



19thRUFORUM Annual General Meeting

“Transforming Higher Education to Sustainably Feed and Create Prosperity for Africa”

RUFORUM- LIBSENSE Research Data Management (RDM) Workshop

Principles, Policies and Practices

Concept Note

Date: Wednesday 01st November, 2023 (08:30-13:00 WAT)

Venue: Meeting Room A, Palais des Congrès in Yaoundé, Cameroon

Registration link: <https://indico.wacren.net/event/176/registrations/126/>

Contact: LIBSENSE-RUFORUM - libsense-ruforum@ren.africa

Background

Research Data Management (RDM), or the processes through which researchers collect, store, organize, protect and preserve research data, is a critical element in a research project; however, it is often neglected due to lack of appropriate policies, oversight and sometimes resources. Increasingly, funding agencies are mandating appropriate consideration of RDM procedures as a prerequisite for the award of grants. International research collaborations which depend on public funding also need to demonstrate appropriate RDM practices throughout the research project. Research is intrinsic to higher education reform since it directly affects the quality of education, one of the UN’s key sustainable development goals. It also helps to advance knowledge in a particular field or discipline and to inform policy and practice leading to transformational outcomes for organizational stakeholders and civil society.

The theme for this year’s 19th RUFORUM AGM 2023 focuses on *“Transforming Higher Education to Sustainably Feed and Create Prosperity for Africa”*. Research that is impactful, reproducible and appropriately disseminated will be a key input to developing sustainable agricultural processes. Appropriate RDM policies and practices will support such a goal. RUFORUM and LIBSENSE have agreed on a programme of activities to deliver state-of-the-art digital services to higher education and research institutions at scale and with reduced costs to support open agricultural data repository development. This workshop on RDM principles, policies, and practices contributes to this programme. Furthermore, it supports improvements in the higher education sector specifically related to agricultural research, higher education teaching and learning and the attainment of Africa’s Agenda 2063.

As part of this year’s 19th RUFORUM AGM 2023 in Yaoundé, the RUFORUM Secretariat and LIBSENSE will present the final findings of the needs assessment survey undertaken from February to June 2023 with RUFORUM institutions. The workshop will also incorporate focus group discussions with relevant stakeholders to explore in depth results from the findings. Member universities of RUFORUM will gain a more thorough understanding of the requirements of open data repositories and benefits of RDM. The

Co-organizers:





RUFORUM Secretariat will coordinate the development of the open data repository that will be developed as a result of this needs assessment survey.

The aim and objectives of the workshop

The aim of this session is to open up a discussion about the need to improve RDM principles, policies and practices in the light of the current agricultural research landscape in Africa and to expose attendees to key issues concerning the provision of an open agricultural data repository. To achieve this, the following specific objectives will be pursued:

- i. To introduce important principles behind RDM
- ii. To sensitize attendees to the need for appropriate RDM policies
- iii. To demonstrate state-of-the-art RDM practices using international standards
- iv. To report the findings of the RUFORUM-LIBSENSE needs assessment survey on the development of an open agricultural data repository
- v. To hold focus group discussions exploring the findings of the survey

Draft Programme

Time	Agenda Item	Responsible Person
08:30 - 09:00	Registration	
09:00 - 09:10	Introductory remarks: LIBSENSE-RUFORUM collaboration	Mr. Omo Oaiya , Chief Strategy Officer, WACREN
09:10 - 09:45	Introduction to RDM & Q&A	Yannick BIARD , CIRAD
09:45 - 10:30	Breakout session – review of international RDM policies and practices & discussion	Facilitators: Dr Pamela Abbott , Research Lead on LIBSENSE & Ms. Nada Musa , Technical Specialist - Knowledge Management, RUFORUM
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee/Networking break	
11:00 – 11:45	Presentation & discussion of needs assessment survey	Dr Pamela Abbott , Research Lead on LIBSENSE
11:45 – 12:45	Focus Group Discussions - a 60-minute breakout group discussion focusing on 3 areas of the survey (1) Institutions’ actual data management practices (2) Sharing data and collaboration between institutions (3) FAIR data principles	Facilitators: Dr Pamela Abbott , Research Lead on LIBSENSE Ms. Nada Musa , Knowledge Management Specialist RUFORUM Prof Aliou SAIDOU , Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of research, University of Abomey-Calavi (UAC)
12:45 – 13:00	Closing remarks & Next Steps	Mr. Omo Oaiya , Chief Strategy Officer, WACREN & Mr. David Amitu , Ag. Manager – Knowledge Hub (K-HUB),RUFORUM

Co-organizers:





Expected output

The main deliverable for the workshop will be a report to be distributed post-workshop addressing:

- i. Key issues raised about RDM policies and practices in African Research and Higher Education Institutions
- ii. Summary of Needs assessment survey findings
- iii. Summary of Focus Group Discussions

Participants

In order for this workshop to be successful, a number of stakeholders will be invited to take part. Participants will have different roles and expectations as outlined below:

1. **RUFORUM Secretariat staff and LIBSENSE** will issue invitations to those respondents who participated in the needs assessment survey.
2. **University Leaders** including Vice Chancellors, Principals and Deans responsible for research and innovation.
3. **Subject experts** who are knowledgeable about the research data management and its principles, policies and practices and potentials to support open data repository development.
4. **Other participants** including Researchers, Scientists, and Students who represent relevant stakeholders in the development of the open data repository.

Co-organizers:

