

Recommendations for improved research(er) visibility to maximize impact

**WITS LIBRARIES - Open Scholarship & Research
Visibility Unit**

FEBE Seminar, 10 July 2025





South Africa's move towards open science

The Draft National Open Science Policy, by the South African government with stakeholders in 2022, is an encouraging step forward as it aims to promote the practice of open, application ORCID in South Africa

- ☐ **Proposal for all publicly funded research to be disseminated via open-access platforms, including data-supporting publications – as mandated by most global funders**



**National
Research
Foundation**

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Statement on Open Access to Research Publications from the National Research Foundation (NRF)-Funded Research

Background

The National Research Foundation (NRF) was established through the National Research Foundation Act (Act No.23 of 1998). As an independent statutory agency, the organisation promotes and supports research in South Africa largely through the country's Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), National Research Facilities and Science Councils with a view to generating knowledge and promoting high-level research capacity within the National System of Innovation (NSI).

Supporting scientific research through public funding is important for growing the knowledge economy, promoting innovation and stimulating appropriate development. The publication of NRF-funded research outputs contributes to the knowledgebase of the country. Open access to this knowledge base facilitates:

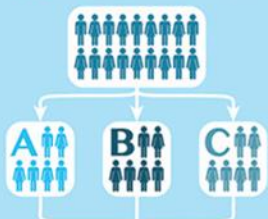
- Dissemination of knowledge;
- Utilisation/uptake/application of this knowledge
- Accelerated transformation and globalisation of science; and
- Rapid transformation of this knowledge into innovative and developmental

<https://www.nrf.ac.za/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/NRF-Open-Access-Statement.pdf>

