

Enabling global reach and discoverability of African research data

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VP Open Research,
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AfricArXiv Open Science Webinar

29 February 2024

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Manager, Figshare

Agenda



- How we started
- Repositories as a core service to enable discoverability
- Figshare's initiatives in Africa
- Figshare's integrations with PIDs & built-in integrations
- What does the future look like?

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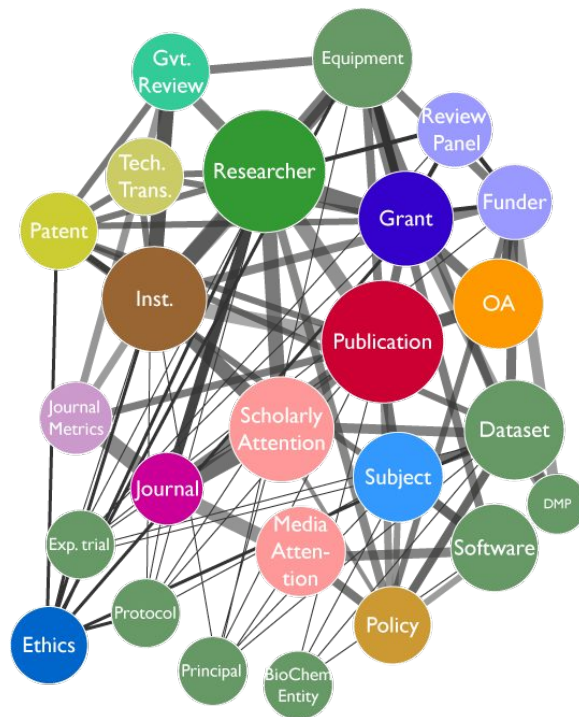
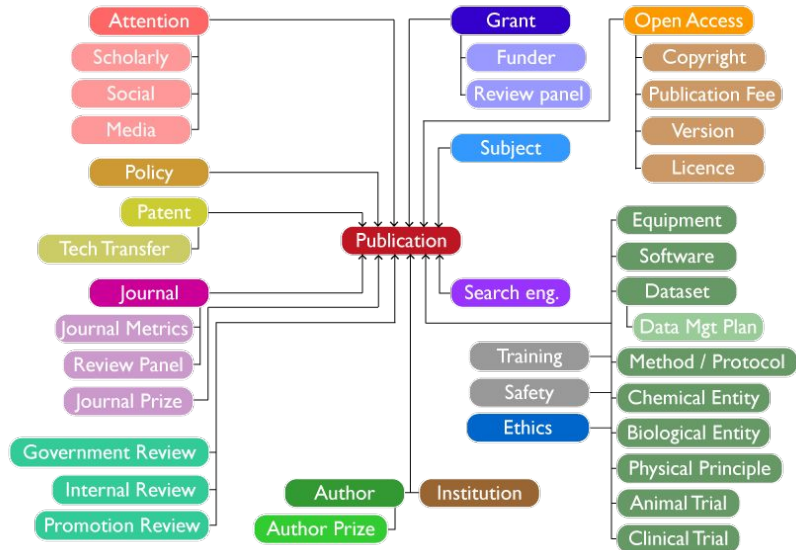
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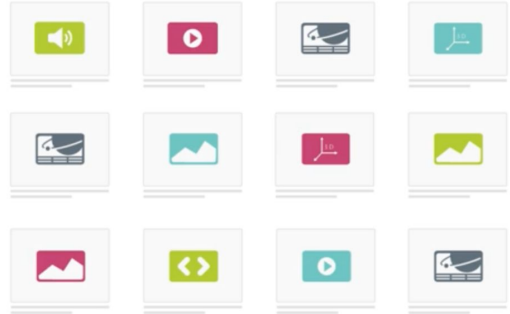
I am not alone





Repositories as a core service to enable discoverability

An infrastructure that you
~~have to build and maintain~~
simply configure and let run



data in one place funder compliant rich in metadata

Showcasing research as it is meant to be visualised



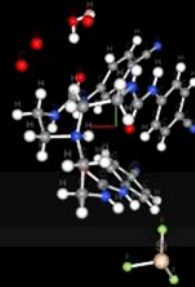
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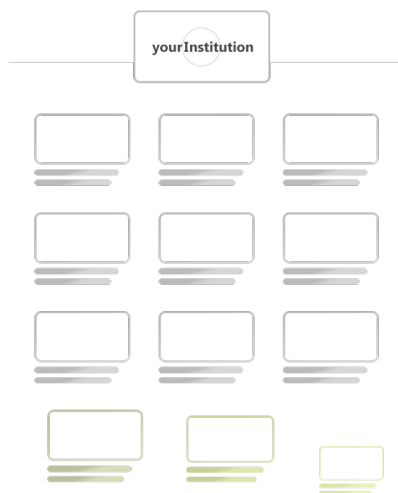
MD5: 1b4af42aeef41b70918e2f1deb8d4d99 |

ic202747q_si_005.cif (24.09 kB)



The boring (but important!) bits

- Turnkey SaaS (software as a Service)
- Researcher or administrator-led deposit workflows
- ISO 27001 certified
- WCAG 2.1 AA compliant
- Use Figshare-provided AWS storage or any compatible storage provider
- Integrate with your institution's SSO for quick and easy access
- API and FTP uploader for programmatic uploads

