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Information Management solutions for modern research and innovation

Global trends and research information systems development are extremely dynamic and a continuous changing landscape. In this context, where more and more institutions and researchers manage information, the channels increase such that the research information needs to be exchanged between systems. We see this as a digital ecosystem of research information.

It is pertinent to advocate the use of standards to facilitate the exchange of data to ensure that the information can flow seamlessly through the ecosystem and be reused to its maximum capacity. In addition to this streamlining, the process will reduce the administrative burden faced by researchers and administrators. The paper explores trends and developments in the changing landscape as well as exploring various standards and platforms such as CERIF-XML, VIVO, ORCID and CASRAI.

Finally, the paper considers the skills and systems that are required by the modern researcher and how one would position them as a research leader. These are explored along the various key functions of institutions and the individual researchers:

- Research and Innovation Performance of Universities: Africa and the rest of the World
- Competitive Intelligence for strategic research management, encouraging collaboration, capacity building and training
- Enabling technology transfer and commercialisation
- Measuring and Benchmarking (including ranking for modern university management), using the right tools to measure
- Using the right research tools, creating a personal brand, measuring performance
- Finding possible collaborators
- Where to publish – and how to innovate

The paper provides key insights whilst exploring the current landscape and methodologies.