

OR2021 Workshop and Tutorial Submission

16th International Open Repositories Conference, June 7th -10th

For authors: Follow the directions in italics and where appropriate replace with your own content.

A reminder that the theme for OR2021 is “Open for All”. See the Call for Proposals for more detail on the themes. You will be asked to select a sub-theme at the time of submission.

Conference sub-theme addressed

- New connections, global conversations
 - Distributed collaborations

Brokerage Event Towards a FAIR Compliant Commons in the ASREN Region

Presenter 1 name, affiliation, email address; Presenter 2 name, affiliation, email address

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- Anwaar Al Kandari, Kuwait Technical College - Kuwait
- Raed Al-Zoubi, ASREN – Jordan
- Alwaleed K. Alkhaja, QNL – Qatar
- Mohamed Ali Ahmed, SomaliREN – Somalia
- Roberto Barbera, University of Catania - Italy
- Hicham Boutracheh, IMIST – Morocco
- Yassar Hanna Braik, SVU – Syria
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- Saida Messaoudi, INSTM – Tunisia
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- Ahmed Siyad – SomaliREN – Somalia

Abstract

Summary of your proposal; maximum 200 words. The abstract should be a concise summary of the audience, background, content, format and learning outcomes of your workshop or tutorial. You will copy and paste this into the submission system at the time of submission.

The proposed event frames in the landscape of actions carried out in Africa to promote FAIR principles and Open Science commons, such as digital repositories and persistent identifiers both for researchers and their research outputs. We aim at bringing in the same virtual place solution seekers, solution providers, policy makers and end users to trigger new collaborations through an original and innovative “try before you buy” approach.

The event is proposed to last 3 hours and it is divided in three parts: a workshop, a brokerage session, and a hands-on tutorial.

Although the proposed event is mainly targeting the ASREN region, it already includes contributions from Europe as well as from other parts of Africa and, if the proposal will be accepted, proponents will act to involve as many other countries as possible due to their involvement in AfricaConnect3, LIBSENSE and other related initiative.

Keywords

List 3-4 key terms or phrases that describe the subject of the proposal.

ASREN region, Brokerage event, Digital repositories, FAIR principles, Governance and Leadership, Hands-on tutorial, Open Science

Audience

Tell us in a sentence or two who is the likely audience for this. Some examples might be repository managers, developers, data producers, librarians, etc.

Service developers, service providers, content providers, librarians, repository managers, policy makers, end users (both teachers and researchers).

Length and number of attendees

- *What is the proposed session length? - 60 mins, 90 mins or 3 hours. → 3 hours*
- *What is the maximum number of attendees that could be accommodated? → 50*

Proposal (no longer than 2 pages)

- *Tell us what you will cover in the workshop or tutorial. If this is a resubmission of an OR2020 proposal, tell us what you have changed in your 2021 submission (ex, to reflect progress on a project, changes to scope, impact of internal or external circumstances, etc.)*
- *Why will your topic be of interest to the intended audience?*
- *Include a description of the format(s) of your workshop or tutorial - e.g., group discussion, presenter-led theoretical instruction, hands-on exercises, or a mix of formats.*
- *Provide some details on how you plan to engage the audience in the session.*
- *Your proposal should be in English and no longer than 2 pages.*

National Research and Education Networks (NRENs) in Africa are organised under three umbrella Regional Research and Education Networks (RRENs), namely ASREN [1] in the northern part of the continent as well as in the Middle-East and the Persian Gulf Region, WACREN [2] in the western part of sub-Saharan Africa and the UbuntuNet Alliance [3] in the eastern part of sub-Saharan Africa.

All African RRENs are very much committed not only to increase and capillarize connectivity among countries across the continent but also, and more importantly in the long term, to create a portfolio of services that could help and improve the collaboration between African researchers and their colleagues in the rest of the world, bridging the gaps in openness of research [4] and visibility of research outputs [5]. In this respect, the support of the European Union, through large projects like AfricaConnect3 [6], and initiatives like LIBSENSE [7], in the area of digital repositories and Open Science more at large, play key roles.

The proposed event frames itself in this landscape of actions and aims at promoting FAIR principles compliant commons such as digital repositories and persistent identifiers for both researchers and their research outputs. However, what makes this proposal different from similar events held recently is its innovative co-creation methodology. We aim at bringing in the same virtual place solution seekers, solution providers, policy makers and end users to trigger new collaborations and we propose a “try before you buy” approach.

The length of the proposed event is 3 hours divided in three parts: an 80 minute workshop, a 30 minute brokerage session, and a 70 minute hands-on tutorial.

During the workshop, the co-authors of this proposal will give short presentations on the following topics:

1. Brief introductory presentation about ASREN and the motivations and goals of the event.
2. A standard-based and scalable digital asset management system to “turn on” FAIR compliant digital repositories [8, 9].
3. Experiences/installations already done in Ethiopia [10] and Somalia [11] with the above management system.
4. How to become a DataCite [12] member to mint Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) for FAIR research outputs.
5. Experiences of/with Open Access policies and governance models of FAIR compliant national repositories and how the governance of the repository could impact the research landscape of a country: the case of Ethiopia [13].

