



WORKSHOP

Building Research Assessment Reform into Regional Open Science Policy in Higher Education Institutions

Live Wednesday, March 2, 2022 | 1:00 PM UTC



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Welcome! We will get started in the next minute or two.

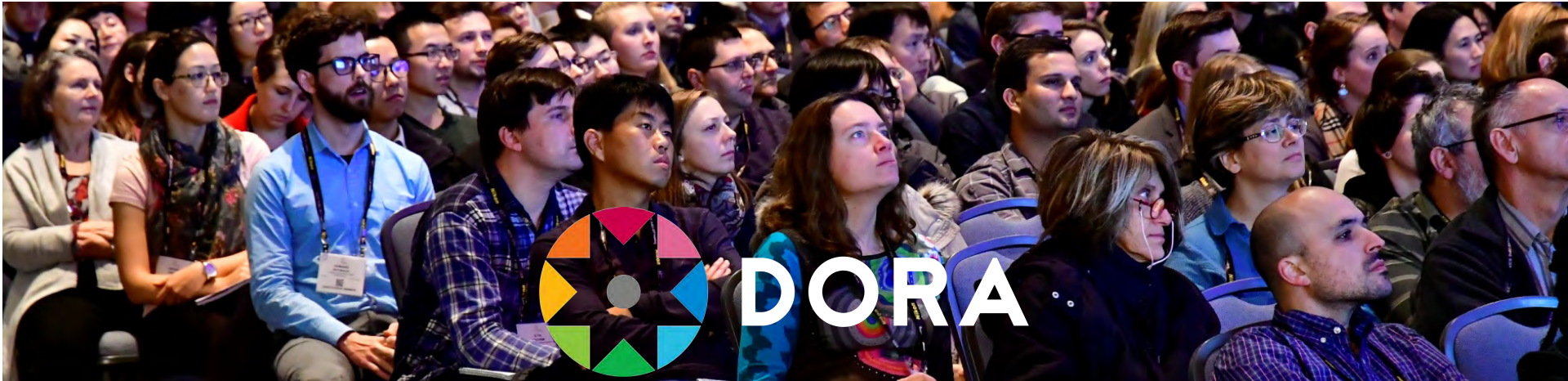
Agenda

- Welcome and announcements (10min)
- Speaker presentations (10min)
- Q&A session (30min)
- Closing thoughts (5min)

Participation Guidelines

DORA is a community with shared aspirations to improve academic assessment, and we are all working towards the same goal.

- ✓ Participants are expected to adhere to the Community Conduct Rules of our administrative entity, the American Society for Cell Biology
- ✓ Be respectful of everyone on the call
- ✓ Use the **chat** to contribute to the discussion, use the **Q&A** to submit questions for speakers
- ✓ This webinar will be recorded so DORA can produce a public summary blog of the event.



Declaration On Research Assessment

Improving how research is assessed

sfdora.org



@DORAssessment

More than 21,000 individuals and organizations have signed the declaration in 156 countries!



What is DORA?

The Declaration

DORA



International initiative



DORA's vision

Advance practical and robust approaches to research assessment reform globally and across all scholarly disciplines

Specific Objectives

- Raise awareness
- Facilitate implementation
- Catalyze change
- Improve equity



LIBSENSE - An African Framework for Sustainable Open Science

Pan-African Library-REN Collaborations around Open Science at the Institutional, National and Regional levels.

Goals:

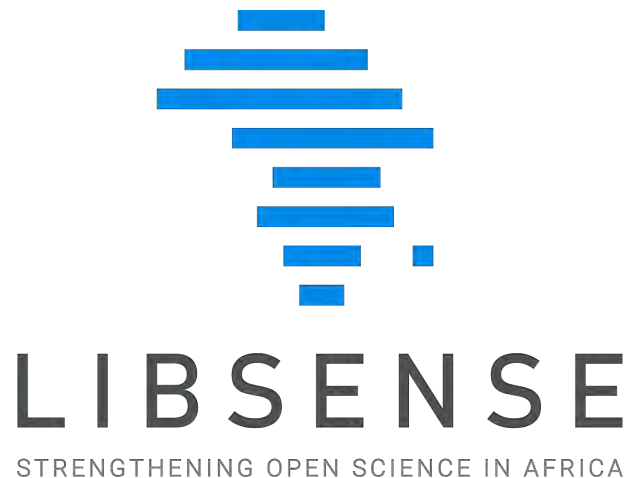
- Support cultural change
- Provide technical support
- Build capacity
- Develop value-added services

