

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY



THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY ELECTRONIC LIBRARY: DOCUMENTING THE REGIONAL INTEGRATION PROCESS

Second International Conference on African Digital Libraries
and Archives (ICADLA-2),
University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa,
17-18 November 2011

Sarah Kagoda-Batuwa
EAC Secretariat
sbatuwa@eachq.org



Presentation Outline

1. Background
2. EAC Information Resource Centre
3. Digitization
4. Planning the EAC Electronic Library
5. Preparation
6. Implementation



Background- East African Community (EAC)

- EAC, a regional inter-governmental body since 1999: Republics of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and United Rep. of Tanzania
- The EAC aims at widening and deepening co-operation among the Partner States, in the political, economic and social fields for their mutual benefit.
- established a Customs Union in 2005 and Common Market in 2010, and are expected to attain Monetary Union by 2012 and a Political Federation thereafter.





Background- EAC

- generated a lot of data, information and knowledge, including among others: Summit guidelines, Council policy decisions, technical and mission reports, policy briefs, speeches, photos, documentaries and various studies on the integration process
- Corporate institutional memory
- Under Article 71(f) of the EAC Treaty (EAC,1999), EAC is responsible for promoting and disseminating information on the Community
- The information resource centre plays a central role in implementing this article.
-





EAC Information Resource Centre

- ❑ An information communications project established Information Resource Centre in 1999.
- ❑ Purpose of collecting, organizing and disseminating EAC information to the stakeholders to support the EAC integration process
- ❑ Since 2000, the Centre has initiated and completed a number of projects: a computerized library catalogue; a directory of information sources database; printing and publishing of EAC reports; bibliographic database of Lake Victoria Basin Information Resources; and establishing of EAC Deposit Libraries in Partner States.





EAC Information Resource Centre ...

- ❑ An “Information sharing and Networking with the Partner States” project - establishing Information Resource Centres in EAC Coordinating Ministries in the five Partner States, as central access points for EAC information.
- ❑ The EAC information systems have been mirrored in these Information Resource Centres.
- ❑ It is envisaged that information will easily be accessible by stakeholders in Partner States





What is a digital library?

- ❑ Wikipedia - a digital library is a library in which collections are stored in digital formats (as opposed to print, microform or other media) and accessible by computers. The digital content may be stored locally, or accessed remotely via computer networks.
- ❑ Candela defines a digital library as an organization, which might be virtual, that comprehensively collects, manages and preserves for the long term rich digital content, and offers to its user communities specialized functionality on that content, of measurable quality and according to codified policies.





Advantages/benefits of digitization

- less physical space and, no boundary,
- multiple access for the same resource,
- offers a single point of access to the continent's cultural heritage; 24/7
- facilitates cooperation and standards sharing;
- provides user friendly interface for information retrieval;
- adds value to certain types of collections, such as images, by enhancing legibility and removing discoloration





Specific reasons for EAC to digitize

- Institutional reasons
- Learning from experience
- Expanding membership
- The deepening of integration process
- Tripartite free trade area (Comesa, EAC, SADC)
- Technical/operational





Specific reasons for EAC to digitize

- secure EAC heritage for future generations;
- enhance an operational service for EAC citizens Partner States, researchers, students and others to identify and use the digital content regardless of their location;
- a model for use and cooperation between by other regional intergovernmental Organisations in Africa .





The EAC Electronic (Digital Library)

- Digitizing two major phases with sub-phases,
 - **Phase I-Digitizing of EAC Reports 2006-2010**
 - digitized the EAC reports, Summit, Council policy decisions, technical and mission reports.
 - The objective - to provide easy access, follow up and implementation of decisions and directives from of the organs of the Community



Phase I-Digitizing of EAC Reports 2006-2010

Process of digitizing:

- Project proposal writing; sourcing for funding; collecting and organizing all reports; engaging a consultancy/developing a database; recruiting of temporary staff; scanning of all documents; and data entry, editing and commissioning of the database.
- on-line full text database of EAC policy reports commissioned 2008. In 2009-2010, the database was re-developed, expanded, with better interface and web-based. http://ww.eac.int/reports_database



EAC Reports Database



The East African Community Reports Database



15:45:27 | Monday, 31st October



Login

Did you forget your
password? [Click here](#)
to regenerate password!

Not yet registered?
[Register Here!](#)

Username

Password

Login



EAC Reports Database



The East African Community Reports Database



19:18:53 | Monday, 31st October

Welcome, costa Mashauri :: (user) :: Signout



Reports Home Page



SUMMIT REPORTS



COUNCIL REPORTS



COURT OF JUSTICE



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



EAC - INSTITUTIONS



SECTORAL AND TASKFORCE REPORTS



OTHERS..



PROTOCOLS



EAC TREATY

Navigation

- Reports Home Page
- Search
- Feedback / Librarian
- Edit My Profile
- Signout



Phase II: Transforming the current Centre into an Electronic Information Resource Centre 2011-2016

- EAC Development Strategy 2011-16 broad strategic goals for transforming into a digital Information Resource Centre.
- **Vision-** Documenting and preserving the EAC regional integration process for prosperity
- **Goal-** Preservation and promotion of the EAC integration process and achievements through the establishment of an electronic Library





Phase II: 2011-2016 ...

