

# AfricArXiv

the pan-African Open Scholarly Repository

## Version 1.1

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**AfricArXiv is a community-led digital archive for African research, working towards building an African-owned open scholarly repository; a [knowledge commons](#) of African scholarly works. We partner with established scholarly repository services to provide a platform for African scientists of any discipline to present their research findings and connect with other researchers on the African continent and globally.**

It is our aim to promote discoverability of African research output according to

- sfDORA: <https://sfdora.org/read/>
- FAIR principles: <https://www.go-fair.org/fair-principles/>
- Helsinki Initiative on Multilingualism: <https://www.helsinki-initiative.org/en>
- COAR Community Framework for Good Practices in Repositories: <https://www.coar-repositories.org/coar-community-framework-for-good-practices-in-repositories/>
- **10 African Principles for Open Access in Scholarly Communication:** <https://info.africarxiv.org/african-oa-principles/>

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## Vision

A decentrally managed pan-African open Access platform that serves as a credible, reliable and viable multidisciplinary archive of research works from and about Africa. The contents of AfricArXiv are accessible and interoperable across platforms within and beyond the African continent, while they are owned, hosted and curated by the African scholarly institutions on the continent.

For details, go to <https://github.com/AfricArxiv/preprint-repository>.

## Mission

Establishing an independent and open research repository and interoperable source of contributions for and from researchers as well as innovators working on pan-African advancement with the goal to increase discoverability of African researchers' output and for all scientists who work in an African context.

## Objectives

- Increase discoverability of African research output
- Make text, data and information on online digital scholarly platforms searchable and discoverable
- Showcase African research output
- Promote submissions to African journals
- Disseminate African knowledge and expertise
- Enable research exchange on the continent
- Foster cross-continental collaboration
- Highlight research of local and regional relevance
- Fill the gaps where institutional repository systems are missing
- Work towards interoperability between text and data repositories
- Transfer knowledge accumulated by Africans in the diaspora back to the continent

## Target groups

- Early- and mid-career researchers, for reputation-building by archiving theses, dissertations, student reports, datasets, research contributions, etc.
- Senior-level researchers to provide open access (OA) to their work
- Data creators to link datasets to the African research environment
- Librarians to assess and define how best to guide African researchers in the scholarly communication workflow (discipline- and region-specific)
- Conference, webinar and course organisers to collate conference outputs
- Policymakers and governmental institutions to support decision making and publication of documentation relevant to African affairs
- Non-governmental organisations working on African affairs to provide open access to their reports

## Why do we need a scholarly repository for Africa?

- Make African research visible and discoverable globally
- Increase collaboration across continents
- Disseminate research results in African languages
- Trigger interdisciplinary research

