

## Open Science Online Training package for African scientists

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### ABSTRACT

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*AfricArxiv is a free, open source and community-led digital archive for African research output in the form of a non-profit open source platform for African scientists to upload their working papers, pre-prints, accepted manuscripts (post-prints), and published papers as well as associated data packages and article versioning. AfricArxiv is dedicated to enhance and open up research and collaboration among African scientists and non-African scientists that work on African topics.*

*We aim to choose a platform (Eliademy, Moodle, or other) to allocate resources and training materials for African scientists to familiarize themselves with possibilities and existing options to present, disseminate and discuss their research output in a licensed, Open Access and career-benefitting way. The course content should be available in English, French, Arabic, kiSwahili, and other traditional African languages through machine translation and manual adaption. Content materials should be adaptable over time to ensure up to date information. The abstract itself should not exceed 1000 words.*

### Keywords

Research in Africa, preprint, OER, Language Diversity

### Purpose of this paper

Resources on Open Science and Open Access do exist in abundance but are scattered around the world wide web and tailored towards different target audiences. A first step will be to collect those resources that are clearly relevant and adaptable to scientists working on the African continent with limited educational resources and online infrastructure - varying widely across the continent. The content development shall be done in the open with active recruitment for participation by African stakeholders and non-African stakeholders that have a proven track record on expertise in online educational resources, ICT4D, EduTech and related fields.

From discussions and exchange of knowledge and expertise of building OER for the HE context we hope to be able to inform the other participants and sensitize for a potentially global audience for their OER projects as well as learn from the other participants and get feedback and valuable input for our proposal and next steps.

## **Practical implications**

The project needs to address severe limitations and varieties in online infrastructure across the continent.

## **What is original/value of paper**

To our knowledge, no specific training on Open Science targeted to the working environment of many African scientists exists to date. Also, the open approach and active recruitment of African stakeholders for content creation seems novel. Language diversity is often neglected and can bridge language barriers across the continent as well as facilitate science communication to the general public in various regions based on traditional languages.

## **References**

AfricArXiv website: <https://info.africarxiv.org/>

Ahinon et al. (2019). Multi-directional academic knowledge exchange from and about Africa: exploring the preprint repository AfricArXiv. eLearning Africa News Portal. Available from <https://ela-newsportal.com/multi-directional-academic-knowledge-exchange-from-and-about-africa-exploring-the-preprint-repository-africarxiv/>

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