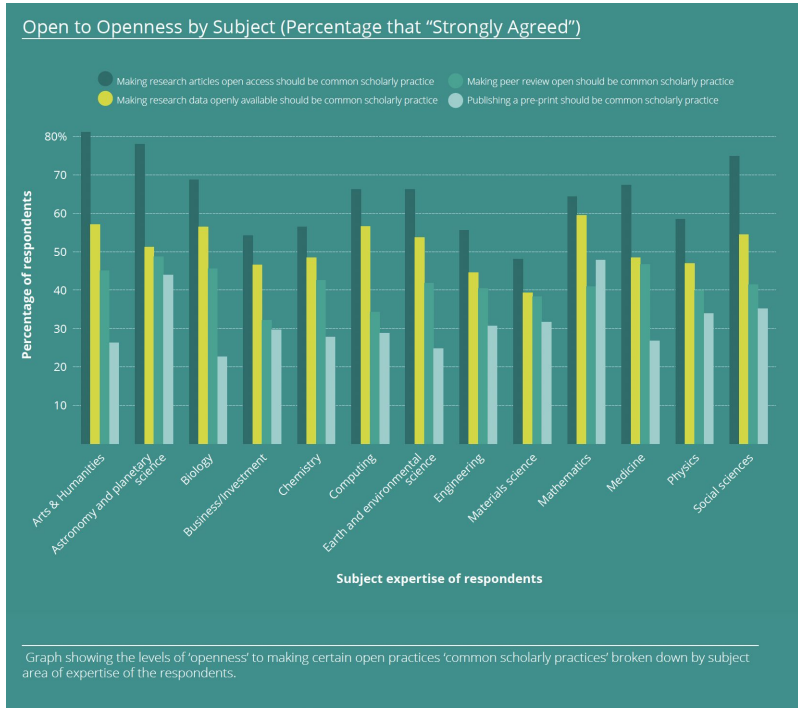
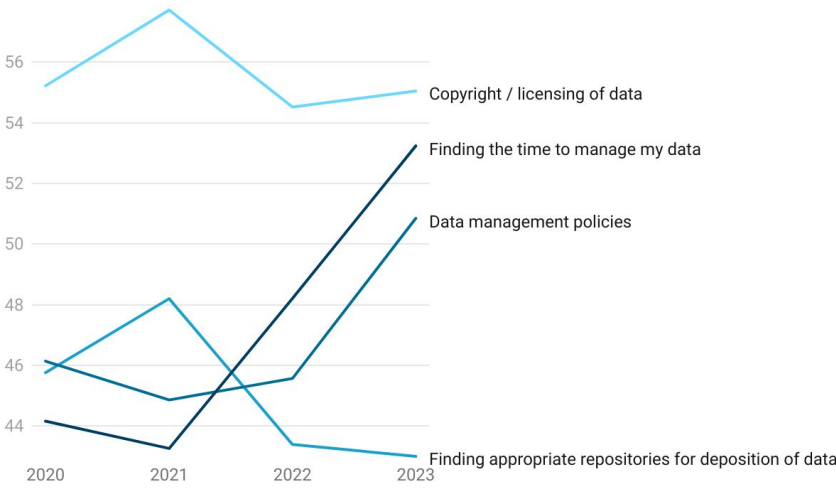


- All items are assigned a digital object identifier (DOI) or handle
- Views, downloads, citations, and altmetrics are displayed with click-throughs to Dimensions and Altmetric for a deep-dive into the impact of your data
- Access to a statistics dashboard for your administrative staff
- Integrate with CRIS or RIMS systems like Symplectic Elements and Pure to measure the impact of your institution's research outputs



The Why. Researchers all over the world need lots of help

What areas, if any, do you feel you need help with in regard to making your research data openly available?



Graph showing the levels of 'openness' to making certain open practices 'common scholarly practices' broken down by subject area of expertise of the respondents.

Who can help researchers?



Who would researchers be willing to receive support from to help in reviewing, curating and preparing their data for public release?

41%

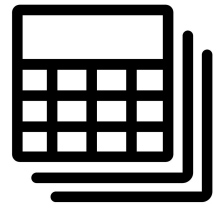
relied upon
Publishers

38%

relied upon their own
Institution
(including research
office, peers and
librarians)



How can repositories help?



+



figshare

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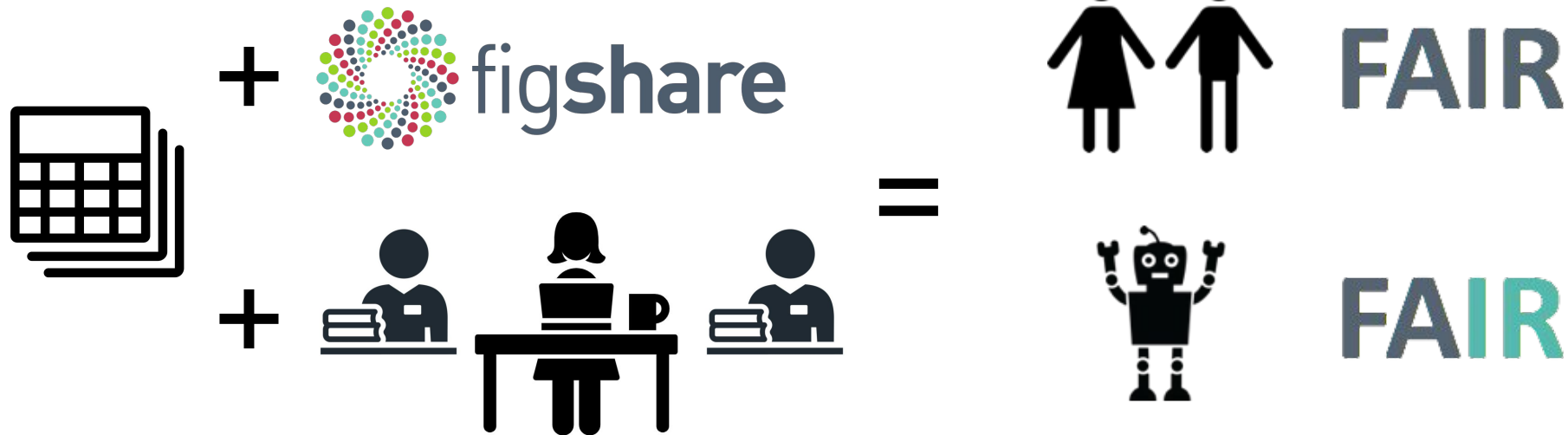


