



Implementation of the *Wits Data Vault* (repository) as part of ensuring digital cooperation: a case of the Wits University



Challenges in the **current** environment?



At the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits), several challenges hinder effective Research Data Management (RDM), particularly in the life sciences and postgraduate research domains. Here are the key issues identified:

1. Lack of a Formal RDM Policy

Wits currently does not have a comprehensive institutional RDM policy.

2. Limited Awareness and Training

Many researchers at Wits are either unaware of existing RDM support or lack access to appropriate training

3. Infrastructure Gaps

While Wits is research-intensive, the infrastructure for storing, preserving, and sharing research data—especially raw data from theses and dissertations—is still developing. There is limited integration between Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD) systems and data repositories

4. Data Format and Integration Challenges

Researchers face difficulties in managing diverse data formats, including digital humanities, recordings, and complex datasets.



5. Fragmented Support Services

Support for RDM is not centralized, and services are often disconnected from research workflows.

6. Need for Cultural Change

Although awareness is growing, many researchers still do not prioritize RDM due to a lack of incentives or understanding of its long-term value.

7. Digital Skills Gaps

Many academic staff and researchers are not adequately trained in data management best practices.

8. Security and Privacy Risks Fears

With the shift to open digital platforms, data security is a concern for many stakeholders in the university.



Before – Action – Review

Where did we start in 2023?