The workshop will be followed by a brokerage session where we plan to allocate 5-6 pitches of 4-5 minutes each given by representatives of organisations not having a FAIR compliant digital repository yet and planning to deploy one. At the time of writing of this proposal, we already got the interest in presenting from Kuwait, Morocco, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Tunisia. Other organisations from other countries will be identified and selected if the proposal will be accepted to be included in the OR2021 program.

The brokerage session will end with the collection of all contacts and hopefully the establishment of new collaborations.

After the brokerage session, a hands-on tutorial will close the event. The tutorial will guide participants through the following steps:

- Access and use a FAIR compliant digital repository.
- Claim research outputs/scholarly contents stored on a FAIR compliant digital repository and tagged with DataCite DOIs from the ORCID profiles of their authors.
- Connect research data to other research outputs.

As OR2021 will be an “online conference”, the tutorial is the most challenging part of the event when it comes to its efficacy on a video-conference platform. However, the co-authors of this proposal have already experience of remote training and a set of training materials will be made available to participants when they will register for the event. Some of them are already available now [14-16].

It is worth underlying that, although the proposed event is mainly targeting the ASREN region, it already includes contributions from Europe as well as from other parts of Africa and, if the proposal will be accepted, proponents will act to involve as many other countries/organisations/users as possible due to their involvement in AfricaConnect3, LIBSENSE and other related initiative.

As a final note, this proposal fits the following sub-theme of OR2021:

- New connections, global conversations
 - Distributed collaborations

However, it is also relevant for the other following sub-themes of the conference:

- Equity and democratization of knowledge.
 - Accessibility of repositories and their content.
- Beyond the repository.
 - Convergence and integration with other types of systems (e.g., current research information; systems, digital asset management systems, publishing platforms, ORCID).
- Policies, licensing, and copyright laws:
 - Licenses and re-use of content.
- Discovery, use and impact.
 - Open access discovery, research data discovery.
- Supporting open scholarship and cultural heritage.
 - Providing access to different types of materials (e.g., research data, scholarly articles, preprints and overlay journals, open access monographs, theses and dissertations, educational resources, archival and cultural heritage materials, audio-visual materials, software, interactive publications, and emerging formats).
 - Repositories as digital humanities and open science platforms.

References

- [1] <https://asrenorg.net/>
- [2] <https://wacren.net/>
- [3] <https://ubuntunet.net/>
- [4] World map of Open Access policies, <http://roarmap.eprints.org/dataviz2.html>
- [5] World scaled by number of documents published in Web of Science in 2017 with authors from each country, <http://scholcommlab.ca/cartogram/>
- [6] <https://africaconnect3.net/>
- [7] <https://spaces.wacren.net/display/LIBSENSE>
- [8] <https://doi.org/10.15161/oar.it/23465>
- [9] <https://doi.org/10.15161/oar.it/73283>
- [10] The National Academic Digital Repository of Ethiopia, <https://nadre.ethernet.edu.et/>
- [11] The Somali Research and Education Repository, <https://sorere.somaliren.org.so/>
- [12] <https://datacite.org>
- [13] The National Open Access Policy of Ethiopia for Higher Education, <https://doi.org/10.20372/nadre/4193>
- [14] <https://bit.ly/39r1hKg>
- [15] <https://doi.org/10.15161/oar.it/30458>
- [16] <https://doi.org/10.20374/sorer/28>

Learning outcomes

Briefly state the learning outcomes from your workshop or tutorial. Learning outcomes are statements of what the participants should be able to do at the end of the workshop. For example: At the end of this workshop, participants will be able to use the API to query the repository database.

The proposed session has clear objectives, listed in the section above and very practical learning outcomes are hence expected.

At the end of the workshop:

- Service developers will have shown recent developments on digital repositories compliant with FAIR principles.
- Repository managers will have shown implementations of digital repositories compliant with FAIR principles, both in the ASREN countries and elsewhere in Africa.
- Policy makers from the Arab States will understand, through already existing examples, the importance of defining Open Access/Open Science policies based on the adoption of FAIR compliant commons, as well as governance and sustainability models.

At the end of the brokerage session, content providers and librarians not already having a FAIR compliant digital repository in their organisations and willing to deploy one will exchange contacts with service developers and repository managers and will be able to start collaborations.

At the end of the hands-on tutorial, all participants (especially end users) will know how to:

- Get free federated credentials from an Identity Federation registered in the eduGAIN inter-federation.
- Access a digital repository compliant with FAIR principles available in one of the ASREN Members.
- Upload several types of research outputs and/or scholarly contents to the repository with all relevant metadata.
- Connect research data to other research outputs.
- Get an ORCID ID, if they do not have one already, and claim their research outputs/scholarly contents stored on the digital repository and tagged with DataCite DOIs from their ORCID profiles.