Increasing Research Visibility & Impact

- Carry out the research

A ? B ? C



1

- Publish the research



2

- Create communication assets



video abstract

infographics



visual summary



press release



3

- Disseminate assets to widen visibility



conferences & meetings



social media & digital networking sites



4

- Evaluate reach and impact of research

Citations

Downloads

metrics of social media
SHARING



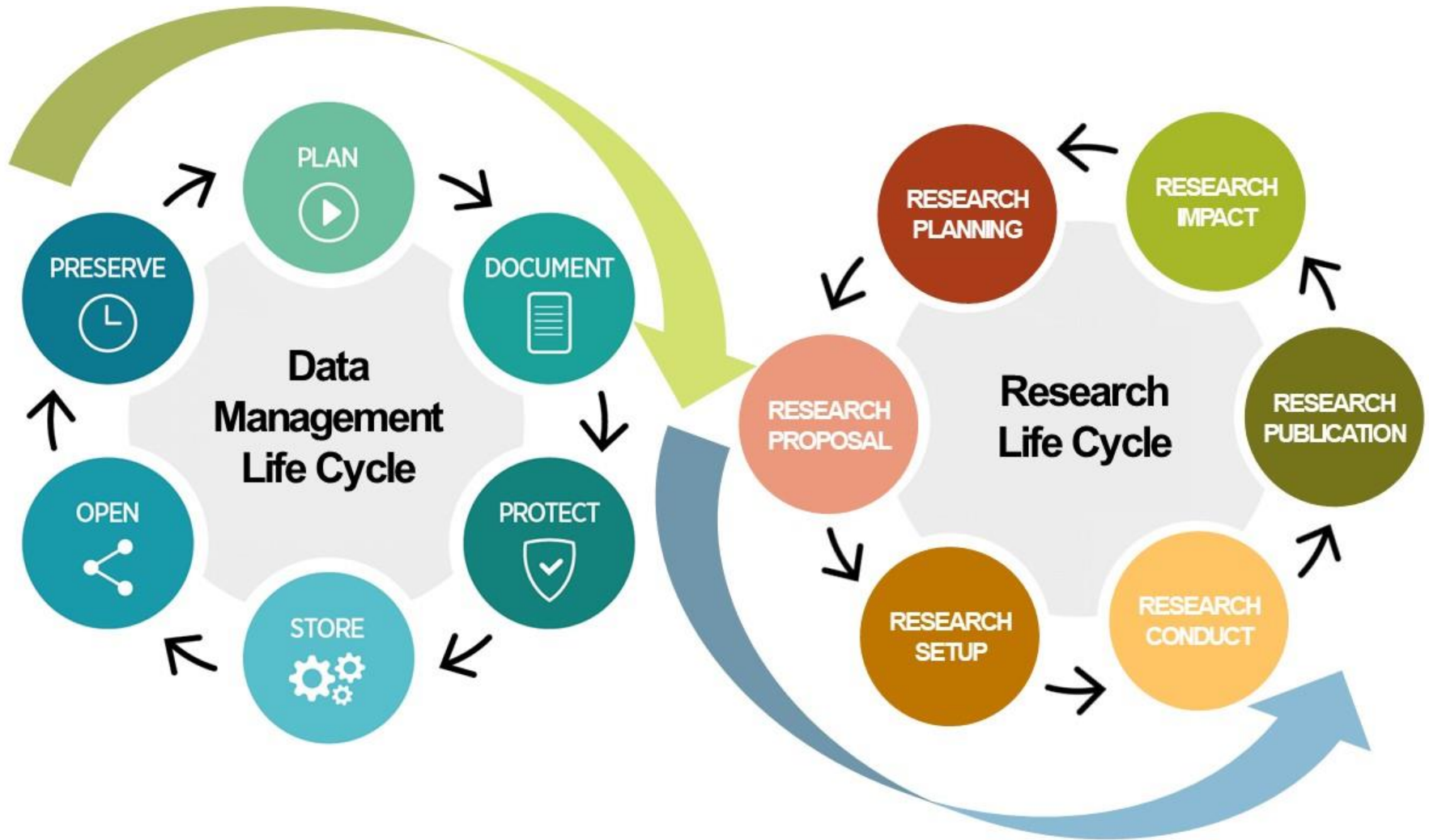
Measure Real World

CHANGE

5



RDM Services & (11) Faculty Libraries Integrated Training





OSF

COAR

Confederation
of Open Access
Repositories

ORCID

stands for

Open Researcher and Contributor ID



COMMITTEE ON DATA

CODATA

INTERNATIONAL
SCIENCE COUNCIL

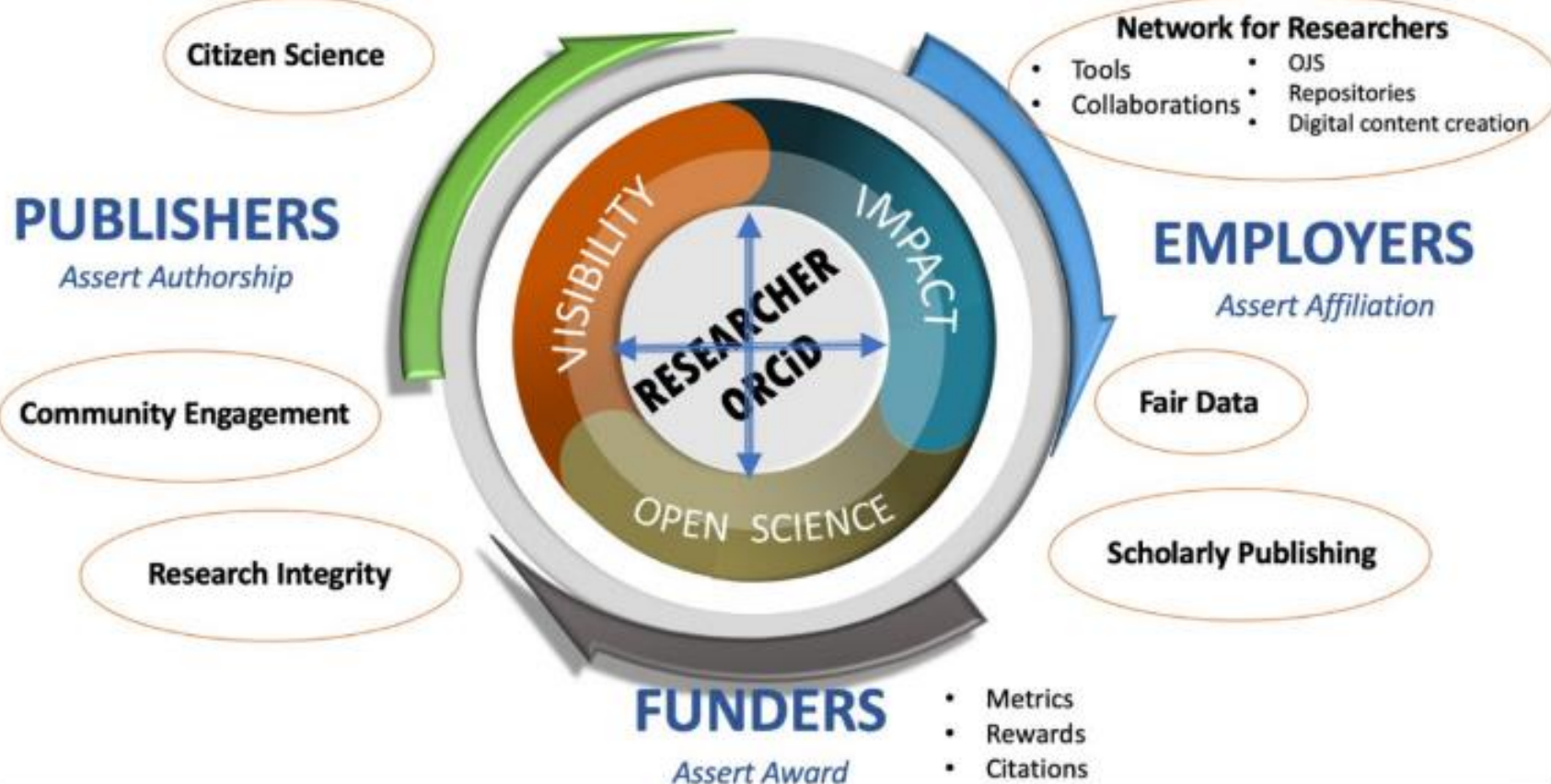
SFU

PKP PUBLIC
KNOWLEDGE
PROJECT

OJS

Open
Journal
Systems

Research Visibility Impact Framework



Strategy to improve university's research visibility and impact

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:

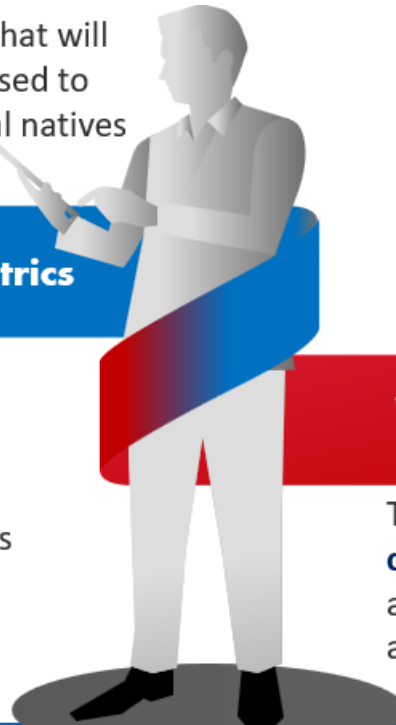
Developing our scholarly publishing systems to better serve our researchers and the public

Increase the impact of WITS' scholarly activities

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

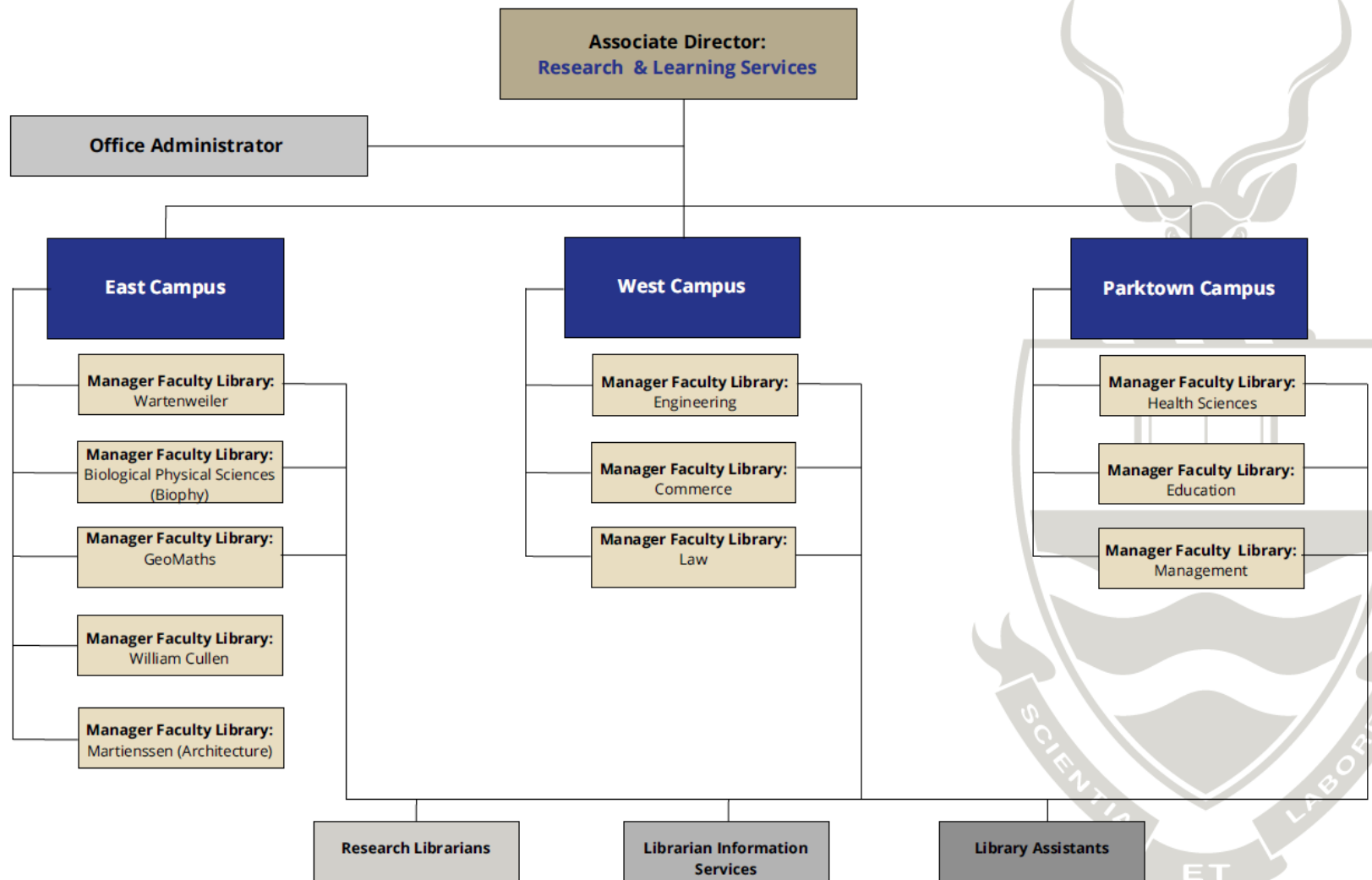
WITS' research

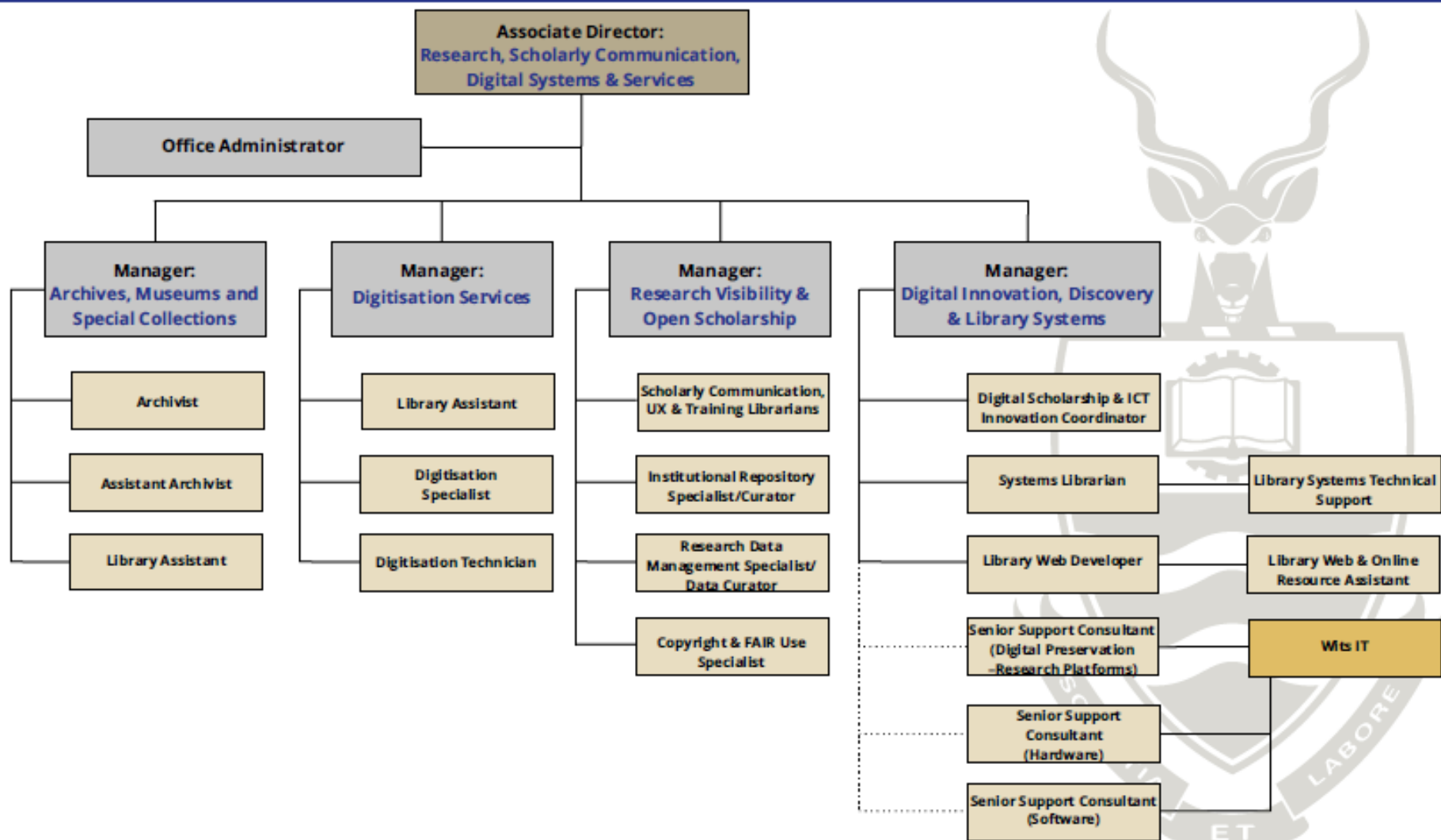
This will assist researchers and the librarians **to collaborate to support the impact and visibility** of a university's research outputs and researchers' activities