FAIR

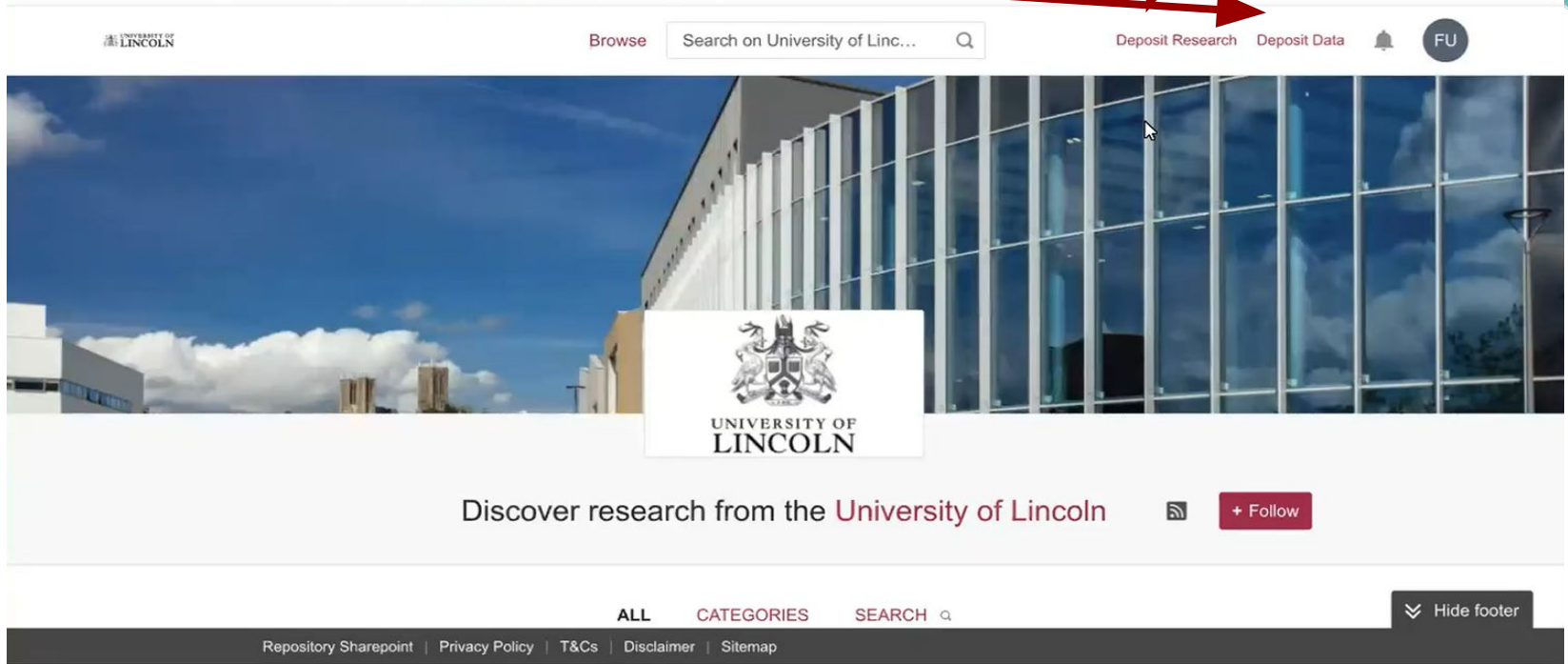


FA

How can repositories help?



Born for data sharing, Figshare can host publications + research data



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10,209,885 views

1,920,269 downloads

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5 groups in total



Open Data



Open Education Resources



Open GLAM



Open Publications



Open Theses

<https://opal.latrobe.edu.au/groups>

Institutions produce lots of content



Discover research from **South Africa** [+ Follow](#)

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QUESTION 1 (10 marks)
Find the derivatives of the following functions:
a) $y = 3x^2 + 3x - 4$ [4]
b) $y = \frac{1}{x^2}$ (Use logarithmic differentiation) [6]

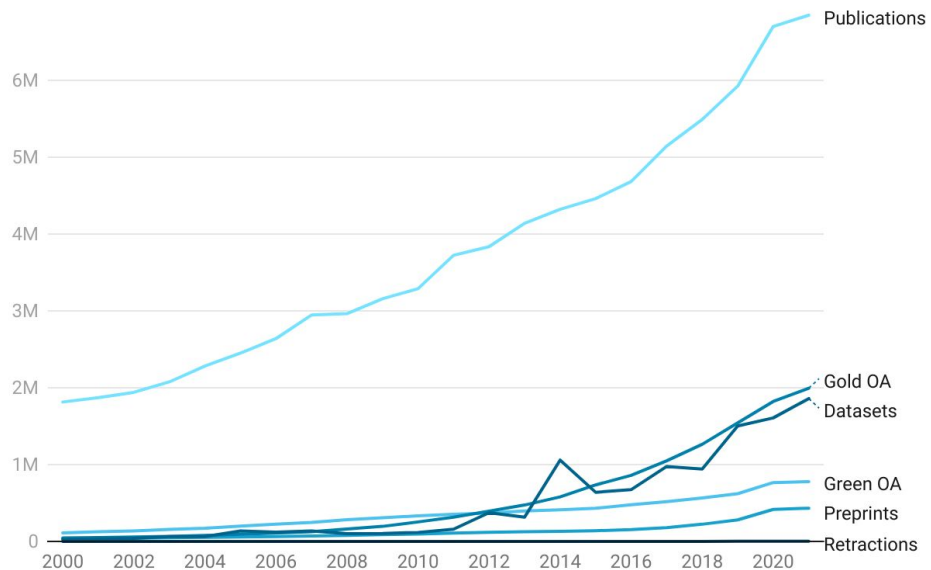
QUESTION 2 (7 marks)
Prove the following identities:
a) $\sin^2 \theta + \cos^2 \theta = 1$ [4]
b) $1 + \tan^2 \theta = \sec^2 \theta$ [3]

QUESTION 3 (5 marks)
A cone dropped in a pond sinks out a circular ripple whose radius increases at a constant rate of 4 cm/s . After 12 seconds how rapidly is the area enclosed by the ripple increasing? [5]