Governed by the three regional RENS

Currently funded by AfricaConnect

libsense.ren.africa 

@LIBSENSE



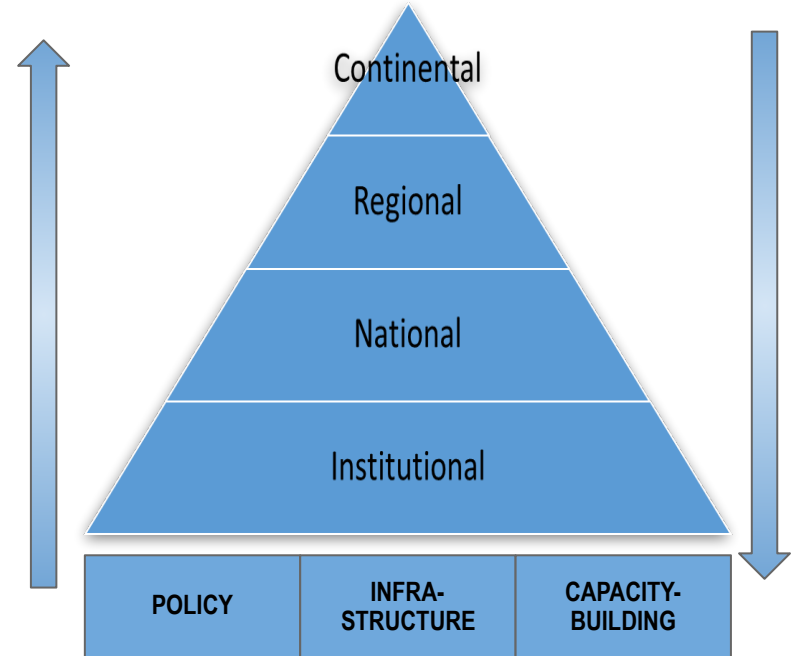
Strategy & Organisation

Overall Strategy:

- Building communities of practice
- Strengthening local and national services
- Bottom-up, distributed, heterogeneous
- Inclusive -
 - 3 Working languages, Arabic, English and French
 - Indigenous and traditional knowledge

Three Pillars:

- **Policy:** open science policies, governance and leadership
- **Infrastructure:** open access journals, repositories for publications and data and open discovery services
- **Capacity-building:** communities of practice and training



Strategic pillars and example activities/collaborations

- **Policy**

- Open Science Africa: Principles and Actions for Global Participation
- Roll-out of **national** Open Science roadmaps across the continent, ensuring African priorities are maintained
- Workshops aligning Open Science policy at the **regional** level leveraging regional HE associations
- Open Science policy development and implementation at the institutional level

- **Infrastructure**

- Open Science services and platforms
 - National shared open access repository and publishing platforms - Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria and Uganda
 - Regional data platform for agriculture - collaboration with RUFORUM
 - Federated Identity platform for secure access - eduid.africa

- **Capacity Building**

- Strengthening African expertise and know-how in Open Science across Africa
- Regional workshops, knowledge building and sharing
 - Webinar series for OA journals editors and publishers
- Training and skills development for digital services specific to the institutional context
 - Early Career Open Science Researcher Programme

Aims of this webinar

- Raise awareness about what responsible research assessment is and why it is important
- Identify what research outputs are currently valued or should be valued in the African context
- Provide ideas and stimulate dialogue about establishing an African initiative to:
 - Coordinate knowledge exchange about regional research assessment practices
 - Identify what “responsible research assessment” looks like in the African context
 - Provide a common organizational entity across Africa that will help to maintain momentum for reform to research assessment practices



Research Assessment in Africa: Issues to Consider



LIBSENSE & DORA Webinar
Prof. Frederick Ato Armah





Responsible Research Assessment for Whom? And by Whom?



Why is Research Assessment Imperative?

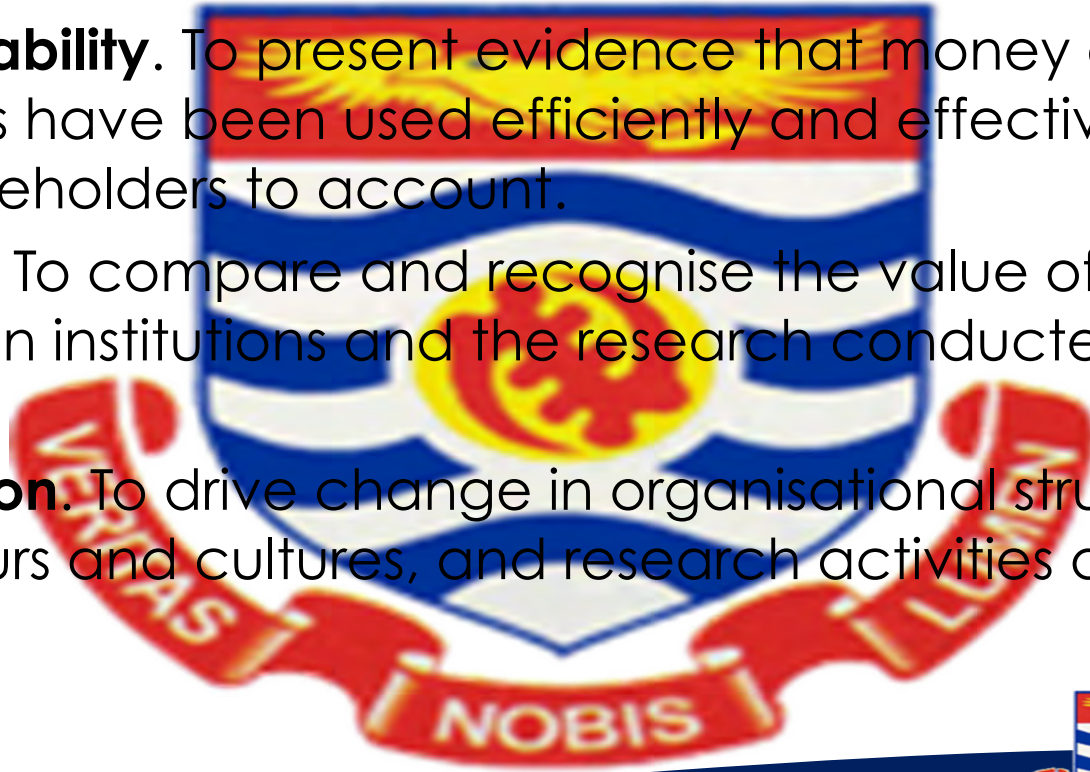


- **Analysis.** To understand why, how and whether research is effective, and how it can be better supported.
- **Advocacy.** To demonstrate the benefits of supporting research and enhance the understanding of research and its processes among policymakers and the public.
- **Allocation.** To determine how to distribute funding across the research and innovation ecosystem.

Why is Research Assessment Imperative?



- **Accountability.** To present evidence that money and other resources have been used efficiently and effectively, and to hold stakeholders to account.
- **Acclaim.** To compare and recognise the value of higher education institutions and the research conducted within them.
- **Adaptation.** To drive change in organisational structures, behaviours and cultures, and research activities and priorities.



Goals of Responsible Research Assessment



- Promote high quality, diverse, equitable and relevant research
- Stimulate equitable collaboration and participation.
- Reshape and expand the notion of excellence
- Social relevance (need-based)
- Open sciences for social transformation, sustainable development and innovation



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Five Key Pillars of Openness

**Open Dialogue
with other
knowledge
systems**

**Mutual knowledge
and recognition of
complementarities
between diverse
epistemologies,
including
indigenous
knowledge
systems**

**Open Research
Assessment to
Open Science**

**Change the
incentives and
rewards for open
science in the
evaluation of
careers, projects
and publications.
Open evaluation to
build participatory
science and
promote public
trust in science**

**Open Access to
scientific
knowledge**

**Scientific
publications,
research data,
software, source
code and hardware
available in the
public domain or
under copyright
that has been
released under an
open license**

**Open Science
infrastructures**

**Sets of
instruments,
databases and
digital
infrastructures,
needed to support
Open Science.**

Interoperability

**Open
engagement of
societal actors**

**Multiple and
extended
collaboration
between scientists
and societal actors
to make the
scientific process
more inclusive and
accessible to the
broader inquiring
society**

