

Connecting ECR Challenges and Workplans to Existing WACREN-LIBSENSE Open Science Initiatives

LIBSENSE Co-creation Workshop for Early Career Network Leads

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WACREN-LIBSENSE Open Science Initiatives

The initiatives are clear pathways ECRs can connect to when building institutional workplans.

PublishNow

No-Fee OA CoP

RUMBU

ORCID-WACA

COPPHA PublishNow

ECRs should identify institutional challenges, then connect them to the right support pathway

Challenge → Assessment → workplan → support pathway → evidence of change

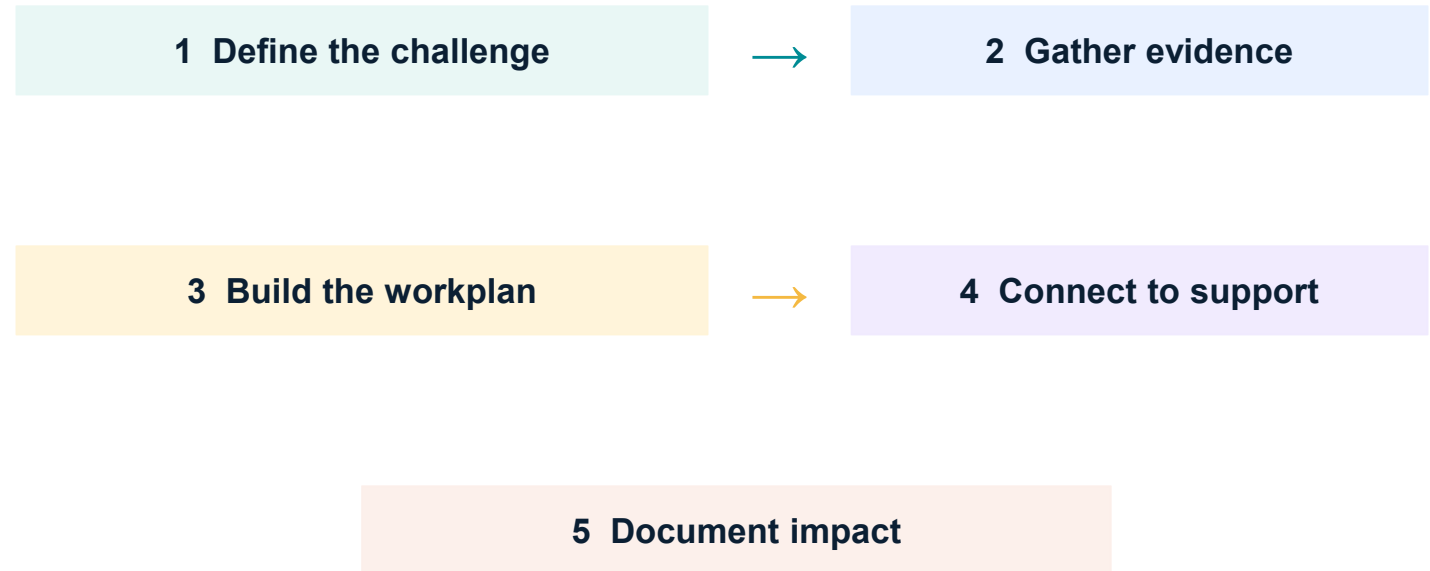
Start with the Challenge, Not the Project

The institutional challenges should drive the workplan.

Common ECR Challenges

- APCs are too expensive
- Local journals are of poor quality
- Diverse scholarly outputs are not visible
- Researchers lack proper identification and attribution
- Peer review is slow or opaque

Workplan pathway



What challenge exists in my institution, and what pathway can help solve it?

PublishNow: Publishing Infrastructure/Journal Management Support

Diamond Open Access Publishing

Assessing and strengthening institutional Open Access journals as credible publishing pathways for ECRs

Challenge

ECRs want to publish open access, but APCs are unaffordable.

Key question

If local institutional journals exist, why are ECRs not publishing in them?

Assessment

Are the journals visible, indexed, and easy to submit to?

Challenges with Institutional Journals

- Manuscript submissions via email
- Manual reviewer tracking
- Editorial decisions via email
- Poor metadata management
- No DOI Assignment
- Not Indexed in discovery platforms



- Online manuscript submission
- Peer review management
- Editorial Decision Workflows
- Production workflows
- Crossref DOI integration
- Metadata Management

ECR workplan entry point:

- Map institutional journals
- Identify workflow challenges
- Engage editors, library, research office
- Recommend journals for PublishNow support

From APC And Journal Platform Challenges → To Credible Local Diamond OA Publishing Pathways

No-Fee OA Publishing in Africa Community of Practice

Editorial capacity, policy support, quality guidance and sustainability for Diamond OA journals.

Platform support is important, but capacity building is equally important

No-Fee OA Publishing in Africa CoP

- The CoP was launched to build capacity and facilitate collaboration among editors and publishers of no-fee open access (OA) journals and books across Africa. It is open to all editors and publishers affiliated with African organisations that publish no-fee open access journals or books.
- A WACREN-supported community that helps African Diamond Open Access journals strengthen their journal operations, editorial standard, capacity building, policies, and sustainability.



