

# **British Library for Development Studies (BLDS): Contributing to making development knowledge available, accessible and ‘readable’**

A prelude to the GLDS concept presentation

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at the GOKH Partner Event, IDS, UK  
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# Discussion

- British Library for Development Studies (BLDS)
- BLDS Collection
- How do we do it?
- IDS OpenDocs: BLDS Digital Library
- IDS OpenDocs: IDS Research Community
- IDS OpenDocs in Numbers
- Partner Benefits
- Challenges observed for Digital Library work
- Document Delivery Service in Numbers (since the revamp of the platform)
- Conclusion

# British Library for Development Studies (BLDS)

- British Library for Development Studies (BLDS) strives to improve the visibility, accessibility and ‘readability’ of research, in particular of that published in developing countries, both current and historical, which often remains unseen by an international audience, who could benefit from a wider range of perspectives.
- Three main strands that BLDS contributes to the GOKH programme:-
  - Provision of core library services
  - Digitisation and BLDS Digital Library
  - Document Delivery service

# BLDS Collection

- Collection is extensive and parts of it are **unique** and this has been built up over nearly 50 years.
- Uniqueness in the sense that items are not visible/held in other libraries, recorded online in massive aggregated sources such as WorldCat.
- These materials comprise mainly of 2 categories:
  - Developing country originated grey literature (research papers, policy documents - academic, governmental and non-governmental).
  - Developing country journal content – i.e. article level content.
- A key legacy of the longevity and depth of the BLDS collection is that it often holds material originating from organisations that have been unable to maintain complete holdings of their own output.
- This is the case particularly for pre-digital print documents and organisations that have undergone institutional changes, absorptions and geographical relocations.

# How BLDS make Development Knowledge available, accessible and 'readable'

- Catalogue
  - Holds records of print and some instances digital collection (over 200,000 items)
  - Offers facilities for discovery and borrowing
  - Offers facilities for resource sharing through Document Delivery and Inter Library Loans
- OpenDocs (Digital Library and IDS Research Community)
  - holds development knowledge that is in digital form and 'open licensed'
- Document Delivery Service (DocDel)
  - a document supply service from our collection to those that seek it the development knowledge.
- Resource Finder Service
  - a unified resource discovery service that allows for discovery of development knowledge held in both the catalogue and OpenDocs in a single interface

# OpenDocs

- The OpenDocs including its two main communities – BLDS Digital Library and IDS Research Community was setup in 2010 – during MK4D programme and continues into the current GOKH programme.
- OpenDocs is now the default digital store for all open access content produced by IDS which are also made visible on the IDS website and other outlets.
- The platform is based on DSpace, an open source digital repository software, from DuraSpace.

# OpenDocs BLDS Digital Library

- Hosts collections of existing Southern research materials, available within BLDS and partners that have agreed to be part of the project, that were/are digitised, Creative Commons licensed, and are made freely available.
  - project started during the DfID MK4D programme and has now been extended in the DfID GOKH programme.
  - In GOKH Programme material not physically available at BLDS are now accepted.
  - IDS works with any Institution that meets 'our criteria' with resources to join the Digital Library and this is done in three ways: -
    - Via Digitisation of print material from the partner and BLDS offers support to this which could include: -
      - Digitisation Equipment including Scanner, PC, NAS, OCR Software
      - Costs towards staff time for selection, digitising and uploading of the content.
      - Training (if needed)
    - Via 'born digital' material that can be uploaded by partner institution or BLDS staff.
    - Via harvesting, provided the partner institution has an OAI-PMH compliant repository.

# OpenDocs BLDS Digital Library

- **BLDS Digital Library [4587]** (publications digitized from BLDS holdings on behalf of research institutes in developing countries and those digitised by the institutions themselves)
  - Ada Songor Salt Co-operative, Ghana [1]
  - African Capacity Building Foundation [34]
  - African Economic Research Consortium [144]
  - African Forum and Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD) [33]
  - Botswana Institute for Development Policy Analysis [16]
  - Centre for Development Studies (Kerala, India) [403]
  - Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta [153]
  - Development Studies at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa [500]
  - Forum for Social Studies (FSS), Ethiopia [10]
  - Groupe d'Études et de Recherches Genre et Société (GESTES), Université Gaston Berger de Saint-Louis, Sénégal [0]
  - Institute for Development Studies, University of Nairobi, Kenya [739]
  - Jesuit Center for Theological Reflection, Zambia [4]
  - Jimma University, Ethiopia [136]



