

A Research Support Framework for Postgraduate Students: WITS Libraries' UX Strategy

Lazarus Matizirofa

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Structure of the presentation

- ❑ South African Strategic Postgraduate Training
- ❑ WITS Postgraduate Training Strategy
- ❑ WITS Library Postgraduate Research Support Framework
- ❑ Objectives of the WITS Library Research Support Framework
- ❑ Library Research Services
- ❑ Libraries & Research Spaces
- ❑ Research Staff Capacities
- ❑ Bench Marking & Best Practice (Research Support Service)
- ❑ Way Forward – Marketing the Strategy
- ❑ New WITS Libraries' Vision & Restructuring



South African Strategic Context: PG Training

Wits operates, within the South African higher education and research landscape, which is framed by a number of key national strategies, i.e. the National Development Plan (NDP) which calls upon the country's higher education sector to deliver the following by 2030:

- An increase in the proportion of academic staff with a PhD to 75% of the total;
- An improvement in the quality of teaching and learning;
- An increase in the participation rate so that the total enrolments amount to 1.62m;
- An increase in the throughput rate to more than 75% (or the graduation rate to more than 25%) of students;
- An increase in the number of PG students to 25% of total enrolments;
- The graduation of more than 100 doctoral graduates per million of total population;
- A doubling and commensurate increase in the number of women and black postgraduates graduating with science degrees.



