

# WITS University Libraries: Scholarly Communication - Open Access Perspective

**Lazarus Matizirofa & Dr Daisy Selematsela**

*Open Education, Access, and Science: Policy  
Dialogue between South Africa and the Netherlands, 31 January 2024*

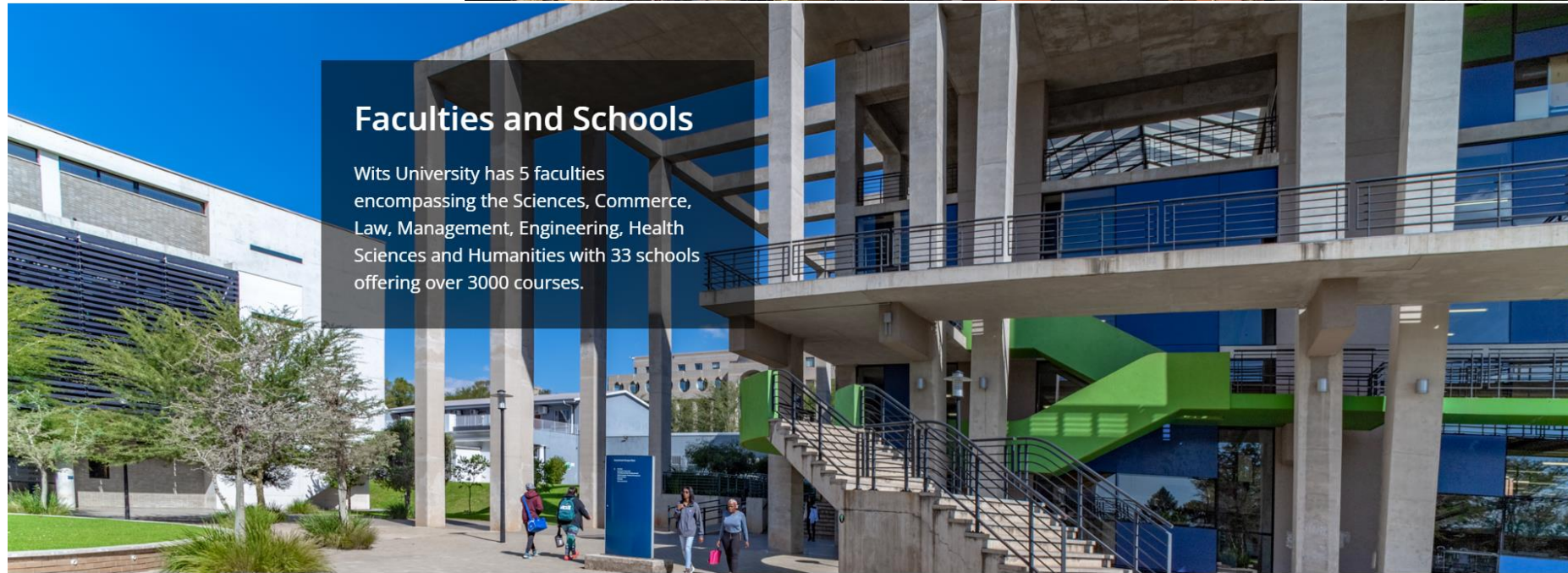


UNIVERSITY OF THE  
WITWATERSRAND,  
JOHANNESBURG



## Faculties and Schools

Wits University has 5 faculties encompassing the Sciences, Commerce, Law, Management, Engineering, Health Sciences and Humanities with 33 schools offering over 3000 courses.



# SA Research & Higher Education in context

## Democratisation of knowledge

- Role of South Africa/African research in the global knowledge economy
- Grappling with what decolonization of curriculum and research agendas means in different areas and contexts
- Pressures on South African academics, in particular women dealing with complex challenges and burdens
- Balancing research, teaching & community engagement
- Global knowledge environment and local needs & impacts
- Funding challenges for affordable education and research growth in the context of budget deficit affecting the economy

# Research & Innovation: Multiple impacts – Context!

- Research Excellence (academic sphere)
  - Metrics & reputational factors - SDGs
- Research contributions to society & economy (Broader environment)
  - Public attention and engagement
  - Policy, practice, and commercialisation
- Digital transformation
  - Oral vs Digital, Audio and Virtual, Digital Preservation

# SA Policy - Open Science, the context of Digital Humanities/Digital Scholarship

- The inclusion of civil society, citizen science and social movements, humanities and social science academics in the selection and collection development plans of their libraries and archives
- **DH** should embrace the people as the heart of building the collections for the library and its collections to remain relevant – while digitisation and digital transformation support **DS**
- **South Africa's draft open science policy (2021) promised a shake-up with regard to traditional research activities–** will ensure Creative Outputs and Innovations (DHET policy) are also curated across universities

# Higher Education libraries ...

- Libraries need to overcome the notion of conservatism that 'preserves past action and thought as inherently good'
- Transformative change is required in shaping the behaviour of librarians, information specialists and archivists in the social, economic, environmental and political sphere of the 21<sup>st</sup>-century information needs and demands

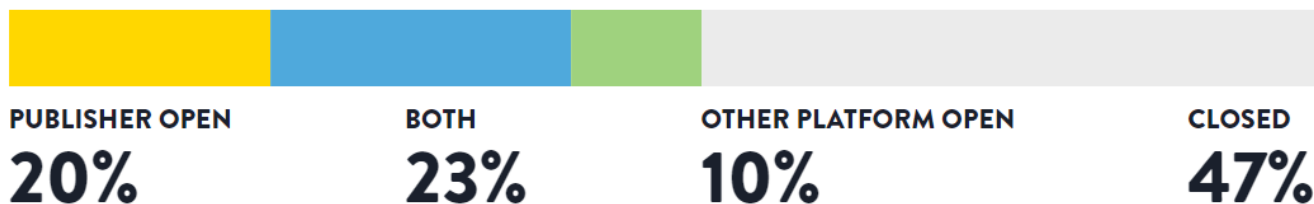
# Status of OA in South Africa

South Africa is considered a pioneer in Africa regarding open access policies and the structures that enforce them (UNESCO, 2017). Notably within the HE sector & and the National Research Entities, OA practice is somehow visible.