# OpenDocs BLDS Digital Library

- Madras Institute of Development Studies, India [13]
- Makerere University, Uganda [397]
- Mekelle University, Ethiopia [205]
- National University of Lesotho [136]
- Open African Innovation Research & Training (Open A.I.R.) Project [2]
- Pakistan Institute of Development Economics [193]
- Philippine Institute for Development Studies [205]
- Research on Poverty Alleviation (REPOA), Tanzania [38]
- South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics (SANDEE) [86]
- St. Mary's University, Ethiopia [0]
- Thailand Development Research Institute [31]
- University of Zimbabwe [1095]
- Zambia Institute for Policy Analysis & Research [13]

# OpenDocs IDS Research Community

- **IDS Research Community [2181]** (publications by IDS Fellows and from partner research centres and consortia)
  - Dynamic Drivers of Disease in Africa [13]
  - ESRC STEPS Centre [116]
  - Future Agricultures Consortium [56]
  - Future Health Systems [31]
  - IDS PhD Research [58]
  - International Centre for Tax and Development [10]
  - Pathways of Women's Empowerment [25]
  - Strengthening Evidence Based Policy [232]
  - The Governance of Service Delivery [13]
  - Bellagio Initiative [31]
  - BRIDGE [2]
  - Community-Led Total Sanitation [22]
  - EMERGE [16]
  - Global Uncertainties: Security in an Africa of Networked, Multi-Level Governance [9]
  - Human Wellbeing and Development [1]
  - IDS Research [726]
  - Mobilising Quality for Scaling Up Nutrition [4]
  - Nutrition Research in Northern Nigeria [16]
  - Policy Alternatives for Livestock Development in Mongolia [19]
  - The Lawrence Haddad IDS Collection [5]
  - The Reginald H. Green Archive [397]
  - The Robert Chambers Archive [415]

# OpenDocs in Numbers

**6,768** items in OpenDocs and growing daily

**4,587** items from BLDS Digital Library

**2,181** from IDS Research Community

**2,272,316** total downloads

Of which **1,134,986** from BLDS Digital library and **1,137,330** from IDS Research

Figures as on 6 October 2015

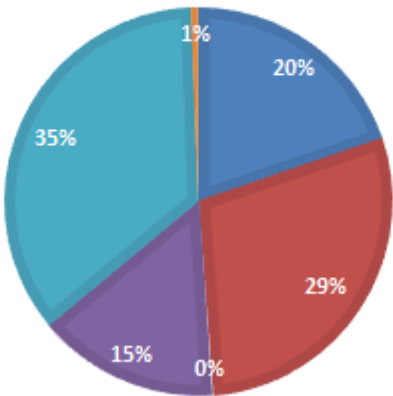
Download figures as from May 2013

# OpenDocs in Numbers

The charts tells us that actually ‘Southern users’ are downloading more of the content that originates from the South especially in Africa. Asia seems to be almost at par in downloads for both ‘Southern and Northern’ sourced content and this is true of China.

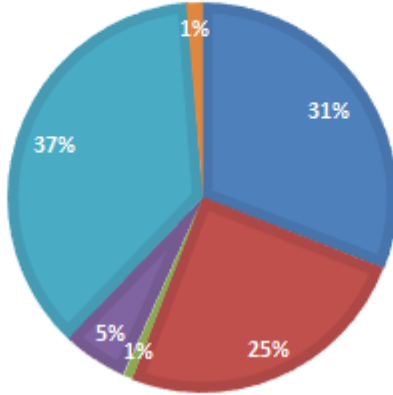
### BLDS DIGITAL LIBRARY DOWNLOADS

■ Europe ■ North America ■ South America ■ Africa ■ Asia ■ Oceania



### IDS RESEARCH COMMUNITY DOWNLOADS

■ Europe ■ North America ■ South America ■ Africa ■ Asia ■ Oceania



Another illustration - Ethiopian experience of two partner communities namely Jimma and Mekelle Universities: -

