

Guidelines for the Library to effectively support eResearch Activities at the Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria



by

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Faculty of Engineering,
 Built Environment and
 Information Technology

UP Carnegie Alumni
 Enhancing librarians' ICT Skills for research
 enablement in African universities



Introduction

OAU

Established – 1962
 Staff – about 5,000
 Students – over 26,000

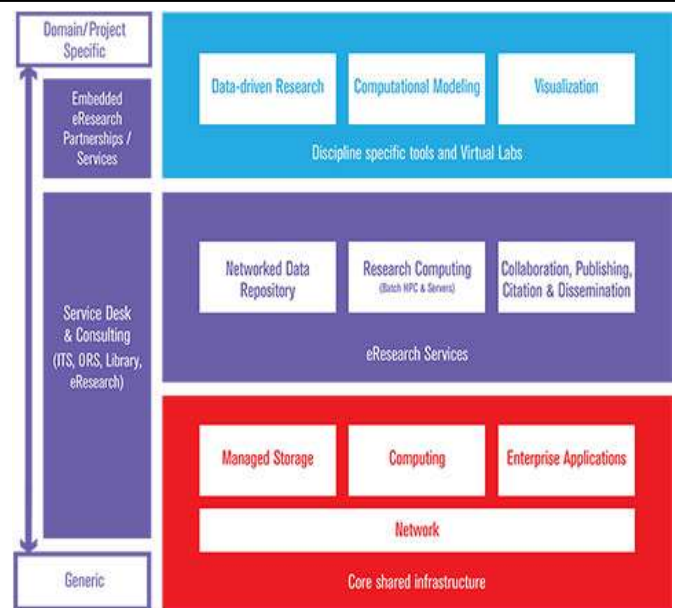


HOL

Established – 1962
 Staff – about 170
 Sitting capacity – 2,500
 Faculty libraries

eResearch

- Data Management
 - Data Collection
 - Storage
 - Sharing/Reuse
- HPC System
 - Facilitates DM
- Collaboration
 - Global
 - Interdisciplinary



eResearch (Western Sydney University, 2017)

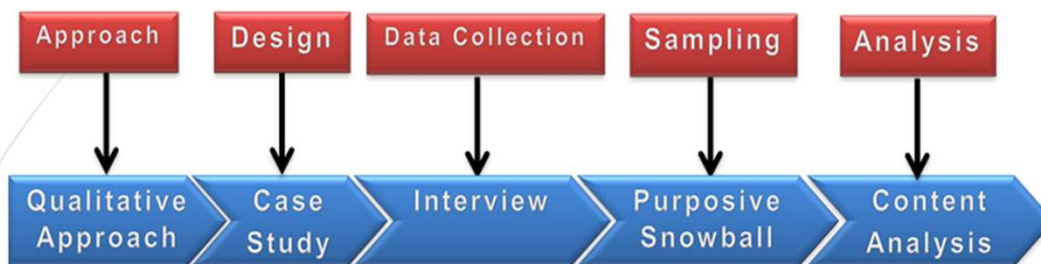
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Objectives

- to report on a study that established eResearch activities at OAU, Nigeria;
- to highlight the guidelines proposed for the library to effectively support such activities based on the research results;
- to identify activities that the library have implemented to support eResearch activities in OAU, Nigeria.

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Methodology

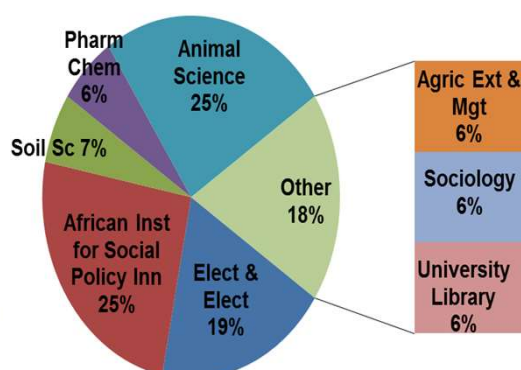


- Target population – Lecturers/PG students
- Eight collaborative research projects
- 15 Researchers and the Uni. Librarian interviewed

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Findings

Study Participants by Departments



Collaborative Projects by Discipline

Basic sciences	OAU iLab	
	Dynamics-aerosol-chemistry-cloud interactions in West Africa...	25%
Human health related	Global Early Adolescent Study	
	Pharmacometrics	25%
Agricultural based	Dairy Chain	
	Indigenous Livestock Innovation in Africa (ILINOVA)	
	Scale-up Production and Consumption of Under-Utilised Indigenous...	
	African Chicken Genetic Gains (ACGG)	50%

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Findings Cont'd

OAU Networks

Belgium
Benin,
Canada,
China
Egypt
France
Ghana
Netherlands
Nigeria
South Africa
UK, USA, etc.