As of 30 January 2024, South Africa's Open Access Research



## BREAKDOWN



**CKI**  
CURTIN OPEN  
KNOWLEDGE  
INITIATIVE

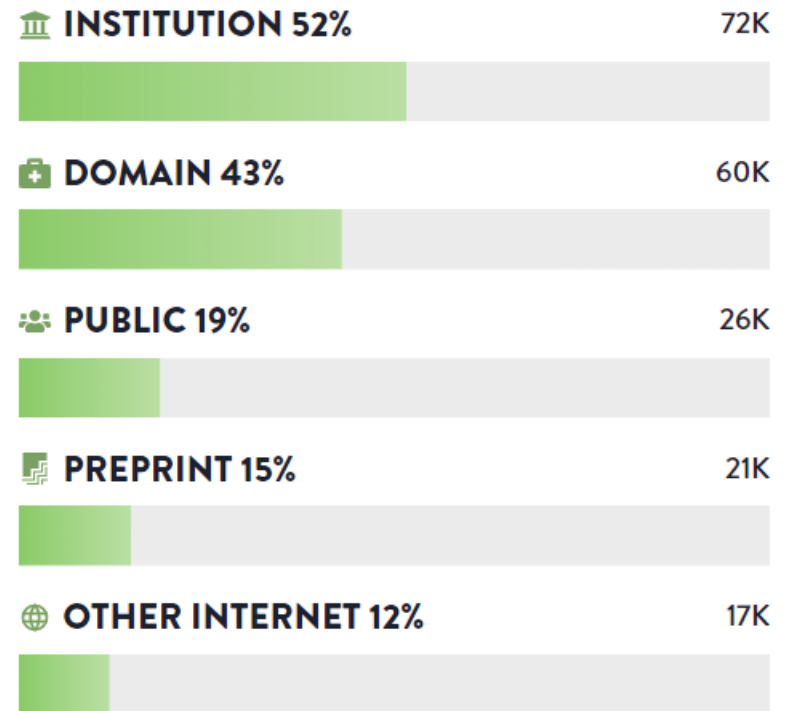
# Status of OA in South Africa

## PUBLISHER OPEN



■ OA JOURNAL 54%	99K
■ HYBRID 26%	47K
■ NO GUARANTEES 20%	37K





## OTHER PLATFORM OPEN



# Status of OA in South Africa

## OTHER PLATFORM LOCATIONS

All [Institution](#) ▾

Name	Platform Type	Publications ↓
University of Pretoria - UpSpace Institutional Repository	 Institution	24K
University of the Western Cape - UWC Research Repository	 Institution	4.4K
University College London - UCL Discovery	 Institution	4K
Le Centre pour la Communication Scientifique Directe - HAL - Diderot	 Institution	2.1K
University of Edinburgh - Edinburgh Research Explorer	 Institution	2.1K
DANS - Data Archiving and Networked Services - NARCIS - National Academic Research and Collaborations Information System	 Institution	2.1K
North-west University - Boloka Institutional Repository	 Institution	2K
University of Oxford - Oxford University Research Archive (ORA)	 Institution	1.9K
Le Centre pour la Communication Scientifique Directe - HAL - Inria	 Institution	1.7K
Ghent University - Ghent University Academic Bibliography	 Institution	1.7K

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**C2018/208**

Open Access Policy 1



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# Open Access (OA) Policy





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## POLICY DOCUMENT

# Research Data Management Policy

WITS POLICY



## PRINCIPLES

Wits is committed to openly sharing and showcasing on the global stage, the research created or produced by its academics and students in accordance with IP legislation and Wits IP Policy. In pursuit of this principle, Wits is a signatory to the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities.



# University of Wits Research Output – Discoverable online

## Top-line numbers 64,505 publications

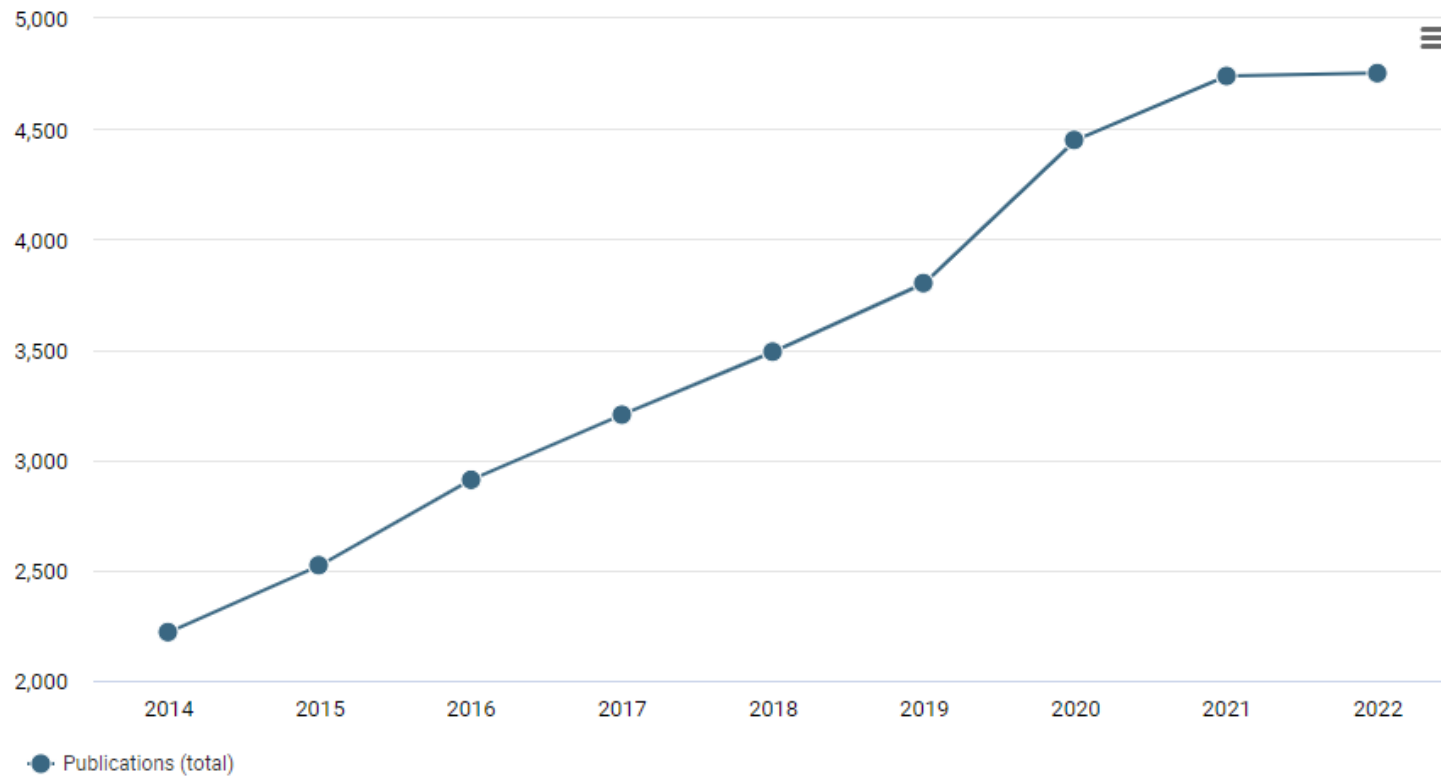
▪ Research Article	-	48,344
▪ Review Article	-	3,493
▪ Research Chapter	-	1,823
▪ Conference Paper	-	1,399
▪ Letter To Editor	-	1,091
▪ Reference Work	-	839
▪ Book Review	-	770
▪ Editorial	-	618
▪ Conference Abstract	-	562
▪ Other Journal Content-		440
▪ Thesis & Dissertations	-	21,713 ? <a href="https://wiredspace.wits.ac.za/home">https://wiredspace.wits.ac.za/home</a>