Mission

- The mission of the electronic information resource Centre is to locate, collect, digitize, preserve, and make EAC knowledge about regional integration and achievements easily accessible.

Broad objective

- To develop a digital museum, documenting the EAC integration process accessed at a single point.



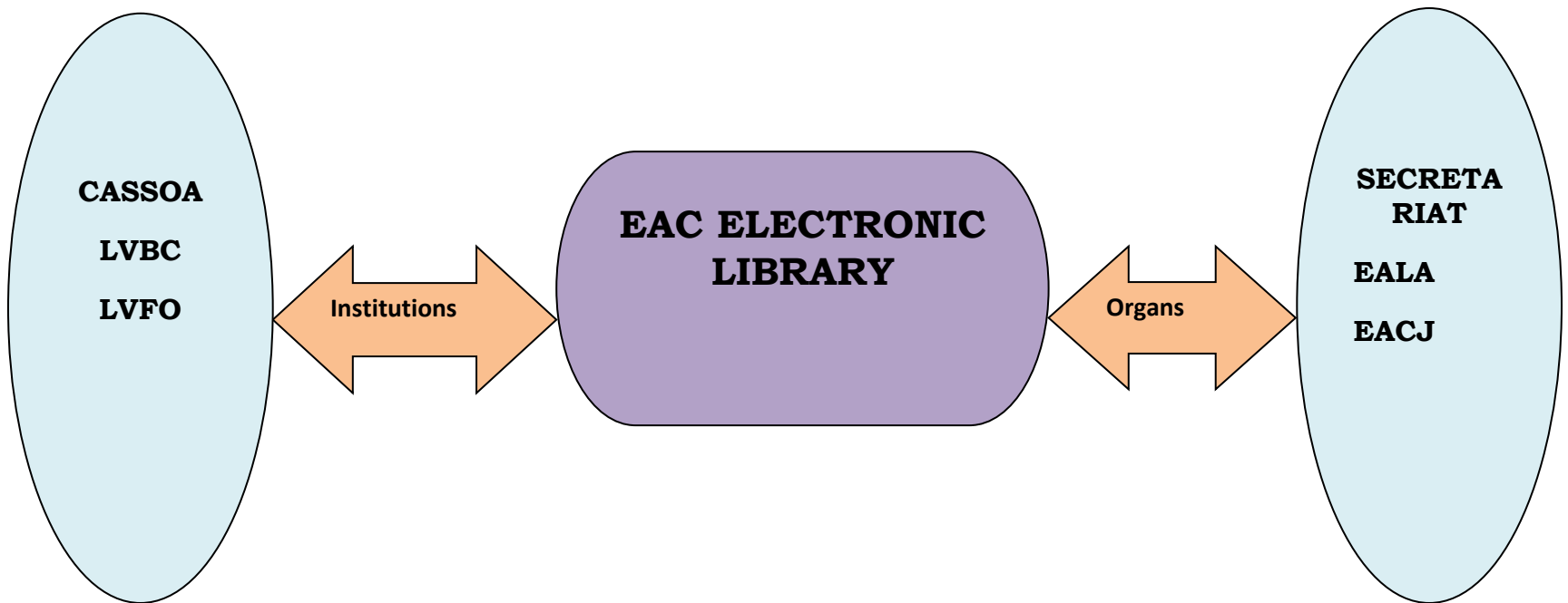


Institutional Collaboration

- The development of the EAC electronic library is a collaborative project between the organs and institutions of the EAC, i.e., the Secretariat, East African Court of Justice (EACJ), East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC), East African Fisheries Organisation(EAFO), and East African Civil Aviation Safety and Security Oversight Agency (CASSOA)
- Departmental – Library, Archives, Public relations, legal, IT



EAC collaborative model



What does EAC knowledge comprise?

- Information materials : Treaties, Protocols, Memoranda of Understandings, Development strategies;
- Reports of policy organs, technical and expert reports, studies, speeches, parliamentary debates, court rulings;
- photos, videos and documentaries of key events and mile stones, maps, architectural drawings, etc;
- All the information from document research, projects, directives and decisions that have been carried out by various organs and institutions, while promoting the integration agenda of the community.





Sub Phase I(II):Feasibility study 2011-2012

- Study visits from institutions/organisations (best practices): European Digital Library initiative, Library of Congress National Digital Library Project
- Data collection on the planning of digital libraries including: planning tools; processes; procedures; workflows; resources required (staff, finances); systems- equipment, software; standards – meta data; policies; access and security; maintenance; sustainability; Institutional framework to manage/ implement the project.