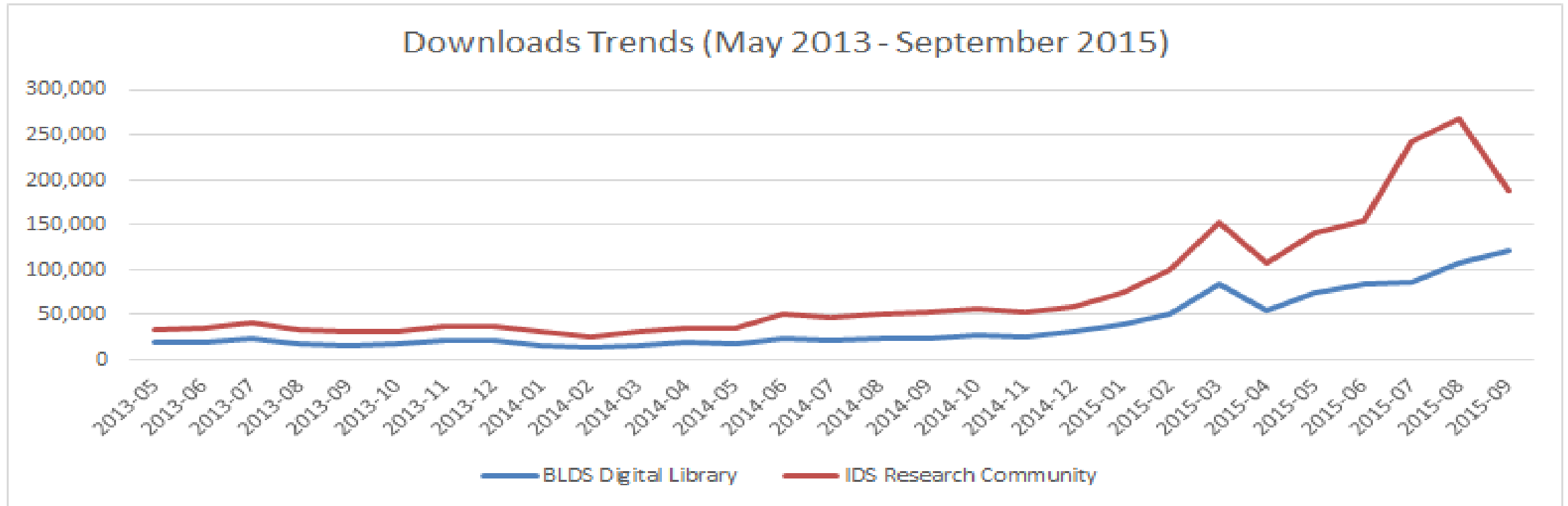
**Total Items: 341**

**Total Downloads: 182, 671**

**Total Downloads from Ethiopia: 67, 404 representing 37% share**

# OpenDocs in Numbers

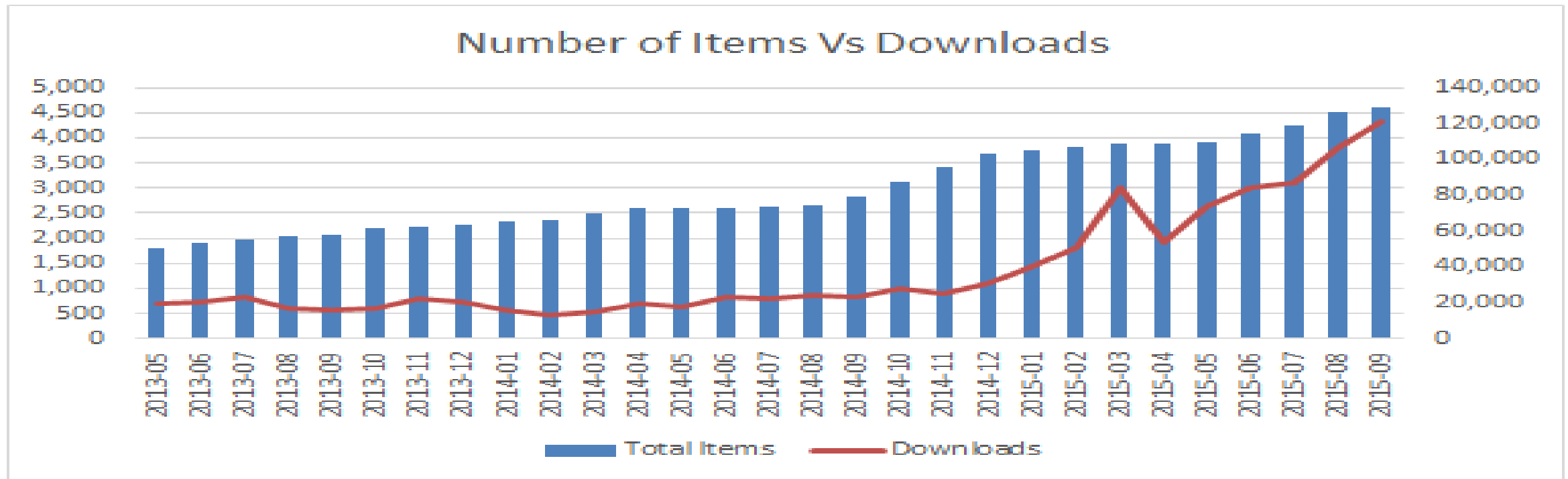
This chart shows the downloads trends of both communities. We see that the direction of travel for BLDS Digital Library is positive.