# WITS Research Output Growth, 2014-2022

All years: 64,505

Show years 2014 to 2022 ▾

Chart | Table



# WITS Libraries: Transformative Agreements (Read & Publish)

# Emerging Publishing Models – Transformative Agreements (SANLiC)

- ❑ Open Access publishing operates through two distinct paradigms – the robust, highly profitable publishing industry backed by major conglomerates, and the non-commercial model championed by universities, public research centres, scientific societies, and non-profit organisations.
- ❑ The coexistence of these options is sustained by public funds dedicated to research and development (R&D) and university library budgets, with each embodying a unique approach to ensuring the sustainability of our research systems.

# WITS Research Output: OA Articles (2023)

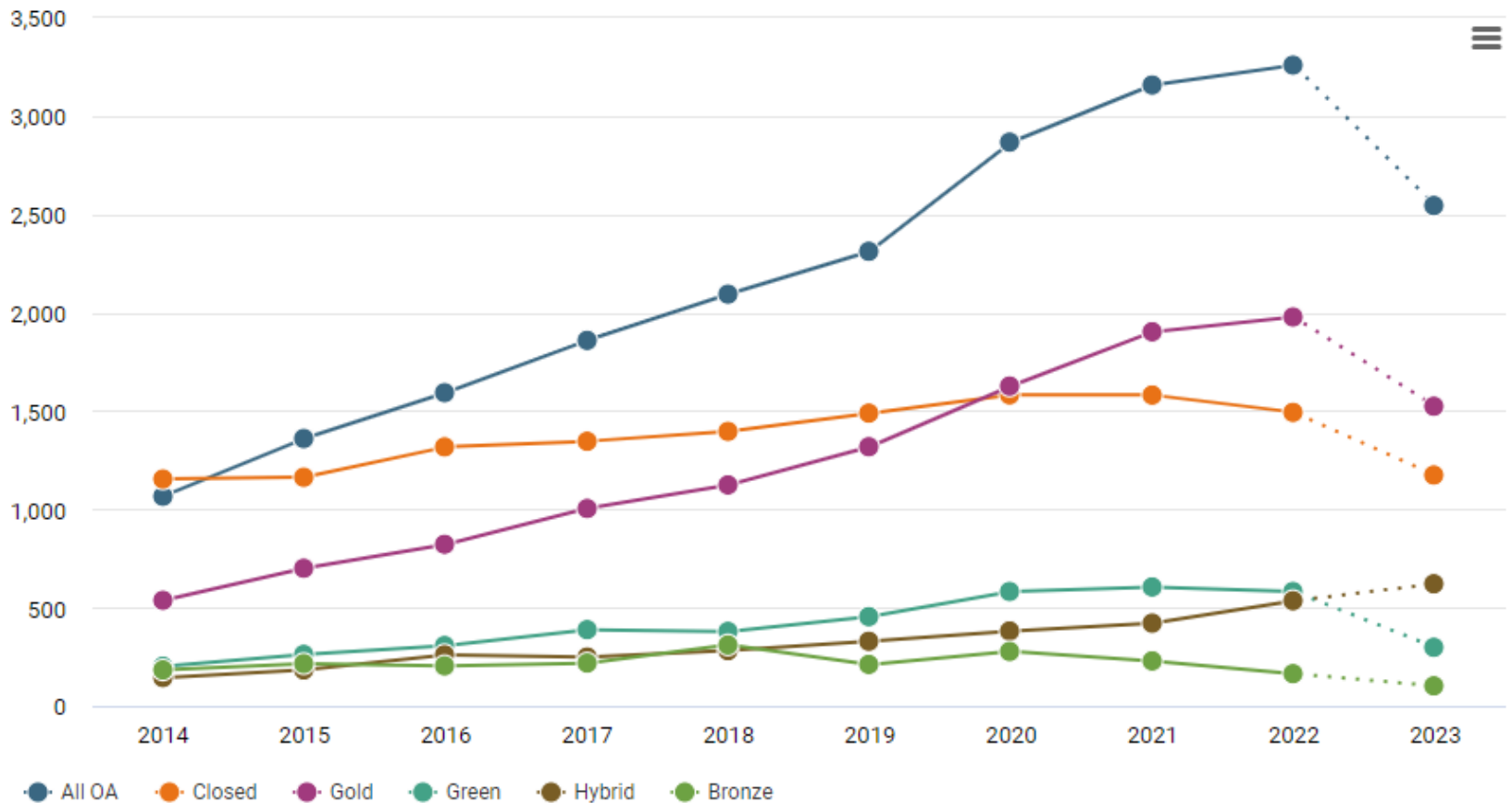
Items	Publication Nos.	Citations	Citations (mean)
Closed publications	36,223	692,296	19.11
All OA	28,282	697,083	24.65
Gold OA	13,960	213,189	15.27
Green OA	5,500	192,219	34.95
Hybrid	4,437	144,504	32.57
Bronze	4,385	147,171	33.56



