

# What is the Endpoint and How do we get there?

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International Network for Cancer  
Treatment and Research

PART 1

What is the  
Endpoint?

# Dr Vannevar Bush

Director U.S. Office of Scientific Research and Development



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As we may think.'

*Atlantic Monthly* July 1945



# Dr Vannevar Bush

Director U.S. Office of Scientific Research and Development

- ...Publication has been extended far beyond our present ability to make real use of the record.
- The summation of human experience is being expanded at a prodigious rate, and the means we use for threading through the consequent maze to the momentarily important item is the same as was used in the days of square-rigged ships.



# Dr Vannevar Bush

Director U.S. Office of Scientific Research and Development

Personal computers (Memex)

Hypertext ('associative trails')

World Wide Web

The Internet

'As we may think' *Atlantic Monthly* July 1945



# Dr Vannevar Bush

Director U.S. Office of Scientific Research and Development

“A record if it is to be useful to Science, it must be extended, it must be stored and above all it must be consulted.”

‘Bush V. As we may think. *Atlantic Monthly* July 1945



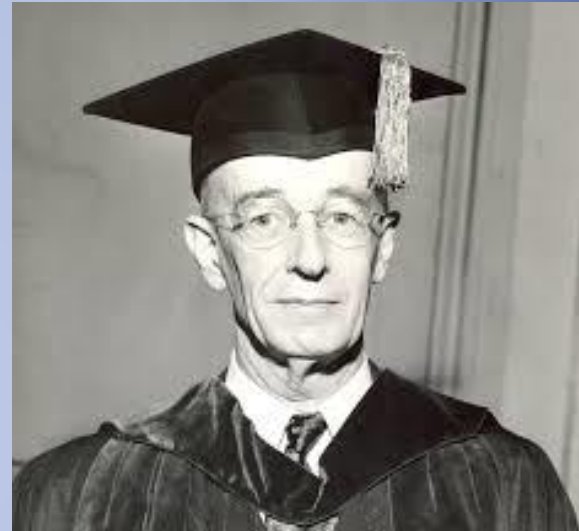
# Current debates

- Lancet Repositioning Africa in global knowledge production
- African Institute for Development Policy AFIDEP
  - *Except for Kenya and Uganda, research teams in many parliaments are thinly staffed and therefore unable to meet the evidence demand in the parliaments.*
- HIFA: When will developing countries stop importing knowledge?
-



# The Bush Test

1. Is it accessible ?
2. Has it been stored ?
3. Has it been cited ?



# Search of Institutional Repositories

- Inclusion criteria
  - 4 African University Institutional Repositories
  - PhD Theses
  - Cancer
  - No time limit
  - No language limit
- Exclusion criteria
  - Non-Doctoral Theses and Dissertations
  - Veterinary Theses

# Search of Institutional Repositories

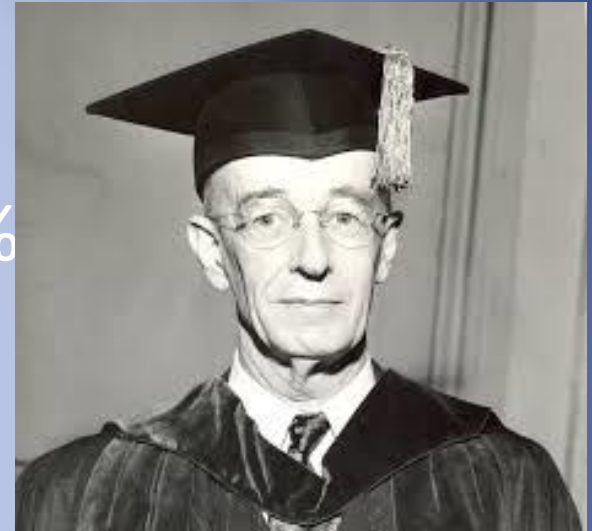
- African Universities Institutional Repositories
  - Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa
- Apply Inclusion Criteria
- Check Institutional Repositories for access to PDF
- Check Google Scholar for PDFs and citations
- Search for publications arising from theses

# The Bush Test

Repository	Found	PhD PDFs	G. Scholar PDF links	G. Scholar Citations	Published	Cited
University of Science and Technology, Ghana	10	6	6	2	6	1
Kenyatta University	126	24	12*	7	18	10
University of Ibadan	16	7	7	0	5	4
University of South Africa	126	10	10	5	5	4
TOTAL	179	47	35	14	34	19

# The Bush Test Report Card

1. Is it accessible ? 100%
2. Has it been stored ? 74-100%
3. Has it been consulted ?  
72% (34) published  
53% (25) cited



# Observations

- Many countries in Africa have an artificially low Global research profile
- Digitized records of dissertations are accessible, but the repositories are not widely known
- Coverage is patchy and access frustrated by vulnerable links, firewalls, slow speed
- 9 IR PDFs have been cited by other authors. The only way this could have happened is through digitization.

