



WACREN 2024

# CHARTING THE COURSE: FORGING FUTURE-READY HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH COMMUNITIES

Tracer la voie: Forger des Communautés d'Enseignement  
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## LIBSENSE Work Plans for Research Data Management Coordination and Capacity Building in Nigeria

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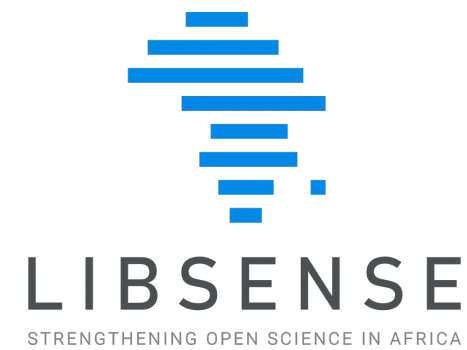
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# Presentation Outline

- Introduction (RDM survey & workshop)
- RDM Priority Areas
- The RDM Advocacy Group
  - Individual work plan - Nigeria
- Impact & Next Steps
- Conclusion

# Introduction



- **WACREN** imagines a future where data, the lifeblood of discovery, flows freely, empowering researchers and fostering open science. This is the vision behind the **LIBSENSE** initiative and workshops in Nigeria to emphasise the significance of efficient research data management practices in open science initiatives at the institutional level and **examine policies and governance structure related to research data management, ethics, and data protection at both institutional and national levels.**
- An initial survey was conducted and findings were presented at the EKO-Konnect/LIBSENSE Lagos workshop in January 2024. There were breakout group sessions that came up with group work plans on a set of activities that can inform practice and policies.
- **A group of early career researchers debuted to further develop and implement a set of coordinated activities to inform RDM and Research Ethic practices in Nigerian institutions.**

# RDM Priority Areas

- **RDM practices-** activities involved in the organisation, storage and preservation, archiving, and sharing of data created during a research project.
- **Research ethics-** guidelines for the responsible conduct of research.
- **Governance structures-** refers to organisational structures that oversee the governance of research ethics and RDM policies, procedures, and practices and which ensure compliance, e.g. with audits.
- **Institutional, inter-institutional, national, and international policy and collaboration-** collaborations refer to collaborative research arrangements and rules/guidelines between institutions within the same country, i.e., nationally, within institutions, countries, and government and regulatory bodies.
- **Capacity building-** strengthening the skills and knowledge base of individuals tasked with carrying out the governance activities related to research ethics and RDM policy.
- **Research Infrastructure-** refers to hardware, software, platforms, processes, roles, and services which are integrated into both social and technical ways to provide support to the implementation of research ethics and RDM. This can be 'open' infrastructure or proprietary.

# The RDM Advocacy Group

These are Early Career Researchers (ECRs) from various institutions in Nigeria from the following universities:

Lead City University, Ibadan (Dr Sophia Adeyeye); University of Nigeria, Nsukka (Mrs Ify Obim); Federal University of Technology Minna (Dr Sadiat Adetoro); ABU Zaria (Dr Opeyemi Quadri); University of Jos (Mrs Tihyaunin Dang); Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Portharcourt (Mrs Benedicta Uchendu); Redeemers University, Ede (Dr Basiru Adetomiwa); & Lagos State University of Science & Technology (Dr Taiwo Ajayi).



# The LIBSENSE RDM Group Report - summary

An individual work plan was developed with a set of coordinated activities around the priority areas with an emphasis on what group members can implement in their institution.

## **Priority Area 1a: Governance Structures for Research Ethics and RDM (Institutional)**

- Set up a committee to oversee the development (or review) of research ethics and RDM policy in the institutions.
- Stakeholder engagement on the need for defining roles around RDM and research ethics in the institution.

## **Priority Area 1b: Governance Structures for Research Ethics and RDM (National)**

- Review existing policies and guidelines by gathering information on national policies (e.g. the Nigerian Data Protection Act) and identifying 'who is responsible for what roles' related to research ethics and Research Data Management in Nigeria.

# The LIBSENSE RDM Group Report - summary

## **Priority Area 2:** Alignment of **Inter-institutional Collaborations** with Institutional and National Research Ethics/RDM Policies

- Compare and analyse the policy framework of different institutions by looking for similarities, standards, ethical issues, and regulations governing research ethics (and RDM) and aligning them with National research ethics and regulations.

## **Priority Area 3:** Alignment of **International Collaborations** with Institutional and National Research Ethics/RDM Policies

- Compare and analyse the ethical guidelines and policies of various institutions with other universities that align with international standards.
- Advocate for the creation (review or implementation) of research ethics and RDM policy (including the IR policy)

# The LIBSENSE RDM Group Report - summary

**Priority Area 4:** Aligning **Capacity Building Plans** with Policy Development and Implementation in Research Ethics and RDM