# 2020 the Year when Open Access surpassed Closed Access!

Show years 2014 to 2023 ▾

Chart | Table



Dimensions  
VOSviewer

2k  
600  
100

# WITS Libraries' Repository & Publishing Platforms



## New Platforms Planned in 2024-2025



# WITS Data Repository will provide the following services or workflows

Start a data management plan  
(DMP)

Share or publish my data

Convert items to a digital format

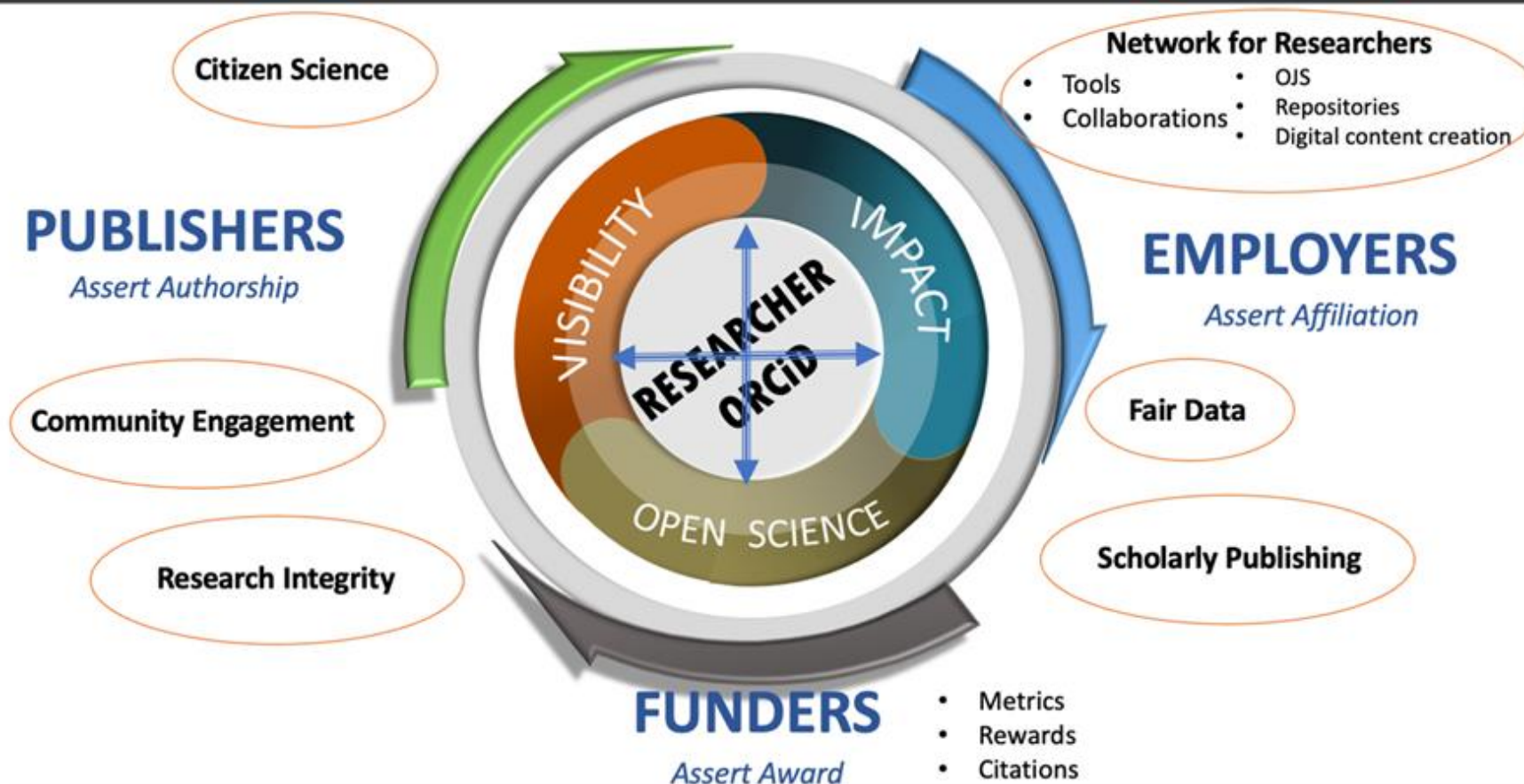
Setup a space to collaborate

Organise and store my data

Analyse spatial data

- Easy upload for WITS researchers
- Files visualized and previewed
- The WITS Data repository will ensure all datasets have DOIs and metadata, hence will be visible, and can be accessed, re-used, and cited by others

# Research Visibility Impact Framework



Matizirofa, Lazarus, Tshetsha, Veliswa and Thuynsma, Heather. *A conceptual framework for researcher visibility and impact check tool at a South African University*, Open Science Fair, Madrid, Spain, 25-27 September 2023. <http://opensciencefair.eu/>



# WITS Researcher Visibility & Impact Tool

The project hopes to generate a framework that will anchor the various research analytical tools used to assess and encourage researchers to be digital natives and self-promote their online presence

**WITS' ranking & metrics**

**Raise WITS' ranking & metrics by:**

Developing our scholarly publishing systems to better serve our researchers and the public

**Increase the impact of WITS' scholarly activities**

By promoting the results of our research across a range of platforms

**WITS' research**

This will assist researchers and the librarians to **collaborate to support the impact and visibility** of a university's research outputs and researchers' activities



