

Usage of 'Download of Psychiatry' in Africa

The 'Download of Psychiatry' is a free textbook of psychiatry which is available without charge on the 'web' and can be found using this link <http://eprints.utas.edu.au/287/> or any search engine. It is written and maintained by the second author (SP). It commenced with less than 20 chapters in 2006 and quickly grew to 36 chapters. It is regularly updated. Chapter 3 has been translated into Italian by I. Montagni and Chapters 3 and 20 have been translated into French by D. Fritsch. At the time of writing (April, 2013) there have been 553 000 hits over the years, from 200 countries.

'Download of Psychiatry' is written for medical students, trainee psychiatrists and interested members of the public. It aims to be easily understood, and up-to-date. While written in English it is downloaded in non-English speaking countries. For example, we reviewed the number of 'hits' per million in Muslim countries¹ and found over 100 hits per million population in Brunei, Maldives, Qatar, UAE, Malaysia and Kuwait.

We wish to introduce the *Download of Psychiatry* to interested people of Africa, and examine the use of this resource on the continent over the last 6.6 years. We have records of the number of 'hits' by country and find that 31 African countries have made at least one 'hit'. We prepared a table (Table I) which gives (for the total period of 6.6 years) the raw number of 'hits', the world rating of the individual countries on the basis of the number of 'hits', the population of each country, and the number of 'hits' per million population. Points to be made include that 31 African countries have used this resource, which is only a little over half the countries of the continent, which means there is potential to increase. Further, 12 countries had less than 100 hits, and could not be considered regular users. On the basis of number of 'hits' Egypt (4842), South Africa (3989) and Nigeria (2901) were the leaders. With the 'hits' per million population metric, Botswana (241), Nigeria (161), South Africa (75), Lesotho (71) and Egypt (58) were the highest users.

This content is not presented as an exact mathematical analysis (for example, figures for populations were rounded off to the nearest million). However, we believe our calculations give a good approximation of usage. Impediments to the more widespread use of the *Download of Psychiatry* are many. They include that it is written in English and from an up-to-date western perspective. Another approach may be more appropriate in developing countries. Also, usage depends on the availability of the internet. We know that in some countries teachers have

Table I. The usage of Download of Psychiatry by 31 African countries over a recent 6.6 years

	Number Of 'hits'	World rating on 'hits'	Population (million)	'hits' per million population
Egypt	4842	13th	84	58*****
South Africa	3989	17th	53	75***
Nigeria	2901	24th	18	161**
Kenya	2391	36th	43	56
Ethiopia	1414	45th	86	16
Ghana	646	65th	26	25
Tanzania	604	67th	46	23
Uganda	569	69th	35	16
Sudan	488	73rd	35	14
Botswana	483	75th	2	241*
Algeria	475	76th	38	13
Rwanda	237	95th	10	24
Cameroon	210	99th	21	10
Tunisia	189	102nd	11	17
Malawi	150	108th	15	10
Lesotho	142	110th	2	71****
Zimbabwe	120	114th	13	9
Gambia	115	116th	2	56
Morocco	106	119th	33	3
Mozambique	45	141st	24	2
Senegal	41	143rd	14	3
Benin	36	147th	10	4
Djibouti	28	149th	1	28
Congo, D R	13	157th	75	0.2
Togo	8	160th	6	1
Swaziland	6	163rd	1	6
Namibia	3	170th	2	2
Burkina Faso	3	171st	17	0.2
Angola	2	176th	21	0.1
Gabon	1	180th	2	0.5
Eritrea	1	188th	5	0.2

The stars (*) indicate the 5 highest usage on the basis of 'hits' per million population.

downloaded this resource and distributed discs to students – we are fine with that, but would like to be informed. We would be delighted if other scholars were prepared to translate one or more chapters into other languages, which we would be pleased to upload onto our University site.

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References

1. Pridmore S, Ahmadi J. Usage of "Download of Psychiatry" by Muslim countries. *Bulletin of Clinical Psychopharmacology* 2011; 21(2): 174. [www.psfikofarmakoloji.org]

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