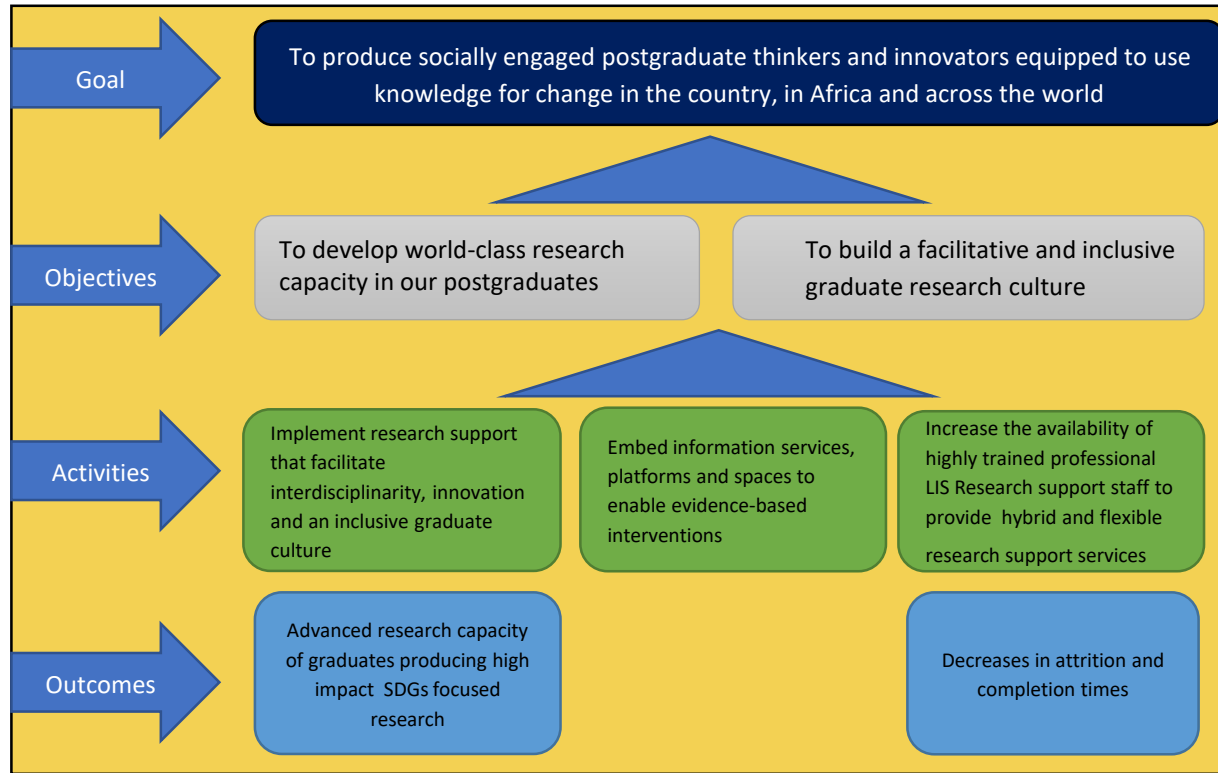
WITS Postgraduate Training Strategy

- ❑ Strategic Framework for Postgraduate (PG) Research Support is a strategy of the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg and its internal directorates – DRI, Postgraduate Studies Department, Faculties and WITS libraries
- ❑ The purpose of the **Research Support Framework** is to provide aspirational goals and associated services that will shape and direct investment and activities across the University in the field of PG research and training
- ❑ The 2023- 2027 Strategic Plan for PG Research Training was developed under the umbrella of the Wits Vision 2023 Strategic Framework that positions the University at the “leading edge of the Global South” (Wits, 2022).
- ❑ Ms & Ds = 15740 (2023)

The Wits University Context: Postgraduates

- ❑ Students are the lifeblood of a university and form its most precious intellectual pipeline
- ❑ The University has committed to increasing the quantity and quality of its research and postgraduates since identifying itself as “research intensive” at the turn of the century
- ❑ Inherent in the notion of research intensity is that research is strongly enabled by the PG cohort of the University and indeed that research and PG training are two sides of the same coin, in the knowledge economy