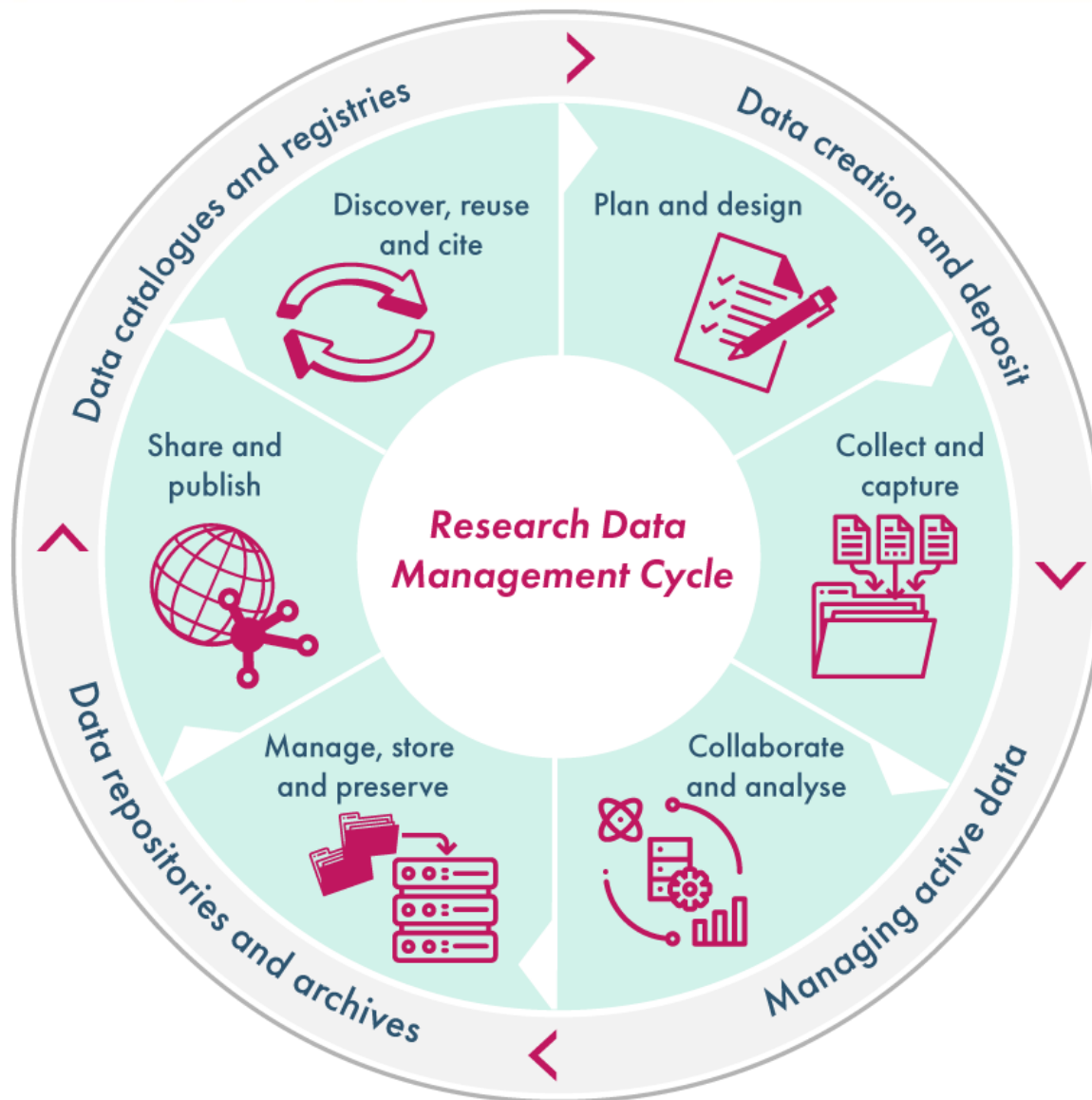
UNIVERSITY OF THE
WITWATERSRAND,
JOHANNESBURG

POLICY DOCUMENT

Research Data Management Policy

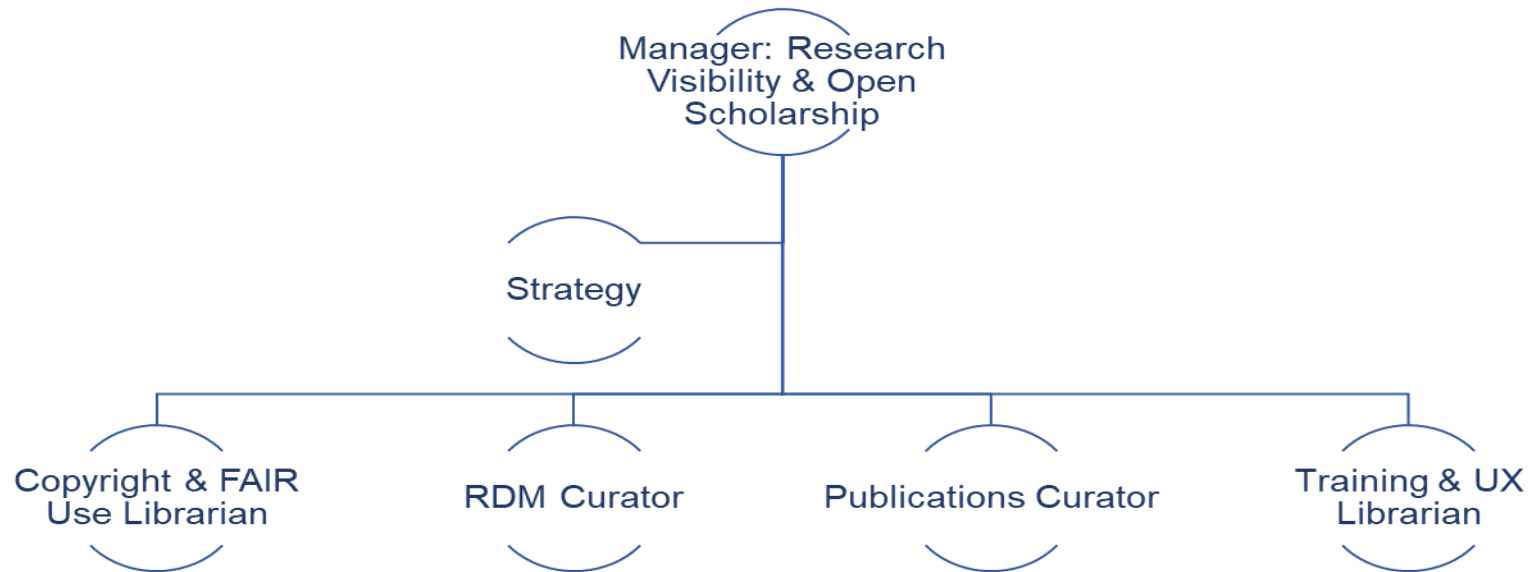
- ☐ Wits Research Data Management (RDM) policy, *not* comprehensive or fully implemented.
- ☐ Wits RDM Policy under review, 2025
 - ☐ Stakeholder consultation in process





