

PROJECT ACTION PLAN

- Create a project website by end of July 2019
- Conduct pilot DH & RDM audit in Zimbabwe by August 2019
- Report findings at 2019 Open Access Week Celebration in Zimbabwe, 21-27 October
- Reflect on findings & strategize expanding to rest of Southern Africa during 2020

REFERENCES

Whyte, A., & Tedds, J. (2011). *Making the Case for Research Data Management*. DCC Briefing Papers, Edinburgh: Digital Curation Centre, Available at: http://www.dcc.ac.uk/webfm_send/487, Accessed 3 July 2019.

Wyatt, S., & Millen, D. (Eds.). (2014). *Meaning and Perspectives in the Digital Humanities*, A White Paper for the establishment of a Center for Humanities and Technology (CHAT), Available at: www.knaw.nl, Accessed on 03/07/2019

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1. INTRODUCTION

The advent of information and communication technologies (ICTs) and their usage has seen Africa enhancing them fully and leading to a change in the means with which they manage their day to day endeavors. Recent advances in digital technologies have provided unprecedented opportunities for digital scholarship in the humanities field.

This has led to the birth of Digital humanities for Africa, and the higher education landscape has found itself in need to adapt the DH changes to allow themselves to be aligned to current trends in the digital world. However, embracing digital humanities alone without considering how to manage the humanities research data would be a setback for African HEI. This concept note therefore, brings about a need to blend digital humanities, research data management for the better development of African Higher Education Institutions for the African continent as a whole.

2. METHODS AND MATERIALS

- Qualitative Methodology – Action research
- Multiple case studies of all HEI in Africa
- Awareness creation through trainings, webinars and workshops
- All this will be put on a central website that will have updates of all African countries HEI update of their works

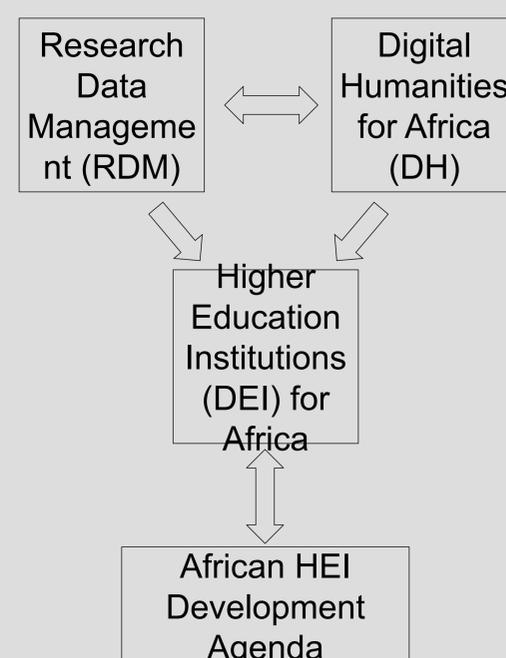
3. CONCEPTUAL IDEA

The library plays a key role in HEI that has recently seen academic librarians being a part and parcel of the research life cycle and being proactive individuals between their library service rendering activities and liaison with faculty or researchers.

Consequently, the birthing of Research data management in Africa has seen librarians playing a pivotal or active role in the management, awareness of RDM to faculty.

This has further expanded to the Digital Humanities movement where again librarians have found themselves playing in key role in ensure the success of the DH movement in Africa. Important to note is that there is a need to establish rapport between DH, RDM & the library for African HEI.

Below is a diagrammatical conceptual model that African HEI can employ as they incept DH activities in their work.



4. DISCUSSION

Digital Humanities:

Describe the application of computational methods in the arts and humanities to allow for alignment with global current trends of the use of ICT tools

Library:

The library can be seen as moving slightly more towards the periphery of academic research in comparison to its formerly more central role in knowledge dissemination, how a central and integrated role of the library might be achieved within Digital Humanities.

Research Data Management:

RDM is a new concept in Africa and research institutions are working towards the establishment of RDM services. Research data management (RDM) is regarded as the organisation and description of data from its entry into the research cycle to dissemination and archiving of the results (Whyte and Tedds 2011). There is a need for future possibilities for cooperation between faculties and libraries in DH research for HEI in Africa.

5. CONCLUSIONS

Conclusions drawn from this concept note is a need for African HEI to actively participate in Digital Humanities, accommodate RDM in DH work from inception and ensure they work towards achieving the continent's agenda for research development not only in the scientific field but in humanities as well.