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Implementation of the African Online Research Check Tool: ORCID Rollout

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ORCID GLOBAL FUNDING PROJECT 2026

Implementation of the African Online Research Check Tool: ORCID Rollout

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INSTITUTION
University of the Witwatersrand

DATE
July 07-09, 2026, ZULC Conference, Manna Resorts, Harare, Zimbabwe

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RESEARCH EXCELLENCE
Visibility & Impact Initiative

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The study is based on one of the objectives of a PhD study at Wits University

Metascience and the Knowledge Economy in Zimbabwe:
Assessing University Readiness and Designing an Open Science Framework

PRESENTATION OVERVIEW AND TEAM INTRODUCTION

ORCID GLOBAL FUNDING PROJECT 2026

Research Project Context

Implementation of the African Online Research(er) Check Tool in Zimbabwean Universities

Role	Name	Institutional / Project Focus
Principal Investigator	Lazarus Matizirofa	Project Strategy & Implementation
Co-Investigator	Prof Ephias Ruhode	System Architecture & Integration
Co-Investigator	Prof Daisy Selematsela	Open Science & Scholarly Metrics
Co-Investigator	Dr Carol Ilako	Metadata Standards & Training
Co-Investigator	Dr Josiline Chigwada	University Collaboration & Outreach



University of the Witwatersrand

Led by **University of the Witwatersrand**, this initiative facilitates a cross-border rollout of the African Online Research(er) Check Tool to enhance research visibility across Zimbabwe.

INTRODUCTION TO THE AFRICAN ONLINE RESEARCH CHECK TOOL

STRENGTHENING THE ZIMBABWEAN RESEARCH ECOSYSTEM THROUGH PERSISTENT IDENTIFICATION

The African Online Research Check Tool serves as a strategic catalyst within the African research landscape, specifically designed to bridge the persistent gap in researcher identification and tracking. By integrating ORCID as a unique, persistent digital identifier, this initiative establishes a seamless link between Zimbabwean scholars and the global scientific community. The 2026 rollout across Zimbabwean higher education institutions aims to unify fragmented researcher data, ensuring that every contribution is accurately attributed and discoverable within the open science framework.

KEY OBJECTIVES (ROLLOUT 2026)	DESCRIPTION	IMPACT METRIC
Unified Identification	Implementing ORCID as the standard persistent identifier across all Zimbabwean universities.	***100% Unique ID Adoption***
Ecosystem Integration	Connecting local research outputs to the Africa Online Research Check Tool for real-time tracking.	***Enhanced Data Integrity***
Visibility Gap Closure	Addressing historical difficulties in tracking Zimbabwean academic contributions globally.	***Increased Global Discoverability***

