



18TH RUFORUM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

RUFORUM-WACREN Workshop: Validation of the Needs Assessment for Open Data and Knowledge Repository

Concept Note

Date: Thursday 15th December, 2022 (08:30-13:00 CAT)

Venue: Lecture Room F5, University of Zimbabwe

Registration link: <https://t.ly/jyLH>

Contact: Dr. Francis Otto (f.otto@ruforum.org); Ms. Nada Musa (m.nada@ruforum.org)

Background

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) is a Network of 161 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. With this, RUFORUM’s aspiration of becoming a knowledge hub for research and innovation in agriculture and rural development in Africa. 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.

CO-ORGANISERS:



As part of this year's African Higher Education Week and RUFORUM AGM 2022 in Harare, the RUFORUM Secretariat and WACREN will show case the achievements made through support from this collaboration. 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 this services, awareness creation and engagement with relevant stakeholders is to be undertaken during the annual convening in Harare, Zimbabwe.

Objective of the meeting

The aim of this session is to showcase of open science services to RUFORUM community. To achieve this, the following objectives will be pursued:

- i. Discuss the role of Research Data Management.
- ii. Validate our pilot study for the needs assessment for the Research Data Management.
- iii. Develop Research Data Management Policies through Focus Group discussion.

Approach to be adopted

This session will be a blended event where some participants will attend face-to-face while others will attend virtually through a Zoom link (<https://t.ly/iyLH>). There will be three main sessions, each directed towards achieving an objective from among the objectives stated above.

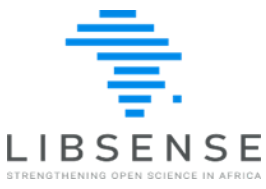
Expected output

- i. Recognition of the role of Research Data Management
- ii. Validated needs assessment for Research Data Management
- iii. Developed Research Data Management Policies

Draft Programme

| Time | Agenda Item | Responsible Person |
|----------------------|---|---|
| 08:30 - 08:35 | Welcome Remarks | Ms. Nada Musa, RUFORUM |
| 08:35 - 08:45 | Introductory remarks: LIBSENSE-RUFORUM collaboration | Mr. Omo Oaiya, Chief Strategy Officer, WACREN |
| 08:45 - 09:30 | Panel Discussion on Research Data Management 1. Dr. Thomas Odongo, Lecturer, Makerere University, Uganda 2. Dr. Justin Chisenga, Capacity Development Officer, FAO 3. Dr. Josiline Phiri Chigwada, Chinhoyi University Of Technology, Zimbabwe | Moderator: Mr. Omo Oaiya, Chief Strategy Officer, WACREN |
| 09:30 - 10:30 | Pilot survey results presentation and discussion | Dr. Pamela Y Abbott, Senior Lecturer, Information Systems and Postgraduate Research Director, the University of Sheffield |
| 10:30 - 11:00 | Refreshment Break & Networking | |
| 11:00 - 12:00 | Focus Group Discussion Breakout rooms | Dr. Pamela Y Abbott, Senior Lecturer, Information Systems and Postgraduate Research Director, the University of Sheffield / with on-the-ground facilitation |
| 12:00 - 12:45 | Summaries from FGDs, group leader from each group | Dr. Pamela Y Abbott, Senior Lecturer, Information Systems and Postgraduate Research Director, the University of Sheffield |
| 12:45 - 13:00 | Closing remarks & next steps | Dr. Francis Otto, Manager Knowledge Hub, RUFORUM |
| 13:00 – 14:00 | Lunch | |

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