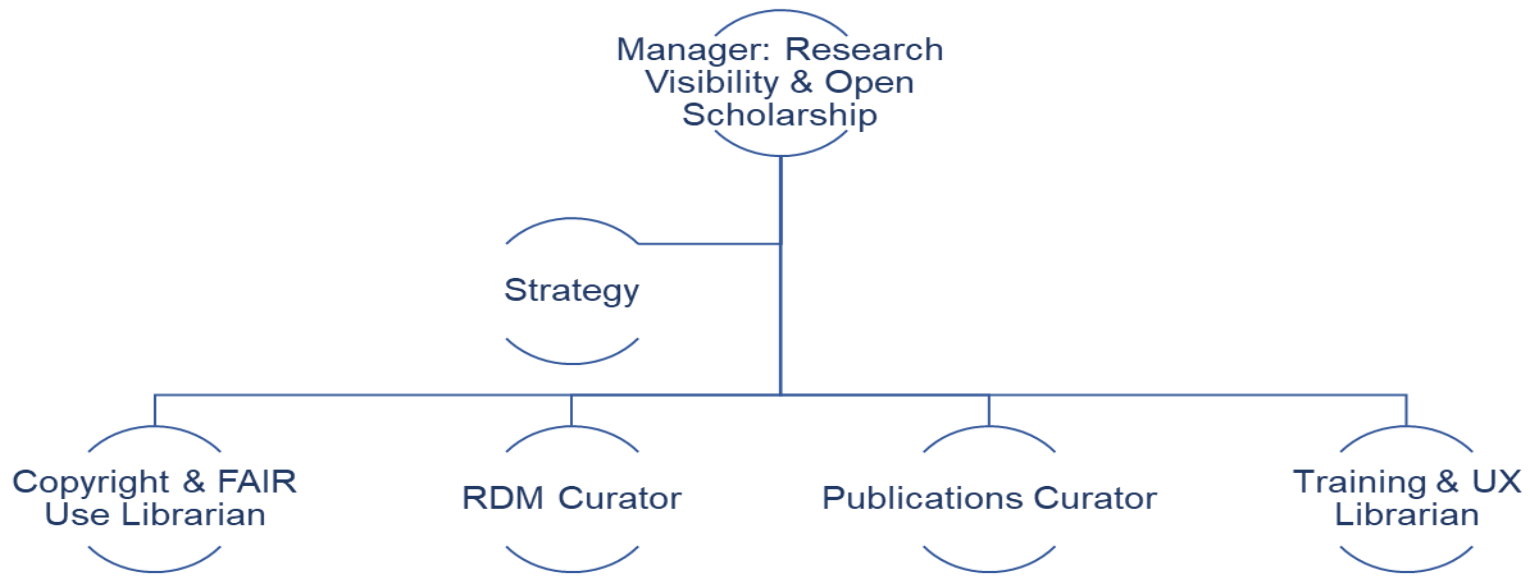


Aligning the Wits Libraries to Support the research agenda









Establishment of the Wits Libraries' Open Scholarship Team, and Faculty Research Librarians positions as from 2024

**Driving the Research Visibility and
Impact agenda,
for a wider audience and through
Wits Repositories and the Internet**

The Research Visibility and Impact Framework is a structured approach designed to help researchers enhance the reach, influence, and recognition of scholarly works:

1. Research Visibility
2. Research Impact
3. Researcher Impact Framework (RIF)
4. Online Researcher Tools and Support

WITS Open Science Research(er) Check Tool.



<https://wits-ac-za.libwizard.com/id/2724d0e8af7e8a1c0c875d8ce4715821>

Research Visibility

This refers to how well one's research is known and accessible to relevant audiences, including:

- ☐ Academics and researchers
- ☐ Students
- ☐ Policymakers
- ☐ Industry professionals
- ☐ General public
- ☐ Media



Strategies to improve visibility include:

- ❑ Publishing in reputable, open-access journals – Transformative Agreements (SANLiC)/ DHET Accredited List
- ❑ Creating and maintaining profiles on platforms like ORCID, Google Scholar, and ResearchGate, etc...
- ❑ Sharing work via social media and academic networks
- ❑ Republishing academic articles via The Conversation
- ❑ Presenting at conferences and webinars
- ❑ Using institutional repositories (WiredSpace) and data-sharing platforms like Figshare (Wits Data Vault)

Research Impact

Impact is the effect your research has on society, policy, industry, or academia. It can be:

- ☐ Scientific: advancing knowledge or methods
- ☐ Societal: informing policy, improving health, or solving real-world problems
- ☐ Economic: contributing to innovation or cost savings

Impact is measured through:

- ☐ Citation metrics (e.g., Google Scholar h-index, i10-index)
- ☐ Altmetrics (Social media mentions, downloads)
- ☐ Policy citations or media coverage
- ☐ Collaborations and stakeholder engagement

Online Researcher Tools and Support

- ❑ ORCID: Unique researcher ID for tracking outputs
- ❑ Google Scholar
- ❑ Publons/Web of Science Researcher ID: Manage publications and peer reviews
- ❑ **Research(er) Visibility Check Tool**: Help centralise and manage online presence
- ❑ Library Training Materials: Guide researchers in building impact narratives and using metrics effectively



Researcher Impact Framework (RIF)

The RIF helps researchers craft audience-focused, evidence-based impact narratives. It connects:

- ☐ Scholarly activities
- ☐ Reach and relevance
- ☐ Use and outcomes: this is especially useful for funding applications, promotions, and strategic planning





Before – Actions in place

Where did we start in 2023?