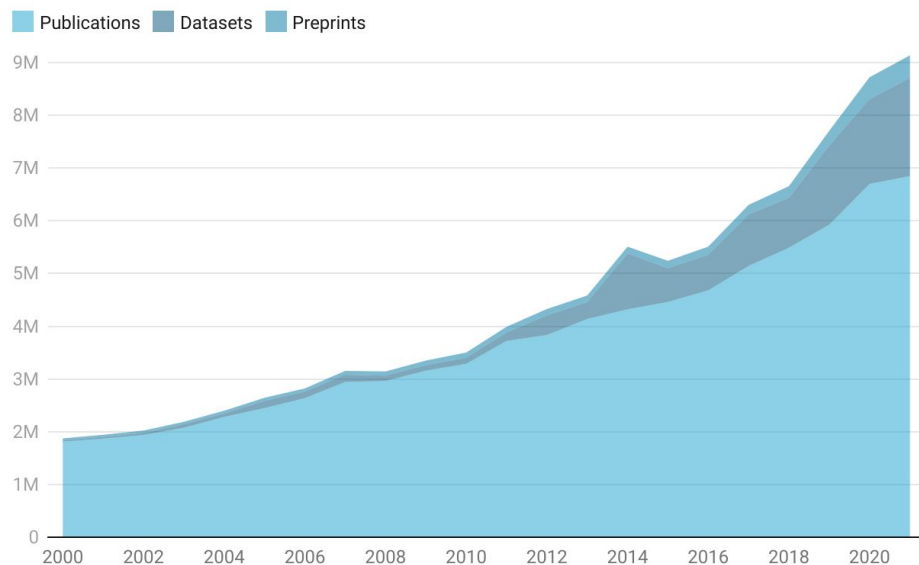
There is a lot of content in general



Academic Publishing Outputs



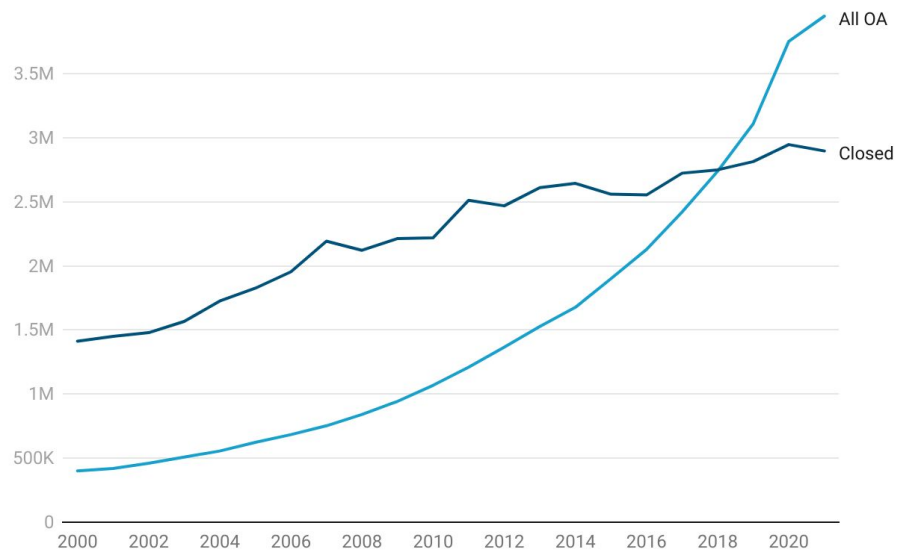
Cumulative Academic Publishing Outputs



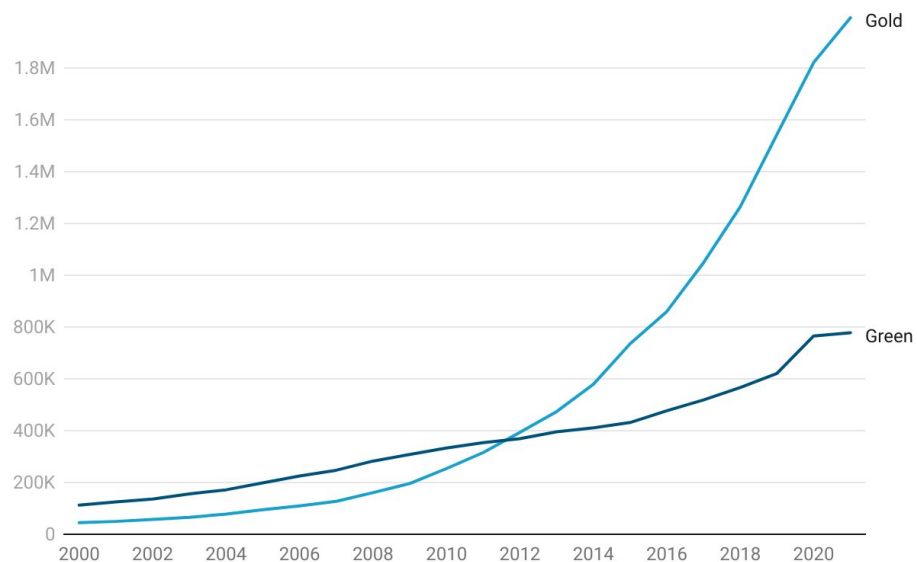
Green vs Gold



Open vs Closed Access Publishing



Gold vs Green Open Access Publishing



We are part of the bigger ecosystem



Figshare as an all-in-one institutional repository: Loughborough University's DSpace migration, reconfiguration of the data repository and reintegration with Symplectic Elements

Background

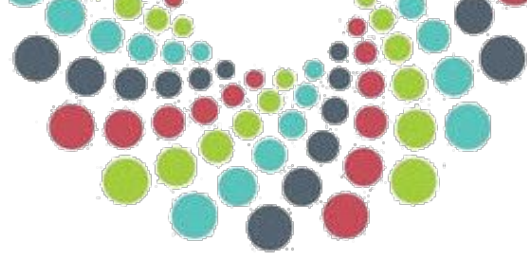
Loughborough University implemented and configured Figshare to be used as a data repository in 2014. In 2018, work began to restructure the data repository to be used as an all-in-one multidisciplinary institutional repository that included a wide range of research output types including data, journal papers, theses and media. This required a collaborative rethink of the Figshare group structure, metadata, and ingest workflows, as well as a revised integration with LUPIN (Loughborough's instance of Symplectic Elements) and a migration of records from their existing DSpace repository into Figshare.



[Loughborough University](https://www.loughborough.ac.uk/)

Rationale

The University put out a tender to modernise, host and maintain their existing DSpace institutional repository. Key features were that it must deliver against open access requirements, ensure that research from the university was publicly available and accessible in order to maximise stakeholder engagement and publicity, fulfil REF conditions and interoperate with existing internal and external systems.



Figshare enabling global reach and discoverability of African research data

Trends in African Research - Publications volume



PUBLICATIONS 1,803,122	DATASETS 146,460	GRANTS 230,934	PATENTS 103,216	CLINICAL TRIALS 24,985	POLICY DOCUMENTS 13,928
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> ANALYTICAL VIEWS | PUBLICATIONS

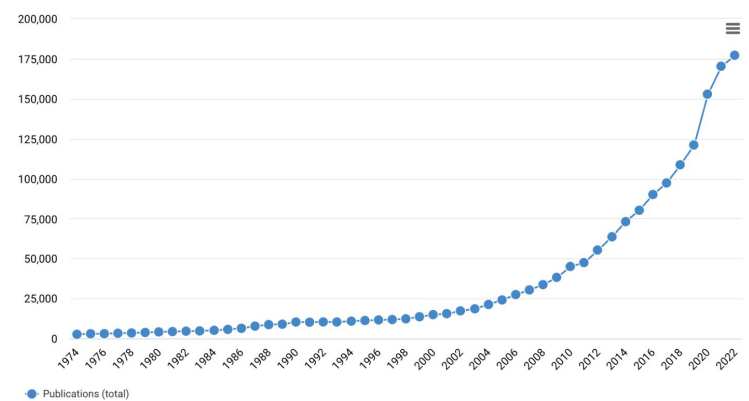
- RESEARCH CATEGORIES
- OVERVIEW**
- OPEN ACCESS
- RESEARCHERS
- SOURCE TITLES
- PUBLISHERS
- FUNDERS
- RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS
- PLACES
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Overview
related to your search [About indicators](#)