## We encourage submissions from

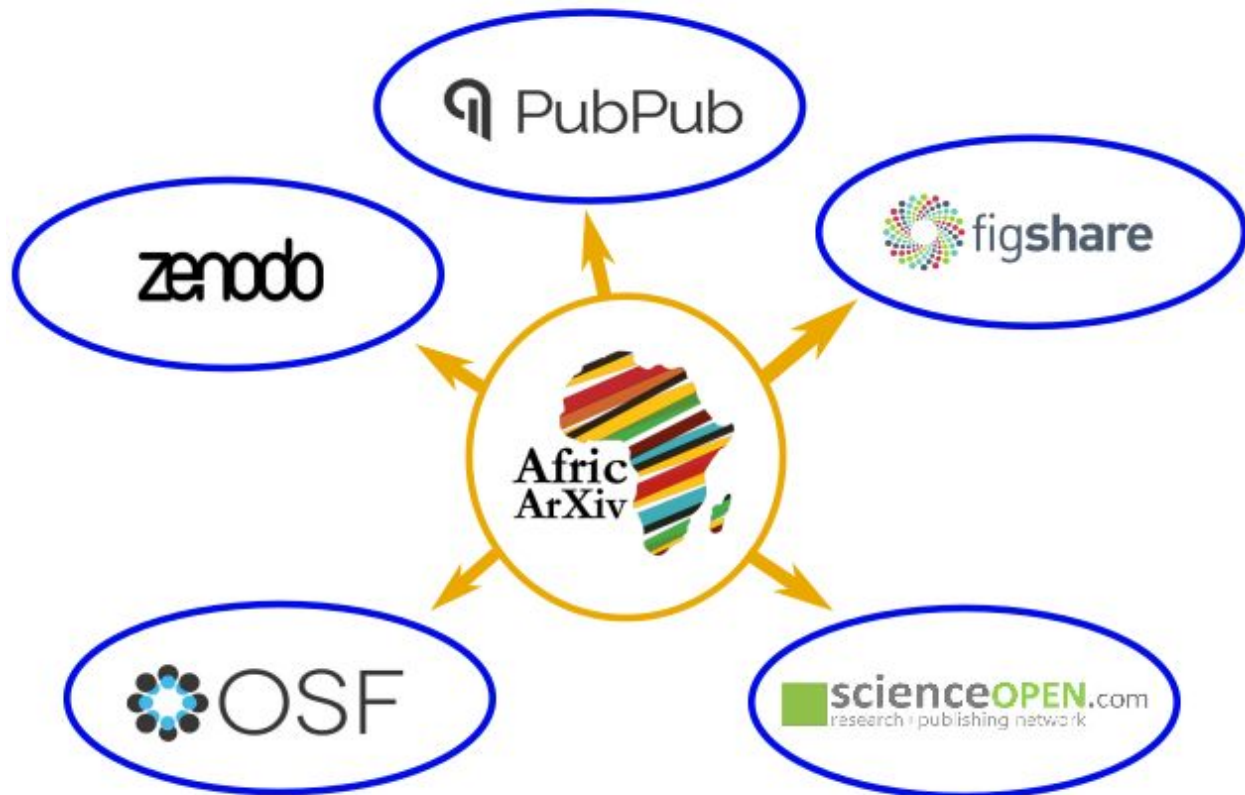
- **African scientists and scholars** based on the African continent
- **African scientists and scholars** currently based at a host institute outside Africa
- **non-African scientists** who report on research conducted on African territory
- **non-African scientists** who report on research relevant to African affairs
- **non-scientists** and non-scholars who work at governmental, for-profit and non-profit institutions to submit their reports and datasets in compliance with scholarly standards, to allow for cross-sectoral knowledge exchange

## We accept the following file types

- Text documents (preprints, postprints, VoR):
  - Research article and review manuscripts
  - Project proposals
  - Preregistrations
  - Student reports
  - 'Negative' results and 'null' results (i.e. results that do not support a hypothesis)
  - Theses
- Datasets, scripts and code
- Presentation slide decks
- Posters & infographics
- Audio-visual content, e.g.:
  - Webinar recordings
  - Video and audio files from interviews
- Non-academic works from institutions that work at the intersection with academia:
  - Annual organisational and business reports
  - Policy statements and recommendations
  - Guidelines and infographics

## Digital infrastructure

AfricArXiv was launched in 2018 in partnership with the Center for Open Science (COS). As of February 2020 we are now also partnering with ScienceOpen and PubPub and since November with Figsahre. Furthermore, we curate a community on Zenodo, and are currently planning to expand further with Figshare for Institutions and PKP preprints. For details, see <https://info.africarxiv.org/partners/>.



The [Open Science Framework](#) (OSF) is a free and open-source project management tool that supports researchers throughout their entire project lifecycle. AfricArXiv on OSF: <https://osf.io/preprints/africarxiv>

[ScienceOpen](#) is a discovery platform with interactive features for scholars to enhance their research in the open, make an impact, and receive credit for it. AfricArXiv on ScienceOpen: [scienceopen.com/collection/africarxiv](https://scienceopen.com/collection/africarxiv)

[PubPub](#) socializes the process of knowledge creation by integrating conversation, annotation, and versioning into short- and long-form digital publication. AfricArXiv on PubPub: [africarxiv.pubpub.org](https://africarxiv.pubpub.org)

[Zenodo](#) is a simple and innovative service enabling researchers to share and showcase research results from all fields of science. AfricArXiv on Zenodo: [zenodo.org/communities/africarxiv](https://zenodo.org/communities/africarxiv)

[Figshare](#) figshare is a repository where users can make all of their research outputs available in a citable, shareable and discoverable manner. AfricArXiv on Figshare: [africarxiv.figshare.com/](https://africarxiv.figshare.com/)

Examples of matching types of research outputs with appropriate platforms:

Type of research output	Submit to
Text documents - manuscript (preprint, postprint, VoR) - report - proposal	OSF, ScienceOpen, Zenodo
Dataset	OSF, Zenodo, Figshare
Poster, infographic, graphics	OSF, PubPub, Zenodo, Figshare
Slidedeck	OSF, Zenodo, Figshare
Audio/Visual content non-academic submissions	PubPub, Figshare

## Governance

AfricArXiv is envisioned to be entirely independent of and non-reliant on any national legal, political and infrastructural restrictions, thus ensuring around-the-clock accessibility and functionality of the database to researchers in Africa and worldwide. All African researchers will have unrestricted access to the whole database at all times.