**Utrecht  
University**

Research Visibility Check



# WITS Researchers: Science Communication

**TOOLS:** *Twitter, LinkedIn, reflective blog, The Conversation*

**NEEDS:** *Attract income, share ideas, generate impact, international collaboration*

**TOOLS:** *Twitter, research blog, podcast, infographics, Video, ORCID*

**NEEDS:** *Build online identity, generate esteem*



**TOOLS:** *Twitter, research blog, podcast, infographics, Video, Altmetrics, The Conversation.*

**NEEDS:** *Research outputs (journal articles, conference papers, books and book chapters, and datasets) dissemination, conference posters & presentation*

**TOOLS:** *Twitter, reflective blog, SlideShare, infographics, The Conversation, LinkedIn.*

**NEEDS:** *Attract participants and share research with global citizens*



# WITS Researcher OA Monitoring Tool

**Researcher Profiling Tools** signifies Open Access benefits and the chance to promote research and deepen its impact. The WITS Libraries will be piloting a surveying tool to help researchers develop their digital footprint



Scopus

ORCID



RESEARCHERID



THOMSON REUTERS



## Report for **Attention highlights** for all research outputs from the **full Altmetric database** sorted by **Altmetric Attention Score** affiliated with **University of Cape Town**












This report includes all mentions between 00:00 on Sun 30 Jul and Wed 30 Aug 2023 UTC.

### Report summary

Total mentions	Research outputs	With mentions
849,903	39,682	30,805

### Recent activity

There have been **8,126 new mentions** of your search results in the past month.

 876 News mentions	 77 Blog mentions
 6 Policy mentions	 41 Patent mentions
 6,720 Twitter mentions	 1 Peer review mention
 47 Facebook mentions	 328 Wikipedia mentions
 11 Reddit mentions	 1 Faculty Opinions mention
 18 Video mentions	



## Report for **Attention highlights** for all research outputs from the **full Altmetric database** sorted by **Altmetric Attention Score** affiliated with **University of the Witwatersrand**










This report includes all mentions between 00:00 on Sun 30 Jul and Wed 30 Aug 2023 UTC.

### Report summary

Total mentions	Research outputs	With mentions
548,009	30,944	23,858

### Recent activity

There have been **4,549 new mentions** of your search results in the past month.

 586 News mentions	 51 Blog mentions
 4 Policy mentions	 25 Patent mentions
 3,673 Twitter mentions	 32 Facebook mentions
 165 Wikipedia mentions	 2 Reddit mentions
 11 Video mentions	



# Implementation of RVI Tool @ WITS

- ❑ Researcher Online profiles grow one's global bibliometric data links, and presence on search platforms, i.e. abstract and citation data – these are tools that are widely used in determining the THES and QS rankings
- ❑ Establishing ORCiD as the Researcher's primary author identifier and linking all research outputs associated with the author/contributor in one place
- ❑ Librarians will assist by importing publications from sources to enhance Researcher's ORCiD profile
- ❑ Assisting scholars to develop Google Scholar Profiles and link outputs in our repositories and publishing platforms
- ❑ Populating a researcher's institutional author profile and familiarising them with OA benefits
- ❑ Creating individual researcher profiles using Research Data Repository (Figshare) and ensuring FAIR Data sharing of datasets
- ❑ Mentoring researchers in how to use social research networks such as LinkedIn, Researchgate, Mendeley, Academia.edu, Blog, Research blogging, and Twitter to grow their research niche
- ❑ Introducing emerging researchers to the benefits of online research tools
- ❑ Training postgraduate students to distinguish themselves online and to attract future international and interdisciplinary collaborators

# Value add of the WITS RVI Check Tool

**The RVI Check Tool will improve the visibility and impact of WITS' researchers, while this WITS OA strategic advocacy is to ensure:**

- ☐ Raising the researcher's productivity impact factor will generate more regional and international attention to WITS' research outputs.
- ☐ More visibility of WITS researchers will generate more collaborative prospects and the ability to partner with colleagues across disciplines, institutions, and across borders – effectively diversifying one's research capacity.
- ☐ WITS' research output visibility will also attract further research income from funders, and increase our researchers' visibility and impact, institutional research stature, global reputation, and ranking.





# Wits Digitisation Centre, The Past and a New Window into the FUTURE



# Digitisation, digitalisation equipment, capacity, etc.



# Enhancing the findability of Archives & Special Collections

- Use of Controlled Vocabularies
- Bilingual Metadata
- African Studies Thesaurus
- Integrating metadata into Linked Data environment (Wikidata/Wikibase)