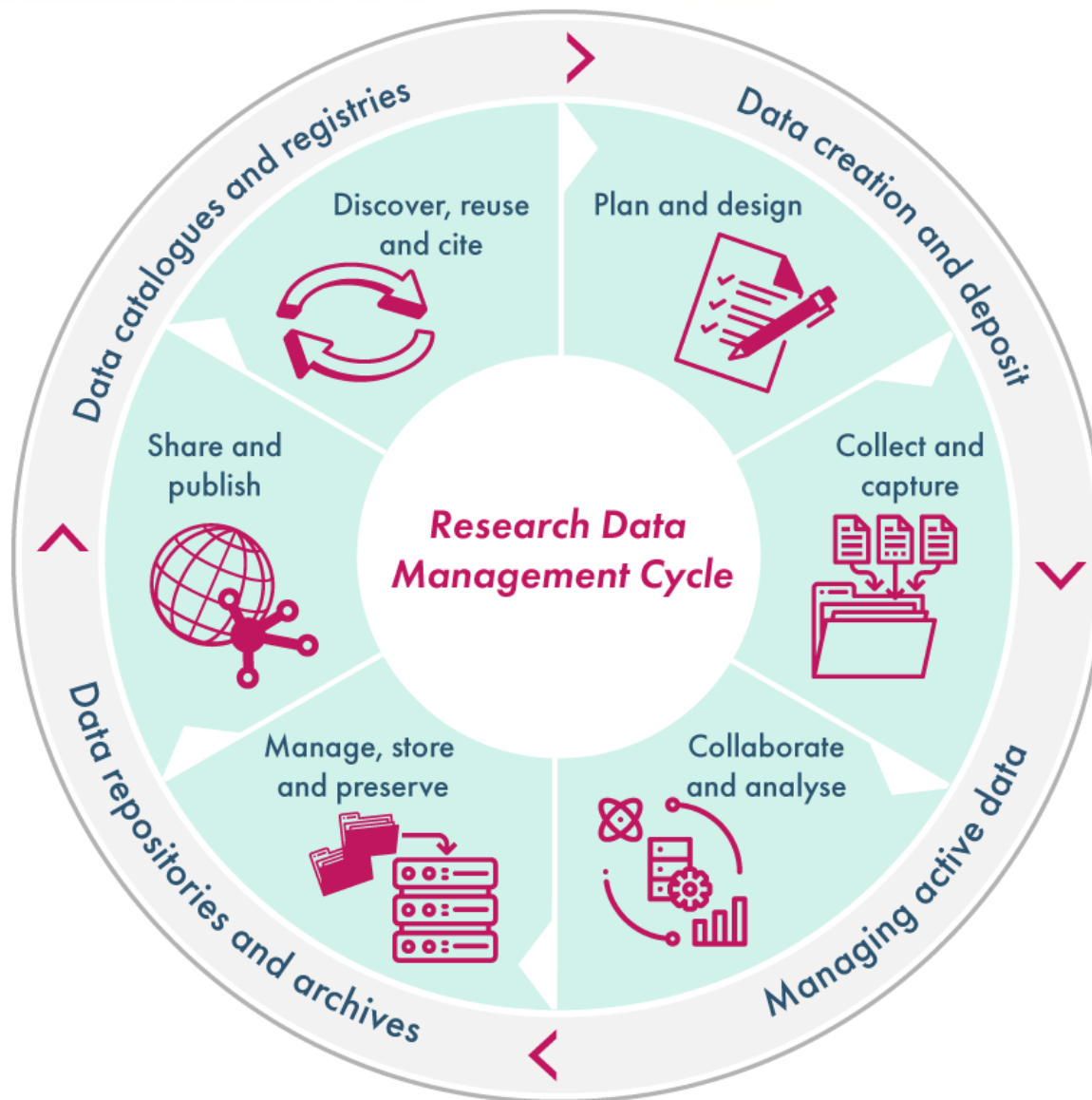
UNIVERSITY OF THE
WITWATERSRAND,
JOHANNESBURG

POLICY DOCUMENT

Research Data Management Policy

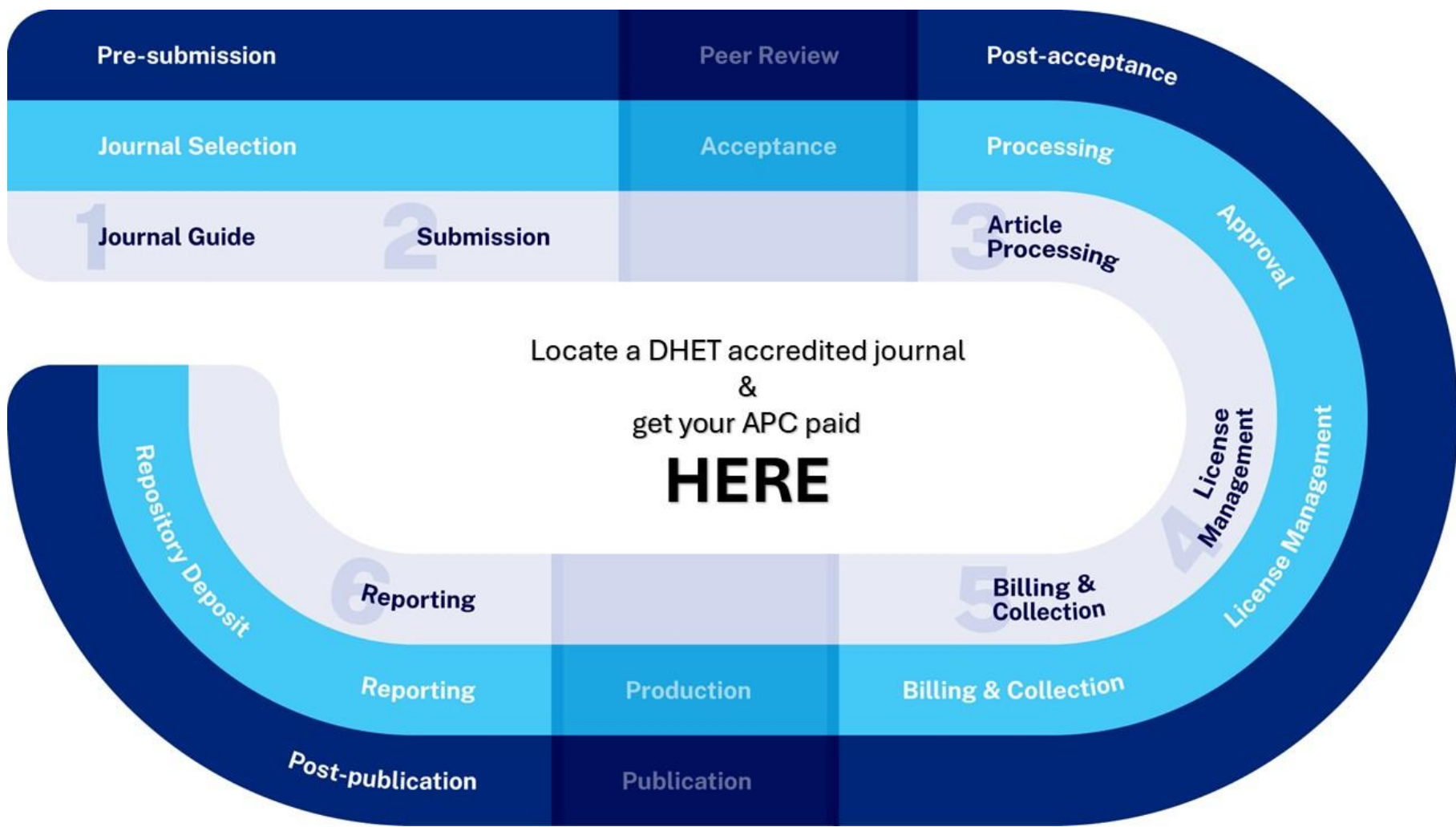
- ☐ Wits Research Data Management (RDM) policy, *not* comprehensive or fully implemented.
- ☐ Wits RDM Policy under review, 2025
 - ☐ Stakeholder consultation in process





Implementing an RDM Strategy by Wits Libraries

Enhancing Research Output Pipeline – Transformative Agreements (TAs)



Research Outputs (Publications)



[Communities & Collections](#) [All of WIReDSpace](#) ▾ [Statistics](#)

[Q](#) [Globe](#) [Log In](#) ▾

WIReDSpace

Welcome WIReDSpace(to Wits Institutional Repository on DSpace)

For queries relating to content and technical issues, please contact IR specialists via this email address : openscholarship.library@wits.ac.za, Tel: 011 717 4652 or 011 717 1954

[Q](#) Search



Research Outputs (Datasets)