# OpenDocs in Numbers

This chart shows the downloads against the total number of items at a given point in the BLDS Digital Library. We see that the more items we have in the library the more downloads we get. With more awareness this trend could even be better.

We therefore need to continue recruiting southern originated content. The more southern based partners we have the better!



# BLDS Digital Library Partner Benefits

- **Discoverability**
  - By making research publications from the partners easier to find on search engines, the BLDS Digital Library greatly increases the likelihood of their being used by a global audience.
  - BLDS Digital Library is hosted on infrastructure that has a fast internet connection.
  - Being part of IDS, BLDS Digital Library has been accepted by Google Scholar therefore its content is indexed by it.
- **Open access and Impact**
  - Research in repositories is cited more, and has an increased impact outside of academia as well (i.e. it can be freely obtained by NGOs, practitioners, policy makers etc.).
- **Preservation**
  - The repository software preserves copies of research for posterity in a way that is independent of the original format (which may become obsolete).
- **Reusability**
  - The repository software is standards based therefore provides standard interoperability capability defined by OAI-PMH and also uses standard based metadata descriptions such as Dublin core, MODS, METS, MARC, etc. The material can therefore be easily harvested for re-use by other systems with less effort. Text and Data mining is also made possible by making the content suitable for the purpose.
- **Authority**
  - Being part of a development-focused subject repository like the BLDS Digital Library boosts discoverability and credibility through linkages with the rest of the Digital Library, the BLDS catalogue, the IDS website itself, and BLDS's tailored subject indexing.
- **Licensing**
  - Creative Commons benefits – an internationally recognised system of licensing which combines wide access with rights protection and clear guidance on reuse.
- **Metrics**
  - All the abstract views and downloads statistics are publicly available and can also provide adhoc statistics on request

# Challenges we have observed (working on Digital Library

- Setting up partnerships – attracting the ‘right’ and ‘willing’ partner
- Amount of bureaucracy in the processes within partner institutions
- Managing expectations for partner and IDS
- Procurement challenges including shipping and clearing
- No 'one size fits all approach' works - flexibility is the game



# Document Delivery in Numbers

**As at 31/08/2015 (since launch of the revamped platform on 14/05/2015)**

- Total accounts created 74 (16 Northern based and 58 Southern based)
- Orders (requests): 62 - representing a 3.39% increase from 2014/15
- 14 account holders (33% of requesters) have already returned to place further requests after their initial request.
  - This suggests satisfaction with the new system.
- Requesters: 32 Southern and 10 Northern

# Document Delivery in Numbers

Items types requested since the relaunch

Type	Publication Year					Total
	Pre - 1979	1980 - 1989	1990 - 1999	2000 - 2010	2011 - 2015	
Northern Articles				4	5	14
Northern Chapters		1	1		9	7
Southern Articles				1	4	9
Southern Chapters			1	2		2
<b>Total</b>		1	2	7	18	32

# Document Delivery in Numbers

Country of publication of Southern documents requested since the relaunch

Country of publication	Number of documents requested
Bangladesh	2
Ghana	1
India	9
Kenya	3
Nepal	1
Pakistan	3
Thailand	1
Tunisia	1
TOTAL (Southern documents requested)	21

# Conclusion

- Need to work with a 'right' and 'willing' partner
- Awareness of the programme is important
- No 'one size fits all approach' works – therefore flexibility is the game
- There is evidence that exposure of partners' 'quality of work' leads to other added benefits such as research collaborations
- Development knowledge especially the grey literature which is contextually situated is made available to a wide audience of users
- Locally sourced development content made available is more used by users based in those locations
- Incentives for partners to continue depositing beyond the formal 'digitisation' contract need to be devised – more awareness is also needed