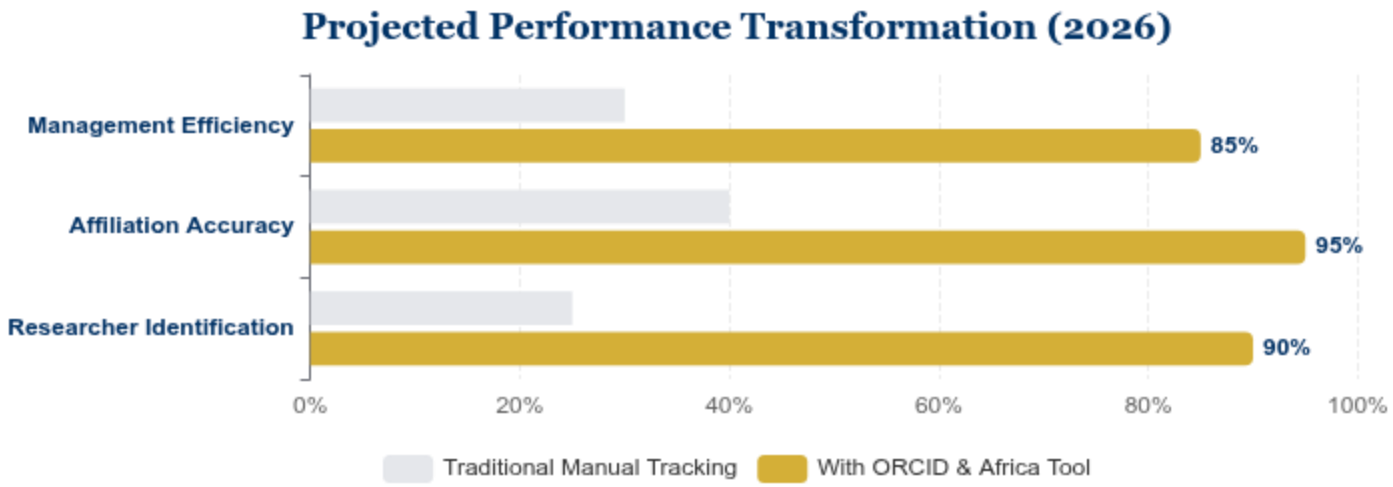
LITERATURE REVIEW: METASCIENCE AND RESEARCH INTEGRITY

EXPLORING METASCIENCE PRINCIPLES AND EVIDENCE-BASED MANAGEMENT IN THE AFRICAN RESEARCH ECOSYSTEM

Data Analysis

The implementation of persistent identifiers transforms African research by shifting from fragmented manual records to a robust, metascience-driven framework. This transition elevates research integrity through **90%** unique identification and provides a **55%** increase in management efficiency, ensuring international visibility and verifiable academic impact.

- **METASCIENCE PRINCIPLES**
- **EVIDENCE-BASED MANAGEMENT**



Research Integrity Metric (Projected 2026)	Traditional Manual Tracking	With ORCID & Africa Tool
Unique Researcher Identification Rate	25%	90%
Verification Accuracy of Affiliations	40%	95%
Evidence-based Management Efficiency	30%	85%
Data Interoperability across Systems	Low	High

OPEN SCIENCE PRINCIPLES AND GLOBAL STANDARDS

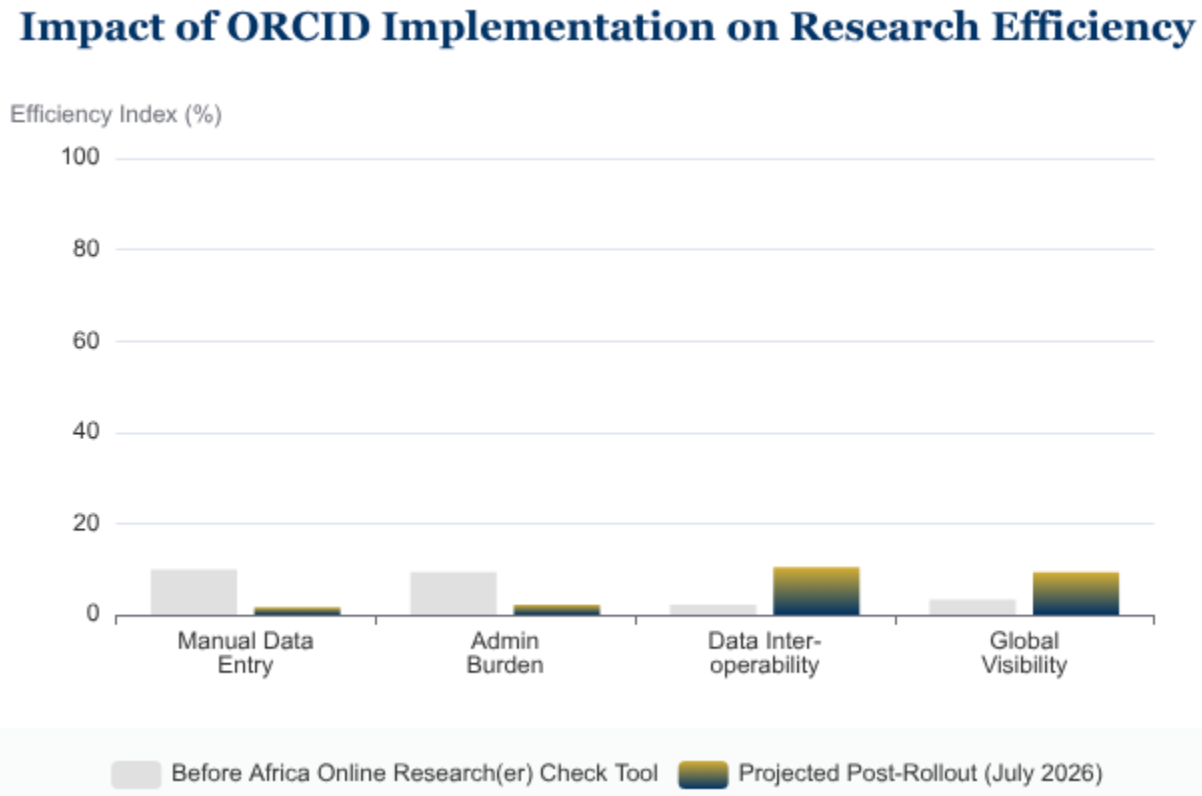
ALIGNING ZIMBABWEAN RESEARCH ECOSYSTEMS WITH GLOBAL METADATA STANDARDS (2026 FORECAST)