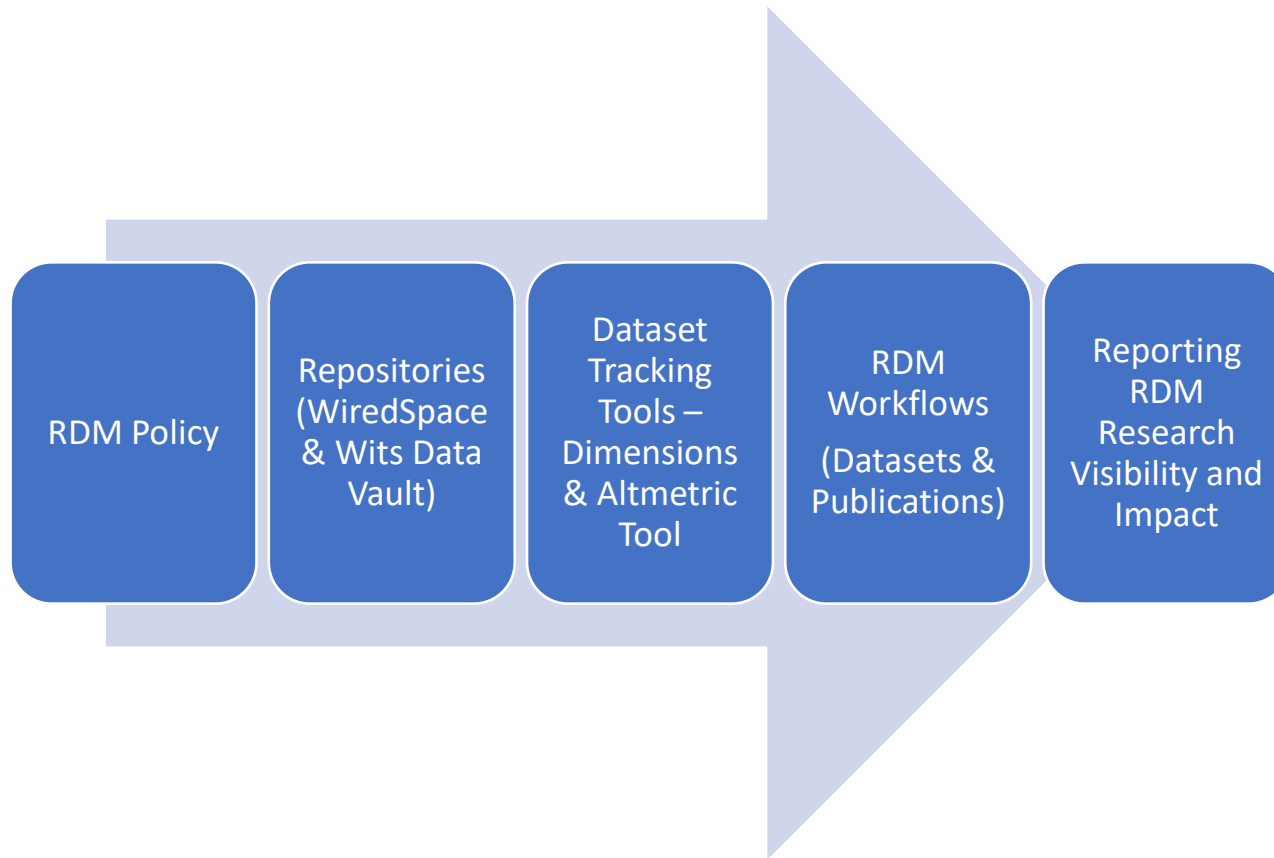
Implementing an RDM Strategy by Wits Libraries