# Living in the Digital World

- U of N: robust infrastructure for digitization
- Different stages of development
- External vulnerabilities – e.g. Power outages, virus attacks, slow Internet speed, ForEx
- Concern about Sustainability “when the project ends...”
- Need for teamwork beyond silos

# What is the Endpoint?

- All theses digitized
- Raise academic standards



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OUTCOME

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- All Universities digitized
- Parity with the North
- African Powerhouse

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OUTCOME

VISION

- ESSENTIAL SERVICE
- ENABLE ACCESS

ENDPOINT

# The Endpoint

- Become Essential, a Core Function
- Enable the World to benefit from your work
- Evolution of Knowledge Storage & Access is Irreversible
- The new Normal, meeting students' and funders' expectations
- Promote the University and the Nation

## PART 2

How do we get  
there?

# How do we get there?

- Join Forces
- Set our minds
- Serve the University
- Build Strategic Alliances
- Communication
- Digitization is a National Service
- Think Globally, Act Locally
- Shape our Future



# Join Forces



*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.*

**Dr Margaret Mead**

# Set Our Minds

- This is not an ordinary situation
- At this moment no one else can take our place.
- There will be allies. Find them.
- There will be opposition. Win it over.
- Lives depend on our mission succeeding
- This is not a 'Project'. This is the near future.

# Serve the University

- Universities support the principles of consultation and accumulation
  - *All existing sources of evidence are to be considered carefully before undertaking new research.*
  - Value of Digitization to systematic reviews
- Promote the New Normal and keep records
- Become an Essential service

# Build Strategic Alliances

- Within the University
- With other Universities
- With Ministries of Health, Education, Finance
- With external national partners
  - Advocacy, Business, Media
- Attend and host Meetings and Events
- Publish reports
- Build up a Support Base for ADHL

# Communication

- Build an affordable Communication Strategy
- 6 Questions
  - Who
  - Why
  - How
  - Where
  - When
  - What

# Digitization is a national service

- Countries need national information strategies to inform policymakers
  - Influence of Private Sector
- 
- Digitization strengthens the Scientific Culture and raises the National Research Profile globally

# Think Globally, Act Locally



- All roads lead to universal health coverage.... Do we want our fellow citizens to die because they are poor? Or millions of families impoverished by catastrophic health expenditures because they lack financial risk protection? Universal health coverage is a human right.

• Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus Director General World Health Organisation

# UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

The universal and equitable provision, for free or at low cost at point of delivery, of those forms of health care that have been shown through proper evaluation to be effective.



# UHC means Digitization

- Given that UHC is on the table, what type of National Information Strategy is needed?
- Increased importance of accessing high quality domestic and regional health research
- Digitization is a necessary process
- Improve access to contextually relevant high quality information, for Policymakers, Researchers, Businesses, Practitioners and Patients

# What could be done?

- Unite with others to press for National Information Strategies to inform UHC
- Organise a Regional UHC-D Meeting 2019
- Essential University infrastructure for digitization
- Ensuring that the links operate 24/7

# Ensuring Access

- Knowledge v Power
- Knowledge is Wealth
- Improving connectivity
  - ADHL Central Service

# UHC means Digitization



“Establish a Commonwealth Evidence Base for Cancer Control that will provide faster access to the growing body of research into cancer.”

-World Health Assembly 2018

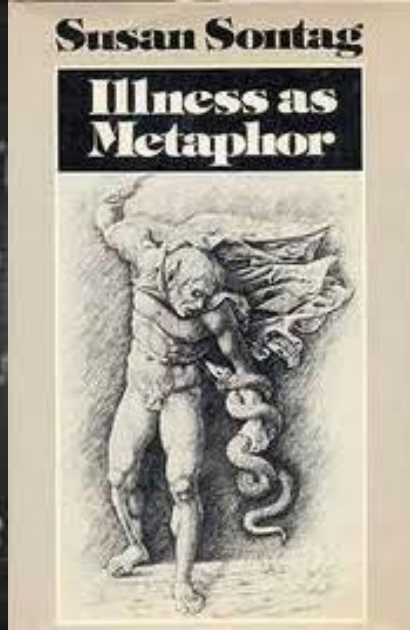
# Concept of the National Good

Ensuring Digital Access is a national service.

Hampering Access is a national disservice

**Shape our Future**

Digitization will help save  
lives



Illness is the night-side of life... Everyone who is born holds dual citizenship, in **the kingdom of the well** and in **the kingdom of the sick**. Although we all prefer to use only the good passport, sooner or later each of us is obliged, at least for a spell, to identify ourselves as citizens of that other place.

# Shape our Future

**The Transition from Page to Chip is Our  
Generation's Task**

*There is no path except made by our walking*

—Antonio Machado, Spanish Poet.



*MARCHONS!*

**African nDigital Health Library (ADHL)**

**ADHL**

**<https://library.adhl.africa>**

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Central ADHL Node

Central ADHL

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2018-10

# ADHL: What is the Endpoint and How do we get there?

Lodge, Mark

African Digital Health Library (ADHL)

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<http://library.adhl.africa/handle/123456789/4462>

*Downloaded from African Digital Health Library (ADHL)*