

2018 REPORT ON THE IAMSLIC CONFERENCE

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Transforming the Global Information Landscape

44th IAMSLIC Annual Conference/6th AFRIAMSLIC Regional Meeting, October 21-25, 2018
Entebbe, Uganda

Host: National Fisheries Resources Research Institute (NaFIRRI), Jinja, Uganda

<http://www.iamslc.org/conf2018/>

Twitter: #IAMSLICUganda, @IamslcOrg



Organization:

The International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers (IAMSLIC) is an association of individuals and organizations interested in library and information science, especially as these are applied to the recording, retrieval and dissemination of knowledge and information in all aspects of aquatic and marine sciences and their allied disciplines. The association provides a forum for exchange and exploration of ideas and issues of mutual concern. (<http://www.iamslc.org>)

IAMSLIC Conference Sessions

Official hashtag is #IAMSLICUganda.

Keynote speaker profiles can be found at <http://www.iamslc.org/conf2018/program/keynote-speakers/> and the presentations and panel discussion abstracts can be found at <http://www.iamslc.org/conf2018/program/465-2/>.

IAMSLIC Conference Proceedings

<http://www.iamslc.org/publications/conference-proceedings>



Sunrise over Lake Victoria

Sunday, October 21
Aquatic Commons Work Party
<http://aquaticcommons.org/>



The Aquatic Commons Work Party was an optional but important event. Volunteers learned more about the repository and submission process along with getting the chance to practice with some real documents. The Aquatic Commons is a thematic digital repository covering the **natural marine, estuarine /brackish and fresh water environments**. It includes all aspects of the science, technology, management and conservation of these environments, their organisms and resources, and the economic, sociological and legal aspects. It is complementary to [OceanDocs](https://www.oceandocs.org/), <https://www.oceandocs.org/>, which is supported by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)/ International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange ([IODE](#)) specifically to collect, preserve and facilitate access to all research output from members of their Ocean Data and Information Networks (ODINS).

The conference opened with a welcome from the Ugandan Minister of State for Fisheries, Christopher Kibananga and from Dr. Ambrose Agona, Director General of the National Agricultural Research Organization. It was a good start as we learned more about the importance of fisheries to Uganda, https://www.newvision.co.ug/new_vision/news/1488189/minister-calls-research-fishing-boost-production.

Our first keynote speaker was Professor Maria G.N Musoke, the first Ugandan woman to hold a PhD in information science was also a keynote speaker. She is currently the Deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of Academic Affairs of Kyambogo University, which is the second largest University in Uganda. She is also the chair of the Health and Biosciences Libraries Section of the International Federation of Library and Information Associations (IFLA). Her talk centered around information in a changing environment and featured a quote from the World Bank, “Use knowledge to transform what we have into what we need.”

Other Meeting Highlights

Institut National de Recherche Halieutique – Morocco, <http://www.inrh.ma/en>

Digitization projects across Morocco provide access to scientific and technical information including theses. An online catalog of Moroccan theses from all universities has been developed along with additions to the Aluka repository. The Aluka repository can be found on JSTOR.

ODINAfrica, <http://www.odinafrica.org/>

Sponsored by IODE, ODINAFRICA (Ocean Data and Information Network for Africa) brings together more than 40 marine-related institutions from 25 African countries. They are working to address the challenges faced in access to ocean and coastal data. Part of their work involves developing targeted products and services including websites, newsletters, brochures, ocean data catalogues (meta data), sea level data, library catalogues and directories of experts and institutions. The participating librarians have also received data and information management training.

Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization, <http://www.lvfo.org/>

Multiple countries who border Lake Victoria are coming together to create a data center. One of the biggest challenges is having power available for continuous operations. They are trying to use solar power, which will also prevent power surges and the potential for damaging equipment. Other challenges include missing time series due to funding gaps, cybersecurity and keeping up with new technology. Kenya is hosting the backup servers.

World Aquaculture Society, <https://www.was.org/>

The Society is coming to form an African Chapter. They are the primary facilitator of information exchange and policy development in science-based aquaculture policies. They have many links to the private sector as well. They have two journals and book publications.

Projekt DEAL Update, <https://www.projekt-deal.de/about-deal/>

We had an update on Projekt Deal including a review of the project structure and goals. This included a discussion of the Publish and Read payment model.

National Marine Information and Research Centre (NatMIRC) – Namibia, <http://nodc-namibia.org/>

They collect survey data on fisheries such as hake, crab, orange roughy, and monkfish. They also have logbook data from the captains of fishing vessels that include their fishing area, weather, duration, catches per trawl and per day. These observations are verified by observers. In addition, fishing companies also collect samples that are sent to NatMIRC for analysis.

Institut de Recherches Halieutiques et Océanologiques du Bénin, <http://nodc-benin.org/>

They use the AgriOcean DSpace Initiative of FAO and UNESCO-IOC/IODE. It's a customized version of DSpace using metadata, thesauri and other controlled vocabularies in oceanography, marine science, food, agriculture, development, fisheries, forestry, natural resources and other related sciences. They also use AGORA, which is one of the programs making up Research4Life. It provides free or low cost access to journals and ebooks.

UN Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries (TBLDC) *Digital Access to Research (DAR)*

<http://aims.fao.org/activity/blog/promoting-digital-access-research-least-developed-countries-through-research4life>

<https://www.research4life.org/>

Twelve of the UN's Least Developed Countries can access scientific and professional information in health, agriculture, environment, innovation and law provided by Research4 Life. There are workshops and trainings for librarians, who in turn, provide training for faculty and students.



As we did at last year's conference, Olivia Diehr (our wish fairy) led us through an exercise to visualize our next steps as we return home. What are two things you will do within the first month and how will you reward yourself? We created footsteps and then shared them with the other librarians as we created a pathway to success.



Our banquet featured a local dance troupe, Kiika, who demonstrated all the traditional dances of Uganda. The night ended with all of us joining in the dancing.

We finished out the conference with the invitation to next year's conference. The 2019 conference will be in Port Aransas, TX, October 20-25. The 2020 conference will be in Wellington, New Zealand.

Friday included an optional tour to Jinja to visit NaFIRRI, <http://www.firi.go.ug/>, and the Nile River. We had the chance to visit the NaFIRRI library.





We visited the Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Center on Tuesday afternoon.
<https://uwec.ug/>



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