Organogram: Open Scholarship Team 2024



The Open Scholarship Team posts all filled in 2023-2024

Tools/resources required for effective workflow by the team?



Research Outputs (Publications)



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

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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**

RDM Services & Evidence Reporting



DSpace

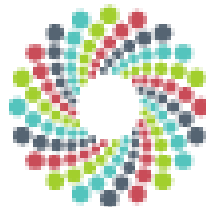


Altmetric
EXPLORER



Dimensions

A **Digital Science** Solution

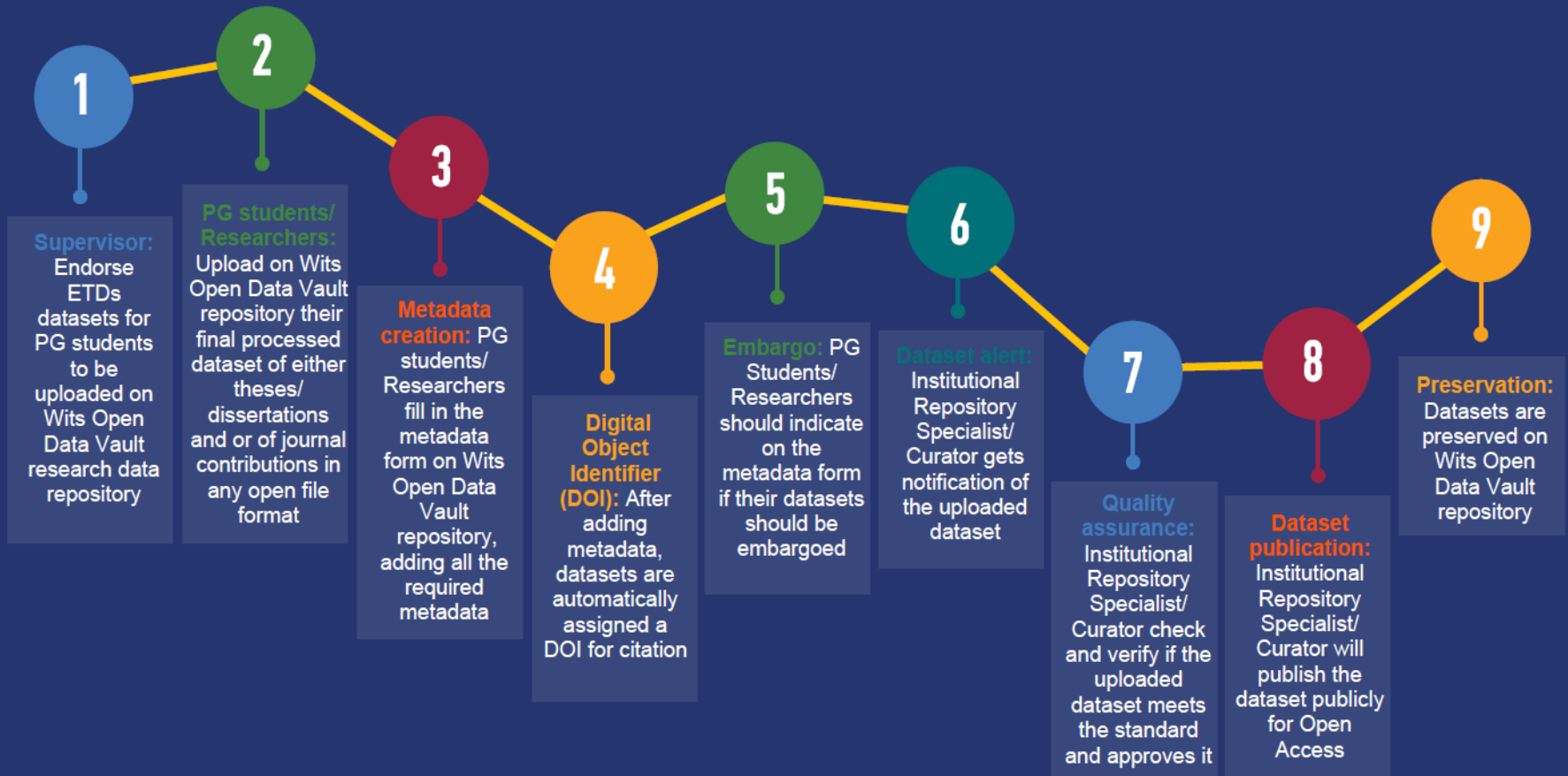


figshare

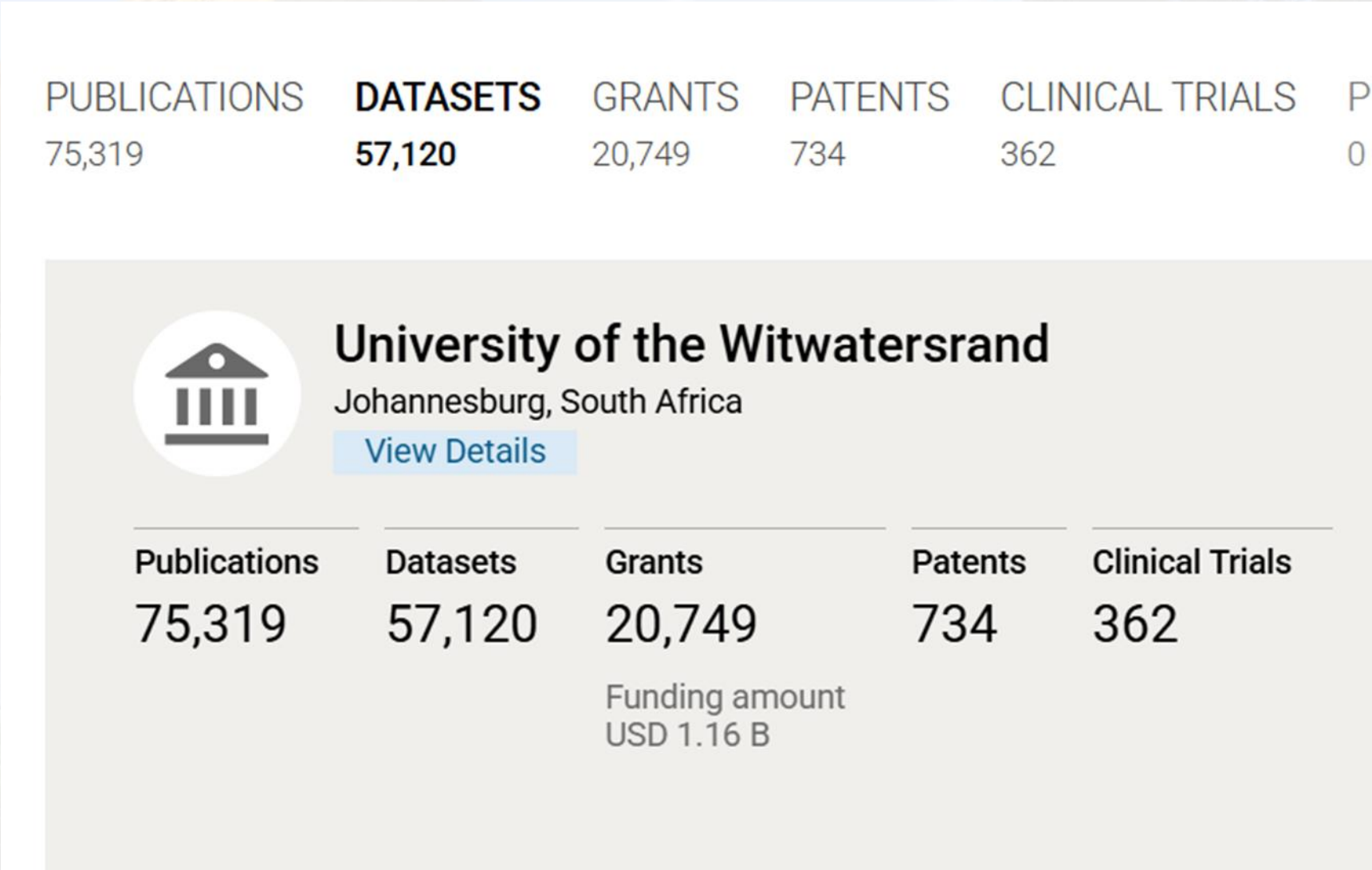


RDM Workflow

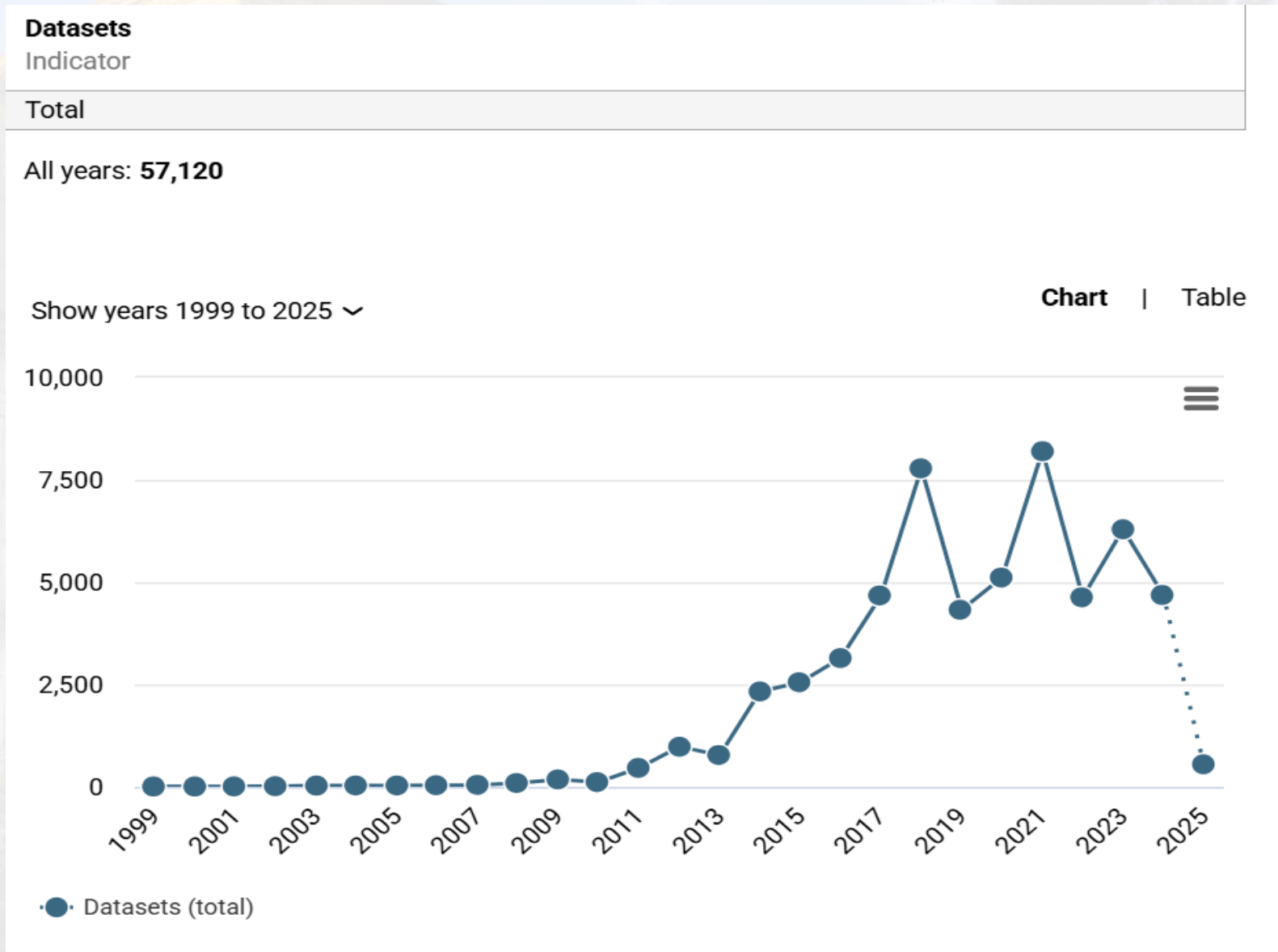
Wits Research Data Management (RDM) Workflow