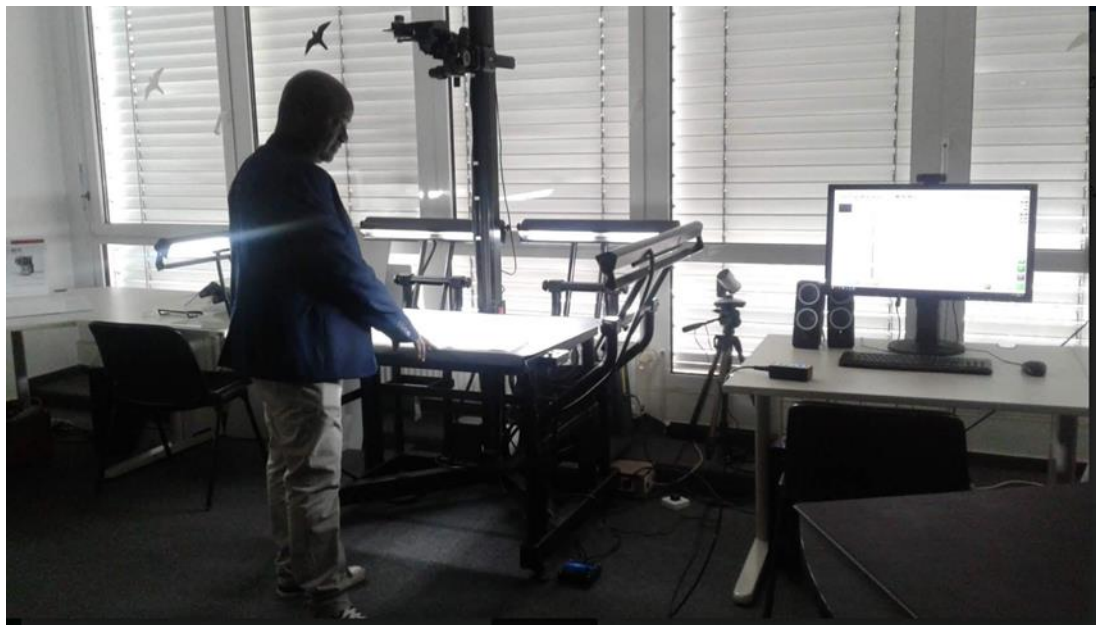
# Historical Papers Research Archive



- One of the largest independent archives in South Africa, more than 3400 collections
- Our holdings contain the collections of NGOs, trade unions, political parties, women's organizations, large volume of political trials, the personal papers of human rights activists, artists, photographers and other cultural workers, sports, civil society movements and organizations.
- Sensitive archives from the Apartheid era
- As an archival institution we serve civil society to transform archives into accessible and transparent institutions.

Wits Art Museum (WAM) is home to the largest and most significant holdings of African arts in southern Africa. The collection is made up of different sub-collections which were added at various times in the Museum's history





# Alignment to COAR's Repository Objectives

- To achieve a level of cross-repository interoperability by exposing uniform behaviours across repositories that leverage web-friendly technologies and architectures, and by integrating with existing global scholarly infrastructures specifically those aimed at identification of e.g. contributions, research data, contributors, institutions, funders, projects.
- To encourage the emergence of value added services that use these uniform behaviours to support discovery, access, annotation, real-time curation, sharing, quality assessment, content transfer, analytics, provenance tracing, etc.
- To help transform the scholarly communication system by emphasizing the benefits of collective, open and distributed management, open content, uniform behaviours, real-time dissemination, and collective innovation



Position WITS Repositories & Platforms to  
be aggregated by the SA SDG Hub & others



**South African  
SDG Hub**

# Convergence: OA & SDG Targets, Agenda 2063 of the African Union

Rank	Name	Best scores by rank	Overall
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=46

University of  
Johannesburg  
📍 South Africa



91.8

[SDG Descriptions](#)

[Explore](#)

69

University of  
Pretoria  
📍 South Africa



90.1

[SDG Descriptions](#)

401–  
600

University of  
the Western  
Cape  
📍 South Africa



66.9–  
72.6

[SDG Descriptions](#)

601–  
800

University of  
South Africa  
📍 South Africa



59.7–  
66.7

[SDG Descriptions](#)

801–  
1000

Durban  
University of  
Technology  
📍 South Africa



53.9–  
59.6

[SDG Descriptions](#)

101–  
200

University of  
Cape Town  
📍 South Africa



82.2–  
88.2

[SDG Descriptions](#)

[Explore](#)

101–  
200

University of  
the  
Witwatersrand  
📍 South Africa



82.2–  
88.2

[SDG Descriptions](#)

[Explore](#)

401–  
600

Nelson  
Mandela  
University  
📍 South Africa

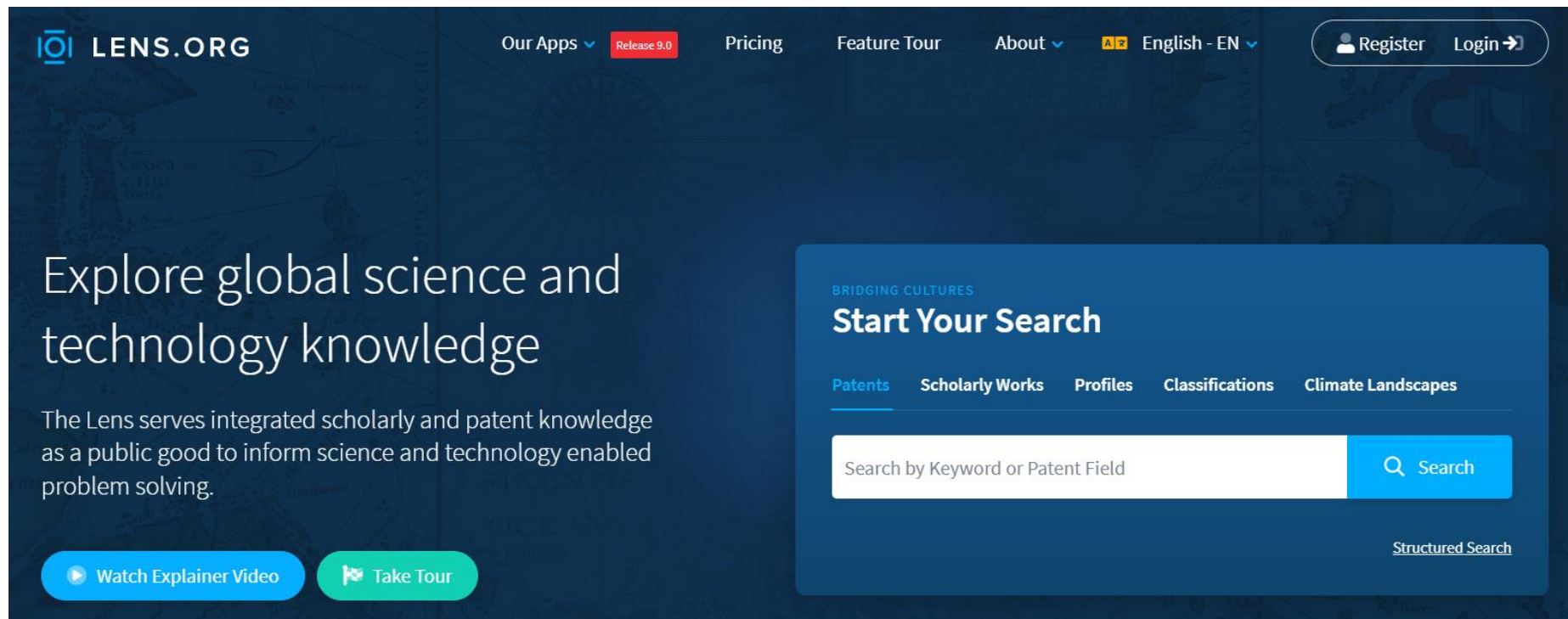


66.9–  
72.6

[SDG Descriptions](#)



