

TOWARD A PERSISTENT IDENTIFIER (PID) STRATEGY FOR AFRICA

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PRESENTED BY:

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INTRODUCTION: ABOUT LIWG

- Open Science services and infrastructure in development are uneven across the African Continent
- LIWG is a community of primarily African stakeholders that share information, best practices and brainstorm on required open infrastructure to advance Open Science on the continent
- The LIWG's goals are to encourage interoperability of infrastructures and discoverability & visibility of African outputs.
- LIWG comprises of NREN practitioners, Librarians and other OA advocates working toward moving African Open Science practices forward, including having scalable, sustainable open infrastructures.



AFRICAN PID STRATEGY DOCUMENT

- LIBSENSE in recent time have provided documents and template to guide an African Open Science Policy and metadata standards
- To contribute to this African knowledge ecosystem, the LIWG's scope includes developing a PID strategy that is inclusive of the diverse roles of contributions on the research lifecycle
- African PID Strategy Document in draft phase
- Document will be distributed to wider African stakeholder members for validation
- This presentation is a summary of the draft document

PID INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS

- Interoperable, resolvable, cost efficient (free for end users)
- Open; Transparent, Trusted; Non-proprietary, Community-led & governed; Inclusive; Sustainable
- Researcher IDs
 - **ORCID**; Google Scholar; ScopusID
- Digital Object Identifiers - **DOIs**
 - Datacite; Crossref
- Education Identity - **eduid**
 - eduid.africa; eduid.ng; SAFIRE, RENU Identity Federation (RIF), identity federation from GARNET
- Handle system in repositories
- ROR - Research Organisation Registry (Organisation Identifiers)
- The FREYA Project [Guides to Choosing Persistent Identifiers](#)



AFRICA-DRIVEN PID STRATEGY

- To showcase local scholarship, improve its findability, discovery & longevity:
 - PIDs identify outputs, irrespective of the possibility of location changes
 - Provides attribution to all contributions in collaborations, whether it's datasets, co-authorship or claiming credit for peer-reviewing
 - PIDs link these contributions, which encourages sharing and re-use, and ultimately to measure impact of research
- The cost of implementing a PID strategy needs to be taken into consideration as current financial models for consortia may still be prohibitive for many African countries - a (new) role for RRENs & NRENs

CURRENT PID USAGE IN AFRICA

- DOIs: Some journal publishers are Crossref members; some institutions use DataCite DOIs for depositing data & other outputs in repositories
- UbuntuNet Alliance joined DataCite as a member
 - consortium membership is open to all research & education institutions in Eastern & Southern Africa; registration of DOIs is now part of service portfolio
- Some scholarly journals, learned societies, universities & research institutes are ORCID members; NACOSTI in Kenya integrated ORCID in its Research Management System
- TENET operates a [South African ORCID Consortium](#) - cost savings & local support
- AfricArXiv is one of ROR (Research Organization Registry) supporters



GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE

- PID Consortia can help oversee governance, explore opportunities and financing models
- NRENs and RRENs can play a key role in leading governance
- The cost model for a PID strategy may encourage a (new) role for RRENs and NRENs as consortias are too expensive for many individual African countries
- Facilitate interoperability with other PID initiatives
- External seed funding for African PIDs for a period of time required.

ADVOCACY AND CAPACITY BUILDING

- PID awareness still low in the region, as it's seen through research output lens only (e.g. authors in journal articles or chapter)
- Partner with PID organisations toward an African strategy
- Continue working toward integration of open infrastructures
- Workshops and webinars required from multiple stakeholders
 - Funders; Government departments; Academic libraries; Universities & Research Institutes; Publishers
- PID included Open Science training for post-graduate and post-doctoral researchers
- Set up an African Community of Practice



DISCUSSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

- PID consortia are usually required to bring PID stakeholder community together
 - based on current use cases, connect different stakeholders;
 - develop appropriate community governance & sustainability models
- Increase adoption & use of PIDs
- National - regional - institutional - how much autonomy? Effective involvement of RRENS/NRENS
- DOIs/ORCID at the national or regional level?
 - National for countries with Identity Federations & regional for countries that currently don't have identity federations;
 - Some institutions may wish to have their own;
- The bottom-up approach, starting at the country/national level
- Complementarity of PIDs
- Improve the scale & depth of PID integration in every day workflows



HOW YOU COULD CONTRIBUTE

- Do you use/plan to use PIDs? Provide your use case!
- Based in Africa? Join our writing team!
- Don't have time to write? Join us as a reviewer!
- Get in touch: libsense@ren.africa
- Get involved and help to shape an African PID strategy!