

# Open Research South Africa

---

## High-Level Stakeholder Meeting on Open Research

The Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) in collaboration with the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Data Intensive Research Initiative South Africa (DIRISA) has been tasked by the DST, to organize a high-level stakeholder meeting on Open Research.

**The what: Open Research** is the movement to make scientific research, data and dissemination accessible to all levels of an inquiring society, amateur or professional. It encompasses practices such as publishing open research, campaigning for open access, encouraging scientists to practice open notebook science, and generally making it easier to publish and communicate scientific knowledge.

**The why:** The Department of Science and Technology (DST) is in the process to draft a White Paper on Science and Technology in 2017 that will take the System for Research and Innovation into its next level of development and strategic direction. It is critical to include a core set of recommendations on data sharing/ open science by stakeholders for consideration by the authors of the White Paper.

**The aim:** of the stakeholder workshop is to provide the sector an opportunity to collaboratively think and advise about how do we move the system forward in terms of an overarching Open Research statement/ framework, engage with the relevant stakeholders, establish the challenges that are being faced in terms of Open Research, agree on what constitutes Open Research and how do we achieve it, how do we advocate for the principles and how do we formulate an Open Research position statement to inform a national government strategy.

The meeting will try and respond to the following questions:

1. How can "Open Research" be defined in a South African context?
2. How would an Open Research agenda contribute to the mission and values of the research system?
3. How does the international Open Research agenda fit into African Research?
4. How can we contribute to the framework in terms of a position statement?

Expected outcomes from the meeting include a position statement on Open Research, as well as a report on the meeting.

---

**Date:** 12-13 December 2016

**Time:** 09:00 – 17:00

**Venue:** CSIR Knowledge Commons, CSIR Campus, Meiring Naudé Road, Brummeria

### Contact persons:

Susan Veldsman [susan@assaf.org.za](mailto:susan@assaf.org.za) | +27 (0)82 889 2293 | +27 (0)12 349 6611

Ina Smith [ina@assaf.org.za](mailto:ina@assaf.org.za) | +27 (0)82 818 0117 | +27 (0) 12 349 6641

## Programme Monday 12 December 2016

Programme Moderator: Susan Veldsman

09:00-09:15	<b>Welcome</b>	Danny Adams ( <i>Dept. of Science &amp; Technology, SA</i> )
09:15-10:00	<b>Introductions</b> Be prepared to answer the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the mission of your organization?</li> <li>• What opportunities, or risks, does an Open Research agenda create for delivering this mission?</li> </ul>	Cameron Neylon ( <i>Curtin University, Australia</i> )
10:00-11:00	<b>Definition &amp; Scope:</b> How can "Open Research" be defined in a South African context?  A short presentation on the differing definitions and agendas behind Open Research followed by a discussion of which aspects are most important in the South African context. Develop a definition and scope of Open Research for the Position Paper.	Cameron Neylon
11:00-11:30	<b>Break</b>	
11:30-13:00	<b>Reflection on:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Open Research: Internationally &amp; Nationally</li> <li>- South African Research Landscape &amp; Openness of Research</li> <li>- Discussion &amp; Summary</li> </ul>	Simon Hodson ( <i>CODATA, France</i> ) Bhanu Neupane ( <i>UNESCO, France</i> ) Colin Wright ( <i>CSIR, SA</i> ) Eve Gray ( <i>UCT, SA</i> )
13:00-14:00	<b>Lunch</b>	
14:00-15:30	<b>Call for Action</b>  Breakout groups to discuss and prioritize the three most important aspirations for a South African focused Open Research Agenda. What will the call to action for a position paper be? This can address both opportunities and risks for South African research and wider communities.  <i>Report back by groups</i>	Cameron Neylon

15:30-16:00	<b>Break</b>	
16:00-17:30	<p><b>Existing statements on Open Science:</b> Principles &amp; Recommendations (or: aspirations, goals, risks)</p> <p>Breakout groups will each examine an existing statement on Open Research, Open Access, data sharing or government policy. How effective are these statements in describing and delivering the goals identified in the Call for Action?</p> <p><i>Report back by groups</i></p>	Cameron Neylon
17:30-	<b>Evening Function:</b> South African Braai at Newtons (CSIR)	

