



Advancements and Strategic Initiatives in UAE Academic Libraries

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Overview:

Open Educational Resources (OER) in Academic Universities

UAE Consortia: Urgent Need and Advantages

UAE Technology Infrastructure

Implementing AI in the Library

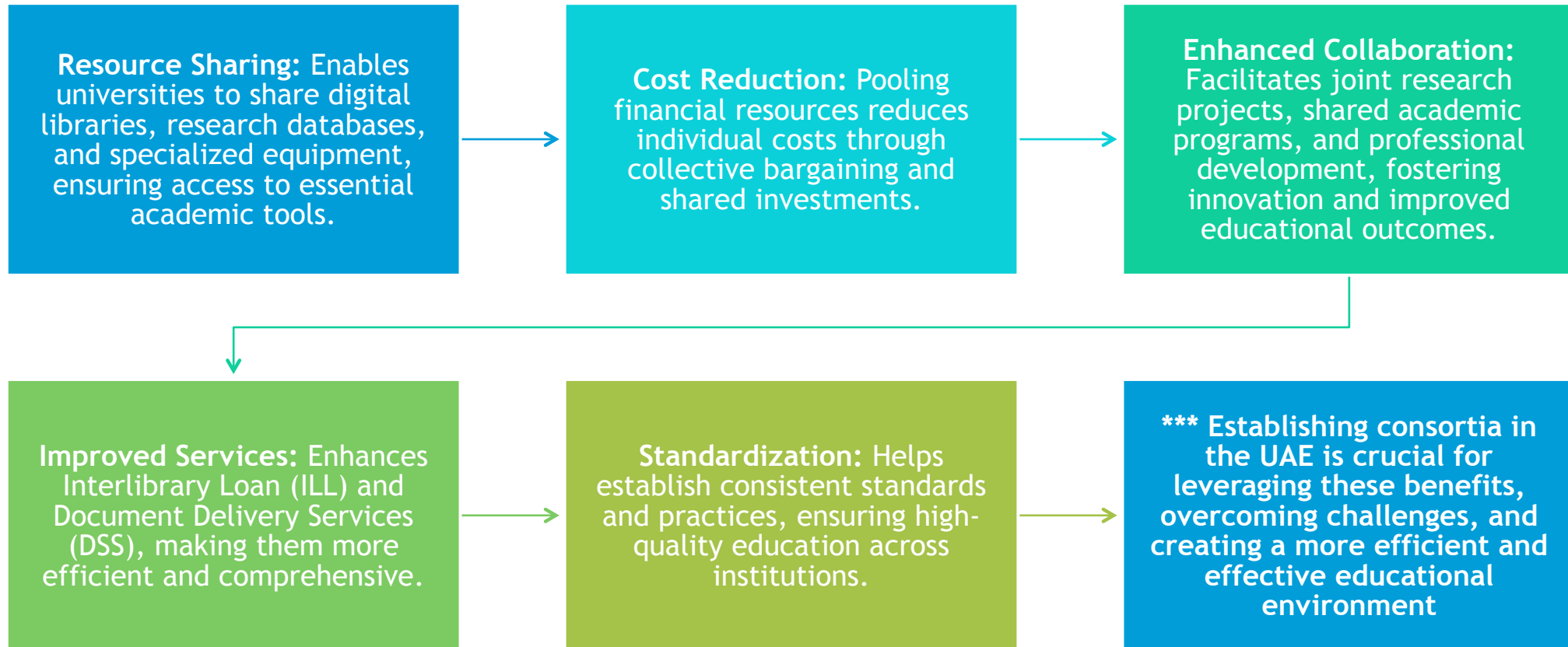
Open Access (OA) Impact

Strategic Partnerships

Open Educational Resources (OER) in Academic Universities

- **Cost Savings:** Lowers educational material costs for students.
- **Accessibility:** Provides high-quality resources to everyone.
- **Enhanced Learning:** Promotes innovative teaching and personalized experiences.
- **Collaboration:** Encourages cooperation among educators and institutions.
- **Customization:** Allows modification of materials for specific needs.
- Universities Using OER Worldwide: MIT: Through MIT OpenCourseWare, Harvard University: Offers OER via the Harvard Open Learning Initiative., Stanford University: Provides free online courses, University of Cambridge: Engaged in various OER initiatives, University of Cape Town: Promotes OER in Africa.
- Future Plans: Khalifa University has already proposed a study to work on OER as a project for 2025.