WITS Libraries PG Research Support Framework

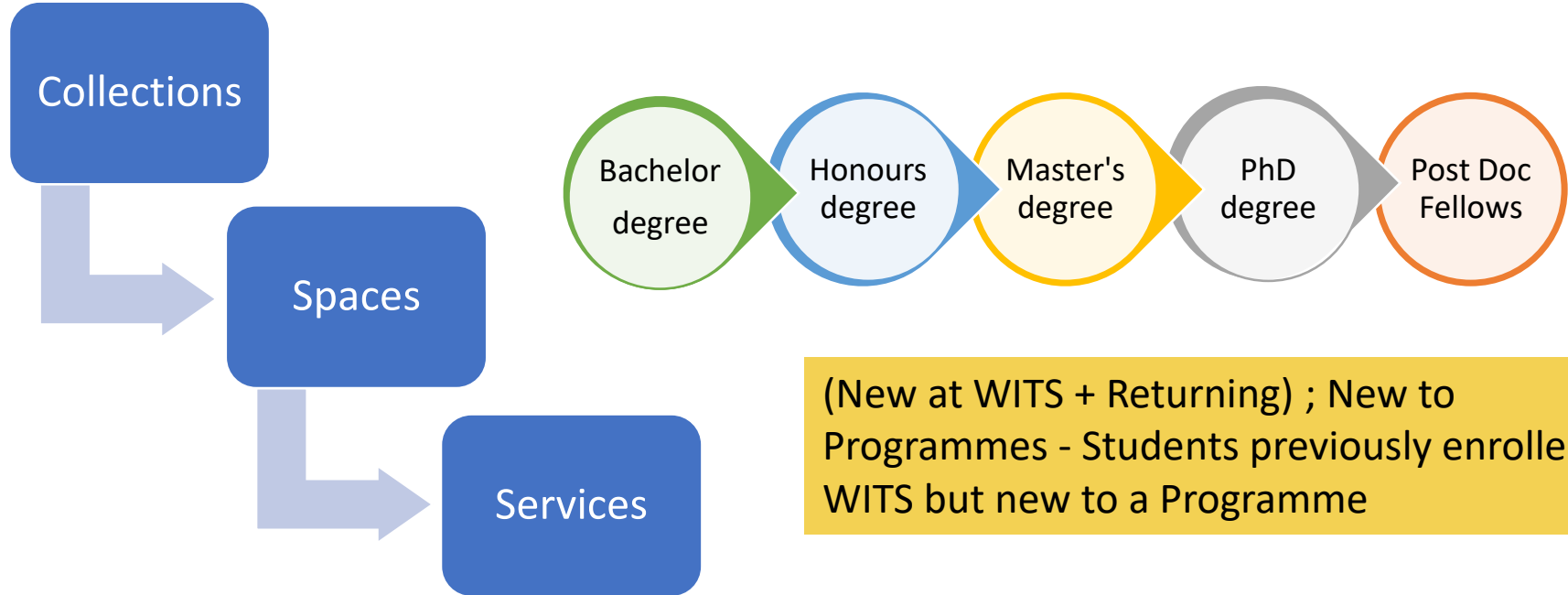


Graduates/Researchers of the Future

- ❑ Guided by the University's pursuit of research excellence and relevance, the Library and Information Service aims to provide a variety of services to support postgraduate students, at each stage of the research lifecycle
- ❑ The Libraries' service areas will ensure access to the best possible academic sources, facilitating scholarly communication and promoting research output, as well as research visibility



Building a Pipeline for Academic Excellence



Objective 1

Establish regular and formal co-operation with the Department of Research to achieve a common understanding on Scholarly Communication services and development of institutional research support capacity in particular:-

- ❑ To clarify roles of the Library, the Postgraduate Studies Department & Faculty in support to Postgraduate students, and to **identify areas of intense collaboration between the main stakeholders**
- ❑ To get the Department of Research involved in spearheading the process of bringing all stakeholders on board
- ❑ To familiarise students with the university's expectations for postgraduate studies and the kinds of attributes that it intends to develop in its postgraduate students
- ❑ To promote academic and social integration into the university and cultivate a sense of belonging and community among students that includes commitments to regional and international inclusivity



Objective 2

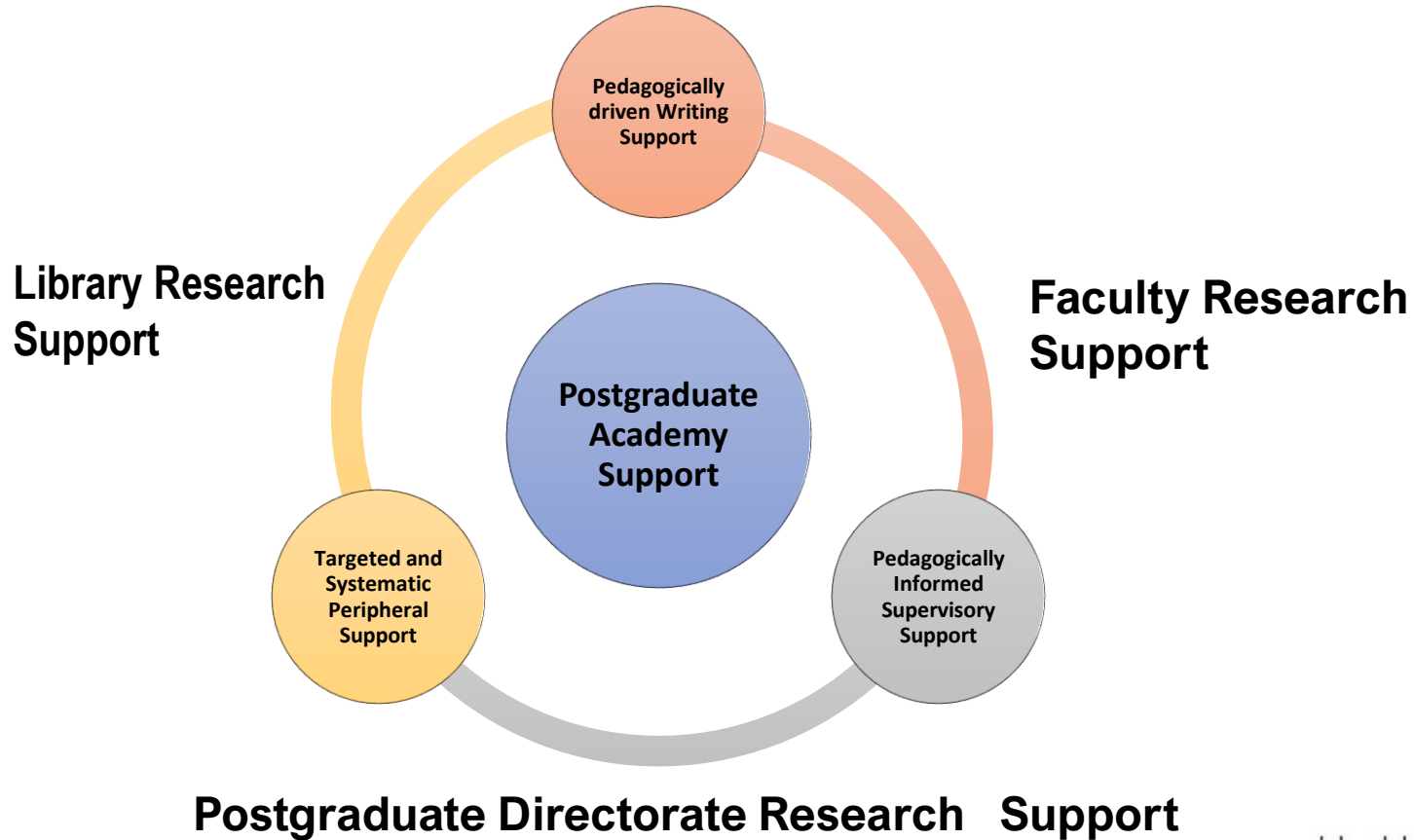
Build an advanced research capacity and encourage the creation of an inclusive research culture amongst new first year M & D students which is central to the postgraduate strategy of the University

