

Call for Papers

5th African Conference for Digital Scholarship and Curation
Durban, South Africa
- University of KwaZulu Natal -
26 – 28 June 2013

Research data in the advance of education, research and innovation

Data collation, analysis and distribution are an integral part of digital scholarship and hence increasingly shape our data management and curation activities. Data infrastructures for advanced education, research and innovation are defined across a broad spectrum from virtual worlds and online gaming to laboratory instrumentation and large scale earth observations. This conference aims to surface the opportunities and challenges that data activities and infrastructures bring to current and future research.

The Planning Committee invites proposals to chair relevant sessions; or abstracts for papers, posters and workshops presented at the conference. **Deadline for submissions: 31 January 2013.**

We welcome proposals, papers, posters and workshops that will aid in expanding knowledge and in embedding good practice in, but not limited to the following areas:

Access to research data

- Open data, closed data and provenance issues
- What is meant by open access to data, open vs sensitive or private data vs managed access?
- Harnessing the value of data accessibility (e.g. public benefit, innovation): examples of enablers, barriers and success stories.
- Expanding Institutional Repositories to include data.
- Policy, legislation and data access.
- Tensions between maintaining quality and openness.
- Open scholarship initiatives in Africa.
- Public benefit, and innovation.
- The political issues impacting upon data management, particularly around government and public institutions, demonstrating the impact of data use.

Managing research data

- Data quality, data citation, developing new metrics for the use of data - open and proprietary.
- Linked data.
- Scale issues in the management of sensitive data.
- Using open data: examples of enablers, barriers and success stories.
- Curation of disciplinary, multidisciplinary and/or mixed data collections.
- Gathering evidence for benefit of data sharing among African scholars.
- The costs vs benefits of data curation.
- Workflows for data cycle management.
- Electronic laboratory books (including the problem of provenance; the viability of metadata and capturing in real-time).
- The roles of researchers, institutions, data centres (including the World Data System), funders, government and service providers.

Data use

- Tools and techniques for data visualisation, data mining, data analysis, measuring data quality, data publication, meshing data.
- Domain-specific usage requirements – case studies
- Interoperability standards and standardisation.
- Trustworthiness, permanence and reliability for long term preservation.
- Criteria to terminate curation.

Preserving digital objects

- Community approaches.
- Preservation concepts and models..
- Business processes and workflows.

- Preserving objects (including text objects).
- Preservation training.
- Preservation assessment.
- Preservation environments and infrastructure.
- Challenges of long term preservation.
- Unique identification of scientists and data sets.
- Linking mechanisms between authors, articles, data objects, and subsets.
- Capturing and preserving indigenous knowledge
- Strategic institutional alignments for the next generation of data preservation and preservation.

Building human capacity

- Building capacity for the effective management, sharing and reuse of data.
- Advocacy programmes – examples of success stories.
- Data science curricula: building human capacity.
- Where to find the data scientists, researchers, librarians, IT services and support staff to support research that will change the world.
- Teaching data management and incorporating data management into masters and doctoral programs.
- eLearning collections
- Strategic institutional alignments for the next generation of data preservation and curation.
- Education and training of the next generation of African data managers.

IT Infrastructure

- Connectivity in Africa: mapping the impact of regional sea cables and terrestrial fibre backbones.

- Infrastructure governance.
- Technical and organisational solutions for data security.
- Authentication, authorisation and access.
- Local partnerships for research infrastructure management.
- Exa-scale computing; the role of data centres.
- Data storage options – tiered, hosted cloud
- Integrating business and research information management systems.

The Mobile Era

- Mobile data – a source to mine or just an access interface?
- Mobile devices and their applications in research.
- Mobile data services to enhance teaching, learning and research.
- Mobile users and their needs.
- New opportunities for collecting citizen science data.