Journals also need:

- Trainings for editors, journal managers and reviewers
- Open access policies
- Quality assurance and publication ethics support
- Sustainability planning and administrative support

ECR workplan entry point:

Connect institutional journal teams (editors, journal managers) to the No-Fee Open Access Publishing in Africa CoP for training, resources, peer support and quality guidance.



RUMBU: Enhancing the Visibility and Utilisation of Nigerian Institutional Scholarly Outputs

Repository engagement and open access to institutional scholarly outputs.

Key Question: Since diverse scholarly outputs are produced each year in Nigerian higher education institutions, why are they not readily accessible and utilised?

Challenges:

- Institutional neglect of student-generated knowledge.
- Undergraduate and postgraduate theses are often stored in departmental storage rooms or institutional libraries with limited access.
- Several other scholarly outputs are also produced, including journal articles, conference and workshop papers, books, datasets, analysis code, and technical reports, but these are also not readily accessible, limiting further utilisation.
- As a result, valuable research often goes unnoticed, reducing its potential to inform policy, practice, or scholarly discourse.



RUMBU is a shared, multitenant national open access repository for Nigeria's higher education and research institutions and can be used to disseminate a wide range of scholarly outputs including conventional and non-conventional outputs.

ECR workplan entry point:

Key Assessments and Actions

- Does your institution have an active repository?
- Survey repository awareness and use among ECRs and staff.
- What types of outputs are currently deposited?
- What important outputs are missing?
- Does your institutional repository support the deposit of non-conventional outputs such as datasets, analysis code and other research materials?
- What prevents researchers from depositing, accessing, or reusing these outputs?
- Identify how RUMBU can support your institution's repository needs.

The core issue is not low scholarly productivity but the institutional shortfall in making their research outputs readily accessible.

ORCID-WACA: Researcher Identity & Attribution

IS COMMUNITY

Persistent identifiers for visibility, attribution and interoperable research systems.

The ORCID–WACA initiative, led by the West and Central African Research and Education Network (WACREN) with support from the ORCID Global Participation Fund, aims to advance the adoption and integration of ORCID across institutions in West and Central Africa. It builds on WACREN’s ongoing efforts to strengthen the use of Persistent Identifiers (PIDs) in Africa. The project will raise awareness of the benefits of ORCID, promote its integration with research infrastructures such as institutional repositories, and build community capacity through the **ORCID–WACA Ambassadors Programme** and the **ORCID–WACA Community of Practice**.



Challenge: Nigerian ECRs lack consistent researcher identity. They produce and disseminate various scholarly outputs, but these outputs often remain fragmented and disconnected from global discovery systems.

Why Every Nigerian ECR Needs an ORCID iD

- ORCID prevents identity theft, supports proper attribution, and strengthens ECRs’ competitiveness for grants and international collaborations.
- ORCID serves as a stable anchor throughout a research career by consolidating publications, grants, datasets, peer-review contributions, and affiliations under a single persistent identifier.

ECR workplan entry point:

- How many ECRs in your institutions know about ORCID?
- How many already have ORCID iDs?
- How many actively use or update their records?
- Does the institution encourage or mandate ORCID use?
- What misconceptions or barriers exist?

Workplan actions

- Engage library and research office to run ORCID awareness or workshops or webinars
- Connect library, research office, and ECRs to ORCID-WACA CoP

COPPHA PublishNow: Open Review & PRC

A community route into preprints, transparent feedback and community-driven evaluation.

Challenge: Peer review is often slow, closed, and difficult for ECRs to learn from.

ECR opportunity: Become advocates for open research dissemination and open review

COPPHA PublishNow: An Open Review Platform for Public Health Scholarly Outputs, Operated by WACREN

Publish

Make work openly visible as a preprint

Review

Receive or provide transparent, constructive feedback (open or anonymous)

Curate

Organise reviewed work into thematic collections based on editorial assessments.

The Publish-Review-Curate (PRC) Model

The PRC model addresses the limitations of traditional scholarly publishing by dividing the scholarly communication process into three distinct phases: Publish, Review, and Curate.

This structure enables rapid dissemination, transparent evaluation, and a focus on the scientific quality of research articles rather than the prestige of the journals in which they are published. By decentralizing control and placing researchers at the forefront of the publication process, the model fosters greater inclusivity in the research dissemination process.

ECR workplan entry: Key Assessments and Actions

- Survey awareness of preprints and open review among ECRs.
- Assess the need for PRC-style open review models in fields beyond public health.
- Organise workshops on the PRC model, preprints, and open review.
- Use COPPHA PublishNow as a practical example of how the PRC model supports transparent and constructive review in public health
- Build a small cohort of ECR reviewers to provide constructive and actionable feedback on their colleagues' public health research outputs using COPPHA PublishNow..

From ECR Challenge to Workplan and Impact

Local action, connected to wider WACREN-LIBSENSE support pathways.

The ECR role

- Identify ECR challenges
- Gather evidence
- Mobilise the right local actors or communities of practice
- Connect to a support pathway
- Document outputs and impact

The WACREN-LIBSENSE role

- Provide platforms and infrastructure
- Offer training and resources
- Help sustain institutional change

**Start with the challenge. Gather evidence. Build a workplan.
Connect to a pathway. Deliver change.**

ECRs lead local action. WACREN–LIBSENSE initiatives provide the support systems.