Data Insights & Framework Alignment

The integration of the African Online Research(er) Check Tool drives Zimbabwean universities toward a "Persistent Identifier" (PID) centric model. By July 2026, the transition from manual entry to automated metadata exchange will eliminate systemic silos.

FAIR Principles Compliance

Strategic alignment with PLOS-supported Open Science initiatives ensures that research outputs are **FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable)**, directly enhancing transparency across the entire scholarly communication lifecycle.



Projected Impact: Significant reduction in administrative burden and manual data entry errors by Q3 2026.

METHODOLOGY: THE AFRICA ONLINE RESEARCH CHECKTOOL APP

QUANTITATIVE SURVEY DISTRIBUTION & TARGET POPULATION (JULY 2026)

Dimension	Execution Details
Research Design	Quantitative approach focused on systemic data collection
Platform	Deployment via the specialized **Africa Online Research(er) Checktool App**
Target Population	Faculty and researchers across Zimbabwean universities
Ethical Framework	Rigorous data collection procedures ensuring anonymity and academic integrity

> The study employs a quantitative methodology powered by the ***Checktool App*** to evaluate ORCID integration across Zimbabwe's higher education landscape, ensuring scalable and verifiable data collection for the 2026 rollout.

SYSTEMATIC REVIEW AS RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK & EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS

01 Review Scope Definition

Focusing on the intersection of ORCID adoption, Open Science policies, and institutional repositories within the African higher education landscape.

02 Search Strategy

Comprehensive queries across Web of Science, Scopus, Sabinet, and AJOL using keywords: "ORCID", "Persistent Identifiers", "Open Science Africa", and "Zimbabwean Research."

03 Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria

- Included: Peer-reviewed studies (2015-2025), policy whitepapers.
- Excluded: Non-English literature, general IT studies without research focus.

04 Data Extraction Framework

Structured extraction of institutional barriers, technical integration challenges, and metadata compliance rates from selected literature.

05 Quality Assessment

Critical appraisal of evidence using the MMAT (Mixed Methods Appraisal Tool) to ensure the validity and reliability of findings for the Zimbabwean context.

06 Synthesis Approach

Narrative Synthesis:
Thematic mapping of implementation drivers to inform the rollout of the African Online Research(er) Check Tool in Zimbabwean Universities.