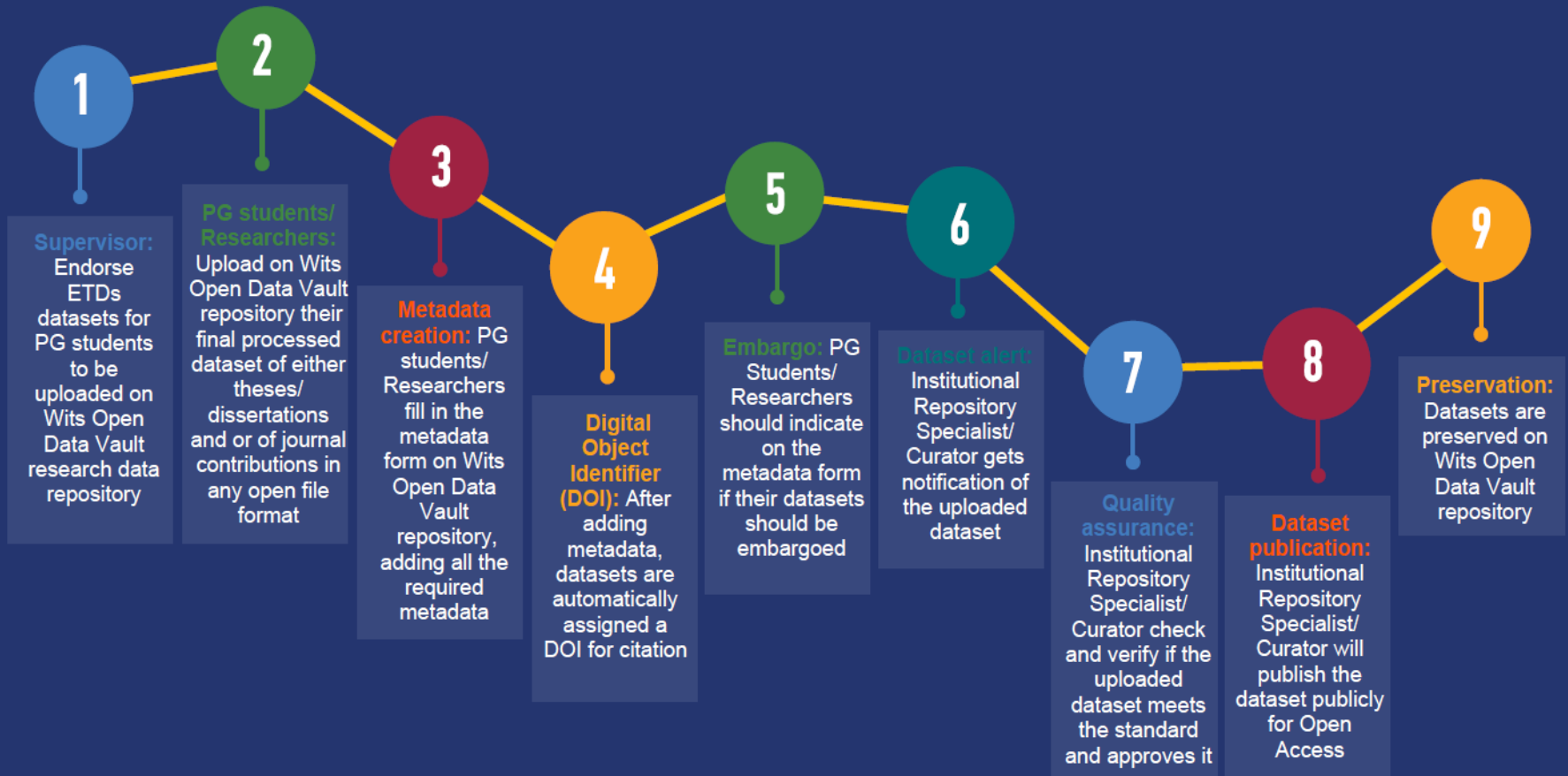
**Wits Data Vault Repository – To be launched, IDW 2025:
Brisbane: Australia**

Successful RDM should be built around:

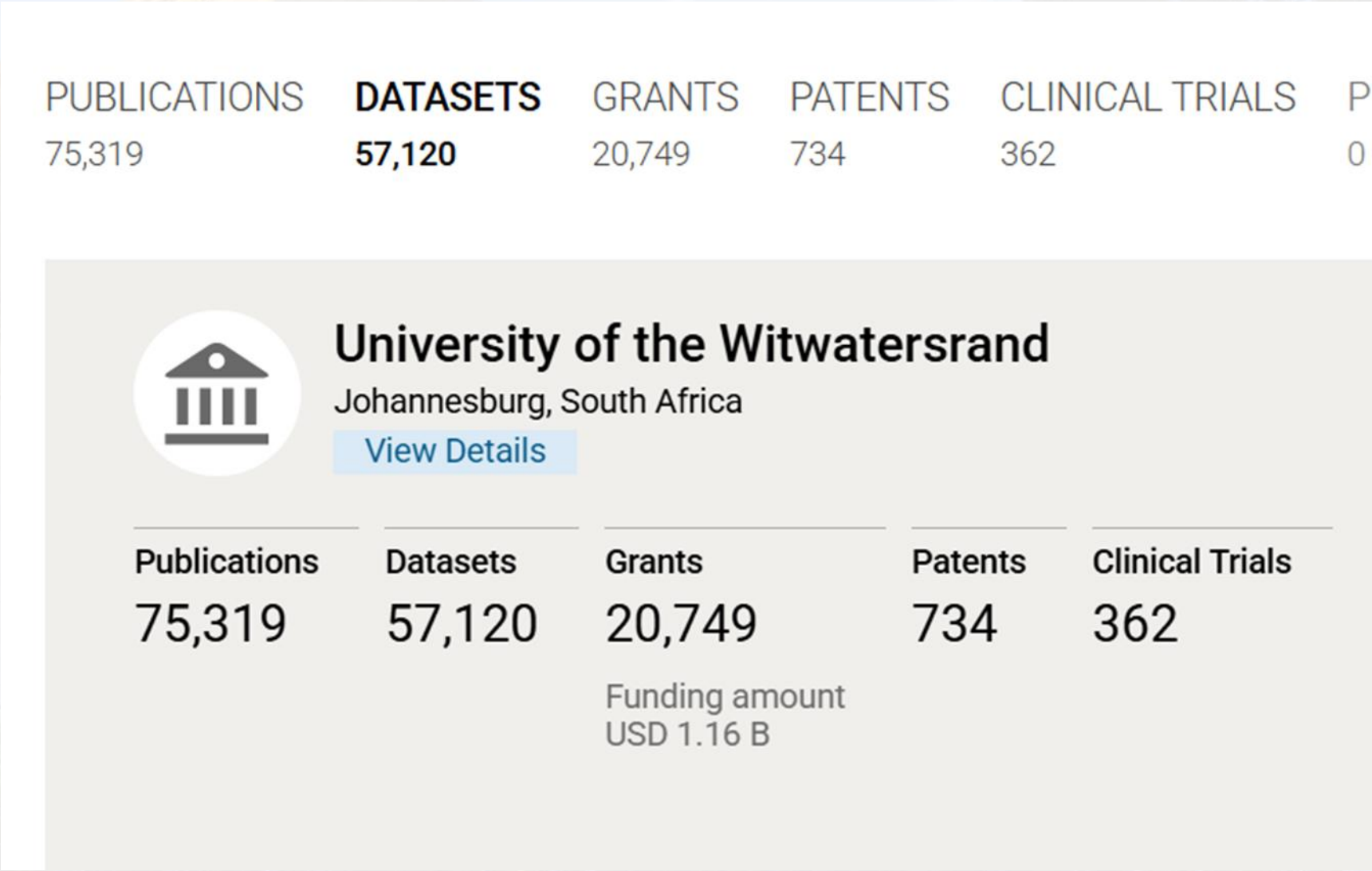


RDM Workflow

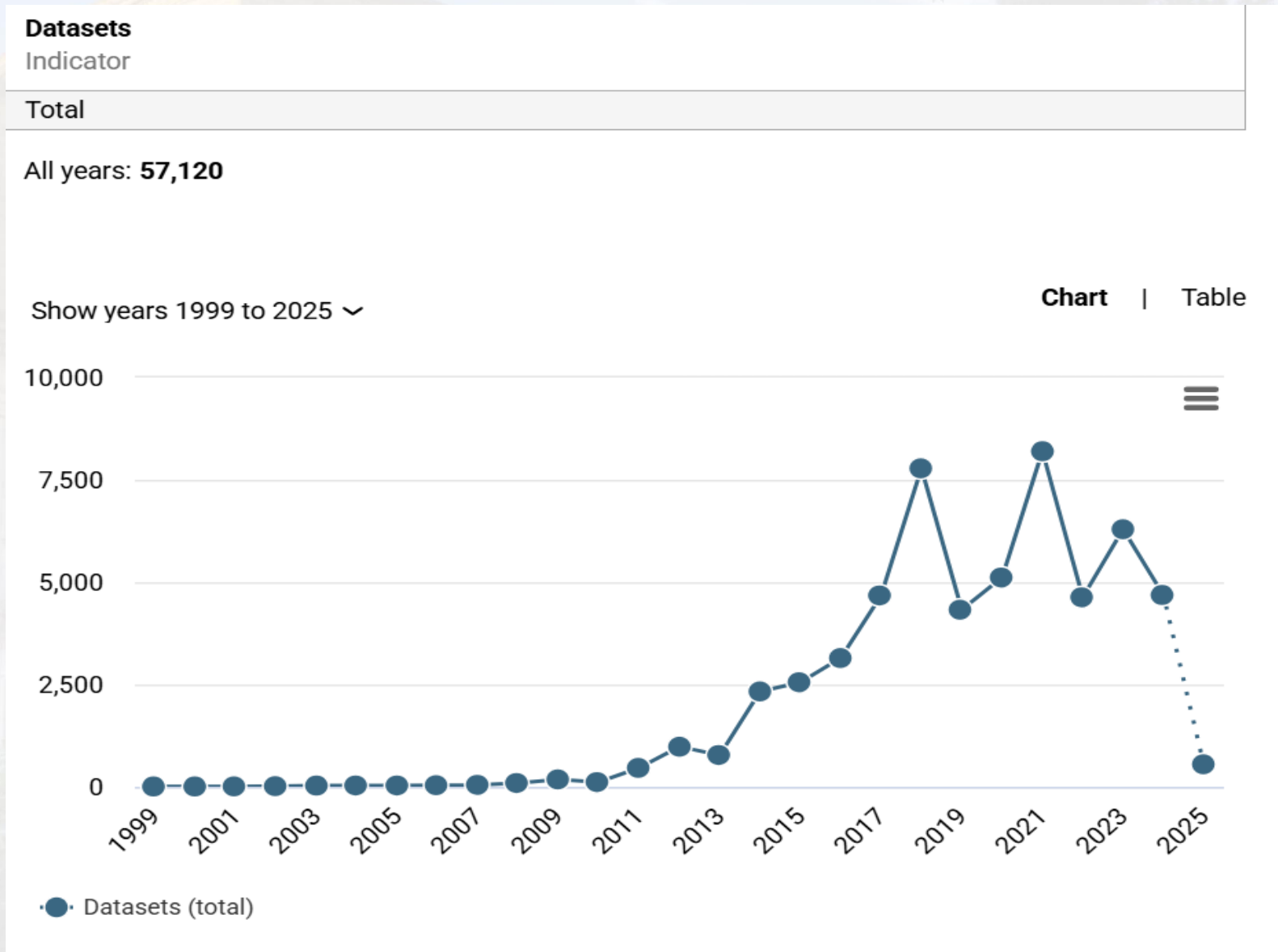
Wits Research Data Management (RDM) Workflow



Retrospective *Research* Outputs to be curated



Retrospective *Datasets* to be curated



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Wits Open
Data Vault

10,848 posts 1,180 views 433 downloads [more stats...](#)

sort by: Posted date ▾



DATASET

The project recognizes the following as a *field* of critical space where aesthetic and scientific discourses may be viewed. Through the interplay of light patterns, turbulent oscillations, and critical irregularities, observed in the fluid dynamics of the turbulent flow, the observer and the chemical, physical phenomena are reconstrued by materialized descriptive interactions. This approach aligns with Rensselaer's spatial theories emphasizing the situated and relational sense of knowledge. By embracing Rensselaer's role within the circulation, the work foregrounds the interaction of technology, economy, and existence, seeking resonance to engage with the complexities of representational power.

Conceptual Framework: Simulation as Paradigm

Intellectual capital is the synthetic resource which encompasses the relation between the individual factors, but the resources have the characteristic of a mixed complementary factor rather

anthropology, archaeology, and devolved through their generation of *Ag Anthropos* studies based on African anthropological archives. Employing the *Ag Anthropos* model, the abstract generates "cosmobiological analysis" that reflects and develops historical analyses and epistemologies from a Global South perspective. Theoretical frameworks like Rastafarianism (cosmos physics and spiritual roots), Ubuntu (transcending philosophy of individual identities), and the critique of scientific modernism to include humans and African. Layer under the analysis. Additionally, the work engages Fay Moon's AI's critique of theoretical computing and *Ag Anthropos*' theory of universality of people to contrast the social and not necessarily being industrial in technological advancement. Through these issues, the project is interpreted as such as a cosmological experiment that also as a shared and political ground of epistemic fluidities, reimagining algorithmic imaginaries as a form of cultural resistance and epistemic worldbuilding.

1. Introduction

It is evident that the world is an interconnected place, raising numerous ethical concerns.

Datasets, views, and downloads



Wits Open
Data Vault



[< Back to homepage](#)

 Hide filters

Group

reset filter

University of the Witwatersrand

Item type

reset filter

 Dataset

Timeframe

reset filter

Select dates

Between 2025-01-01 - 2025-06-30 University of the Witwatersrand had:

 **1,025 views**

 **359 downloads**

see by: Monthly view

☒ Views☒ Downloads☒ Total



Dimensions tool for RVI

Dimensions is a powerful research analytics platform that helps you:

- Map the research landscape: Discover connections between publications, grants, patents, clinical trials, and policy documents.
- Track citations and collaborations: show your work is cited and who is engaging with it.
- Identify funding and trends: Find emerging areas and potential funders for future research.
- Link with ORCID: You can connect your ORCID profile to Dimensions to automatically update your publication record

How to use Dimensions to boost visibility:

- Create a profile and link your ORCID to ensure your publications are accurately tracked.
- Use the analytics dashboard to identify which of your papers are gaining traction and in what fields.
- Explore policy and patent citations to demonstrate real-world impact.
- Share insights from Dimensions in grant applications or performance reviews.

Altmetric Tool

Altmetric tracks online attention to research outputs, including:

- Mentions in news articles, blogs, Twitter/X, Facebook, Reddit
- Citations in policy documents
- References in Wikipedia, YouTube, and patents

How to use Altmetric to boost impact:

- Monitor your Altmetric Attention Score to see how your work is being discussed online Promote your research on social media and blogs to increase visibility.
- Engage with journalists and policymakers to encourage coverage and citations.
- Use Altmetric Explorer to track attention across platforms and compare with peers.



How does Wits FEBE compare to other University Faculties



Wits and FEBE Publications -



DOCUMENTS ▾

University of the Witwatersrand 
Research Organization

faculty of engineering 
Free text in full data

PUBLICATIONS

6,129

DATASETS

0

GRANTS

1

PATENTS

1

CLINICAL TRIALS

0

POLI

0



University of the Witwatersrand

Johannesburg, South Africa

[View Details](#)

Publications

75,441

Datasets

57,120

Grants

20,749

Patents

734

Clinical Trials

362

Funding amount
USD 1.16 B

Source: Dimensions & Altmetric Explorer Analytics

Wits and Other Universities

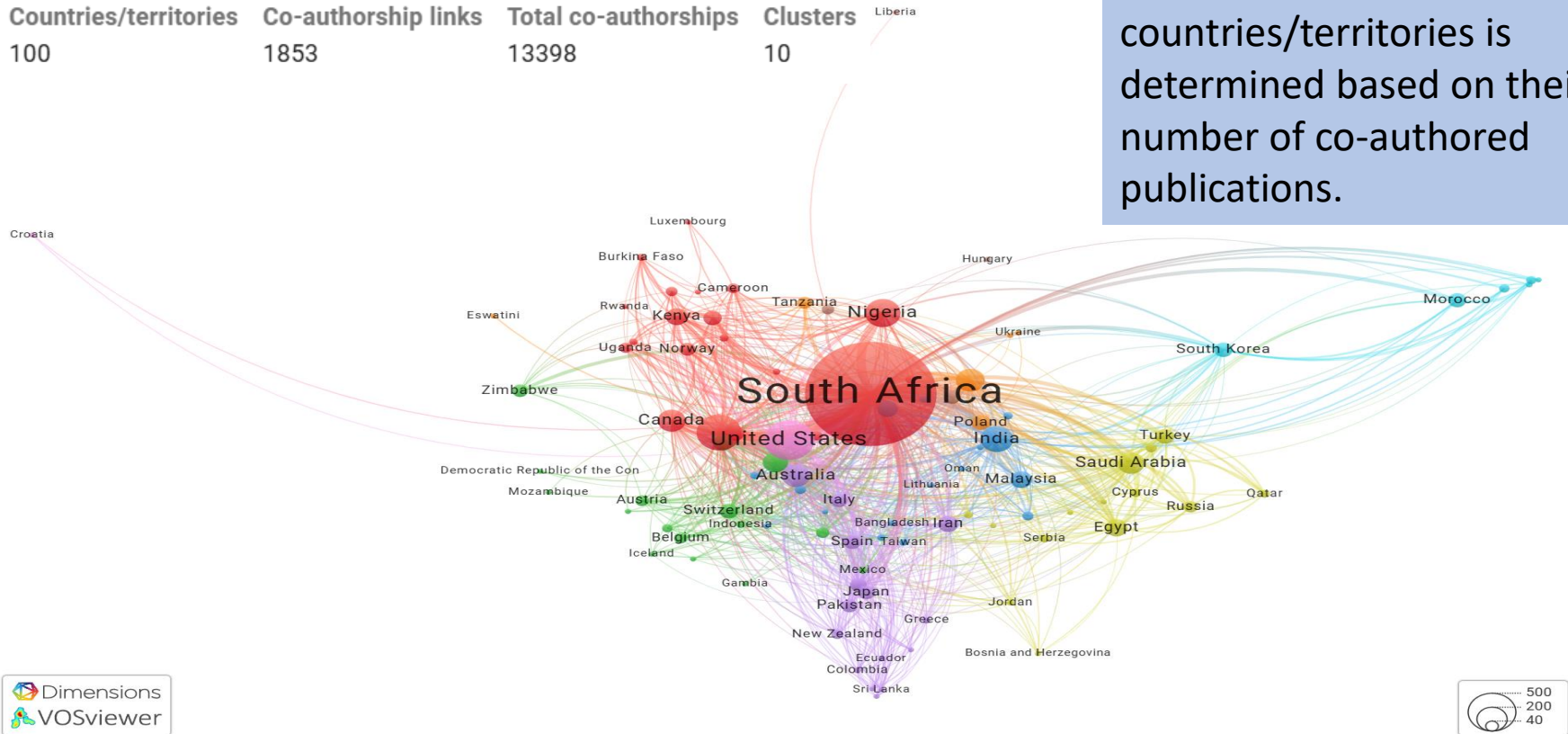
Organization Country	↓ Publicat...	Citations	Citations mean
University of Johannesburg (UJ) South Africa	9,037	230,715	25.53
University of the Witwatersrand (...) South Africa	6,129	208,195	33.97
University of Pretoria (UP) South Africa	3,732	105,035	28.14
University of Cape Town (UCT) South Africa	2,007	103,189	51.41
Lund University Sweden	1,926	101,612	52.76
The University of Tokyo (UT) Japan	1,908	128,949	67.58
Heidelberg University Germany	1,904	119,710	62.87

