

### **Project details**

Institution	Afrika-Studiecentrum and Leiden University Library
Funding organisation	SURF (ICT and Research)
Project term	September 2003 - February 2004
Project budget	€ 90.315,00
Subsidy	€ 46.816,00
Programme	DARE, Digital Academic Repositories
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### **Objective**

The DARC project aims to lay a basis for developing a (digital) academic platform for African Studies in the Netherlands.

African studies form a geographical specialisation within a multitude of research disciplines and as such, are carried out within many different universities, faculties, research institutions and multidisciplinary projects. The configurations and networks whereby expertise is exchanged are in a constant flux. There is therefore a need for a more integrated communications platform, facilitated by modern information and communication technologies (ICT).

The DARC project envisages a two-tier model:

1. a range of institutional repositories that store research results in a controlled environment (DARE level) and
2. community portals that provide integrated access to intellectual output from different angles (community services level).

The aim of the DARC project is to contribute to the repositories by involving African studies researchers from various universities and research institutions in the Netherlands.

### **Deliverables**

The pilot project is intended to lay the basis for the proposed DARE/DARC platform for African studies by means of the following:

- a small-scale demonstration model involving a number of ASC researchers and a DARE repository;
- an implementation model with standards and best practices for implementing the DARE/DARC platform;
- a business model with service level agreements for DARE repositories and services;
- an evaluation report containing recommendations and conclusions about the potential for developing the pilot into an operational service and to expand it within the DARE programme.

Project term: 28-2-2004