Database and Networking Portal

www.aphrikeresearch.com

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Building community to leverage African scholarship and increase visibility of African research expertise.
According to the World Economic Forum, Africa produces approximately 1.1% of global scientific knowledge. Is this a reflection of what’s happening on the ground? Is it possible that the contribution is much larger than this, but some of it not recorded anywhere – or stolen as IP?

The current systems that measure outputs and collaboration depend largely on using western metrics which are controlled outside Africa. The databases that are used to record information are often managed outside Africa.

The purpose of aphrikeresearch.com portal is to encourage intra-Africa collaboration and inventions.
The aphrikeresearch.com database and networking portal was developed to: a) map and understand the role of each party in the network b), mobilize interaction between research managers/policy makers; researchers; and research students and c) provide a resource for STI and R&D strategy planning for those who may need to know who is involved and in what research.
RESEARCH COLLABORATION CHALLENGES IN AFRICA

WORKING IN SILOS
Silo working is often underlined by turfs and unwillingness to share information. Silos slow research delivery and makes data analysis difficult. Work effort likely to be duplicated. Through this database, it will be easier to see who is doing what and in what field.

NO CENTRAL INFORMATIONAL PORTALS
Africans rely on the so called international publication houses which are expensive and often biased. Most knowledge may be generated in Africa but end up recorded elsewhere. The portal will also serve as a place where researchers can share their research findings and other achievements.

FOCUS FUNDER DRIVEN
Most African research is not directed by African priorities but agenda often set by funders priorities who are often outside the continent. Although funders are willing to negotiate the funding priorities, researchers do not engage with one another to get the best for their respective countries or regions.
APHRIKERESEARCH.COM FEATURES

- **RECORDS OF RESEARCHERS, STUDENTS AND RESEARCH MANAGERS AND THEIR RESPECTIVE PROFILES**
  Who is doing what and where?

- **RESEARCHERS CAN FIND COLLABORATORS**
  Researchers can find collaborators and follow them. This feature becomes handy if there are multinational funding opportunities that require regional collaboration of some sort.

- **STUDENTS CAN SEARCH FOR POTENTIAL SUPERVISORS**
  Students are able to search based on discipline, research specialization, and/or research interest in order to determine matches for their potential supervisors.

- **RESEARCH MANAGERS CAN PROFILE RESEARCH TAKING PLACE IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES**
  This may assist for planning purposes. E.g. when you want to launch a call targeting a particular theme, the demand can be estimated upfront.

- **ADVANCED SEARCH**
  These are some of the fields that you may search on: Country, bio, discipline, area of specialization, research interest, current projects, etc.

- **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES AND EVENTS**
  Research managers can load funding opportunities in their regions. Regional and international events are featured on the website and users may request to upload their events on the portal for wider distribution.
WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO BECOME A MEMBER?

- Researchers
- Research Managers & STI Policy Makers
- Research Students

The above will have different access levels to the side. E.g. Research Managers, per request, may be able to upload funding opportunities. Similarly, researchers, per request, may be able to upload events such as conferences and international seminars/workshops.
Blended learning – is the integration of online learning and traditional student-to-teacher or human-mediated learning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Traditional higher education</th>
<th>Modern higher education</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teacher-centred</td>
<td>Learner-centred</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sage on stage approach</td>
<td>Guide on side approach</td>
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<td>One-way transfer</td>
<td>Multi-way transfer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Passive learning</td>
<td>Active learning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discipline specific knowledge</td>
<td>Discipline specific + generic skills</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lower-order learning</td>
<td>Higher-order learning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Certification</td>
<td>Preparing post graduation life</td>
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Sridharan et al. (2014)

- Web-based learning/ Multimedia
- Social media based learning
- Blended learning/e-learning
### Current/post-modern education system

- Includes all the attributes of modern and also some from traditional higher education
- Ultra-blended learning model e.g. virtual platforms

**Networking web portal (e.g. Aphrike) value add-in**

- Collaborative networking
- Interaction of students/researchers with experts outside their academic environment
- Easy/facilitated networking for research funding in pursuit of further research studies post-academic qualification
- Networking with a potential research coach/mentor and maybe even a life mentor
POTENTIAL ROLE IN SHAPING LEARNING INSTITUTIONS

Aphrike can assist in facilitating the following:

• potentially aid in making students to be partners in the learning system and as such enhance the quality of education and student-to-lecturer/teacher interactions

• ease the burdens that comes with traditional education in learning institutions

• formation of student partnerships/collaborations in technologically-disadvantaged communities and societies
QUADRIPARTITE OVERVIEW MODEL (Healy et al, 2014) *highlighting post-modern student participation in learning institutions
Information is power and the ability to use it efficiently will bring enormous benefits for individual researchers and the community on which the research outcomes have an impact.

Institutions/organisations can use the relevant data or information for planning purposes.

Research that helps Africa realise its SDGs.
The advisory board role is to advise on the strategic development of the database and the raising of funds for its sustainability.

Provide "wise advice" on research database portal issues; provide impartial perspectives and suggestions from a third party point of view (not involved in the running of the initiative); promote and endorse the discovery of new creative ways to use knowledge from the portal; encourage the creation of mechanisms to support the sustainability of aphrikeresearch.com through fund raising initiatives (including sourcing donor funding).
SPONSORSHIP

The database and networking portal depends on volunteers and donations from the users and other societal members. The database is available for free and is maintained through the goodwill of individuals.

If you are interested in becoming our partner or sponsor please email us at partner@aphrikeresearch.com
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPONSORS</th>
<th>FUNDERS</th>
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| • Volunteers and donations from the users and other societal members.  
• Database is free  
• Need to support new projects. | • due diligence assessments and reports  
• impact and scientometric assessments |

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<tr>
<th>CONFERENCE ORG.</th>
<th>ASSOCIATIONS &amp; NGOs</th>
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| • We promote your event to relevant stakeholders.  
• We can also host your conference pages as subdomain to our website  
• Can manage conference registrations | • In areas of common interest |

If you are interested in becoming our partner or supporter please email us at partner@aphrikeresearch.com
Thank You

Global Challenges
Regional Solutions
One Platform

A researchers portal with a difference

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