### A decentrally organized pan-African repository platform

To ensure and enable distributed and decentralized hosting of the database/s, legal partnerships with scholarly institutions are being set up in all five regions on the African continent.

Currently, AfricArXiv is managed and coordinated via *Access 2 Perspectives* (A2P), a training consultancy based in Berlin, Germany. For legal liability status and additional information refer to <https://access2perspectives.com/contact-us/impressum/>.

A2P is actively looking to transition legal and financial ownership to regional African hosting partner institutions. The semi-independent status of AfricArXiv’s operational modus and services will be postulated in partnership agreements. Each partner institution will serve as regional fiscal host, and manage finances and administration for AfricArXiv in that region together with a dedicated contact person in the core AfricArXiv team.

AfricArXiv will be governed by a Board of Trustees, an Advisory Board and the Executive Team. The Board of Trustees will consist of representatives from the regional hosting institutions, key

financial contributors, and individuals appointed by the team. The advisory board is made up of experts in various aspects of scholarly communication as relevant for the African scholarly community.

## Current governance

AfricArXiv is managed and coordinated by a team of scholars and experts in the field of scholarly publishing and digital infrastructure on the continent, positioning AfricArXiv to serve the scholarly community on the entire continent and increase collaboration with researchers across Africa and worldwide. To date, AfricArXiv hosts more than 180 scholarly works on five (5) repository platforms, demonstrating viability to promote the sharing and visibility of African research. For details, see <https://info.africarxiv.org/team/>

## Executive team

<b>Strategy development and coordination</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Team coordination</li> <li>• Strategic planning and partnership building</li> <li>• Financial planning</li> </ul>
<b>Technology development and maintenance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Website setup and maintenance</li> <li>• Coordination and observation of technical details as provided by partner organisations</li> <li>• Technological planning and strategizing towards an Africa-owned literature &amp; data repository</li> </ul>
<b>Community Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategizing, information sharing and community engagement via the AfricArXiv blog, newsletter and social media channels</li> </ul>
<b>Submission Moderation and Quality Assurance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring quality for literature and data submissions to repositories managed by AfricArXiv</li> </ul>

## Advisory board

In February 2020, six (6) experts in various fields relevant to AfricArXiv’s vision and mission formed the AfricArXiv advisory board.

## Contributors

A growing number of volunteers and contributors who spend some of their time, expertise and/or finances towards our shared vision and mission.

- 40+ volunteers on Trello, 100+ on Slack
- 30 contributors listed at <https://opencollective.com/africarxiv#section-contributors>

## Partners

The institutions and initiatives listed on our website at <https://info.africarxiv.org/partners/> support the mandate of AfricArXiv and encourage African and non-African scientists who work on African topics – to share their research outputs in an Open Access repository, journal or on other freely accessible digital platforms. The AfricArXiv team works together with them towards open scholarly communication in Africa in the following areas:

- **Partner repositories:** Open Science Framework (OSF), PubPub, ScienceOpen, Zenodo, Figshare for Institutions
- **Peer Review:** Decentralized Science, Qeios, ScienceOpen, PReview, Peer Community in ... (PCI)
- **Capacity Building:** Vilsquare, r0g\_agency for open culture and critical transformation, TCC Africa, Open Science MOOC, AuthorAid, Science For Africa, Access 2 Perspectives
- **Science Literacy:** African Science Literacy Network (ASLN), Under the Microscope, AfroScience Network, Science Communication Hub Nigeria (SciComNigeria)
- **Scholarly Networking:** Bobab, AfricaOSH, African Science Initiative (ASI), WACREN/LIBSENSE, Just One Giant Lab (JOGL), Psychological Science Accelerator, Institute for Globally Distributed Open Research and Education (IGDORE), eLearning Africa, Vilsquare Makers' Hub
- **Discoverability & Interoperability:** Center for Open Science, ScienceOpen, ORCID, Open Knowledge Maps, Code for Africa, Knowledge Futures Group, International African Institute (IAI), Open African Repository (OAR), Figshare for Institutions

# Finance strategy

Building and managing AfricArXiv involves expenses for human resources, technology development, partner services, third party services like web hosting, digital communication tool fees etc. From 2018 to 2020, these expenses were covered by direct financial contributions (mostly [Access 2 Perspectives](#)), conference participation and partner service fee waivers and a highly dedicated in-kind workforce by the team.

From 2021, planned revenue streams include:

- Institutional partnerships
  - Scholarly libraries in Africa
  - African Studies departments
  - Research departments, institutions and universities
- Crowdfunding
  - Individual support (one-time and recurring)
- Training, consultancy services and capacity building

Financial contributions to AfricArXiv can be made via PayPal, mPesa, direct debit, and online transfer. For details, see <https://info.africarxiv.org/contribute/>.

Online contributions can be placed at <https://opencollective.com/africarxiv> (incognito donation possible) via credit/debit card or bank transfer.

## Outreach, communication and networking

AfricArXiv is calling on institutions and organizations across Africa, such as NRENs, regional and national collaborators, grassroots Open Science initiatives, consortia, coalitions, scholarly associations etc. in order to:

- Inform about AfricArXiv's core services (preprint hosting)
- Establish partnerships with institutions and organisations that focus on the African region practicing Open Science principles
- Grow together and build a strong community as a network of Open Science focused scholarly organisations and stakeholders on the African continent

The AfricArXiv team maintains a broad-based communication strategy outlining the specifics of internal (team) and external (partners and user groups) communications, including the tools and means AfricArXiv uses to achieve its goals.

Keeping in mind the technical and digital infrastructure challenges currently still affecting many institutions and individuals in Africa, AfricArXiv promotes the use of digital tools for scholarly communication, while at the same time working with partners and stakeholders to develop effective workarounds and hybrid approaches catering for low-resource and low-bandwidth settings.

AfricArXiv encourages and seeks to facilitate increasing interconnectivity of existing literature and data repositories of various systems;

<https://info.africarxiv.org/african-digital-research-repositories/>

# Report 2018 - 2020

Find here a list of accomplishments since the launch in 2018 and throughout 2020.

## Milestone achievements

- Apr 14, 2018: The seed for AfricArXiv was planted during the 2nd AfricaOSH summit in Kumasi, Ghana. Historic tweet: <https://twitter.com/JooGraced/status/985171790438813697>
- June 25, 2018: [The Center for Open Science and AfricArXiv Launch Branded Preprint Service](#)
- Apr 2019
  - Launch of the petition to sign the **African Principles for Open Access in Scholarly Communication**: <https://info.africarxiv.org/african-oa-principles/>
  - AfricArXiv announces strategic partnership with the [Institute for Globally Distributed Open Research and Education](#) (IGDORE)
- May 2019: AfricArXiv announces strategic partnership with [Open Knowledge Maps](#)
- October 2019: Guest article at the e\_earning Africa newsportal: [Multi-directional academic knowledge exchange from and about Africa](#)
- January 2020: AfricArXiv announces strategic partnership with [ScienceOpen](#)
- February 2020: ORCID and AfricArXiv initiate collaboration to [assist African scientists in advancing their careers through unique identifiers](#)
- Since March 2020: **AfricArXiv's responses to COVID-19**
  - info portal: <https://info.africarxiv.org/covid-19/>
  - [Q&A around COVID-19 in regional African languages](#)
  - Call to action: [Multilingual COVID-19 information videos](#). [doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3727534](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3727534)
  - Community mobilization: <https://info.africarxiv.org/join-us-covid-19-africa-response/>
  - Preprint: Harnessing the Open Science infrastructure for an efficient African response to COVID-19. [doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3733768](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3733768)
  - Dataset: [HE & Research stakeholder analysis](#) to enable efficient collaboration on the continent. [doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3743348](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3743348)

- Chatbot in collaboration with Dialogshift:  
<https://info.africarxiv.org/multilingual-chatbot-covid-19/>
- Automated ScienceOpen collection on COVID-19 Research in and about Africa:  
[https://www.scienceopen.com/collection/COVID19\\_Africa](https://www.scienceopen.com/collection/COVID19_Africa)
  
- April 2020: [Knowledge Futures Group and AfricArXiv launch Audio/Visual Preprint Repository on PubPub](#)
  
- June 2020:
  - AfricArXiv joins [Invest in Open Infrastructure \(IOI\)](#) consultation
  - AfricArXiv stands [in solidarity with the Black communities in the United States of America](#) – #BlackLivesMatter
  
- Aug 2020:
  - AfricArXiv endorses the [C19 Rapid Review Initiative](#) // [https://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2020-08/hl-crr081220.php](https://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2020-08/hl-crr081220.php)
  - USD 1K Fundraising goal achieved: [OSF preprint hosting & maintenance 2020](#)
  
- Sep 2020: TCC Africa and AfricArXiv host webinar on [Rapid and Open Peer Review](#) – #PeerReviewWeek
  
- ... (ongoing)

## Publications

### Preprints

Bezuidenhout, Louise, & Havemann, Johanna. (2020, September 3). The Varying Openness of Digital Open Science Tools. Zenodo. <http://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4013975>

Ayodele, O., Havemann, J., Owango, J., Ksibi, N., & Ahearn, C. (2020). Proposal: Audio/Visual Preprints. AfricArXiv. <https://doi.org/10.21428/3b2160cd.dd0b543c>

Havemann, Jo et al. (2020). Harnessing the Open Science infrastructure for an efficient African response to COVID-19 [preprint]. <http://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3733768>

Bezuidenhout, Louise, McNaughton, Anna, & Havemann, Johanna. (2020, March 26). Multilingual COVID-19 Information Videos. Zenodo. <http://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3727534>

Bezuidenhout, Louise, Havemann, Jo, Kitchen, Stephanie, De Mutiis, Anna, & Owango, Joy. (2020). African Digital Research Repositories: Mapping the Landscape [preprint]. <http://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3732274> // dataset DOI [10.5281/zenodo.3732171](http://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3732171)

### Datasets

Havemann, Jo, Ksibi, Nabil, Maina, Mahmoud Bukar, Obanda, Johanssen, Okelo, Luke, & Owango, Joy. (2020). Higher Education & Research in Africa – the stakeholders [Data set]. Zenodo. <http://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3743348>

Bezuidenhout, Louise, & Havemann, Johanna. (2020). The Varying Openness of Digital Open Science Tools [Data set]. Zenodo. <http://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4013812>

Bezuidenhout, Louise, Havemann, Jo, Kitchen, Stephanie, De Mutiis, Anna, & Owango, Joy. (2020). African Digital Research Repositories: Mapping the Landscape [Data set]. Zenodo. <http://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3732172>

Bezuidenhout, Louise. (2020). Africa, Laboratory Equipment and COVID-19 Response. <http://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3824105>

Akligoh, Harry, Havemann, Jo, Restrepo, Martin, & Obanda, Johanssen. (2020). Mapping the COVID-19 global response: from grassroots to governments [Data set]. Zenodo. <http://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3732377>

Michael Cary. (2020). A list of open access papers pertaining to racism [Data set]. Zenodo. <http://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3885834>

Jon Tennant, Bruce Caron, Jo Havemann, Samuel Guay, Julien Colomb, Eva Lantsoght, ... Cooper Smout. (2019, March 16). OpenScienceMOOC/Module-1-Open-Principles: Second release (Version 2.0.0). Zenodo. <http://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.2595951>

## Presentations

Owango, Joy. (2020). To what Degree are African Researchers Publishing in Open Access Journals since the launch of Plan S?. <http://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3973528> (audio/visual)

Obanda, J., & Havemann, J. (2020). AfricArXiv at the Open Publishing Fest. AfricArXiv. Retrieved from <https://africarxiv.pubpub.org/pub/1ubyyiq3u> (audio/visual)

Hodgkinson, M., Marincola, E., Aldirdiri, O., & Owango, J. (2020). State of Open Access in Africa and its Implication on Researchers. AfricArXiv. <https://doi.org/10.21428/3b2160cd.845bf0c3> (audio/visual)

Akligoh Harry Sefoga. (2020, June). No Better Time to Practice Open Science Than Now. Zenodo. <http://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3878540>