- ❑ To help new postgraduate students from a range of different undergraduate programmes and backgrounds experience a near seamless transition from undergraduate to postgraduate studies
- ❑ To familiarise students with the physical and virtual libraries, the range of research resources available and research support services as required
- ❑ To help students make a strong start to their postgraduate studies by providing foundational structured academic/research support, both content and skills development



First Year: M & D Student Orientation ???

PG: A Structured, Systematic & Shared Support



Library Research Support

Library search

Search

[Advanced search](#) | [Specific search](#) | [Databases](#)

Searching help

- Books and eBooks
- Journal articles
- Databases
- Theses
- Online newspapers
- Government publications
- Archives, Museum & Special collections

Borrowing

- Information on borrowing items
- Interlibrary loans
- Laptop loans - borrow a laptop in the Library
- Headphones
- Other



Library Research Support

Prompt availability to give a service/answer questions

 Helpdesk/Virtual Assistance

Subject specific

- Subject guides
- Book an appointment for help with Faculty/Subject Research librarian
- Reading lists
- Self-paced training
- Literature and systematic reviews

Referencing

- Referencing styles
- Using Endnote and Endnote Basic
- Copyright advice
- Plagiarism and Self-plagiarism
- Intellectual Property Advice
- Self-paced training

Research Data Management

Research begins

- Including data costs in funding applications
- Data planning
- Choosing file formats
- Intellectual Property and Commercialisation
- Data Protection & RDM support
- University Ethics Committee(s)
- Research Ethics and Governance

Research in Progress

- Research integrity
- Reproducibility, Stats and Research Design
- Naming files
- Documentation
- Research notebooks
- Data storage Options

Approaching Completion

- Repositories for long-term data storage
- Enlighten: Research Data
- Data Deposit Form (Enlighten: Research Data)
- Selection and Preservation
- Research Data Management checklist



Publishing Support

Publications & Data Sets

- Managing publishing processes
- Enlightening Ms & Ds - workshops
- Data management support for Ms & Ds
- 3 minute ETD competition
- ETD visualisation
- Open access publications

Research Impact

- Support for research impact
- Knowledge exchange and innovation
- Public engagement
- IP & commercialisation

- ✓ Publishing and curating theses and dissertations
- ✓ Archiving conference papers and journal articles
- ✓ Tracking metrics and reporting