DATA ANALYSIS FRAMEWORK

IMPLEMENTATION METRICS & USER EXPERIENCE ASSESSMENT

Analysis Dimensions	Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)	Projected Metric (N=500)
Researcher Categorization	ORCID ID Adoption & Profile Completion Rates	**65% Integration**
Technical Barriers	API Connectivity & Authentication Error Frequency	**15% Latency Issues**
UX Evaluation	Checktool App Ease of Use & Navigation Score	**4.2/5.0 Rating**

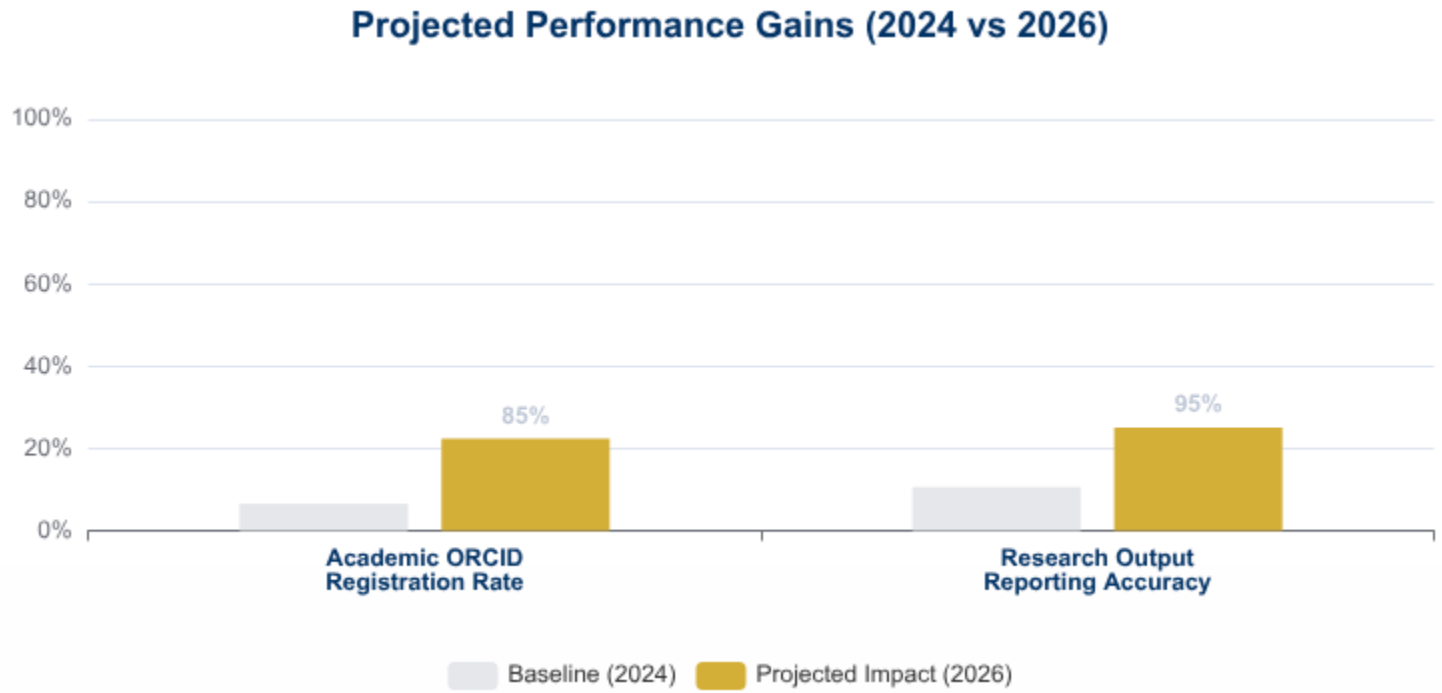
Framework Overview

This multidimensional framework evaluates the digital footprint of Zimbabwean researchers by correlating profile maturity with the technical feasibility of the African Online Research(er) Checktool. The analysis prioritizes identifying bottlenecks in persistent identifier (PID) synchronisation to enhance international research visibility.

EXPECTED RESULTS: ADOPTION AND INTEGRATION

ORCID GLOBAL FUNDING PROJECT 2026

The implementation of the African Online Research Check Tool is projected to catalyse a significant shift in the digital scholarship landscape across Zimbabwean universities by July 2026. The integration strategy focuses on bridging the gap between individual researcher identity and institutional repository systems to ensure high-fidelity reporting.