Havemann, Johanna, & Ahinon, Justin Sègbédji. (2019, December). What role can Open Science play in enabling global knowledge exchange?. Zenodo. <http://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3582040>

Havemann, J., & Ahinon, J. S. (2019, October 27). What Role Can Open Science Play in Enabling South-North Dialogues?. <https://doi.org/10.31730/osf.io/5hvgx>

Ahinon Sègbédji Justin. (2019, March). Another science is possible. Zenodo. <http://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.2613247>

Havemann, Johanna. (2019, February). A Case for Open Science Hardware. Zenodo. <http://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.2564076>

Ahinon, Justin, & Havemann, Jo. (2018). Open Science in Africa - Challenges, Opportunities and Perspectives. <http://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.1492745>

## Posters & Infographics

Conference poster (A0) [github.com/AfricArxiv/outreach/tree/master/AfricArXiv\\_posters](https://github.com/AfricArxiv/outreach/tree/master/AfricArXiv_posters)

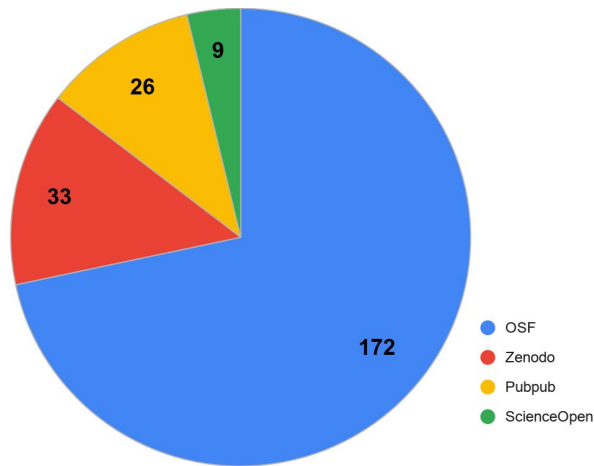
Infographic on 'How to submit': <https://info.africarxiv.org/infographic-share-your-research-oa/>

### **Blog posts**

For the complete list please go to <https://info.africarxiv.org/news/>.

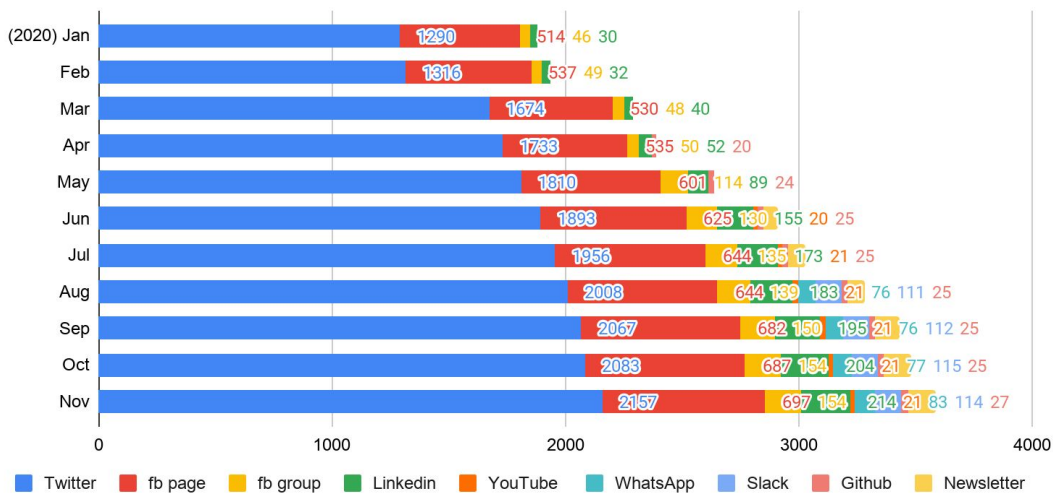
# Key Performance Indicators

Submission metrics (all time since 2018)



## Community building

AfricArxiv metrics 2020: The growing followerbase is composed of Twitter, Facebook fanpage, Facebook group, LinkedIn institutional page, Youtube, WhatsApp, Slack, Github, and newsletter subscribers.