Research & Impact Support

Increasing Research Visibility & Impact

- Carry out the research

A ? B ? C



Data & Results



1

- Publish the research



2

- Create communication assets



video abstract

visual summary



podcast

press release

3

- Disseminate assets to widen visibility



conferences & meetings



social media & digital networking sites



4

- Evaluate reach and impact of research

Citations

Downloads

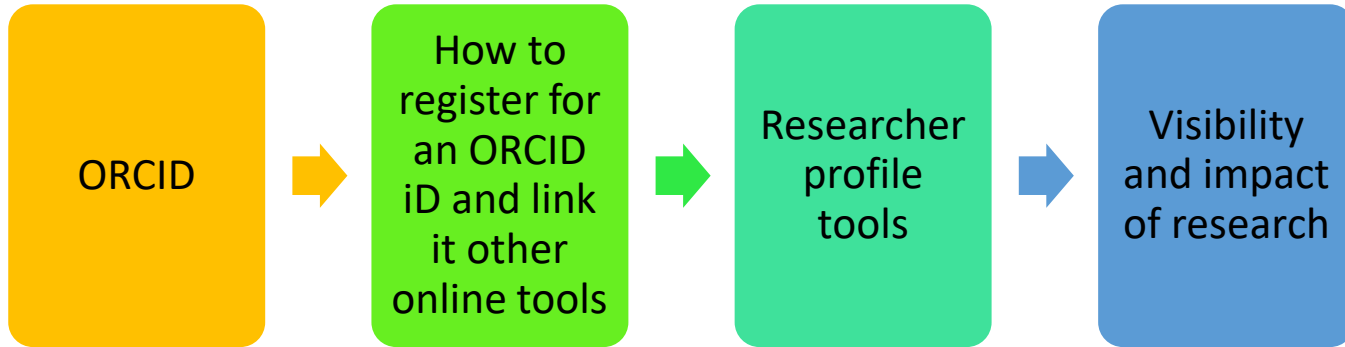
metrics of social media SHARING

Measure Real World CHANGE

5



ORCID & Researcher Tools



Benefits



**GREATER RESEARCH IMPACT FACTOR
GENERATES INTERNATIONAL &
LOCAL ATTENTION**



**INCREASED VISIBILITY TO GENERATE
COLLABORATIVE PROSPECTS &
PARTNERSHIPS**



**HIGHER VISIBILITY & IMPACT
ATTRACTS FUNDERS & INCREASE 3RD
STREAM INCOME**



11 Specialised Faculty Libraries

Parktown Campus

Braamfontein East Campus

Braamfontein West Campus



Research Spaces – Specialised Faculty Libraries



**Architecture
Library**



Biophy Library



**Commerce
Library**



Education Library



**Engineering
Library**



GeoMaths Library



**Historical Papers
Archive (Hum)**



Law Library



**Health Sciences
Library**



**William Cullen
Library (Hum)**



**Library of
Management**





Wartenweiler Library, Braamfontein Campus East: Clare M Walker Open Learning Area



Multi-functional Spaces: Individual, Group Study and Training Areas



Research Support:
Group and Auditorium
Training Rooms



Wits Digitisation Centre, The Past and a New Window into the FUTURE

Historical Papers Research Archive



- One of the largest independent archives in South Africa, more than 3400 collections
- Our holdings contain the collections of NGOs, trade unions, political parties, women's organizations, large volume of political trials, the personal papers of human rights activists, artists, photographers and other cultural workers, sports, civil society movements and organizations.
- Sensitive archives from the Apartheid era
- As an archival institution we serve civil society to transform archives into accessible and transparent institutions.

South African History Archive returns home

12 April 2022 - Wits University

SAHA was officially relaunched at Wits and will be part of the Archives and Research Hub.