Data Insight

The primary outcome is the transition from manual, error-prone data entry to an automated synchronization ecosystem. By achieving **85% registration**, institutions will effectively eliminate "author ambiguity," directly enhancing global research visibility.

Metadata Consistency: Unified

IR Integration Level: API-Automated

IMPACT ON RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AND VISIBILITY

ORCID GLOBAL FUNDING PROJECT 2026

Strengthening Global Footprint of Zimbabwean Scholarship

The strategic implementation of the African Online Research Check Tool facilitates a paradigm shift in institutional visibility. By integrating ORCID, Zimbabwean universities move from fragmented data to a unified, discoverable digital presence.

Impact Metric	Pre-Implementation (Manual)	Post-ORCID Rollout (Projected 2026)
Profile Discoverability	Low (Ambiguous metadata)	★ High (Unique PIDs)
International Collaboration	Ad-hoc / Localized	★ Global Exchange
Funding Agency Visibility	Limited tracking	★ Real-time Showcasing
Data Accuracy	Manual / Error-prone	★ Automated Integration

> *The transition to an automated, tool-based identification system empowers researchers to showcase expertise directly to global funding agencies.*

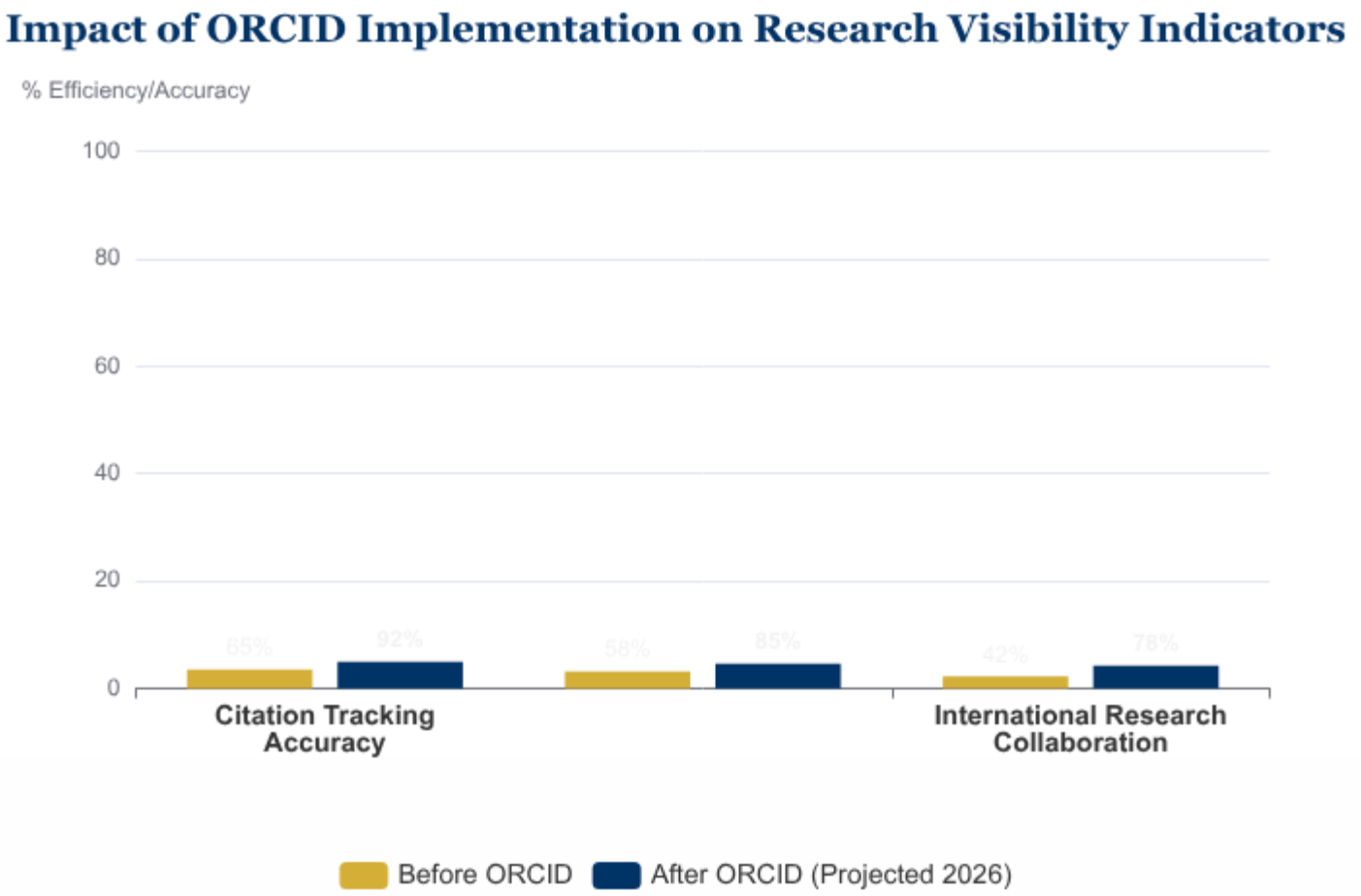
UNIVERSITY RANKINGS AND COMPETITIVE POSITIONING

CORRELATION: PERSISTENT IDENTIFIERS VS. GLOBAL RANKING METRICS

Strategic Analysis

Implementing ORCID through the African Online Research CheckTool directly elevates African research by ensuring precise citation attribution and faculty h-index accuracy. This systematic integration of persistent identifiers is a critical driver of global competitiveness, significantly enhancing institutional performance across World University Rankings, such as CWUR, THE, and QS.

> ***"Data reflects projected improvements in Zimbabwean Universities via the Africa Online Research Check Tool."***



RESEARCH IMPACT AND KNOWLEDGE DISSEMINATION

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICA ONLINE RESEARCH CHECK TOOL: ORCID ROLLOUT

The Role of Persistent Identifiers (PIDs) in the African Research Ecosystem