Retrospective *Research* Outputs to be curated



Retrospective *Datasets* to be curated



Uploaded Datasets in *pilot test* - plus 10,000 from 57,000 discovered from Dimensions and other sources



Discover research data from the **University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg**

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

[ALL](#) | [CATEGORIES](#) | [GROUPS](#) | [SEARCH](#) 

sort by: Posted date   



DATASET

Dataset--metadata-extraction-tables-of-femicide-reported-in-News-Media

Dataset posted on 2025-06-24

Nechama Rachel Brodie



DATASET

Kidney transplantation ineligibility at a tertiary level public hospital in Johannesburg...

Dataset posted on 2025-06-24

[Malcolm Davies](#)

case of South African actress Renzo Filinich and artificial intelligence portrait, his work explores cultural and societal phenomena, capturing the historical and ongoing processes of race and colonialism.

The project interrogates the laboratory as a racialized space where scientific and epistemic distributions are constructed. Through the analysis of light patterns, scientific visualization, and archival images, Filinich explores the historical and contemporary processes of racialization and the role of the laboratory in the construction of scientific knowledge.

This project aligns with Wits Open Data's goal to make research accessible and to promote the ethical and societal value of knowledge. By making this data available, the project supports the University of the Witwatersrand's commitment to research that addresses the needs of the community and promotes social justice.

Keywords: Artificial intelligence, racialization, scientific visualization, images

Conceptual Framework: Simulation as Paradigm

Artificial intelligence is the technology which simulates the behavior of the real world and other systems in the manner from the perspective of a data collection and analysis.

Intelligence, artificiality, and simulation through the generation of AI-generated images based on African ontological systems. Exploring the historical and contemporary processes of racialization and scientific visualization, this project interrogates the laboratory as a racialized space where scientific and epistemic distributions are constructed. Through the analysis of light patterns, scientific visualization, and archival images, Filinich explores the historical and contemporary processes of racialization and the role of the laboratory in the construction of scientific knowledge.

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1. Introduction

This is introducing the use of AI-generated images, cultural memory, and context.



