South Africa - A publisher’s perspective

STM/PASA conference
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Mayur Amin, SVP Research & Academic Relations
As a science information company, we have a unique vantage point on research.

In one year we see (as an industry): over 3.5 million articles submitted, over 1.7 million articles published, 30 million readers, over 2 billion article downloads, 30 million article citations.
Today: Scientific information solutions

- E-distribution
- Decision Support Tools
- Derived content
- Insight
- Services

1665: First peer-reviewed journal
Topics

1. Broad changes in the research landscape
2. South Africa’s research
   - Research outputs
   - Quality of research outputs
   - Collaboration
Research has become complex and interlinked

From the simple...
Research has become complex and interlinked... to the very complex
Collaboration has become important

From individual research ...
Collaboration has become important... to co-working...
Collaboration has become important

3,222 authors
208 institutes
37 countries

... to hyper-collaboration
Content has become interactive and actionable
Content has become interactive and actionable... to very interactive
Disseminating content has become virtual

SciVerse ScienceDirect

>10,000,000 articles
>19,000,000 images
>25,000 videos
>15,000 books
~10,000 users / minute
~800 searches / minute
~20 article downloads / second

... to super computers
Today’s discussion

1. Broad changes in the research landscape

2. South Africa’s research
   - Research outputs
   - Quality of research outputs
   - Collaboration
Articles accepted for publication

Elsevier

Western Europe

Asia

US & Canada

Eastern Europe

Middle East

South America

Australia & Oceania

Africa

Central America
Growth in Research Articles published

Indexed

Source: Scopus
South Africa – Research Activity Index

Source: Scopus
South Africa – Quality of research papers
Citation trends (FWCI)

Source: Scopus
International Collaboration

Papers with International Collaboration

1996 – 26%
2008 – 35%

Source: Scopus data
Global research collaboration – South Africa

• Collaboration threshold = 100 publications
• Collaboration is mapped only on papers authored by South African researchers in the period 2005-2009 (> 40K publications)

Source: Scopus
African research collaboration

Source: Scopus
International collaboration – Recent trends

Source: Scopus
International collaboration and citation impact

- International scientific collaboration is generally acknowledged as a positive force driving national impact and prestige.
- Domestic articles have around 3 times fewer citations per article than those with five collaborating countries.

Source: Scopus
### International collaboration and citation impact

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Source: Scopus
Top 40 publishers of South Africa’s research outputs (2006-2010):
• accounted for 90% of all SA papers published
• include 13 South African publishers accounting for 13% of all SA papers

Source: Scopus