Source: Dimensions & Altmetric Explorer Analytics

FEBE Geomap – International Collaborations

Countries/territories	Co-authorship links	Total co-authorships	Clusters
100	1853	13398	10

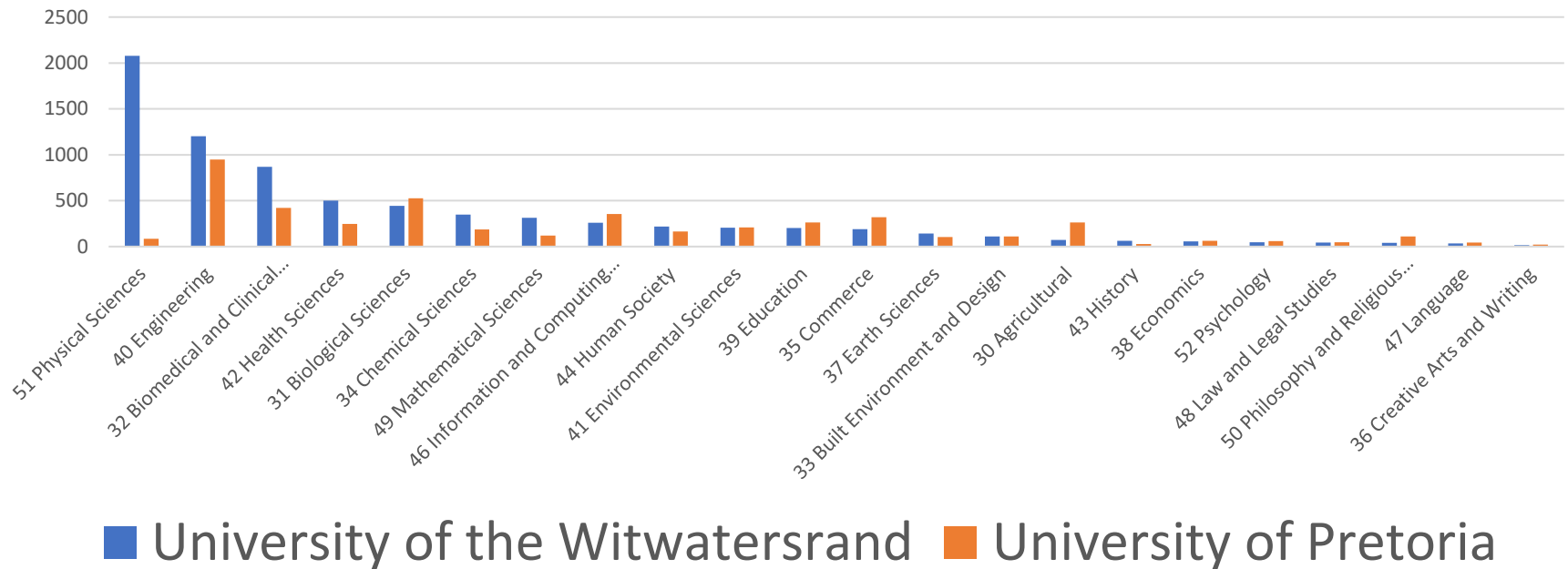
The relatedness of countries/territories is determined based on their number of co-authored publications.