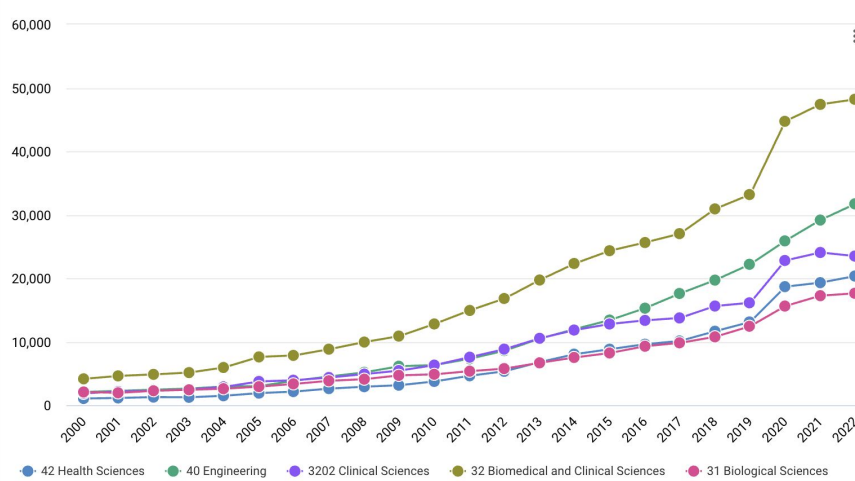
Publications
Indicator
Total

All years: **1,811,662**

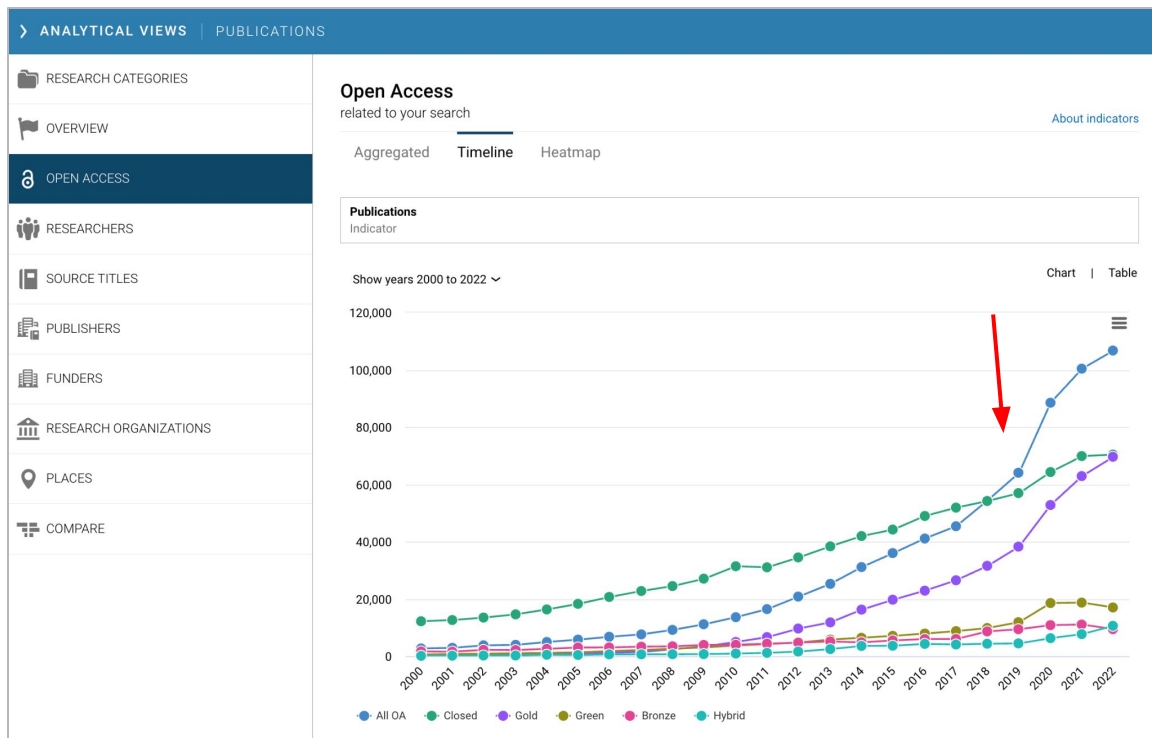
Show years 1974 to 2022 Chart | Table



Show years 2000 to 2022 Chart | Table



Trends in African Research - OA Publications volume



2018

Open Access related to your search [About indicators](#)

Aggregated Timeline Heatmap

Publications | Citations | Citations (Mean) | FCR (geo mean) | Publications with attention | Publications with attention (%) Indicator

Mean | Change

Export table

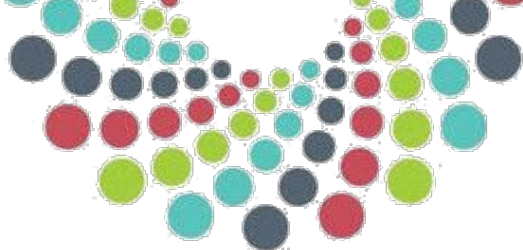
Name	Publications	Citations	Citations mean	FCR geo mean	Publications with att...	Publications with att... (%)
All OA	54,297	797,316	14.68	1.90	22,500	41.44
Closed	54,221	598,157	11.03	1.58	11,125	20.52
Gold	31,382	421,195	13.42	1.96	12,763	40.67
Green	9,925	199,014	20.05	2.53	5,232	52.72
Bronze	8,649	77,498	8.96	0.85	2,161	24.99
Hybrid	4,341	99,609	22.95	2.96	2,344	54.00

Repositories are pillars of the FAIR principles



Figshare supports open access / open science by providing researchers, universities, etc. with an open access platform to

- share, showcase and preserve research data, enabling global reach
- make research outputs discoverable in a Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable (FAIR) way



Figshare's initiatives in Africa

Figshare's global reach



Supporting African research communities



**Providing
equitable priced
repository
infrastructure**

**Supporting
strategic
partners in the
continent**

**Contributing to
thought
leadership /
capacity
building**

Figshare in South Africa

Figshare has been providing quality, affordable data repository infrastructure to South African Universities since 2019, via TENET (Tertiary Education and Research Network of South Africa) Consortium since 2020

<https://knowledge.figshare.com/in/south-africa>




Future-proofing South African Education and Research Libraries

A thriving, expanding community of 17 South African institutions is using Figshare-powered data repositories to showcase a wide range of research outputs - from data on cultural heritage sites and scientific research to digital archives.



Figshare in South Africa
knowledge.figshare.com/in/south-africa



How does Figshare work with South African libraries?

TENET, the Tertiary Education and Research Network of South Africa NPC, supports its research community's needs with the provision of specialised, targeted value-added services that universities and research institutions require.

Membership of the Figshare Consortium is open to most South African Universities, libraries and research councils since 2020.