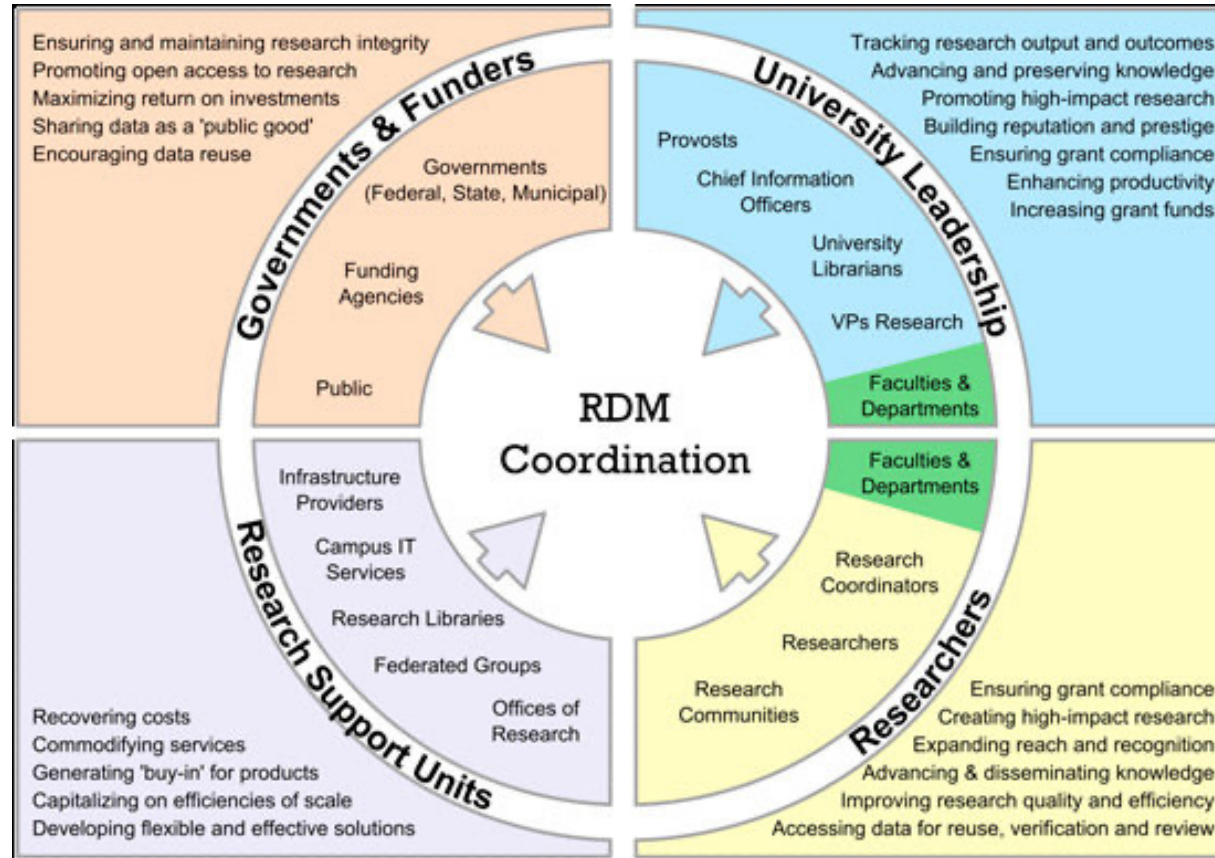
- Create awareness and advocacy for the implementation of research ethics & RDM policy.
- Workshops and training for researchers, librarians, postgraduate students, and faculty staff on open-access resources and tools such as the ORCID, Google Scholar, the DORA initiative, Institutional Repository, RDM practices, metadata schema, open data repositories, and use of open licenses for sharing research data and codes.

**Priority Area 5:** Aligning **Research Infrastructure** with Policy Development and Implementation in Research Ethics and RDM

- Kick-start conversations on available research infrastructure and ensure alignment with existing policies, rules and guidelines in the institution.
- Engaging technology (software and hardware) experts from the industry and international partners on research infrastructure that is relevant to the Nigerian research environment.



# RDM Stakeholders



Source: Flores et al. (2015).

Libraries and the Research Data Management Landscape

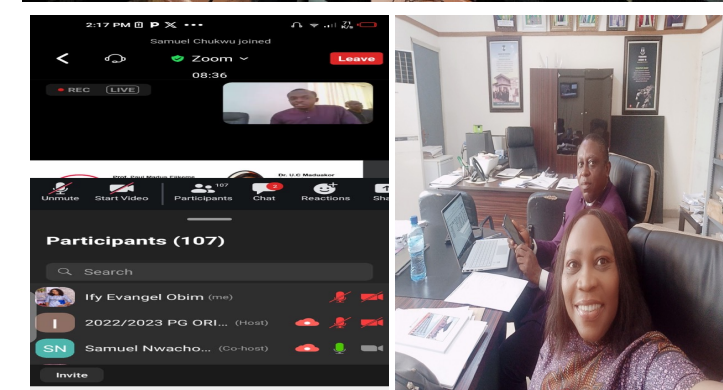
# Impact & Next Steps

1. Establishing the University Research Committee headed by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) and the Library.
2. Increase in the awareness and number of researchers with persistent identifiers (ORCID) in the institution
3. Capacity building for postgraduate students, librarians, and faculty staff on open access literature search and use of open data repository.
4. Stakeholder engagement on RDM and Research Ethics policy review and implementation.

**It is hoped that funding can be secured to help build capacity around the developed work plans for a holistic deployment of the Open Science Framework in Africa.**



Source: UNESCO Open Science Pillar (2021)  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open\\_science#/media/File:UNESCO-Open\\_science-pillars-en.png](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open_science#/media/File:UNESCO-Open_science-pillars-en.png)



*Thank you*  
for your time!

For further information regarding the survey and workshop report, please email:

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