**CHELSA
INFORMATION SESSION
HELD ON 23 SEPTEMBER 2022
10:30
VIA ZOOM**

MEETING NOTES

1. Opening and Welcome

The CHELSA Chair Elect welcomed all members and provided some background information on the purpose of the Information Session. The session had been arranged at the request of CHELSA members, in order to provide information on two of CHELSA's projects, namely the CHELSA Statistics Database Revamp, and the CHELSA National SA Repository project.

Invitations were extended to all CHELSA members, with an invitation for them to invite three members per institution to attend the session, which was limited to a total of 100 participants.

There were 48 registrations for the session with 36 participants joining the meeting. Extensive loadshedding on the day impacted on connectivity for the session and also on the meeting recording. Apologies from members were noted.

2. CHELSA Statistics Database Revamp Report

Prof Elisha Chiware from CPUT presented the proposal for the revamp of the CHELSA Statistics Database, which had been tabled for members at the Ordinary General Meeting held on 27 May 2022, in an attempt to reiterate the need for the revamp of the database which was no longer serving its purpose.

Prof Chiware provided some background and importance around the need for statistical data in libraries as an important management and advocacy tool in order to make the library more visible, to assist them in aligning their strategies to those of their institutions and to demonstrate their value to student success.

The provision of accurate and meaningful statistical data is important for the purposes of inter institutional benchmarking. The CHELSA statistics database originated with the vision of the CPUT Library to establish an internal tool for the effective management of CPUT libraries statistics. A service

provider was appointed by with the financial support of CHELSA and the database was finalized and extended to all CHELSA Members. A Memorandum of Understanding on the Sharing a Statistics Database between CPUT and CHELSA was signed by both parties in 2015. CHELSA statistics are available for viewing by all CHELSA libraries. There are currently 17 institutions contributing data to the database.

Environmental Scanning

Prof Chiware gave an example of two international trends; the Council for Australian University Libraries (CAUL) and German institution that have vibrant stats services produced annually by member institutions. These institutions have developed the common set of standards both qualitative and quantitative.

The Revamp proposal included but was not limited to:
- Updating the Infrastructure & technology architecture (API to interface with other platforms)
- Align to the CHELSA Measures for Quality in SA HEI Libraries
- Align with State of Academic Libraries Report/AL Standards Framework

The Informal Interest Group of volunteers that is coordinated by colleagues from UJ (Happy & Nomoya) was acknowledged and adopted as a subgroup of CHELSA under the leadership of Prof Chiware. A proposal that this group be extended to include members from unrepresented institutions was supported. The Informal Interest Group, currently represented by 13 member institutions, has developed the Terms of Reference for the Team

Three task teams were proposed:
- Needs Assessment: A needs assessment & analysis to be conducted to determine the type of data to be collected (group of volunteers and Prof Chiware). The Needs Analysis will inform the two further task teams
- Technology Infrastructure made up of IT and stats experts
- Marketing and Training

3. CHELSA National SA Repository Project Report

A brief introduction and background of the project by Dr Neerputh was noted in her absence. This was followed by a presentation by Dr Raju. Dr Raju outlined the goals of the project. The meeting noted that:
- Most institutions have established IRs with research output in the form of articles, theses and dissertations.
- The visibility and discoverability of the research output is negatively affected by the inadequate metadata and infrastructure in some institutions.
- Each institution works independently with limited HR and financial resources in some instances

Goals of the project

- No institution is left behind in this project. Open sharing underpins the critical need that theses and dissertations need to be discoverable for the next generations to come
- Single point of access to SA research. This could lure international students to SA, so there are academic benefits like research rating, grant applications, to reviewers and evaluators of research metadata standards
- Improved visibility, discoverability, and interoperability as a result of standardized metadata creation
- NETD standards, quality, consistency could lead to long-term preservation, a database for African theses will contribute to the Directory of Open Access Repositories, linking SA to organizations like Proquest and the rest of the world.

How the project unfolds

- CHELSA has endorsed a concept document in the past which outlines the different models.
- Various task teams have been established (refer to a set of terms of reference). Any suggestions for the task teams be sent to the CHELSA Office.

4. Closure

The Chair thanked the presenters and attendants and closed the session.