



Zambia National ETD Portal: Implementation of an Interoperable National Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Portal

Elijah Chileshe ^{1,2} and Lighton Phiri ¹

¹DataLab Research Group, University of Zambia

²Department of Computer Science, University of Zambia

Introduction

The Higher Education Authority of Zambia reports a total of 123 Higher Education Institutions as of 2024. A number of the 123 HEIs offer postgraduate programmes which, in part, require students to produce thesis or dissertation manuscripts. Increasingly, such manuscripts are stored in electronic form, resulting in so-called Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs). While existing literature reports that out of the 123 HEIs, only 10 HEIs have implemented Institutional Repositories (IRs), with eight (8) of them still functional [1, 2], the increasing number of HEIs implementing IRs would potentially make it difficult to access ETDs produced from all the HEIs in Zambia, thus compromising the online visibility of research [3].

Figure 1. National ETD Portal: <https://netd.ac.zm>

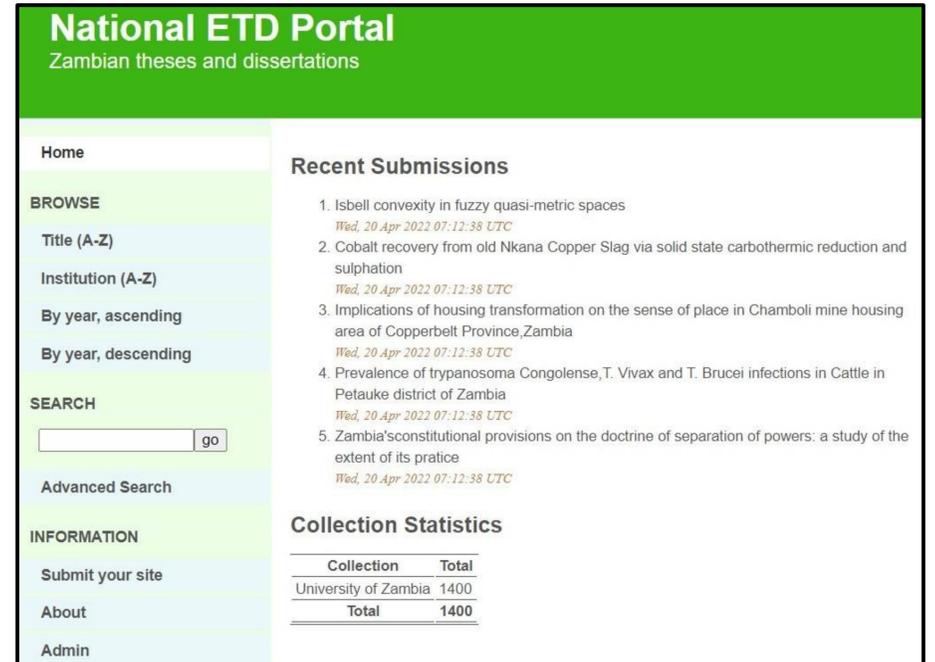
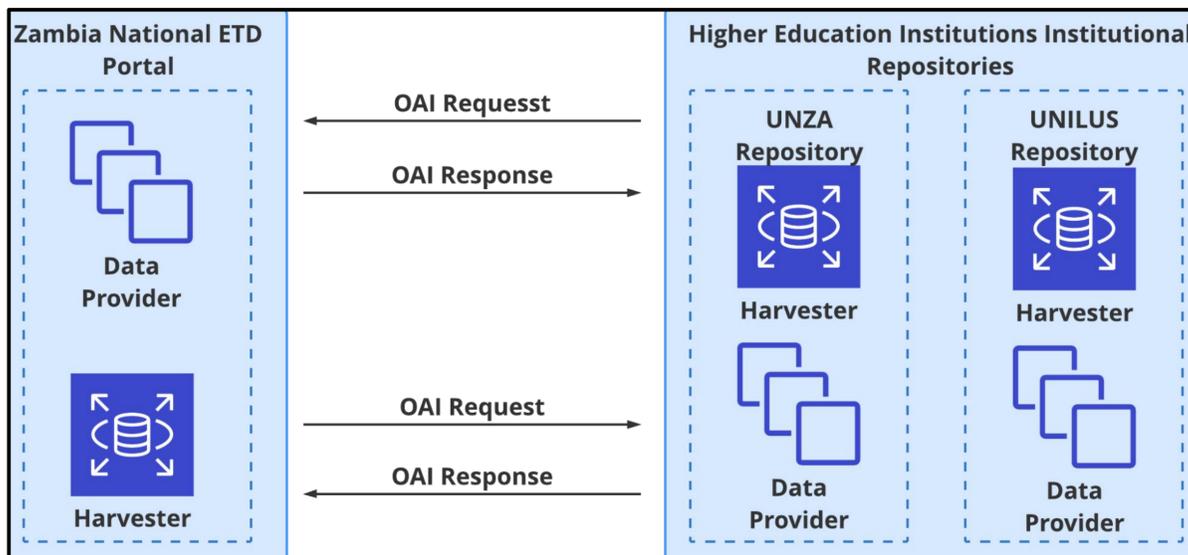


Figure 2. National ETD Portal Distributed Architecture



Design & Implementation

The Zambia National ETD Portal is implemented using the ETD Portal software [4], and automatically harvests metadata from HEIs with IRs that implement the Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting (OAI-PMH) and have it activated.

Metadata harvested includes URLs to original bitstream ETD manuscripts.

National ETD Portal Statistics

5,269 ETD metadata harvested from The University of Zambia IR. Other HEIs with functional IRs that not properly activated the OAI-PMH protocol.



More Information

In order for metadata to be harvested from your institution:

- Set up an IR
- Activate OAI-PMH Protocol
- Email: datalab@unza.zm

Project Team

Lighton Phiri · Elijah Chileshe · Adrian Chisale · Cecilia Kasonde · Angela Banda · Frazer Nyambe · Richard Mufuzi · Nkole Mulenga · Geoffrey Ngoma · Chanda Chilufya · Mainda Chuulu · Kamfwa Chileshe · Robert Msendo · Chipangila, Bertha · Eric Liswaniso · Andrew Mawila · Philomena Mwanza · Daisy Nawila

Bibliography

- [1] Chisale, A. & Phiri, L. (2023). Towards Metadata Completeness in National ETD Portals for Improved Discoverability.
- [2] Kasonde, C., Chisale, A. & Phiri, L. (2022). Empirical Evaluation of ETD-ms Compliance in Institutional Repositories.
- [3] Phiri, L. (2018) Research visibility in the global South: towards increased online visibility of scholarly research output in Zambia.
- [4] Webley, L., Chipeperekwa, T., & Suleman, H. (2011). Creating a National Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Portal in South Africa.

Contact Information

DataLab Research Group
University of Zambia
Private Bag 32379
Lusaka, Zambia 10101
Web: datalab.unza.zm
Email: datalab@unza.zm