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 

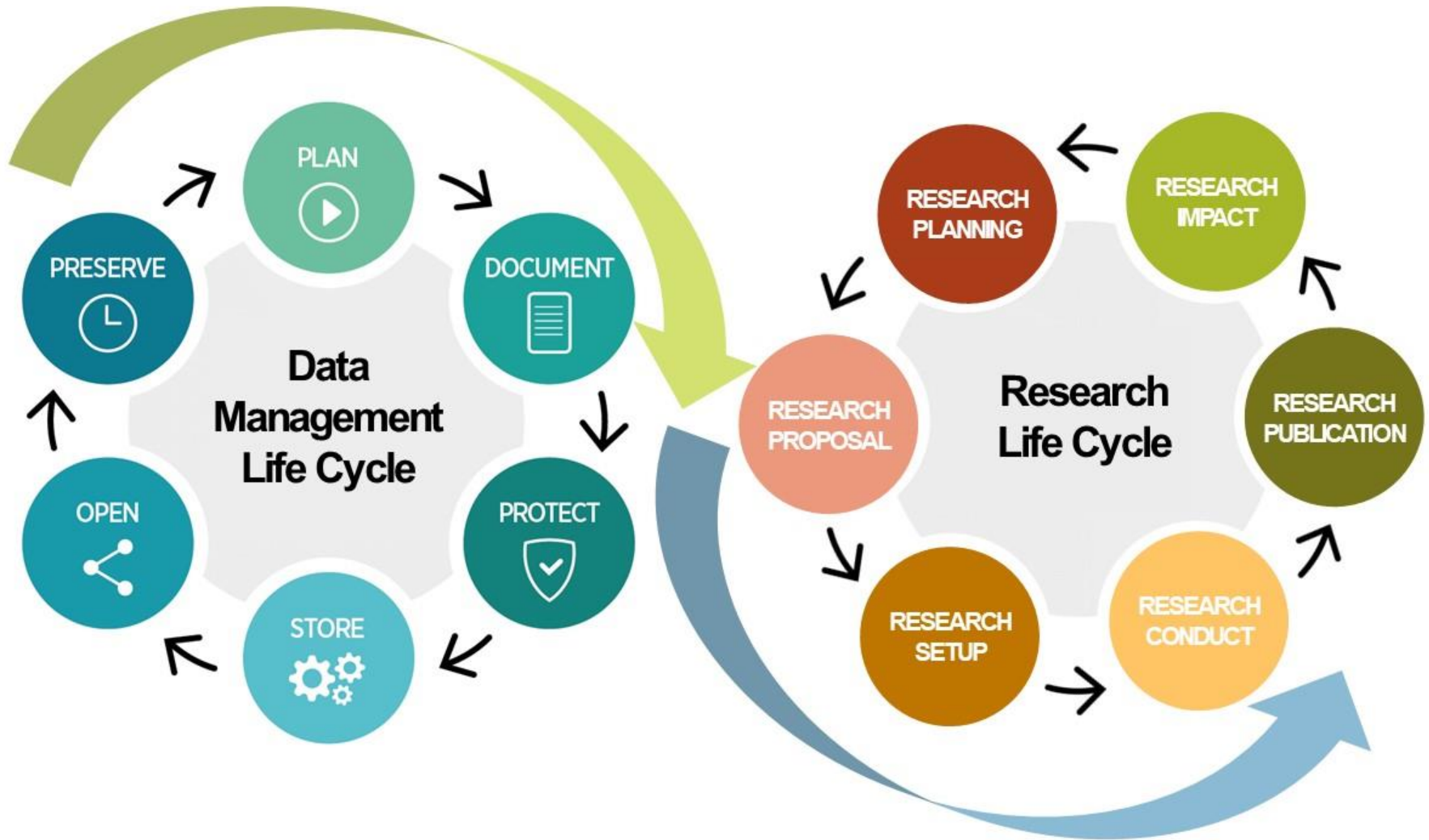
☒ Views ☒ Downloads ☒ Total



Successful RDM should be built around:



RDM Services & (11) Faculty Libraries Integrated Training



After – Action – Review (AAR) 2024 – Onwards...

Wits Libraries reports - Datasets (Visibility and Impact), through the

- ✓ **Institutional Scorecard**, and
- ✓ **Annual Faculty Performance Reviews**



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