## Programme Tuesday 13 December 2016

Programme Moderator: Susan Veldsman

08:30-09:00	<b>Debrief Session</b>	
09:00-09:30	<p><b>Synthesis of existing statements on Open Science</b></p> <p>Discussion of the analysis from previous day. What have we learnt about effective statements? Are the aspirations and concerns from the call to action identified yesterday still correct?</p>	Cameron Neylon
09:30-10:30	<p><b>Strategies to address Open Research &amp; prioritization of strategies</b></p> <p>Breakout groups will each discuss strategies to address one of the five elements of the Call to Action that have now been identified. Each group is to identify five strategies that could deliver on their assigned element.</p>	Group Facilitators
10:30-11:00	<p><b>Report back on strategies</b></p> <p>Each group is to report back on the five strategies that they identified in the previous session. We will then prioritize these strategies for further development.</p>	Cameron Neylon
11:00-11:30	<b>Break</b>	
11:30-12:30	<p><b>Tactics to deliver on strategies</b></p> <p>Breakout groups will discuss specific, concrete strategies that can deliver on the strategies identified in the previous session. These will become the recommendations for the Position Paper. Each group should provide 3-5 specific tactics that will deliver the selected strategy over 6 months, 2 years or 5 years.</p>	Group Facilitators
12:30-13:00	<b>Discussion &amp; prioritization of tactics</b>	Cameron Neylon
13:00-14:00	<b>Lunch</b>	
14:00-14:30	<p><b>Structuring a Position Statement on Open Research</b></p> <p>Presentation of the proposed structure of the Position Paper and how each of the activities and reports back would fit into the structure.</p>	Cameron Neylon

<b>14:30-15:30</b>	<b>Populating the Position Statement structure</b> Working in groups, organize the material generated so far into the agreed organization for the Position Paper.	Cameron Neylon
<b>15:30-16:00</b>	<b>Break</b>	
<b>16:00-16:30</b>	<b>Discussion &amp; next steps</b>	Cameron Neylon
<b>16:30-</b>	<b>Final Remarks &amp; Closure</b>	Anwar Vahed (DIRISA, SA)

## About the Facilitator

**Cameron Neylon** is Professor of Research Communication at the Centre for Culture and Technology at Curtin University, Australia. He is interested in how to make the Internet more effective as a tool for scholarship. He writes and speaks regularly on scholarly communication, the design of web based tools for research, and the need for policy and cultural change within and around the research community.

Cameron Neylon is a one-time biomedical scientist who has moved into the humanities via Open Access and Open Data advocacy. His research and broader work focusses on how we can make the institutions that support research sustainable and fit for purpose for the 21st century and how the advent of new communications technology is a help (and in some cases a hindrance) for this.

Read more: <http://cameronneylon.net/about/biographies/>

---

**Dr Daniel Adams** is the Chief Director: Emerging Research Areas and Infrastructure, at the Department of Science and Technology (DST), South Africa. His duties and responsibilities include monitoring and evaluation of new and emerging research areas as well as the establishment of national research and cyber-infrastructure. He is also responsible for the National Research Equipment Programmes – providing financial support for the acquisition of research equipment at traditional universities as well as Universities of Technology and National Research Facilities; and is responsible for the National Nanotechnology Equipment programme – financial support for acquisition of research equipment to implement the National Nanotechnology Strategy. He also manages the roll-out of the national research broadband network, and development of the national high performance computing centre.

For the period 1987 to 2007 Daniel Adams was a full-time academic in the Department of Physics at the University of the Western Cape, where he held full-time positions as professor and research scientist. During his tenure at the university, he supervised a number of postgraduate students and established a successful research programme in Bioceramics with emphasis on development and engineering of artificial bone material. Apart from being an active academic Daniel Adams also served as Head of the Department of Physics at UWC for two terms.

**Eve Gray** In a career divided between lecturing and publishing, Eve Gray has had more than twenty-five years' experience in the publishing industry in South Africa and Europe. In South Africa, she was Director of the Witwatersrand University Press, Academic Publishing Director at Juta Publishers and Director of the University of Cape Town Press.

Eve Gray has been a publishing strategy consultant running a publishing strategy consultancy, Eve Gray & Associates, based in South Africa and working principally in the academic publishing sector, with a particular interest in the potential of electronic media and new copyright models to open up the volume and increase the impact of African scholarly publishing. She is – as an Honorary Research Associate – affiliated to the Centre for Educational Technology at the University of Cape Town, a unit that enables, promotes and investigate the integration of technology in teaching and learning in higher education.

In 2006, she is a recipient of an International Policy Fellowship from the Open Society Initiative, Budapest, with a research project entitled: Sustainability Models for Open Access Research Publication in Africa: Policy and Practice.

**Dr Simon Hodson** has been Executive Director of CODATA since August 2013. CODATA exists to promote international collaboration for Open scientific data. Supporting the mission of ICSU, the International Council for Science, CODATA aims to strengthen international science for the benefit of society by promoting improved scientific and technical data management and use. Related to this role, he sits on numerous project Steering Boards and strategic Working Groups in the area of research data. These include the GEO Data Sharing Working Group, the GEO Data Management Principles Task Force and the Scientific Advisory Board of CESSDA, the European data infrastructure for the social sciences. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Dryad Data Repository, a not-for-profit initiative to make the data underlying scientific publications discoverable, freely reusable, and citable. As well as these strategic activities, Simon is directly involved in hands-on activities and research in a number of data related areas. He is co-chair of the RDA-WDS Data Publication Working Group on Cost Recovery for Data Centres; co-chair of the CODATA-RDA Data Working Group for Data Science Summer Schools in Developing Countries. He is an expert on data policy issues and research data management and has recently contributed to reports on 'Current Best Practice for Research Data Management Policies, A Report for the Danish e-Infrastructure Cooperation and the Danish Digital Library' and on strategic research data management infrastructure development for a consortium of UK research institutions. Simon has a strong research background, as well as considerable project and programme management experience: from 2009 to 2013, as Programme Manager, he led two successful phases of Jisc's innovative Managing Research Data programme in the UK.