# Mapping Influence of WITS Scholarship - Measure the influence of our published scholarship on things that matter to our researchers/University



The screenshot shows the homepage of IOLens.org. The header includes the logo 'IOL LENS.ORG' on the left, and navigation links 'Our Apps' (with a dropdown arrow), 'Release 9.0' (in a red box), 'Pricing', 'Feature Tour', 'About' (with a dropdown arrow), 'English - EN' (with a dropdown arrow), and 'Register' and 'Login' buttons on the right. The main content area has a dark blue background with a faint world map. On the left, it says 'Explore global science and technology knowledge' and 'The Lens serves integrated scholarly and patent knowledge as a public good to inform science and technology enabled problem solving.' Below this are two buttons: 'Watch Explainer Video' and 'Take Tour'. On the right, there's a 'Start Your Search' section with tabs for 'Patents', 'Scholarly Works', 'Profiles', 'Classifications', and 'Climate Landscapes'. Below the tabs is a search bar with the placeholder text 'Search by Keyword or Patent Field' and a 'Search' button. A link for 'Structured Search' is also present.

IOL LENS.ORG

Our Apps Release 9.0 Pricing Feature Tour About English - EN Register Login

## Explore global science and technology knowledge

The Lens serves integrated scholarly and patent knowledge as a public good to inform science and technology enabled problem solving.

[Watch Explainer Video](#) [Take Tour](#)

BRIDGING CULTURES

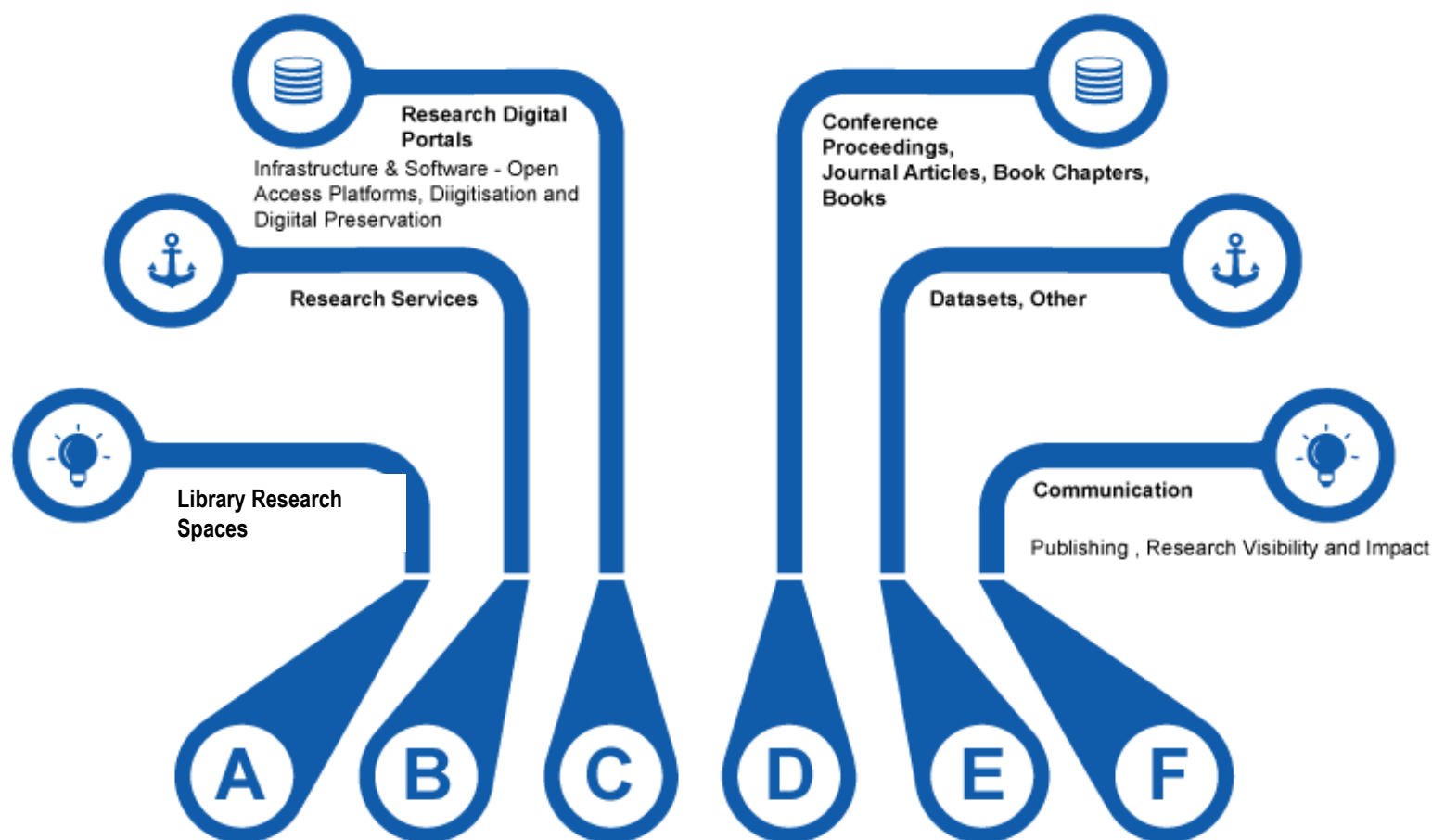
### Start Your Search

[Patents](#) [Scholarly Works](#) [Profiles](#) [Classifications](#) [Climate Landscapes](#)

Search by Keyword or Patent Field Search

[Structured Search](#)