Preserving Medical History since 1962

The **WITS Adler Museum of Medicine** preserves the history of the health sciences in Southern Africa, with special reference to Gauteng. It supplements the educational activities of the University, especially the Health Sciences, by means of collections, research, teaching, exhibitions and publications – this source of resources can supplement **DH**

Wits Art Museum (WAM) is home to the largest and most significant holdings of African arts in southern Africa. The collection is made up of different sub-collections which were added at various times in the Museum's history

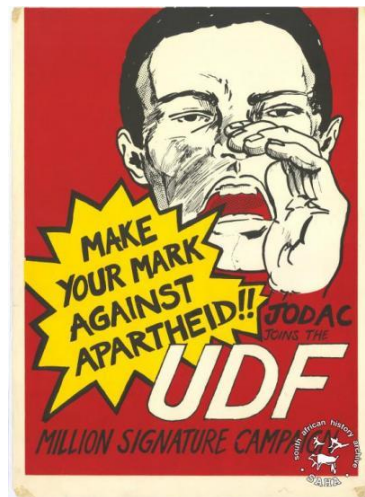


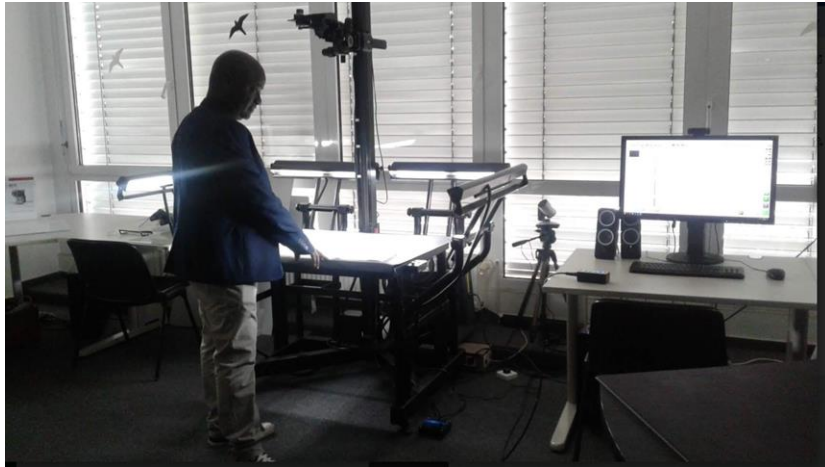
SAHA AS ACTIVIST ARCHIVE

SAHA seeks to collect and preserve histories which others institutions neglect to do.

Primary objectives:

1. Recapture lost and neglected histories
2. Record aspects of South African democracy in the making
3. Bring history out of the archives and into schools, universities and communities in new and innovative ways
4. Extend the boundaries of freedom of information in South Africa
5. Raise awareness of the role of archives and documentation in promoting and defending human rights.





Research Support Staff - Skills/Knowledge



Academic Support (Research librarians)

Information Literacy

Digital Literacy (not excluding ALL literacies)

ChatGTP Literacy

Writing Skills

Copyright & Plagiarism

Literature Reviews & Systematic reviews

Referencing & Plagiarism



Scholarly Communication Support (Open Scholarship)

Publishing (OA & TAs), Copyright & IP, CC

Research Data Management, OD

Data Science (Data carpentry)

Digital humanities, Digital scholarship

Open Repositories/Platforms

Metrics - Bibliometrics & Citations, SDGs

Research Evaluation & Measurement, i.e. NRF
Rating Support



WITS Libraries Research Support Enterprise

Research, Scholarly Communication, Digital Systems & Services	Research & Learning Services	Information Resources, Access & Operation Services
Research Visibility & Impact	Faculty Libraries	Metadata & Discovery
Research Data Management	Research Librarians	Collection Development
Digital Scholarship, Digital Humanities	Information Specialists	Interlibrary Loans
Archives, Museums & Special Collections, Digitisation	Lending Services	SDGs – Metadata for Societal Impact
Open Repositories & OJS, OMP Copyright, APC, Transformative Agreements (TAs)	User Education/Experience = Information Literacy Service	Donations & Special Collections
ICTs – Software & Hardware		

Benchmarking against leading International Research-Intensive Universities

- University of Adelaide (Australia)
- University of Essex (UK)
- Harvard University (USA)
- MIT (USA)
- University of Edinburgh (Scotland)