Funders

International agencies -87%
Local agencies -13%

Skills/Practices

PG/PD training, CPD, PD, etc

Challenges

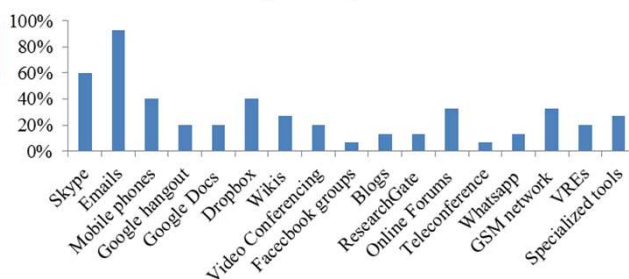
Academic research understanding among staff, access to journals, institutional factors, etc

Extent of collaboration

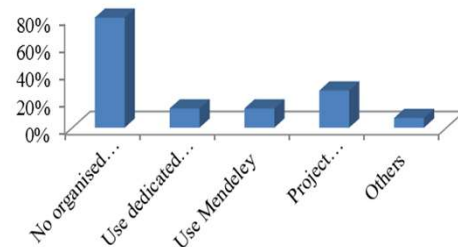
Technologies used, Data collection/sharing/analysis, etc

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Technologies used by Researchers

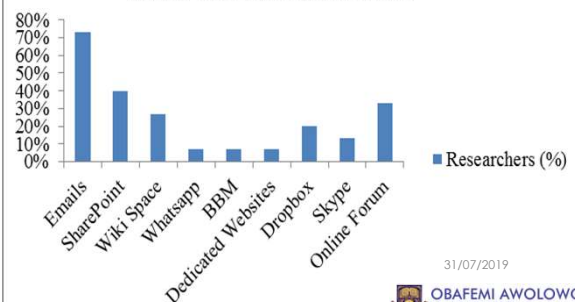


Ways Researchers Maintain Reference Lists



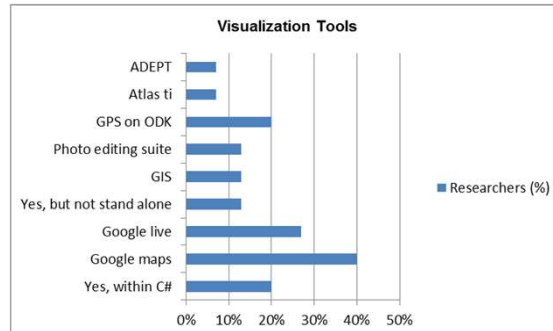
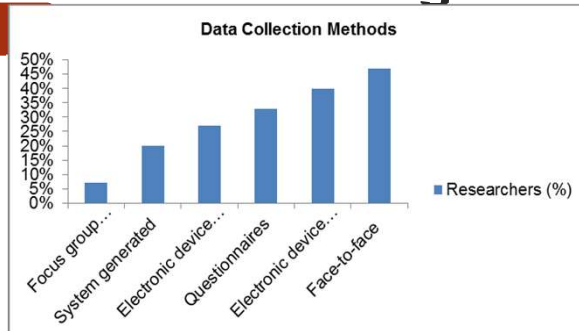
Wiki Space
Skype Online newsletters
Regular online meetings
Principal investigator
Shared calendar
Social Network Service like Yammer
Video conferencing
Project managers
Whatsapp e-mails

Sharing of relevant new information



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Findings Cont'd



53% used computational tools like -

- ATLAS ti
- MATLAB
- Fortran
- NONMEM, etc.

73% used open/free source software like-

- MySQL
- Python/R
- LINUX
- ODK, etc.

HOL provides support for these eResearch phases -

- Planning -trainings
- Data management
- Dissemination of research output

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Support need by Researchers

Data storage policy/Dissemination

Documentation of ongoing projects

Training on academic research



The research life cycle (van Deventer, 2015)

Subscriptions-Journals

Subscriptions-online communication Tools

Trainings on plagiarism

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Proposed Guidelines

- Form a team to build eResearch support capabilities and capacity for the University
- Training
 - librarians and emerging researchers
- Develop a data management policy
- Create an OAU Research Website
- Ensure sustainable funding for the initiative
- Provide a functional IR

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Activities Implemented based on the Guidelines

- Collaborations – INTECU, URC, WRU, PG College, etc.
- Regular training for Faculty, Researchers & PG students
- Subscriptions –Turnitin and requested databases
- Functional IR – managed by HOL
- Development of data management policy
- Consistent efforts to ensure sustainable funding
 - EAP for digitisation of rare manuscripts

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Personal Achievements

- I was integrated more into ICT work in my library, trainings and was drafted recently to act as the Head of ICT Department.
- A paper was presented at IFLA 2016 conference based on the research conducted. Another paper under review
- Presently, my PhD thesis has been submitted for final examination. M.IT training on writing mini-dissertation helped me through my doctoral programme.

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Conclusions

- Informative
- Guided necessary decisions
- Implementations could be of general benefit to research in Nigeria.



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Appreciation

- God – for the grace to finish well
- M.IT Carnegie/UP– for the wonderful opportunity!
- Our lecturers – for the knowledge/skills impacted!
- My supervisors- for making me a better writer!
- Colleagues – for making the trips interesting!
- HOL/OAU – for the permission and support!
- My husband – for believing in me!
- My children – for being a dear!
- My family members – for always being there !
- My friends – for the continuous encouragement!

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Thank you!

Dankie!!

Ese pupo!!!

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