# WITS Repositories & Platforms: Our Vision for the future...



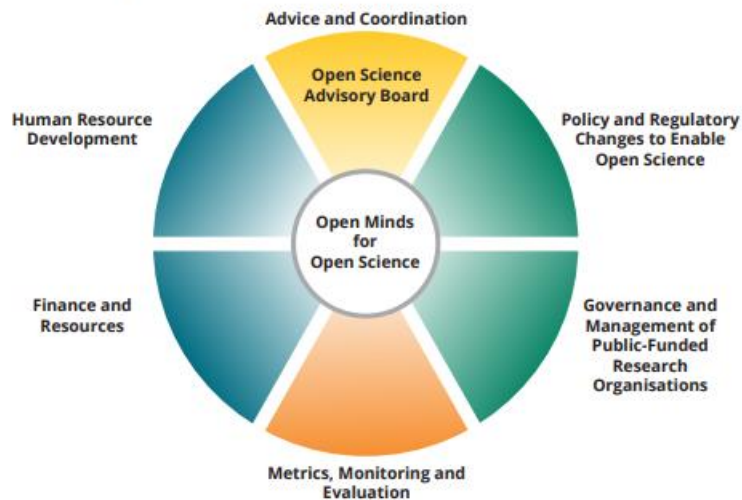
# WITS Libraries' Open Science Advocacy: UNESCO OSF & SA Open Science Policy (Draft)



science & innovation

Department:  
Science and Innovation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Open Science Framework: Themes and Objective

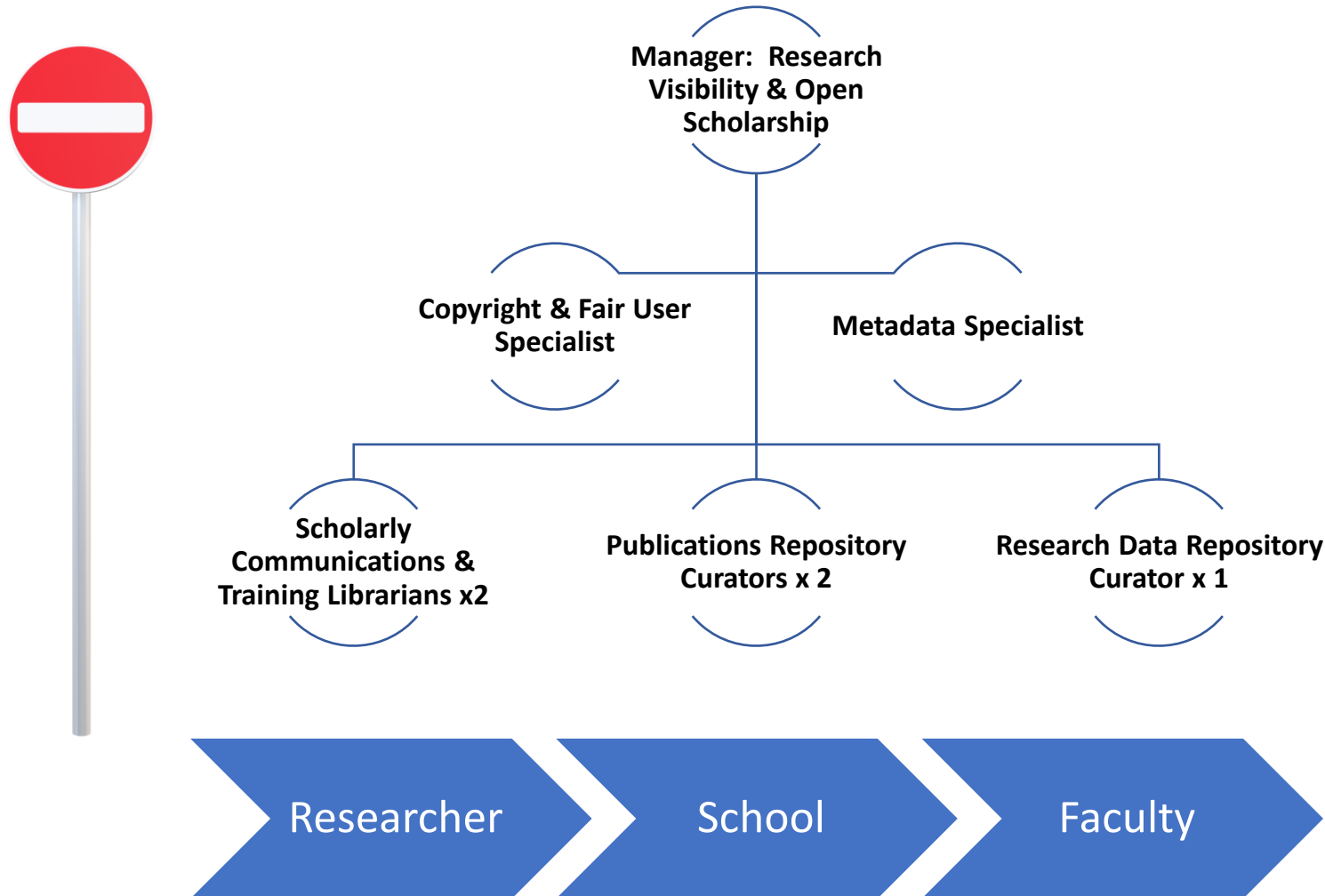


# Digital Scholarship Tools & Software

WITS libraries & the Postgraduate Studies Office, we will explore and deploy various Digital Scholarship tools, to enhance research support for students and staff, mainly:

- ☐ Project Management and Collaboration Tools
- ☐ Text Preparation and Data Cleanup Tools
- ☐ Artificial Intelligence Tools
- ☐ Data Visualization and Analysis Tools
- ☐ Text Analysis and Data Mining Tools
- ☐ Transcription and Text Encoding Tools
- ☐ Simulation, 3D Modeling, Augmented and Virtual Reality Tools
- ☐ Online Publishing, and Multimedia Tools
- ☐ Writing and Reference Management Tools, etc.
- ☐ Creative Commons Licensing Tool & FAIR Data Use Tool kit

# Improving the efficiency and quality of WITS' Institutional OA publishing (2024)



# Thank you

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100  
1922  
2022



ORCID



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