

LIBSENSE-RUFORUM Webinar:

Understanding Open Science and Research Data Management:

International and Local Perspectives

Concept Note

Date: Tuesday, 28th February 2023 (09:00-11:00 UTC)

Registration link: https://wacren.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Z3rXltwPS-eBzNXEvw_RXA

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Background

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) is a Network of 163 African universities in 40 African Countries. RUFORUM's third and current Vision 2030: African Universities' Agenda for Agricultural Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (AHESTI) is seen as the voice for Higher Education in Agriculture, and indeed Science, Technology and Innovation. RUFORUM has always aspired to harness the role of digital technologies in making research outputs and learning materials available for researchers, students and other stakeholders, as Africa still contributes just a little fraction of the world's research output.

In light of this, RUFORUM and West and Central African Research and Education Network (WACREN) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance scientific and scholarly communication in Africa, through the [AfricaConnect3](#) project and the [LIBSENSE](#) initiative. This cooperation is a step in the direction in the sense that it would help our native agriculture researchers to access valuable open resources to engage with in their scientific discovery. This is expected to support and facilitate universities in acquiring relevant and practical data/information/knowledge for adoption of ICT in teaching and learning. By doing so, the network universities are able to train through innovative and creative ICT-enabled techniques that deliver and enhance the student learning experience.

Under this MoU, the parties agreed to collaborate in LIBSENSE to provide contemporary platforms to enable agriculture research data sharing and open access publishing. As part of the collaboration, training on research data management will be developed as repeatable open education resources (OER) for RUFORUM researchers and librarians.

RUFORUM and WACREN are implementing their MoU, with special interest on delivering state-of-the-art digital services to higher education institutions at scale and with reduced costs to support open access and open science in Africa. In order to achieve full utilization of these services, awareness creation and engagement with relevant stakeholders was undertaken during the AGM in Harare, Zimbabwe. A workshop was held to validate the needs assessment survey instrument for the development of an open data and knowledge repository for the RUFORUM community. A key outcome of the workshop was the identification of the need to provide more awareness about key concepts in the survey document.

Objective of the webinar

The aim of this webinar is to sensitize participants to key concepts related to open science and research data management which underpin the LIBSENSE-RUFORUM needs assessment survey for the development of an open data and knowledge repository for the RUFORUM community. The webinar will also provide a platform for launching the survey to the community. To achieve this, the following objectives will be pursued:

- i. Provide an overview of Open Science concepts;
- ii. Introduce Research Data Management (RDM) principles and practices;
- iii. Discuss the state of the art of Open Science and RDM in agriculture;
- iv. Launch the Needs Assessment Survey.

Approach to be adopted

The webinar will be held online and hosted virtually through WACREN's Zoom platform. The survey will be hosted on WACREN's servers and distributed via a link.

Expected output

- i. Understanding of key concepts in Open Science
- ii. Knowledge of Research Data Management principles and practices
- iii. Engagement with the state of the art on Open Science and RDM in agriculture
- iv. Activation of the LIBSENSE-RUFORUM needs assessment survey

Draft Programme

Time	Agenda Item	Responsible Person
08:30 - 09:00	Registration and entry to the Zoom platform	All
09:00 - 09:10	Introductory remarks: LIBSENSE-RUFORUM collaboration	Mr. Omo Oaiya, Chief Strategy Officer, WACREN
09:10 - 10:00	Speaker Presentations (15 mins each): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Why Open Science in Agriculture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Daniel Albertsson, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences ● From Research Data Management to Open Access Research Data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Samuel Simango, Manager, Research Data Services at Stellenbosch University, South Africa ● Making Your Data Count with an Institutional Repository <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Olatunbosun Obileye, Institutional Data Manager, IITA 	Moderator: Ms. Nada Musa, Technical Specialist-Knowledge Management, RUFORUM
10:00 - 10:55	Panel Discussion & Q&A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dr. Josiline Chigwada <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Librarian, Chinhoyi University of Technology, Zimbabwe ● Victoria Mbigidde <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Knowledge Management Specialist, NARO, Uganda ● Prof. Paul Nampala <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Scientific Editor, African Crop Science Journal, Uganda ● Samuel Simango <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Manager, Research Data Services at Stellenbosch University, South Africa 	Moderator: Dr Pamela Abbott, Senior Lecturer, University of Sheffield-UK & Research Lead on LIBSENSE
10:55 - 11:00	Closing remarks and launch of survey	Dr Francis Otto, Manager – Knowledge Hub (K-HUB), RUFORUM