TENET operates a consortium that provides eligible institutions with preferential access to Figshare for Institutions, helping make South African research more visible.

Find out more about the Tenet Figshare Consortium
tenet.ac.za/services/figshare



What is Figshare?

Figshare is an open access turnkey Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) repository solution for institutions.

Figshare's infrastructure and global community provides institutions with a platform for their researchers to share and preserve their research outputs - including large datasets - in a findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable (FAIR) way.



Discover Figshare for Institutions
knowledge.figshare.com/institutions

Figshare for Institutions helps libraries to comply with institutional requirements regarding current and future national and international policies on research data management from governments and funders.

South Africa National Research Repository



- Strong and mature South African research community (17 individual data repositories and growing) sharing a wide range of research data outputs in all disciplines.
- Figshare-built aggregated repository [Discover Research from South Africa](#) searches all the individual data repositories together, making South Africa's research data more visible.



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Search on South Africa...



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Discover research from **South Africa**



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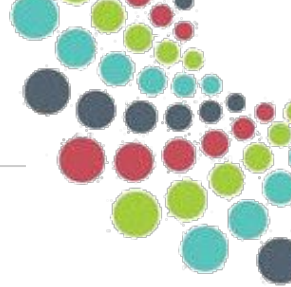
GROUPS

SEARCH 

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Partnership with AfricArXiv



The screenshot shows the AfricArXiv website header with navigation links: HOME, ABOUT, SUBMIT, PROJECTS, NEWS, EVENTS, CONTACT, and PRESS. The main content area features a large banner with the text 'How To Submit' and a map of Africa. Below the banner, the text reads: 'We are working towards building an Africa-owned preprint repository. Meanwhile and to allow for maximum discoverability of African research output, we are partnering with established scholarly repository providers.' Below this, it says: 'Submit your research accomplishments (manuscripts, presentations, datasets, posters, ...) to the AfricArXiv collection at any of our partner repositories.'

<https://info.africanarxiv.org/how-to-submit/>



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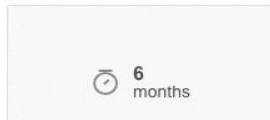
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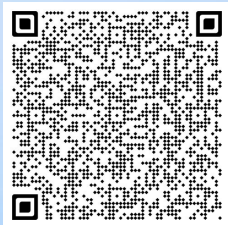




**African Library &
Information Associations
& Institutions**



**A partnership to promote open
data awareness and
participation in Africa**



AfLIA Conference repository



5th AfLIA Conference & 7th African Library Summit HYBRID

THEME Future of learning, libraries and sustainable development in Africa.

 Erata Hotel,
Accra, Ghana.

 22nd -
May,



African Library &
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<https://afia.figshare.com/>

AfLIA Conference repository



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In this past paper, the Training Centre in Communications (TCC) Africa and Digital Science advocates how we have been working with African librarians and researchers to support Open Science projects aiming to decolonise learning in Africa and put the power in the hands of African researchers, provide training and thought leadership to scholarly and science communication which have improved visibility of African researchers' outputs and facilitated to increase research acceptance, and increase the adoption of Digital Science's Open Science and Open Access to support the bases of research, literacy and sustainable development in Africa.

Why is Open Science Important in Africa?

Open Science, and in particular Open Data, are topics of huge importance to attain sustainable development. The UN Secretary-General's annual Sustainable Development Goals progress report issued in 2021 stated that "In early 2020, the world was not even close to meet its SDG targets". Alongside "the devastating consequences of COVID-19", the report also cites "the critical availability of quality data, including internationally comparable data on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as an enabler to effective decision-making".

Supporting the Decolonisation of Learning in Africa - The TCC Africa and Digital ... Conference contribution posted on 2023-12-23

Maria Cotera

5th AfLIA Conference & 7th African Library Summit
HYBRID

10TH Anniversary

THEME: Future of learning, libraries and sustainable development in Africa.

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS & CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Book of Abstracts: 5th AfLIA Conference & 7th African Library Summit
Book posted on 2023-12-23
AfLIA Admin

NANSAN
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University of Agulana, Okrika
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Abstract

This study investigated university libraries in STEAM learning ecosystems with a focus on Nigerian tertiary institutions. The study was guided by four specific objectives while employing a qualitative research approach. The population in 50, comprising university librarians in 45 of the selected universities in Nigeria. The entire population was studied. A semi-structured interview protocol was used to collect data. However, data collected was analysed using thematic analysis. Findings revealed the federal university libraries in Nigeria engage in the strategic utilization of information resources, and provision of STEAM learning-based services. It also revealed the provision of a wide range of teaching, learning and research resources to give and create space for STEAM. Four findings and management's poor perception of the library are among the challenges facing university libraries from becoming ecosystems for STEAM learning. Based on the findings, the study recommended that university libraries should be made state-of-the-art facilities, appropriately built and equipped to support innovation and further promote STEAM learning.

Keywords: Libraries, University libraries, Academic libraries, STEAM Learning.

University Libraries as STEAM Learning Ecosystems: A Qualitative ... Conference contribution posted on 2023-12-23

Ifeoma R. Echezona

Abstract

Digitally, libraries have become learning spaces where people need to learn and collaborate. This position has emerged over a lifetime from the traditional view of a physical materials in ICT Africa states in its environment. Through this transformation has been prevalent in the face of the global digital revolution, it has become more radical as a result of the global advent of the 4th industrial revolution and the subsequent Covid-19 pandemic, and the year 2020 which made great demands for learning as well as alternative learning resources. Consequently, libraries are not only required to provide and make available for use alternative resources, but to provide them actively in a reliable and reasonably accessible manner while making the same available for other innovative activities. The focus is justified by information systems model which posits that the most success and impact can be achieved by multiple demands for the feedback after a situation. National Library of Nigeria has gone up to this challenge with a view to support the bases of literacy in Nigeria and beyond in order to avoid any obvious, avoidable situation.



Abstract

Universally, in many societies, the literacy is dominated by Western culture and vision, perpetuating colonial perspectives and colonizing Eurocentric institutions. Consequently, African children interact more with content that is not relevant. The chances of the available books do not look like them, are less in tandem with their lives. They find that books have strange names, and the writing and even the number appear strange. While the differences may help to stretch the children's imagination, vision culture and perspective will begin to feel more authentic. The African Booklink ISBN is an award-winning initiative that promotes the development and use of open educational resources in local languages and content and provides a website and apps to facilitate the process. The AfLIA initiative can help to develop children's literacy for the present and future of learning. Readers can openly access the books on the website, in PDF or ePub format. By downloading them or using the AfLIA Reader App, The AfLIA Maker App on the other hand, allows

Abstract

Educational systems and institutions are established to produce graduates that are equipped with skills to provide solutions to societal challenges and advance human development. To achieve this, among other goals, these systems and institutions are required to use local materials that reflect global realities and community needs. There has been advocacy for content contextualization and integration into the curriculum in African library schools, to train librarians and information professionals as trained graduates in African library schools, to train librarians and information professionals as trained graduates and prepared to meet global standards in the provision of information services and actively involved in the provision of the sustainable development goals (SDGs). However, the extent of the willingness and readiness to create and implement content materials in African library schools is still characterized by uncertainty. What are the main issues to be investigated? Are the issues in line with SDGs?

