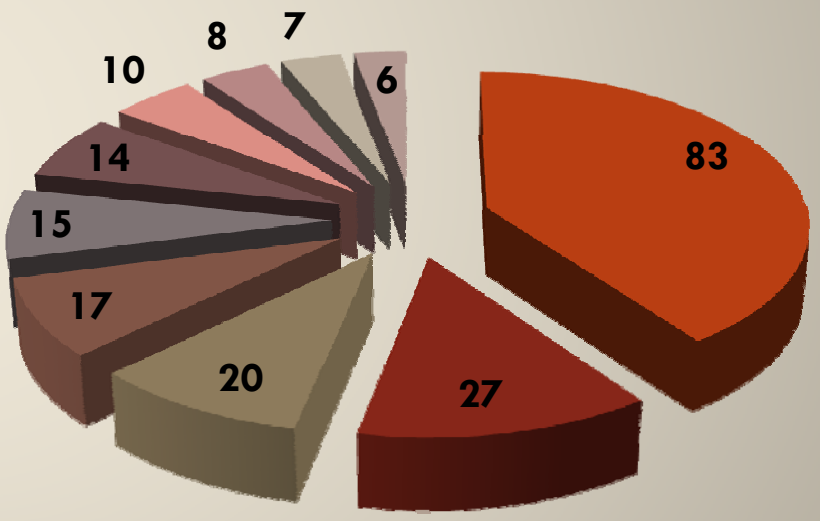
- 2008 -2009 moderate usage
- Steady increase 2010
- 2011 – registered with harvesters
- Significant increase
- Global accessing and searches
- China registers high usage

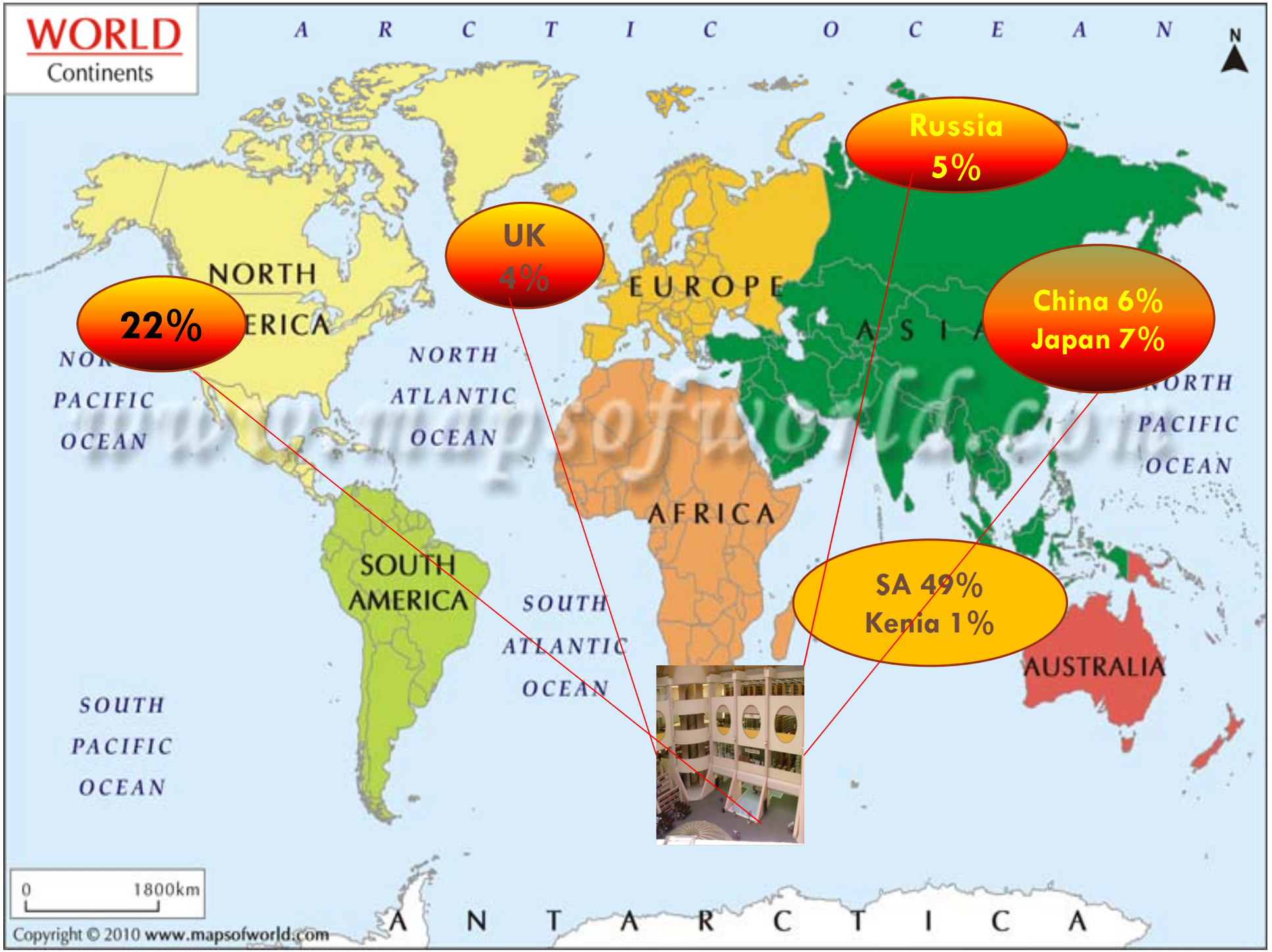
# THE UNIZULU RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT

## PRO'S

- "A" rated researchers
- Research funds available
- Library well equipped e-resource collection
- First phase of IR implementation well received

# INTERPRETATION OF USAGE STATISTICS: Searches 2010-2011

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22%
China 6%
Japan 7%
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# Future Plans

- Promote and support self-archiving
- Promote open access publishing
- Digitize more Uzulu collection items
- Digitize rare art collection

# CHALLENGES IMPACTING ON SUCCESS

**Challenges experienced on three levels:**

- **institutional,**
- **user group and**
- **technical**

# Institutional Challenges

- Copyright
- Changing policies and procedures
- Corporate culture
- Lack of KM strategies
- Poor inter-departmenta procedural alignment

# USER GROUP CHALLENGES

- Reluctance to share research
- Plagiarism
- Quality and integrity
- Resistance to self archiving

# Technical challenges

- Staff contingencies
- Funding contingencies
- esAL consortium
- Hardware maintenance and upgrade
- Administration of license agreements

# CURRENT STATUS

- Project well established
- Usage is encouraging
- Researcher buy in is positive
- Skills transfer taking place
- Networking positive e.g IR talk

# INSIGHTS GAINED

- Flexible approach
- The champion principle worked well
- International interest was welcome surprise
- Linkages made
- Future plans – community participation and IKS

# CONCLUSION

- IR implementation was a success
- Must manage for sustainability
- Stay abreast of new developents
- Constant awareness and marketing
- More attention to curation
- Must link with other processes at institution e.g RIMS

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