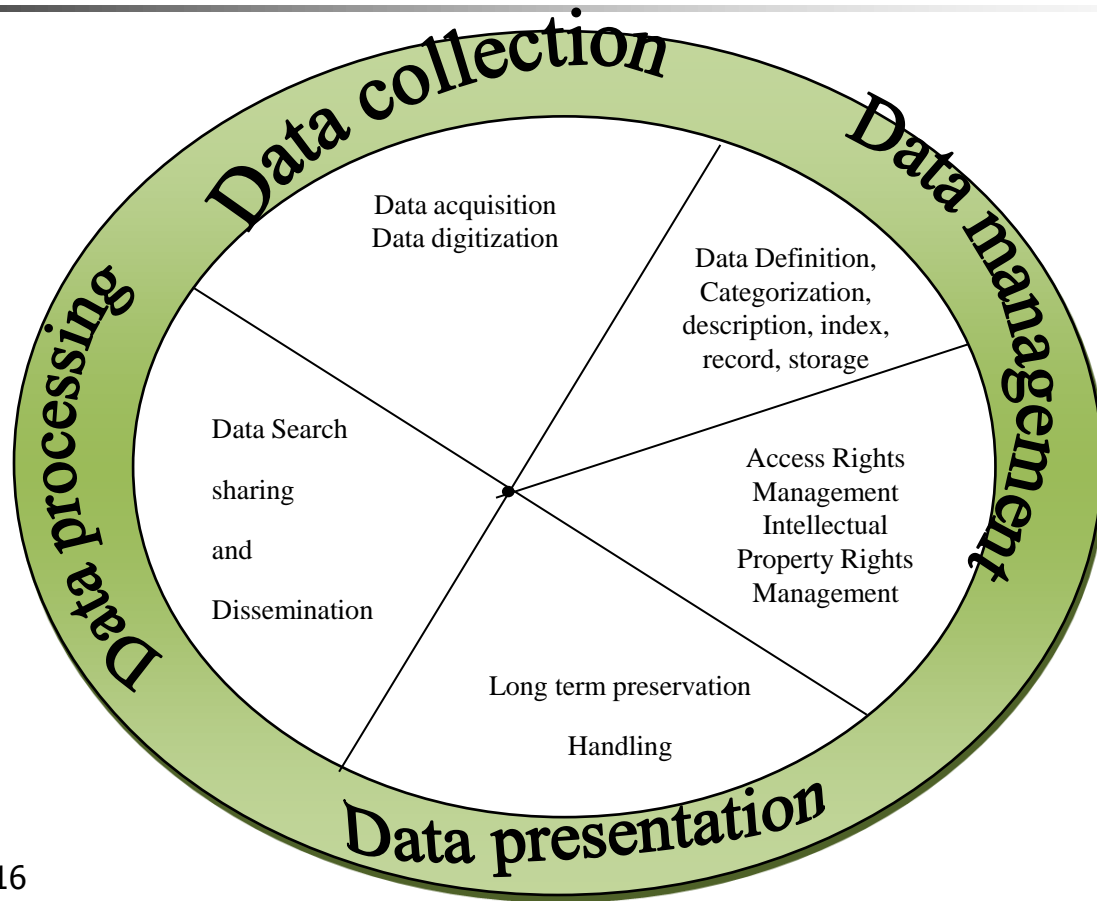
Phase II-digitizing the EAC Organs- 2013-16

Project preparation for digitization

- Data collected from Phase I and principles and procedures that have been used in various digital projects elsewhere will form the basis for preparing phase II of the EAC digital project.
- Principals such operational procedures, digital information cycle, governance and management



Digital Life information Circle



Wang &Chen, p.16





Project Preparation...

- **Infrastructure** - critically examine, compare suitable infrastructure, software such Greenstone Digital Library software, DSpace, Eprints
- **Standards and Policies** - will clearly be spelt out.
- **Marketing and Communications Plan** - advocacy campaigns will be put in place.
- **Budgets and time schedules** - to enhance work efficiency and performance.
- **Capacity building**





Project preparation..

- **Project proposal and Consultancy**
- The report from Phase I and analysis of the preparation elements will form the basic input for developing the terms of reference for engaging a consultancy.
- The consultancy is expected to develop a five-year strategic framework and action plan for developing and implementing the electronic information Resource Centre.





Project preparation

- The strategic plan is expected to include: guidelines, tools, recommendations, infrastructure, architecture, standards, metadata, policies/strategies, human capacity, training requirements, funding mechanisms, implementation schedules etc.

Implementation

- Recruitment of an expert; key staff; acquisition of equipment; and installation of infrastructure. The established electronic library is expected to be launched in 2016.





Expected Challenges

- Lack of digitization policy, guidelines and knowledge
- Limited appreciation of the importance of the project and resistance to change
- Funding - capital outlay in terms equipment and information technology infrastructure
- recurrent operating costs
- Insufficient human resource capacity to implement the project.





Conclusion

- An electronic library crucial for preserving and providing access to East African knowledge integration to future generations.
- Learning from the best practices to avoid same pitfalls;
- Sensitizing and raising awareness - management by involving all the key players - ensure team work;
- Capacity building - continuous process;
- Relevant digitization policies in place; and
- Sustainability mechanism in place





Thank you

Sarah Kagoda-Batuwa

East African Community Secretariat, P.O.

Box 1096 Arusha, Tanzania

Tel: +255 27 2504257/8

sbatuwa@eachq.org