**Dr Bhanu Neupane** is trained in Hydrosystems, Water Resources Management and Knowledge Management. He has a PhD in water resources management from Canada and a second Doctorate degree in Business Administration from the International School of Management, France/USA.

He started his career as a change agent for a GTZ-funded agricultural inputs project in Eastern Nepal in 1987. He also served as an Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Specialist for a governmental research organisation in Nepal. During 1997-98, he worked as a consultant in the US and served in several Southeast Asian countries. During 1999 and early 2000, he was associated with the Integrated Consultants of Nepal. He joined UNESCO as a Programme Specialist in 2000 and served with the UN system-wide World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP). He was transferred to the UNESCO Office in New Delhi in September 2004, where he was made responsible for the implementation of the International Hydrological Programme and the preparation and design of regional projects and activities on hydrology and water resources.

Currently he is working for UNESCO as a Programme Manager for ICT and Sciences and Open Access to Scientific Research. He is also working in the area of Open Data, essentially to improve and increase access to scientific data and information. He is also a visiting professor and regularly teaches courses related to Knowledge Management, Multi-criteria Decision-Making, Water Resources Management, and Disaster Risk Reduction at Universities.



**Dr Anwar Vahed** is the Manager of the Data Intensive Research Initiative of South Africa (DIRISA). In this role, he oversees the establishment of the national research data infrastructure, coordinates the development of relevant expertise and the implementation of research data management strategy and policies. DIRISA, together with the Centre for High Performance Computing (CHPC) and the South African Research Network (SANReN), forms the technological component of the National Integrated Cyberinfrastructure System (NICIS) of South Africa.

Anwar is a computer scientist with background and interests in the data sciences and data management. He has developed the National Strategic Framework for Big Data and led research in Big Data analytics for earth observation at the South African Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). He serves on several international forums in the data sciences such as the Research Data Alliance (RDA), US National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and CODATA.

**Susan Veldsman** was appointed to the position of Director: Scholarly Publication Unit at the Academy of Sciences in South Africa, in January 2009. She is responsible for raising the visibility, discoverability and accessibility of South African scholarly journals through Open Access and online journal content management; improve the quality of SA scholarly journal, books & conference proceedings through expert peer review panels in the field; find ways and solutions to further support the development of policy frameworks in order to facilitate optimal use and

access to publicly funded research. She received the Electronic Publishing Trust (EPT) award for her outstanding contribution to the promotion of Open Access in Developing Countries. Early in her career she started off as an Information Librarian, at various Higher Education Libraries in South Africa where she eventually was promoted to Assistant Director: Client Services, Library Services at the University of Johannesburg. During 2002 she moved to a national project, South African National Library and Information Consortium (SANLiC) where she was responsible for negotiating access to commercial databases and was actively involved in promoting Open Access and setting up Institutional Repositories. She continued this work, in 2006, in an international consortium, eFL.net.

**Prof Colin Wright** pursued an academic career in Computational Mathematics—including his PhD, research, teaching and PhD graduate supervisions. On retiring as full professor of Computational Mathematics at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg he was granted the rank of Emeritus Research Professor. His senior academic management career included Head of School(s), Executive Dean of the Faculty of Science, Member of the University Council and its Executive and Finance Committees. He did a stint at Wits as executive responsible for Libraries and IT. He led University and ICT Strategy formulation groups. At retirement he was appointed as Research Manager of the Centre for High Performance Computing (CHPC) and then subsequently to manage the SA National Research Network (SANReN).

In 2008, he successfully motivated for the establishment of the national Very Large Database facility (VLDB) which was initially co-located with CHPC and is now being matured into the Data Intensive Research Initiative for South Africa (DIRISA). As a consequence of the 2012/13 international review, the current individual SA Cyberinfrastructure entities plus a new e-

Infrastructure Skills and Training unit are presently being merged into the SA National Cyber Infrastructure System (NICIS). Early beginning of 2014 he was appointed by the Department of Science and Technology to advise on and lead the NICIS implementation. Since its inception, he has been a member of the G8+O5 Research Data Infrastructure Working Group which has advised internationally on data strategy. During the last few years he has advised the European Commission in different capacities on e-Infrastructure matters, including the EC H2020 Research Infrastructures and e-Infrastructures Advisory Group.