Research Assessment in Africa: Key Issues I



- Intra-African collaboration opportunities, and multidisciplinary/transdisciplinary research
- Research ethics specifically in the context of indigenous communities
- Developing national research and innovation ecosystems



Research Assessment in Africa: Key Issues II



- Identify indigenous proxies for excellence
- *Shape and size of national science ecosystems (respective research bases and capabilities of the research organisations)*
- Quality of standing of researchers, not just in terms of outputs, publications and impact, but also by the engagement of researchers with postgraduate students

Research Assessment in Africa: Key Issues III



- A system-wide approach in adopting the notions of Open Science & contextualize this in national regulatory systems
- Appreciate context and acknowledge that the understanding and interpretation of Open Science is differs systematically by agency, country or region
- How do we preserve indigenous knowledge whilst pursuing an Open Science agenda



Research Assessment in Africa: Key Issues IV



Responsible research assessment needs:

- situated methodologies (authentic context and culture or community)
- specific or extended evaluation criteria
- reviewers with wider backgrounds and expertise
- participation of social movements and/or local communities.



‘Open’ ≠ ‘Fair’





Open science can contribute to equity, if it enables Africans to learn about and research topics important to them and their communities, and have their research recognized and rewarded, and have that translate in impact for their communities.



Thank you
Asanteni Sana





The Latin American Forum for Research Assessment

Laura Rovelli, Phd, Coordinator FOLEC-CLACSO

Who: Organization profile



FOLC

Latin American Forum for
Research Assessment

Country



Argentina



Profile of institution

international interdisciplinary consortia

Number of FTE researchers

> 1000

Further information

Evaluating the evaluation of scientific production

Diagnosis and proposals for a regional initiative

Proposal for a declaration of principles

Organization of research
evaluation

Institutional/university level

academic leadership

academic researchers

library staff

policy staff

Who is involved?

research department staff

research funders

research management staff

research support staff



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Why: Motivation for change



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- Increasing influence of publishing models outside of Latin America. Biggest pressure from funding agencies and national science councils whose research assessment practices are often guided by international mainstream metrics, such as JIF.
- General discomfort with journal-based metrics in RA among researchers. Researchers rewarded only when publishing in “mainstream” journals with “prestige industry” indicators, making invisible other contributions.
- Limit local autonomy of research agendas, discourage good open access practices, and research in interaction with society.
- Underfunding of community-owned infrastructures because scarce funds directed to APCs.



Social relevance

What: What changed and what were the key elements of change?

- Discussion, agenda, specific institutional reforms for inclusive STI through RRA.
- Diagnosis & proposals about the state of assessment. Declaration of principles.
- Series of advocacy papers to promote research assessment policies and reform on: Current information systems, Multilingualism and bibliodiversity; Promotion of national journals.
- Regional Consultation on Peer-Review.
- Questionnaire on mission-oriented research proposals innovative forms of evaluation.



Research assessment



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How: Processes and dynamics for developing, implementing and managing change



- Working within the international organizational structure of CLACSO.
- Change is facilitated in a context-specific manner from the bottom-up by working groups across partner institutions and organizations.
- Use of participatory design process to collect feedback from stakeholders during national and international meetings to refine and inform research assessment reform proposals moving forward.

Challenges

Advance in dialogue processes in order to identify possible agents of change and develop reform experiences.

Cultural change through bottom-up approach, key role of ECR training.

Open infrastructures. Role of CRIS and regional databases
COMMUNITY Based- participation.
FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable) and CARE (Collective Benefit, Authority to Control, Accountability and Ethics) principles.



Research

Closing thoughts



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- An international, collective initiative, to bring about alignment towards RRA change. North-South, North-South-South and South-South collaborations
- Global agenda based on public good, equity, diversity, research careers, SDGs values, involving agents of change. RRA: centre of interlinked issues in research culture, such as research integrity, career development and academic mobility.
- Harmonisation of policies, educational programmes and common principles/ standards.
- Federated infrastructures for open science, support bibliodiversity and collaboration with society, avoiding fragmentation. Financial support to the openness of publications and research data and to the necessary infrastructure and training of skilled human resources



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Closing thoughts

- Sincerest thanks to our speakers for their time and effort
- Stay tuned for a blog summary report for this event
- 2nd LIBSENSE regional policy development workshop will take place as a pre-event in WACREN 2022





Thank you!

More information: sfdora.org