Source: Dimensions & Altmetric Explorer Analytics

Wits and UP FEBE – Research Categories

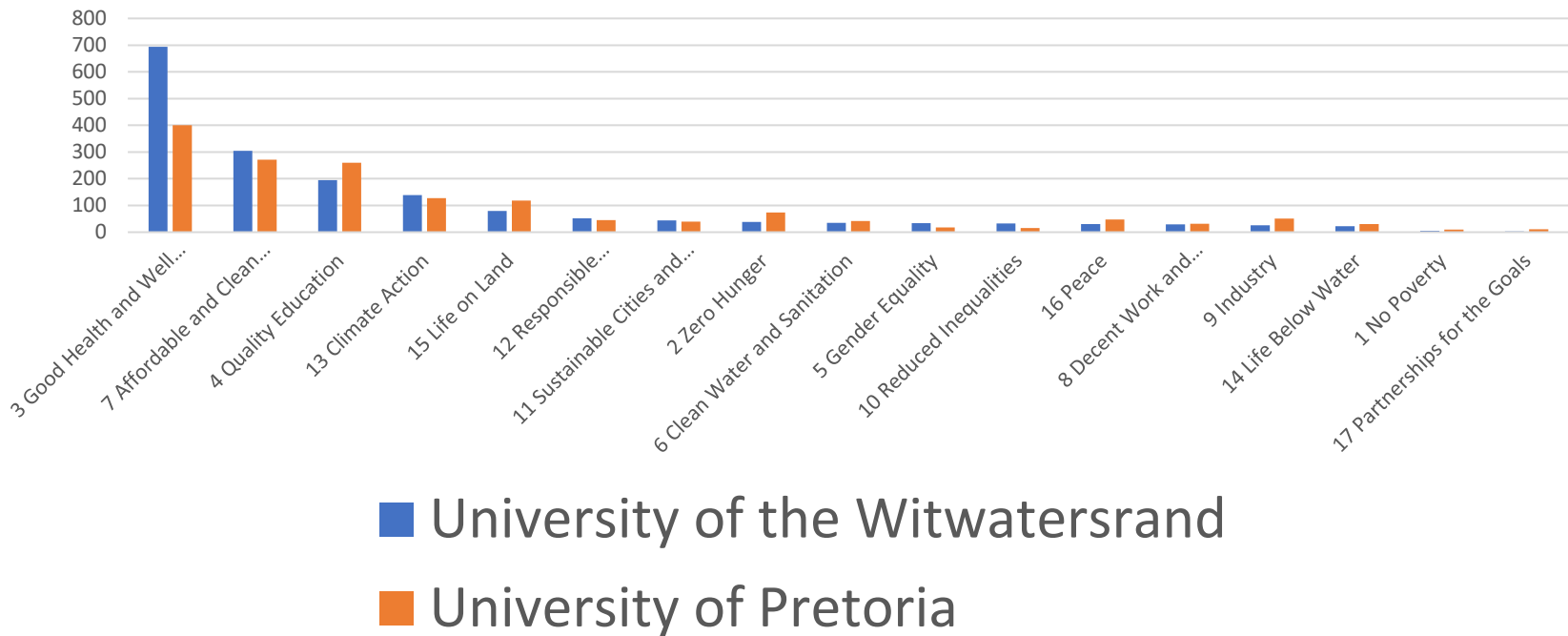
Research Outputs



Source: Dimensions & Altmetric Explorer Analytics

Wits and UP FEBE – SDGs

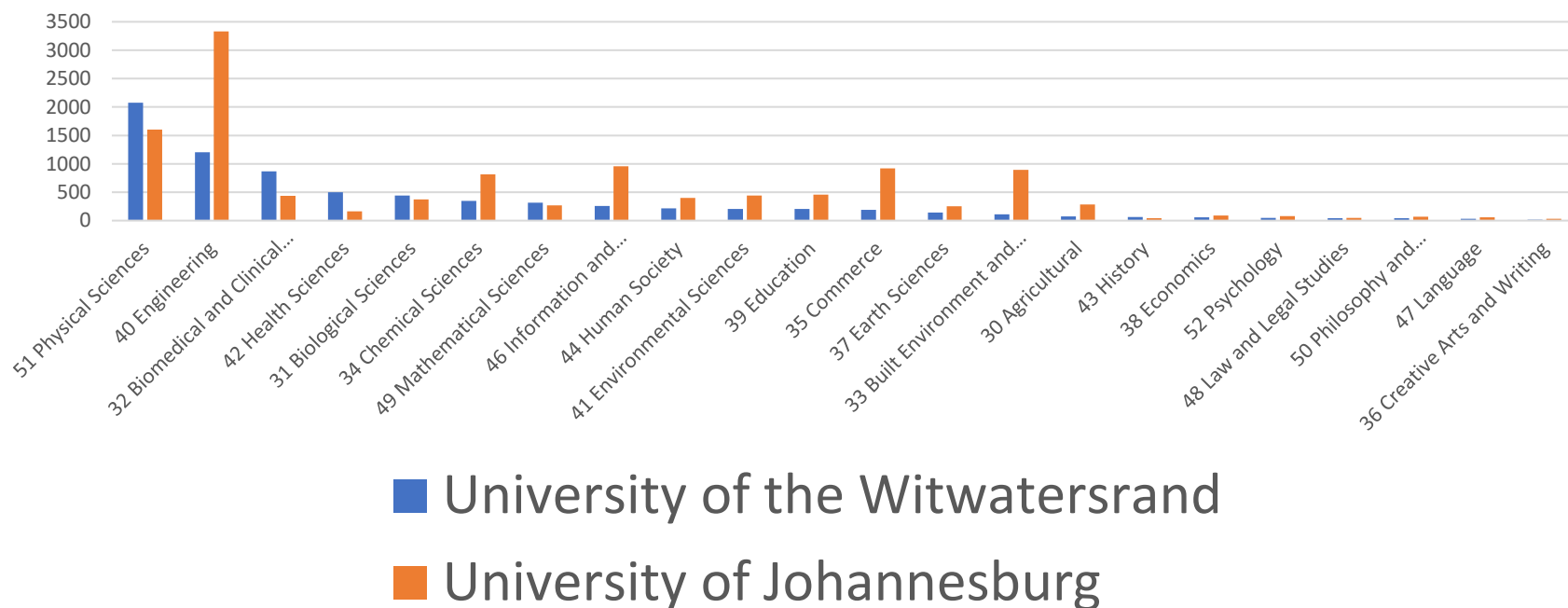
SDGs



Source: Dimensions & Altmetric Explorer Analytics

Wits and UJ – Research Categories

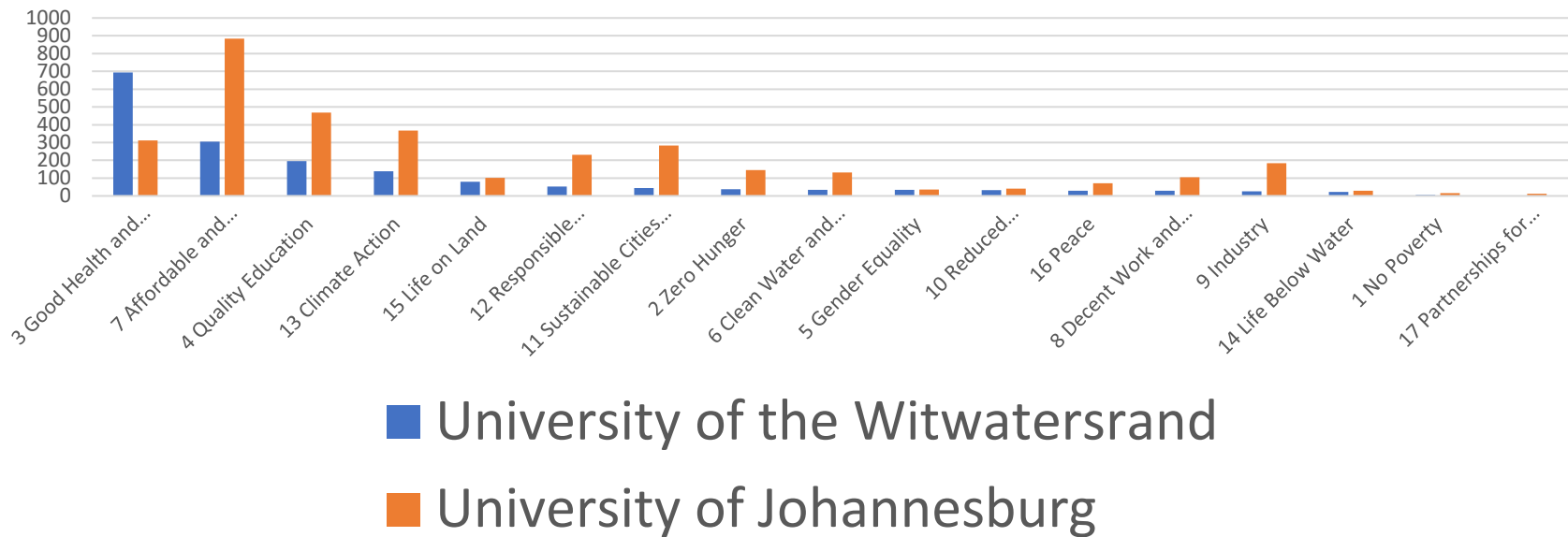
Research Outputs



Source: Dimensions & Altmetric Explorer Analytics

Wits & UJ Publications - SDGs

SDGs



Source: Dimensions & Altmetric Explorer Analytics

Dimensions and Altmetric Tools

- Write compelling impact narratives for funding or promotion
- Demonstrate broader influence beyond academia
- Identify top-performing publications and replicate successful dissemination strategies

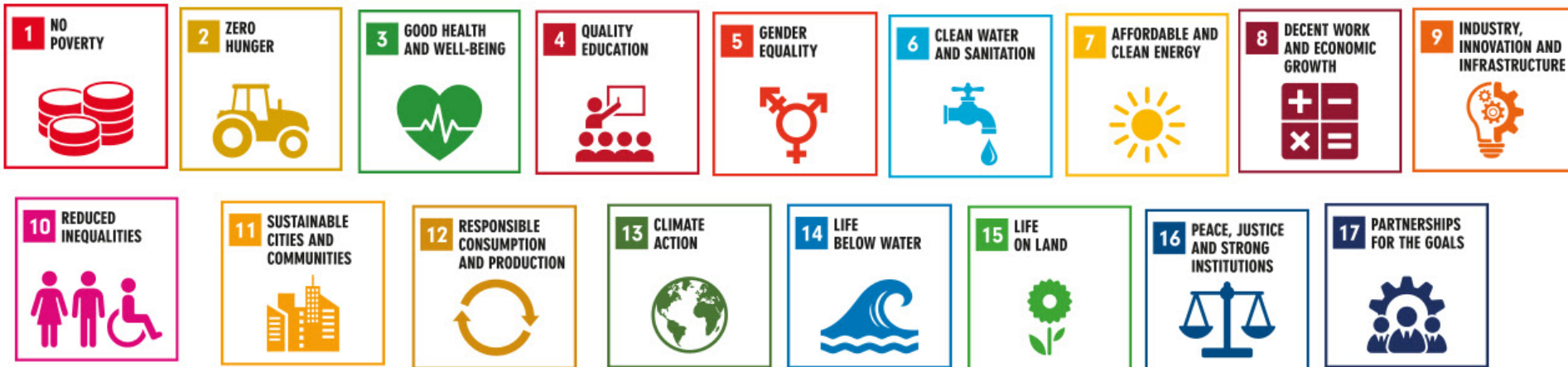


SDGs, Dimensions, and Altmetric Tools



What are the 17 Goals?

The UNs' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a call to action to create a sustainable future for us all. They were adopted by all 193 world leaders who agreed to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities, and tackle climate change.



Aligning the Research Cycle to the SDGs Content Curation



Wits Libraries reporting on RVI

Wits Libraries reports:

Publications/Datasets - citations/altmetrics,
through the:

- ✓ **Institutional Scorecard**
- ✓ **Annual Faculty Performance Reviews**
- ✓ **Individual researcher/School Metrics**



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