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Abstract

The study focuses on developing eLearning for human resource development in Nigerian academic libraries. The descriptive survey design was adopted with a purposeful selection of Nigerian academic libraries purposefully selected across the nation as the population of study. Data was collected using an online survey questionnaire. The questionnaire items were scored according to a five-point Likert scale, that of 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). An exploratory factor analysis (EFA) was conducted to identify the underlying structure of the questionnaire items. The study revealed that the most important factors for eLearning are: digital content development in Nigerian academic libraries to the great extent; staff education, self-paced online courses, and self-paced management training among other issues. This chapter was found to be effective in the areas of improved and performance from capacity building, update and development of skills, knowledge, and abilities, and improved organizational innovation and competitiveness among others. The study also found high readiness to change among employees, high level of internet access, and high level of technology in part of

Leveraging eLearning for Human Resource Development in Academic ... Conference contribution posted on 2023-12-23

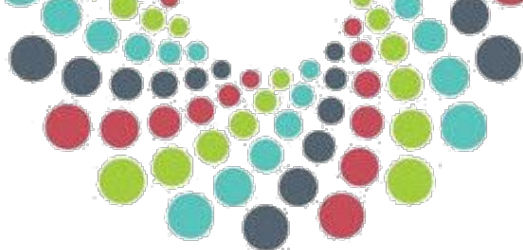
Chukwuemeka Chukwueke



Contributing to thought leadership / capacity building



- Planning and delivering capacity building programmes for librarians / repository managers on open data management, PIDs, the FAIR and CARE principles, etc. with CARLIGH, AflIA and others
- Supporting partners via conference sponsorship, speaking / chairing conference sessions and workshops / webinars (Botswana; South Africa; Ghana; Zambia; Uganda)



Figshare integrates with PIDs to assure discoverability

... by people and machines



DOIs
(research
outputs)

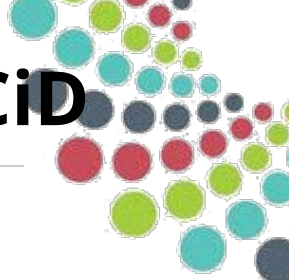
ORCID
(individual
researchers)

ROR
(research
institutions)

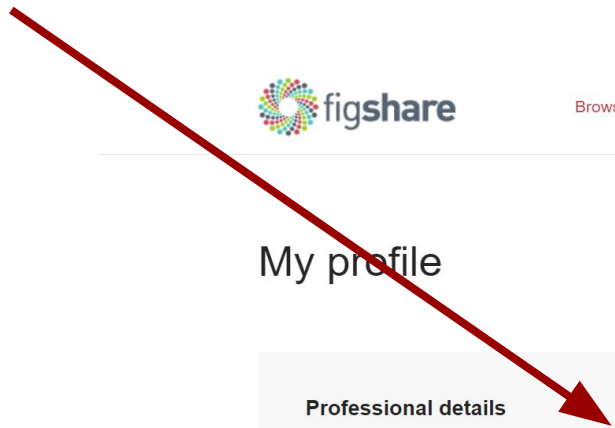
Figshare mints a Datacite DOI for each output






The screenshot shows a 'Manage identifiers' dialog box overlaid on a Figshare draft page. The dialog box has a title bar 'Manage identifiers' with a close button (X). Below the title bar, there is a paragraph: 'Here, you can manage persistent identifiers (PIDs) for your Item. A PID is a link that will always lead to the research output, regardless of a domain change. Find out more about persistent identifiers.' Below this is a sub-heading: 'The options below are available based on your institutional settings.' There are two radio button options: 'Preexisting' (selected) and 'Reserve DOI'. Under 'Preexisting', there is a 'Type' section with 'DOI' (selected) and 'Handle' options. A text input field contains the URL 'https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.175', with a 'Copy' button to its right. Below the input field is a note: 'Note: Figshare cannot update this identifier in any way, thus it will stay connected to the original location. Any changes remain the user's responsibility.' At the bottom of the dialog box are 'Save changes' and 'Close' buttons. The background shows a draft titled 'My Open Access Paper' with a file named 'peerj-175.pdf' (3.34 MB) and a 'Submit for review' button.





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ORCID	CONNECT and enable syncing with your ORCID 	 Change picture
First name	<input type="text" value="Maria"/>	
Last name *	<input type="text" value="Cotera"/>	
Job title	<input type="text" value="business development manager, figshare"/>	
Field of interest	<input type="text" value="Information and computing sciences, Engineering"/>	



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<https://help.figshare.com/article/how-to-sync-orcid>

ORCID 0000-0002-3109-4308 disconnect this ORCID

Configure ORCID

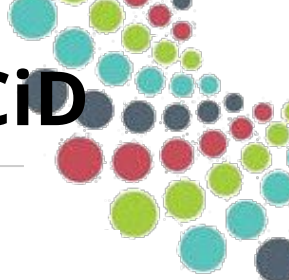
Once an option is switched to ON, the process will run automatically every time there is an update.

Push data to my ORCID
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Pull data from my ORCID to my account
Add to the **Publications** area of my profile the publications from my ORCID account. OFF

Create draft records from my ORCID data
Create draft records in My data of any new publications added from my ORCID account. OFF

Figshare author profiles integrate with ORCID



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 **0000-0003-4741-0309** 

Stem Cell Biologist, Open Scientist (*Biological sciences*)
London

 **Following** 






Mark Hahnel is the VP Open Research at Digital Science. He is the founder of Figshare, which he created whilst completing his PhD in stem cell biology at Imperial College London. Figshare currently provides research data infrastructure for institutions, publishers and funders globally. He is passionate about open science and the potential it has to revolutionize the research community. Mark sits on the board of DataCite and the advisory board for Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). He was on the judging panel for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Wellcome Trust Open Science prize and acted as an advisor for the Springer Nature master classes.

