Survey of Thesis and Dissertations Repositories in South Africa
Interim Report
February 2021

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Introduction

This report is based on submissions made to an online survey of theses and dissertation repositories at Higher Education institutions in South Africa. The database was drawn up after an initial meeting to address the current state of the National database of theses and dissertations (NETD). Submission of information was voluntary and all participants at the initial meeting were encouraged to supply some basic information about their repositories.

The purpose of the survey was to establish a baseline of repository infrastructure and metadata to identify the most common characteristics. The survey can be accessed online here. The questionnaire addressed a number of basic issues such as the software and operating systems being used, dedicated human resources (staff assigned to work with the repository), technical (programming) support staff, metadata schema used and which metadata fields are used.

Responses

24 universities were listed. Data was supplied by the respondents. Where no response was received, available data was collected from the institution's repository. Repositories were traced using a Google search.

The responses to the infrastructure and support questions were as follows:

Software platform (24 responses)
DSpace = 17
VITAL = 6

Software platform version (13 responses)
DSpace 5.10 = 1
DSpace 5.5 = 2
DSpace 5.8 = 1
DSpace 6.2 = 3
VITAL 7.01 = 6

Operating System (15 responses)
Linux = 10
Ubuntu = 4
Windows = 1

Repository Status (stand alone thesis repository or common repository containing multiple formats (24 responses)
Thesis Repository = 4
Common Repository = 20

Volume of records in the repository (21 responses)
Total number of records = 344605
Average number of records = 15663.8

Metadata Schema (24 responses)
Dublin Core = 23
MODS = 1

Dedicated Staff working on the repository (14 responses)
Number of staff members allocated to work in the repository ranged from 1 to 5 staff members.
Five institutions listed = 1 x staff member
Two institutions listed = 2 x staff members
Five institutions listed = 4 x staff members
Two institutions listed = 5 x staff members

Technical support staff assisting with the repository (14 responses)
Four institutions listed = 0 x staff members
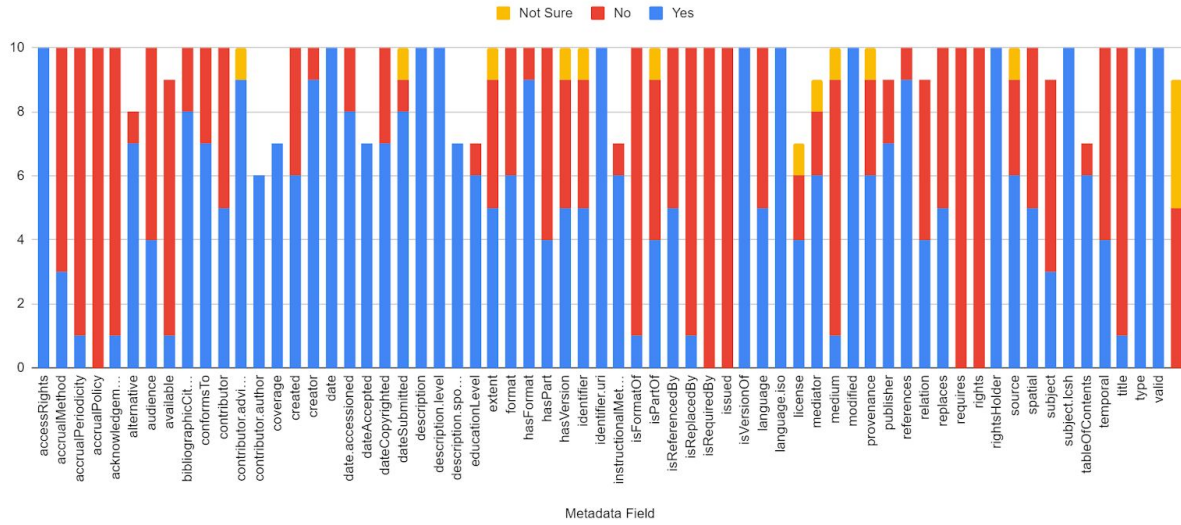Eight institutions listed = 1 x staff members
Two institutions listed = 2 x staff members

Metadata fields used
A total of 63 metadata fields were identified based on the Dublin Core metadata schema.
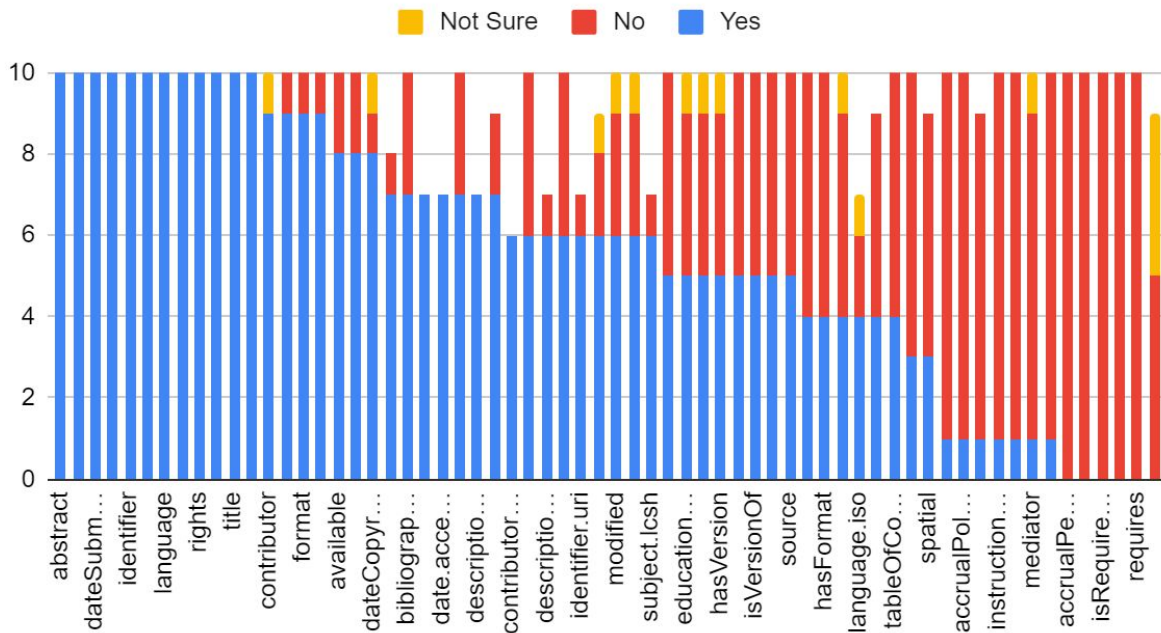The distribution of **Metadata fields used** were as follows:

Distribution of metadata fields used

The following chart shows the distribution from **Most and least common metadata fields used**:

Distribution of metadata fields most commonly used

The most common fields used are as follows:

Metadata fields most commonly used	Metadata fields least used
abstract	accrualMethod
creator	language.iso
dateSubmitted	mediator
description	accrualPeriodicity
identifier	accrualPolicy
issued	audience
language	instructionalMethod
medium	isReferencedBy
rights	isReplacedBy
subject	isRequiredBy
title	replaces
type	requires
	temporal
	valid

End
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