The Shaping Effect of African Contexts on a Digital Library’s Accessibility

INTRODUCTION
The flow of up-to-date information is vital to educational and local development, in under-resourced parts of the world. I assessed feedback from Field Assistants on the implementation of the eGranary digital library in sub-Saharan Africa.

eGRANARY
1,200+ installations worldwide, millions of cached Internet resources, distributed locally via LAN or Wi-Fi.

METHOD
Content analysis of interviews with agents in Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Zambia, Zimbabwe, 3 US donors

ANALYSIS
Themes: local contexts (culture, infrastructure) approval, limitations

CONCLUSIONS
ICT Implementation is a contextually dynamic negotiated process. In sub-Saharan African countries eGranary users’ environments are primarily affected by:
- resource fragility
- hierarchical decision making & budgets affect access to everything
- urban vs. rural location
- availability of technology and training

FUTURE WORK
UX – Teachers, students tech back-up staff
Query format? wording?
SURVEY TOOL?
Log record analysis

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