 Achievements

USAGE METRICS 

395468 item views	77864 item downloads	92 citations
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Co-workers & collaborators

-  Digital Science
-  Team Figshare
-  **Alan Hyndman**
Marketing - London
-  **Dan Valen**
Product at Figshare - Brooklyn, NY / New Haven, CT
-  **Grace Baynes**

Figshare and ROR (Research Organisation Registry)



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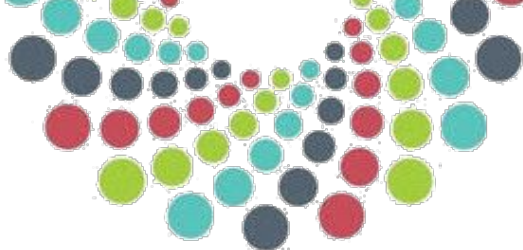
FAIR



FAIR

<https://ror.org/search>

<https://ror.org/blog/2021-07-12-ror-grid-the-way-forward/>



Figshare built-in integrations and open tools

Built-in integrations and open tools



Figshare API

Dimensions

Altmetrics

Figshare plays well with other systems



Openly documented
API



Discovery
Layers



Preservation
Systems



CRIS/RIM
Systems



Figshare provides usage metrics for discoverability



Views, downloads, citations, altmetrics from Dimensions database

Supporting Test Data: Comparing the Market Microstructure Between two South African Exchanges

1466 views 409 downloads 7 citations

Dataset posted on 2020-11-05, 06:08 authored by Ivan Jericevich, Patrick Chang, Aveshan Pillay, Tim Gebbie

Herewith attached, for the replication of results, are 5 days (2019-07-08 - 2019-07-12) of supporting test data for 10 JSE and A2X securities. The datasets provided directly by A2X comprise of messages from the market data feed while the JSE datasets comprise of trade and quote data obtained from Bloomberg Pro.

The usage metrics (1466 views, 409 downloads, 7 citations) are circled in red in the original image.

Dimensions DOCUMENTS Dataset: 10.25375/uct.13187891

PUBLICATIONS 4

POLICY DOCUMENTS

Title, Author(s), Bibliographic reference - About the metrics

Show abstract Sort by: Publication date

See attention in Altmetric Explorer

A simple learning agent interacting with an agent-based market model

Matthew Dicks, Andrew Paskaramoorthy, Tim Gebbie

2024, Physica A Statistical Mechanics and its Applications - Article

We consider the learning dynamics of a single reinforcement learning optimal execution trading agent when it interacts with an event-driven agent-based financial market model. Trading takes place asyn... more

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Many learning agents interacting with an agent-based market model

Matthew Dicks, Andrew Paskaramoorthy, Tim Gebbie

2023, arXiv - Preprint

We consider the dynamics and the interactions of multiple reinforcement learning optimal execution trading agents interacting with a reactive Agent-Based Model (ABM) of a financial market in event tim... more

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OVERVIEW

Citations Citations (Mean)

0 0.00

2

1

0

2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024

Publications (total)

<https://help.figshare.com/article/usage-metrics>

Usage metrics for discoverability (2)



Views, downloads, citations, altmetrics from Altmetric

The State of Open Data 2023.pdf (5.93 MB) 1/32

The State of Open Data 2023

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Report posted on 2023-11-14, 06:34 authored by [Digital Science](#), [Mark Hahnel](#), [Graham Smith](#), [henning schoenenberger](#), [Niki Scaplehorn](#), [Laura Day](#)

Digital Science, Figshare and Springer Nature are proud to share The State of Open Data 2023.


Now in its eighth year, The State of Open Data is the longest-running longitudinal analysis of researchers' attitudes towards and experiences of open data. This year's report features opening remarks from Springer Nature's CPO, Harsh Jegadeesan, and Digital Science's CEO, Daniel Hook.

Over 6000 researchers responded globally and for the first time, this year we asked respondents about their experiences of using artificial intelligence (AI) to collect and share data.

Digital Science, Figshare and Springer Nature extend their thanks to Shift Insight, who collected the 2023 survey data and undertook the initial analysis, as well as our all-important respondents who provided us with unparalleled insights and enabled us to bring the survey findings to the wider research community.


USAGE METRICS


19291 views **6137** downloads **0** citations



Is supplemented by

[Survey questions and data](#)





126

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- 32 X users
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SUMMARY

News Blogs X Facebook

Title The State of Open Data 2023 [View on publisher site](#)

Published on figshare, November 2023


DOI 10.6084/m9.figshare.24428194 [external link icon](#)

Authors Science, Digital, Hahnel, Mark, Smith, Graham, schoenenberger, henning, Scaplehorn, Niki, Day... [show](#)

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<https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.24428194.v1>

<https://figshare.altmetric.com/details/156433551>

What does the future look like?



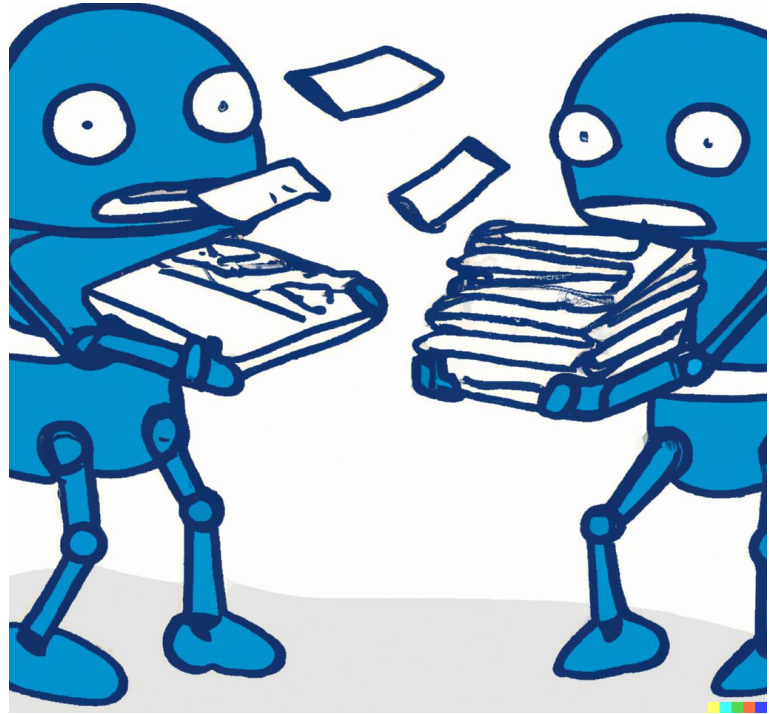
- Institutions will continue consolidating infrastructure
 - One repository for data and publications / thesis
- AI and machine learning - How can these tools be used in the repository space?
- Usability for both admins and users will always be important

What does the future look like?



🧹 The Machines Curate and Clean Academic Content

🌮 The Machines Consume and Generate New Academic Content



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Questions?

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