# Roadmap

**AfricArXiv is always looking to the most relevant online infrastructure to adapt and live up to the requirements and expectations of the African scholarly community. Through the building of an open, transparent, reliable, efficient and decentralized discoverability infrastructure, it is our aim to support the connectivity of African scholars – and African scholarship – to a wider audience. As part of the near future plans, we intend to further diversify tools and applications to work along innovative, globally applicable standards and methodologies to accomplish our mission.**

**The AfricArXiv team is looking forward to continuing our work along the following categories in collaboration with our network partner organisations in Africa and other world regions:**

## Financial sustainability

- Reach a sustainable financial structure by trust of the African scholarly community
- Partnering with funders and investors across Africa and around the world

## Expanding our Open Access digital infrastructure

- Current partner repositories: Open Science Framework (OSF), PubPub, ScienceOpen, Zenodo
- Adding [Figshare](#) and [PKP/OPS](#)

## Interoperability of the digital scholarly infrastructure we create

- Building integrations with ORCID, DataCite, CrossRef
- Seeking COAR membership
- Supporting ROR

## Meeting highest quality standards and research integrity

- Quality control via [submission moderation](#)
- Community-driven [Open] Peer Review with our partner organizations Decentralized Science, Qeios, ScienceOpen, PREreview, Peer Community in ... (PCI)

## Increasing networking and partnership building in the growing African Open Science Landscape

- Liaising with African grassroots and institutional partners such as the African Open Science Platform (AOSP), AfricaOSH, regional RENs (WACREN, ASREN, UbuntuNet Alliance), EARMA, SARIMA, AfLIA and LIBSENSE
- Establishing Institutional partnerships with
  - African scholarly libraries and African universities and other Higher Education organisations
  - African studies departments, libraries, and associations outside Africa
  - Research related institutions, organisations, funders, and companies in Africa or elsewhere

## Establishing AfricArXiv as a self-hosted Africa-based Open Access platform

- Five (5) or more host institutions with at least one host in each region of the continent, for details, refer to <https://github.com/AfricArxiv/preprint-repository>
- Data analysis and statistics dashboard (number of users, locations, number of pre-prints, audio/video pre-prints, etc..)

## Continuously and steadily increase the discoverability of African research

- harvest Africa-specific contents (depending on the applied metadata) through the [DataCite API](#) and [CrossRef API](#):
  - Other datasets as outlined in <https://github.com/AfricArxiv/hub-and-search-portal>
- Strategic implementation of our partnerships with the Center for Open Science, ScienceOpen, ORCID, Open Knowledge Maps, Code for Africa, Knowledge Futures Group, International African Institute (IAI), Open African Repository (OAR)
- Working towards interoperability of [African Digital Research Repositories: Mapping the Landscape](#)

## Knowledge exchange, collaboration and scholarly networking between scholars in Africa and other world regions

- With our partners Bobab, AfricaOSH, African Science Initiative (ASI), WACREN/LIBSENSE, Just One Giant Lab (JOGL), Psychological Science Accelerator, Institute for Globally Distributed Open Research and Education (IGDORE), eLearning Africa, Vilsquare Makers' Hub
- Organizing Journal CLubs

## Fostering Science Literacy across the continent

- In collaboration with TCC Africa, African Science Literacy Network (ASLN), Under the Microscope, AfroScience Network, Science Communication Hub Nigeria (SciComNigeria), Pint Of Science Kenya

## Building capacity in Open Science practices and Open Access scholarly publishing

- Providing training, workshops, consultancy services, lectures, scientific writing-sprints, calls for submissions, student assignments and other educative formats on OA scholarly publishing and Peer Review in collaboration with our partner organizations TCC Africa, Vilsquare, r0g\_agency for open culture and critical transformation, Open Science MOOC, AuthorAid, Science For Africa, Access 2 Perspectives
- Develop a self-hosted chatbot for community support and Q&A

## Fostering [African] language diversity in scholarly communication

- Encouraging submissions of scholarly works in traditional and official African languages
- Providing guidelines and information for multilingualism in science in African languages

## Encouraging collaboration between Indigenous Peoples and researchers

- Highlighting the importance of indigenous knowledge in all disciplines
- Legal aspects: assurance of self-determination, Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and compliance with UNDRIP
- Providing guidelines and information on the inclusion of indigenous peoples in research project design, planning and implementation

## Fostering gender equity in academia

- Balancing gender equity across all scholarly disciplines
- Encouraging scholarly work on gender-related topics across disciplines

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# Imprint

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