UAE Consortia: Urgent Need and Advantages



UAE Technology Infrastructure and Its Role in Education

- High-speed Internet: Extensive broadband and 5G networks.
- Data Centers: Secure, advanced data storage.
- Digital Services: Comprehensive digital government and smart city initiatives.
- Impact on Education:
- Online Learning: Seamless virtual classrooms and e-learning platforms.
- Digital Libraries: Quick access to academic resources.
- Collaboration: Enhanced through video conferencing and cloud tools.
- Innovative Methods: Supports flipped classrooms and interactive simulations.

Implementing AI in The Library

- AI transforms libraries by automating tasks, enhancing user experiences, and offering personalized services. Libraries and universities use AI for cataloging, virtual assistance, and data analysis.
- Challenges:
- Expertise: Limited AI knowledge in the library sector.
- Costs: High costs for AI applications and implementation.
- User Preferences: Adapting AI to diverse user needs.
- Current Situation at KU: Khalifa University is actively exploring and implementing AI initiatives to enhance library services, with plans to expand AI integration.
- Future Plans: KU management aims to implement AI while aligning with global sustainability efforts and staying updated on critical issues.

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Future Plans: KU management aims to implement AI while aligning with global sustainability efforts and staying updated on critical issues.

Open Access (OA) Impact at Khalifa University

- Open Access (OA) allows free access to research outputs, with libraries playing a key role in supporting OA initiatives.
- Advantages:
 - Visibility: Boosts research visibility and impact.
 - Accessibility: Broadens access to a wider audience.
 - Collaboration: Enhances global collaboration and knowledge sharing.
- Challenges:
 - Funding: Need for financial support for OA initiatives.
 - Quality Control: Maintaining the quality of OA publications.

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Current Experience at KU:

- **Initiative Start:** Launched in 2022 with 2 publishers.
- **Growth:** Expanded to 6 publishers by 2024.
- **Publication Increase:** Articles published rose from 30% in 2019 to 50% in 2024.



Future Plans: KU aims to strengthen OA initiatives with robust management support.

Strategic Partnerships

- Strategic partnerships involve institutions collaborating to share costs, information resources, and training.
- Role of Libraries:
- Resource Sharing: Libraries share digital and physical resources, such as books, journals, and databases, among partner institutions.
- Access Services: Libraries facilitate access to Interlibrary Loan (ILL) and Document Delivery Services (DDS).
- Professional Development: Libraries collaborate on training programs and workshops for staff.
- Best Practices: Libraries share best practices in cataloging, digital archiving, and user services.
- Challenges:
- Coordination: Managing partnerships effectively.
- Resource Allocation: Ensuring equitable distribution of resources.

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- **Impact:**
- **Enhanced Services:** Improved library services, expanded collections, and better access to resources.
- **Cost Efficiencies:** Reduced costs through shared investments and resource pooling.
- **User Satisfaction:** Enhanced services and broader resource access improve user satisfaction.

- **Future Plans:**
- **Expanding Resource Sharing:** Increase the sharing of digital and physical resources among institutions.
- **Enhancing Digital Services:** Develop advanced digital services like integrated library systems and online research tools.
- **Fostering Innovation:** Adopt emerging technologies like AI, VR, and AR to enhance library services.
- **Global Collaboration:** Establish international partnerships to share knowledge and resources.
- **Sustainability Initiatives:** Focus on environmentally friendly practices and long-term goals.

The Way Forward

- ✓ Promote the development of AI-driven tools to assist in the discovery and recommendation of OER, ensuring that students have access to the most relevant and up-to-date materials for their courses. By leveraging AI, universities can create adaptive learning environments that cater to individual student needs, fostering a more personalized and effective education experience.
- ✓ To further enhance OER's reach and impact, universities should collaborate with international institutions. This will facilitate the exchange of knowledge and resources, allowing for the sharing of best practices and the co-creating of high-quality educational content. By forming global partnerships, academic institutions can work together to address common challenges and drive the adoption of OER on a larger scale.
- ✓ Fostering a culture of open access within the academic community is essential for the sustainable growth of OER. Universities should encourage faculty and researchers to contribute to open-access repositories and participate in open peer review processes. This will increase the availability of high-quality educational resources and promote transparency and collaboration within the academic community.
- ✓ Implementing these strategies will require a concerted effort from all stakeholders, including faculty, administrators, librarians, and students. By working together, academic universities can create a more inclusive, accessible, and dynamic learning environment using OER and AI technologies.

Thank you

