

**AFRILIB, ONLINE UNION CATALOGUE
OF ODINAFRICA LIBRARIES: PAST,
PRESENT AND FUTURE**

Arame Keita

Direction des Peches Maritimes, Dakar, Senegal

Marc Goovaerts

University of Hasselt, Belgium

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AFRILIB, the union catalog of library partners of ODINAFRICA (Ocean Data and information Network for AFRICA), was built during phase II of the project (2001-2004). The main objective was to assist the marine information centers and libraries within Africa in making available online their local resources. AFRILIB was developed when Internet connections were very slow or limited in most participating countries. Currently, AFRILIB is upgraded to include interlibrary loan and resources sharing between partners, and to facilitate information access from Africa to a wide community of users. It contains more than 15,000 records such as journals, monographs, and grey literature, making the database an important information source in marine sciences and coastal ecosystems in Africa. The central database is hosted in IODE. The ODINAFRICA libraries have moved to the new integrated library management system (ILMS) ABCD and repository systems AGRIOCEAN-DSPACE. The new version of AFRILB will be developed upon DSPACE technology and will use its harvesting functionalities to update automatically the database with new records from local libraries. The interoperability with other systems will be the key principle of this new approach to improve access and use of marine information for research and management.