Conference activities

- Chairing sessions
- Paper presentations
- Poster presentations
- Exhibitions
- Workshops

Session Chairs

This provides an individual the opportunity to put together a session for a targeted audience. The chairperson needs to ensure that selected speakers meet the needs of the targeted audience.

- 1) Proposals may outline the topic to be discussed by a minimum of three and maximum of five expert contributors who might share the results of completed or preliminary findings of research, analysis on current concerns or present a position on an issue related to the above themes. The target audience needs to be indicated.
- 2) Proposals will be peer reviewed and must be written in English. Proposals should not exceed 4,000 words.
- 3) Proposals should include written confirmation of invited contributors to participate in the conference either virtually or physically.
- 4) A final abstract for the session as well as the chairperson's profile will be published in the conference programme.
- 5) Sessions will be limited to 90 minutes irrespective of the number of contributors.
- 6) Abstracts of accepted sessions will be published on the [conference web site](#).
- 7) Chairpersons of accepted proposals are required to submit final abstracts and their bio-data and passport size photographs for inclusion in the Conference Programme by **31 March 2013**.
- 8) Submission of power point presentations is due by **18 June 2013**.

Conference Papers

- 1) Papers may report the results of completed or preliminary findings of research, analysis on current concerns or present a position on an issue related to the above themes.
- 2) Abstracts will be peer reviewed and must be written in English. Abstracts should not exceed 4,000 words.
- 3) Authors of accepted papers must attend the conference for the paper to be presented.
- 4) A final abstract for the paper as well as the author profile will be published in the conference programme.
- 5) Authors will be given 20 minutes to present their paper with 5 additional minutes for questions and answers.
- 6) Abstracts of accepted papers will be published on the [Conference web site](#).
- 7) Authors of accepted papers and posters are required to submit final abstracts and their bio-data and passport size photographs for inclusion in the Conference Programme by **31 March 2013**.
- 8) Submission of power point presentations is due by **18 June 2013**.

Posters

- 1) Posters are informal presentations featuring solutions to problems and innovative projects with lessons for the library and research communities.
- 2) ePosters will be displayed continuously on digital display boards at the Conference venue.
- 3).

- 4) Please bring printed poster on pullup banners, (standard size..?) as we are unable to provide display service.
- 5) Display areas for poster banners will be available from **Monday, 25 June 2013 at 14:00** and all banners should be positioned before lunch.
- 6) Each poster author would be given 2 minutes to give a short presentation during one of the conference sessions.
- 9) A final abstract for the poster as well as your profile will be published in the conference programme.

Workshops

- 1) Workshops are either half or full day events coordinated by the presenters
- 2) Any of the themes provided above could be presented as a workshop.
- 3) Workshop proposals are due on: **18 February 2013**
- 4) Successful candidates will be notified by **15 March 2013**

Paper/ Abstracts

Paper length:	Maximum number of words inclusive of references: 10 pages
Abstract length:	Maximum number of words 500 words
Citation format:	Harvard referencing
Format of the paper:	Both research papers as well practices and experiences (case studies, success stories and also lessons learnt) are encouraged.

Key deadlines

- Submission of proposals and abstracts: 1 February 2013 (sessions/ papers/ posters/ workshops)
- Selection and acceptance of abstracts: 1 March 2013
- Selection and acceptance of workshops: 25 March 2013
- Confirmation of attendance: 25 March 2013
- Submission of final abstracts for programme: 31 March

- Draft programme released: 1 April 2013
- Presentation files submitted: 18 June 2013

Target audience

Scientists and researchers, Research managers, Educationists, Information scientists, librarians and other information professionals, ICT infrastructure service providers and managers and telecommunication services, System administrators and engineers, System developers, Information Technology Managers, Graduate students, Spatial and other data analysis, E-space analysts, Technology stewards, Archivists, records managers, curators, Policy makers- in tertiary education, science and technology centers, Young professionals who need gain exposure in the new work environment, and Seasoned professionals wanting to remain relevant.