Discovery Services

Student want to...	We provide...	Who to contact...
1.1 Research and understand a topic or area	Electronic resources and databases, collection of hard copies, theses collection, institutional repository, archives, interlibrary loans, digitised resources and tools for discovery	Research librarians, Collection & Discovery Services, Special Collections & Archives, Repository Services
1.2 Identify all relevant literature	Guidance for systematic searches including online resources, training sessions and consultations	Research librarians Information Literacy coordinators
1.3 Apply new technology to humanities research	Advice and collaboration for Digital Humanities research projects with innovative elements	Repository Services, Digital Scholarship & Innovation, RDM, Open Scholarship
1.4 Apply digital methods to analyse sources	Digital Scholarship/Research Commons with primary source materials coupled with TDM (Text Data Mining) functionality including advice and training	Repository Services, Digital Scholarship & Innovation, RDM, Open Scholarship, Research Commons
1.5 Improve your database and information searching skills	Support for Research Data Planner including online training, workshops and escalated queries	Research librarians, Collection & Discovery Services, Special Collections & Archives, Repository Services



Managing the Research Process

Student want to...	We provide...	Who to contact...
2.1 Ensure compliant management for your data	Support for Research Data Planner including online training, workshops and escalated queries	Research Librarians Information Literacy Coordinators
2.2 Plan for your data storage	Advice at the commencement of your project for data management and archiving including digital preservation advice and online	Open Scholarship, Digital Scholarship & Innovation, Research Commons
2.3 Store and publish selected data	Support for Figshare and Lab Archives including training and escalated queries	Open Scholarship, Digital Scholarship & Innovation
2.4 Ensure your data is FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Re-useable)	Long term retention and disposal advice and strategies including online resources and information sessions plus archival storage for research data	Open Scholarship, Research Librarians Special Collections & Archives, Copyright Coordinator
2.5 Keep track of your sources and references	Citation management online resources and advice	Research Librarians
2.6 Comply with indigenous and cultural material and data sources	Online resources and advice	Copyright, Open Scholarship, Research Librarians, Special Collections & Archives,



Publishing, Research Visibility & Impact

Student want to...	We provide...	Who to contact...
3.1 Preferentially support Open Access (OA) scholarship	OA policy leadership, repository options, selecting an OA publisher advice and online resources plus support for 'Publish & Read' agreements	Research Librarians & Open Scholarship
3.2 Make informed choices about publishing pathways	Online resources and information sessions to demystify publishing models and support for transformative publishing contracts	Research Librarians, Open Scholarship Information Literacy Coordinators
3.3 Understand what you can and can't do under copyright, and advise on Creative Commons	Online resources, advice and training sessions	Copyright & Open Scholarship Information Literacy Coordinators
3.4 Publish your research outputs and mint a Digital Object Identifier (DOI)	Support for Figshare including DOI minting, options for non-traditional outputs, online resources and escalated queries	Open Scholarship
3.5 Publish a paper in a high impact journal	H-index and impact factors advice including online resources	Research Librarians



Publishing, Research Visibility & Impact

Student want to...	We provide...	Who to contact...
3.6 Know how to 'get published'	Online resources and training sessions including publisher sessions	Research Librarians & Open Scholarship Information Literacy Coordinator
3.7 Create and maintain your unique ORCID author identifiers	Online resources and advice	Research librarians, Open Scholarship Information Literacy Coordinator
3.8 Understand Article Processing Charges (APCs)	Institutional overview of APCs and their implications plus support for 'Transformative Agreements (TAs)	Open Scholarship, Research Librarians
3.9 Understand your research metrics and impacts	Bibliometric and Altimetric tools, online resources, training sessions and advice	Open Scholarship, Research librarians Information Literacy Coordinator
3.10 Add your ETD/paper/dataset to the Institutional Repository	Management of the Institutional Repository, Open publishing with supporting online resources	Open Scholarship, Metadata & Discovery Information Literacy Coordinator



Way Forward?



Marketing the Strategy & Services ?



New Vision: Renovated Hi Tech Libraries, Highly Skilled Staff



Thank You

Lazarus G. Matzirofa (Matizi)

Associate Director |

Head: Research, Scholarly Communication, Digital Systems & Services

E: lazarus.matzirofa@wits.ac.za

T: +27 11 717 71903

W: <https://www.wits.ac.za/library/>

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