

Education

National Open Science Symposium

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By

Bashir Shehu Galadanci

Director, Centre For Information Technology

Bayero University, Kano

bsgaladanci.se@buk.edu.ng

Suleiman Bashir Sunusi

Centre For Information Technology

Bayero University, Kano

sbsunusi.cit@buk.edu.ng

What is Open Research?

Open research is about making research more transparent, collaborative and efficient. It improves visibility of body of work, cost less to publish, provide the author with greater control over how research is been used, qualifies for special funding and enjoys an increasing recognition amongst institutions for the purpose of promotion. When research is science based, it is also called Open Science.

Open research have varying degree of openness, with some models limiting access to data used for actual research and others providing

Importance of Open Research

Open research is of particular advantage in the developing world given our paucity of funds. With little funding, world class collaboration and research could be carried out with high impact factors and published by varying journals which are increasingly warming up to the concept of open research.

The State of Research in Higher Institutions in the Past

- Universities have focused more on teaching than research with the result that there has been very little research output coming out of them
- There has been very little collaboration with industry on the one hand and government on the other. Thus the triple heritage collaboration and partnerships (universities, government and industry) have been very weak
- Very little indigenous research has seen the light of day in

Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND)

In the last few years, TETFund has brought about a revolution in how universities view research and how they implement their research mandate. TETFUND interventions in supporting researches in Nigerian Universities have greatly re-awakened the zeal of researchers. The fund has done so much in order to promote research in universities. The various interventions

- Assistance in the establishment of Research and

targeting research by TETFund have included:
Innovation Directorates in all universities

TETFUND (cont.)

- Provision of Institution-Based Research (IBR) grants to higher institutions
- Establishment of the National Research Fund (NRF) to provide grants to promising research groups based on a competitive assessment and evaluation process on submitted research proposals
- Efforts towards the establishment of a National Research Development Foundation (NRDF) that will come out with a strong research policy for the country and vigorously pursue

Keying into Open Research

- The good news is that, even though we have had a slow start in prioritizing research in our higher institutions, we are now quickly warming up to becoming world-class research institutions
- It is imperative to key into open research so as to benefit from all the advantages it offers
- Open Research will unlock the great potentials of Nigerian researchers and compensate for our late start
- Open Research will remove many of the barriers preventing

The Necessary Steps

- Formulate a strong national policy on Open Research that will promote it in all its ramifications and provide a sustainable framework for its implementation
- Build the culture amongst Nigerian researchers and institutions of Open Research through strong advocacy and sensitization
- Create an enabling environment that will promote Open Research
- Build a robust infrastructure that will support Open

The Necessary Steps (cont.)

- Foster greater collaboration amongst researchers by creating open platforms for the exchange and sharing of ideas (conferences, journals etc)
- Promote the establishment of centers of excellence in different higher institutions so that they can have superior equipment and expertise in specific areas so that such facilities can serve as common resources for the use of all researchers
- Discourage exploitative and proprietary practices that are

The Necessary Steps (cont.)

- Come up with innovative ideas that will promote Open Research
- Get funding sources that are in line with Open Research

Conclusion

- Open Research is excellent for the Developing world and for the globe as a whole
- Nigeria has been slow to embrace research in its higher institutions but is quickly warming up thanks to the enormous support from TETFund
- Nigerian higher institutions are in a good position to benefit from the enormous opportunities that Open Research offers
- However, it is necessary to take certain steps that will promote Open Research in Nigeria

Thank you