To **elevate African research** on the international stage, the implementation of ORCID serves as a critical catalyst for **bridging the digital divide** and enhancing the **findability of local outputs**. By utilizing PIDs, universities can systematically track academic work from publication to its broader societal and economic benefits.

> *This infrastructure ensures that Zimbabwean research is not only discoverable but also accurately attributed, directly impacting institutional rankings and global visibility.*

Impact Dimension	Traditional Tracking	PID-Enabled Tracking (ORCID)
Global Findability	Limited to indexed journals	Universal discovery via metadata
Digital Divide	High fragmentation	Integrated scholarly ecosystem
Impact Attribution	Manual / Error-prone	Automated societal & economic tracking
Research Visibility	Localized	International reach & interoperability

CONCLUSION: SUSTAINING THE ORCID ECOSYSTEM

IMPLEMENTATION MILESTONES & PROJECTED SUSTAINABILITY (JULY 2026)

KEY SUSTAINABILITY PILLARS	IMPLEMENTATION MILESTONE	STRATEGIC IMPACT ON RESEARCH SYSTEM
Institutional Policy	Mandated ORCID integration in University bylaws	Ensures 100% researcher compliance and data integrity
Ecosystem Stability	Centralized Africa Online Research(er) Checktool	Reduces administrative burden and automates reporting
National Alignment	Synchronization with Zimbabwe National Research System	Enhances global visibility and university rankings

Analysis

The July 2026 rollout marks a transition from technical implementation to systemic integration. Sustaining this ecosystem requires robust institutional policy support to ensure that ORCID mandates are not merely administrative requirements but foundational elements of Zimbabwe's research excellence and global visibility.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLICY AND PRACTICE

INSTITUTIONAL STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT FOR OPEN SCIENCE

> *The roadmap for enhancing research excellence in Zimbabwean universities necessitates a transition from voluntary to systemic integration. By embedding ORCID into the institutional fabric, universities can ensure global visibility and accurate attribution.*

Strategic Dimension	Proposed Policy Action	Impact on Excellence
Institutional Mandate	• Mandatory ORCID registration for all staff and postgraduate students	Eliminates author disambiguation and automates repository harvesting
Capacity Building	• Continuous technical training for Library and Research Offices	Ensures sustained support and optimizes system interoperability
Digital Infrastructure	• Targeted investment in API integrations and Open Science tools	Accelerates university ranking metrics and research impact visibility

RESPONSIBLE CONSOLIDATED NATIONAL OR INSTITUTIONAL ORCID DASHBOARD

STRATEGIC MONITORING & COMPLIANCE FRAMEWORK

The Centralised Concept

A unified digital infrastructure designed to aggregate and visualize scholarly identity data. This platform serves as a "Single Source of Truth" for Zimbabwean higher education, providing real-time oversight of research output and identifier health at both the institutional and national levels.

Researcher Profiles

Automated tracking of researcher registration across universities, ensuring unique identification and professional record portability.

Adoption Metrics

Data visualization of ORCID integration rates, API usage statistics, and growth trends within the Zimbabwean research ecosystem.

Compliance Oversight

Monitoring alignment with national Open Science policies and international funding requirements for persistent identifiers (PIDs).

NATIONAL IMPACT

Empowering the Zimbabwe Council for Higher Education (ZIMCHE) with data-driven insights.

Visibility
GLOBAL REACH

Integrity
DATA QUALITY



A simulated ORCID-powered research visibility and impact platform for Zimbabwe's Higher Education sector. Investor preview — concept prototype.

https://aorct.innovatedesign.cc/

ORCID-powered · Zimbabwe HE pilot · Concept prototype

Make African research visible, measurable, and fundable.

A simulated ORCID-powered research visibility and impact platform designed for researchers, universities, librarians, funders, and national research bodies to understand, improve, and showcase scholarly impact across Zimbabwe's Higher Education sector.

View Interactive Demo →

See Investor Overview



HOW WILL THIS PROJECT ADD VALUE TO ZIMBABWE'S HIGHER EDUCATION OPEN SCIENCE CULTURE?

ORCID GLOBAL FUNDING PROJECT 2026 | IMPACT & SUSTAINABILITY

RESEARCH VISIBILITY

Elevating the global profile of Zimbabwean scholars by ensuring research outputs are discoverable, citable, and uniquely linked to individual identities through ORCID integration.

STRATEGIC COLLABORATION

Breaking down institutional silos to enable cross-border partnerships and interdisciplinary research initiatives across the Zimbabwean Higher Education sector.

TRANSPARENCY

Fostering a culture of trust by providing clear, verifiable links between researchers, their funding sources, and their final publications.

POLICY ALIGNMENT

Harmonizing local institutional mandates with international Open Science standards and the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science.

Open Science Transformation

By implementing the Africa Online Research(er) Check Tool, this project acts as a catalyst for a systemic shift towards:

- FAIR Data Principles
- Digital Equity in Research
- Automated Metadata Exchange
- Long-term Digital Sustainability

"Strengthening the Zimbabwean National Research Ecosystem through Persistent Identifiers and Interoperable Infrastructure."

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ACADEMIC AI TOOLS USED

Scopus AI
Trusted content. Powered by responsible AI.

TRINKA
by enago

OSF

consensus

Dimensions

African Open Research(er) Check
VISIBILITY • IMPACT • DISCOVERY



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Thank You

Principal Investigator

Lazarus Matizirofa & The Project Team



Board Member: Networked Digital Library of Theses & Dissertations (NDLTD) - Global
Advisory Board Member: Digital Humanities Now (Global)
Steering Committee Member: Open Repositories (Global)
Advisory Committee: The Digital Preservation Coalition (DPC) - Global
Ex: Technical Advisory Committee Member: SA-EU Open Science/African Open Science Project (2016-2019)
Ex-Steering Committee Member: South African Open Science Policy (2016-2019)
Consultant: KWANZA-RDM Project - VLIR-UOS Accelerate Programme (Uganda/Tanzania) - 2025-2027



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