

# Mainstreaming the African Platform for Open Scholarship

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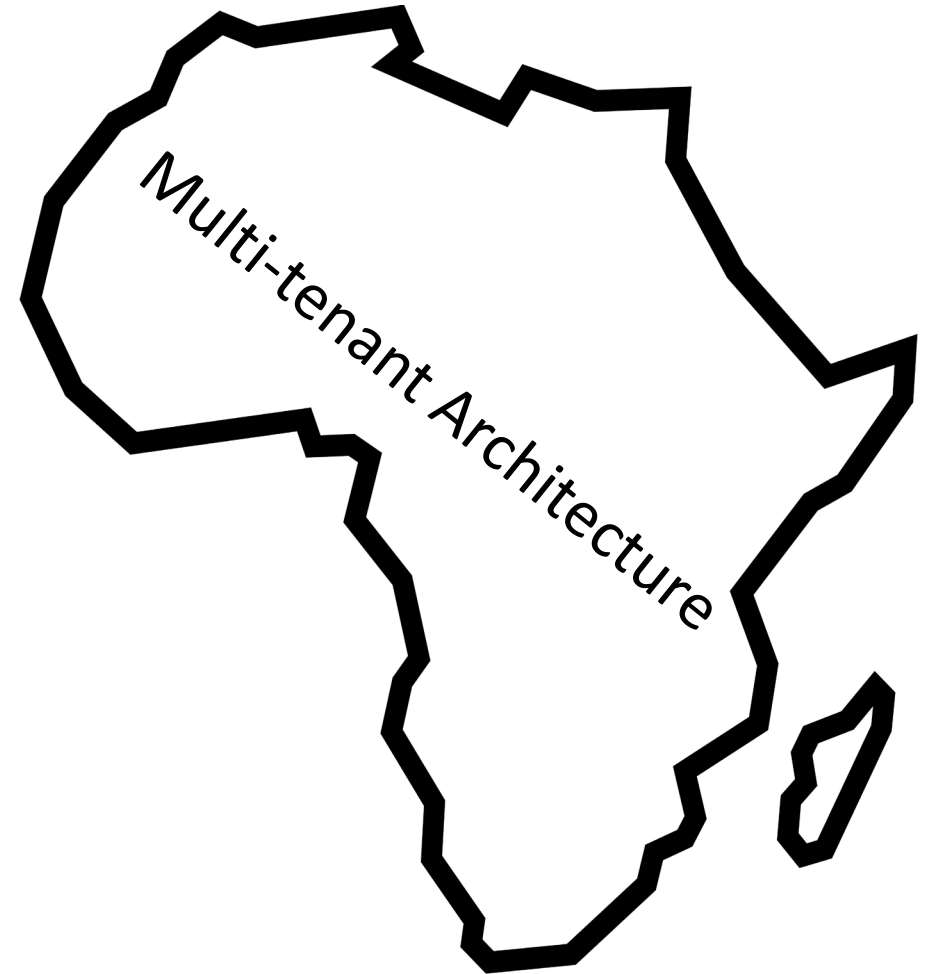
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# African Platform for Open Scholarship

What Africa seeks is the deconstruction of debilitating scholarly ecosystem & develop an ecosystem that is inclusive and underpinned by social justice principles

- Raju & Badrudeen (2021)



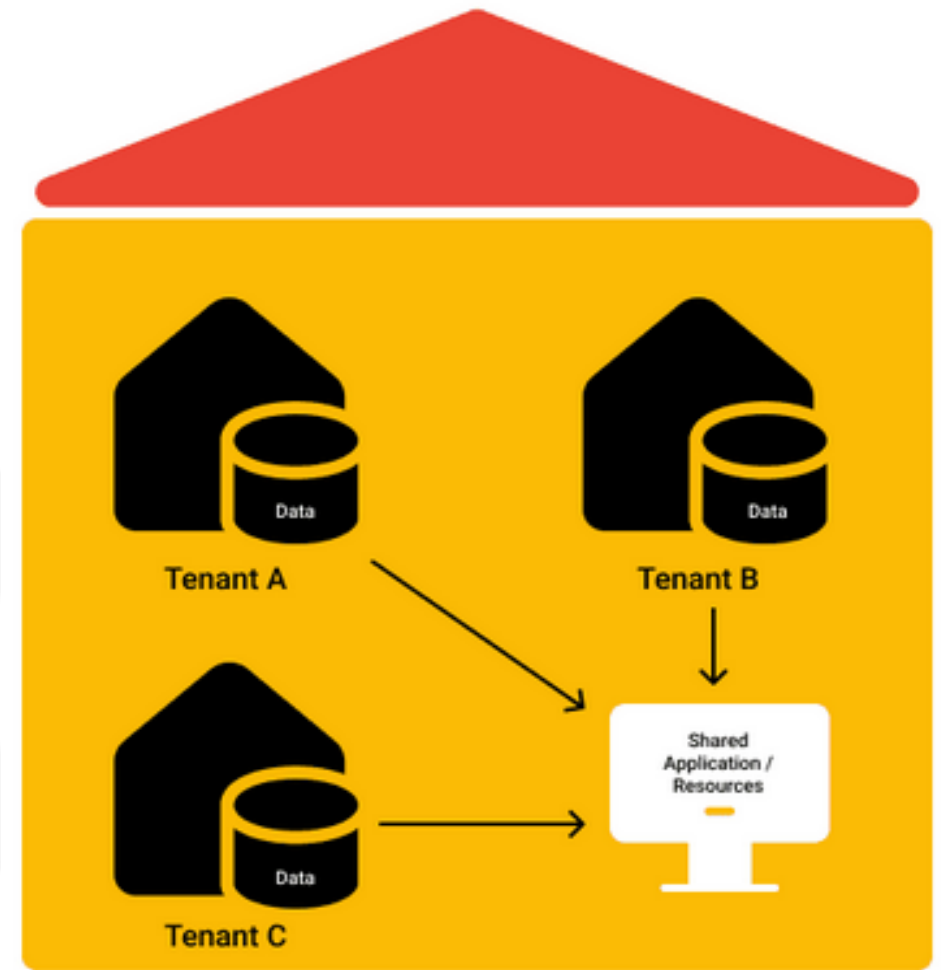
Social Justice



# Multi-Tenant Architecture

## Features:

- One instance of software system
  - Like apartment complex
- Multiple tenants
  - Own apartment
  - Private
  - Secure
- Same infrastructure



A single application instance serves multiple tenant, each with their own isolated data, like apartments in a building.



# AFRICAN JOURNAL OF INTER/ MULTIDISCIPLINARY STUDIES



**NCRST**  
NATIONAL COMMISSION  
ON RESEARCH SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

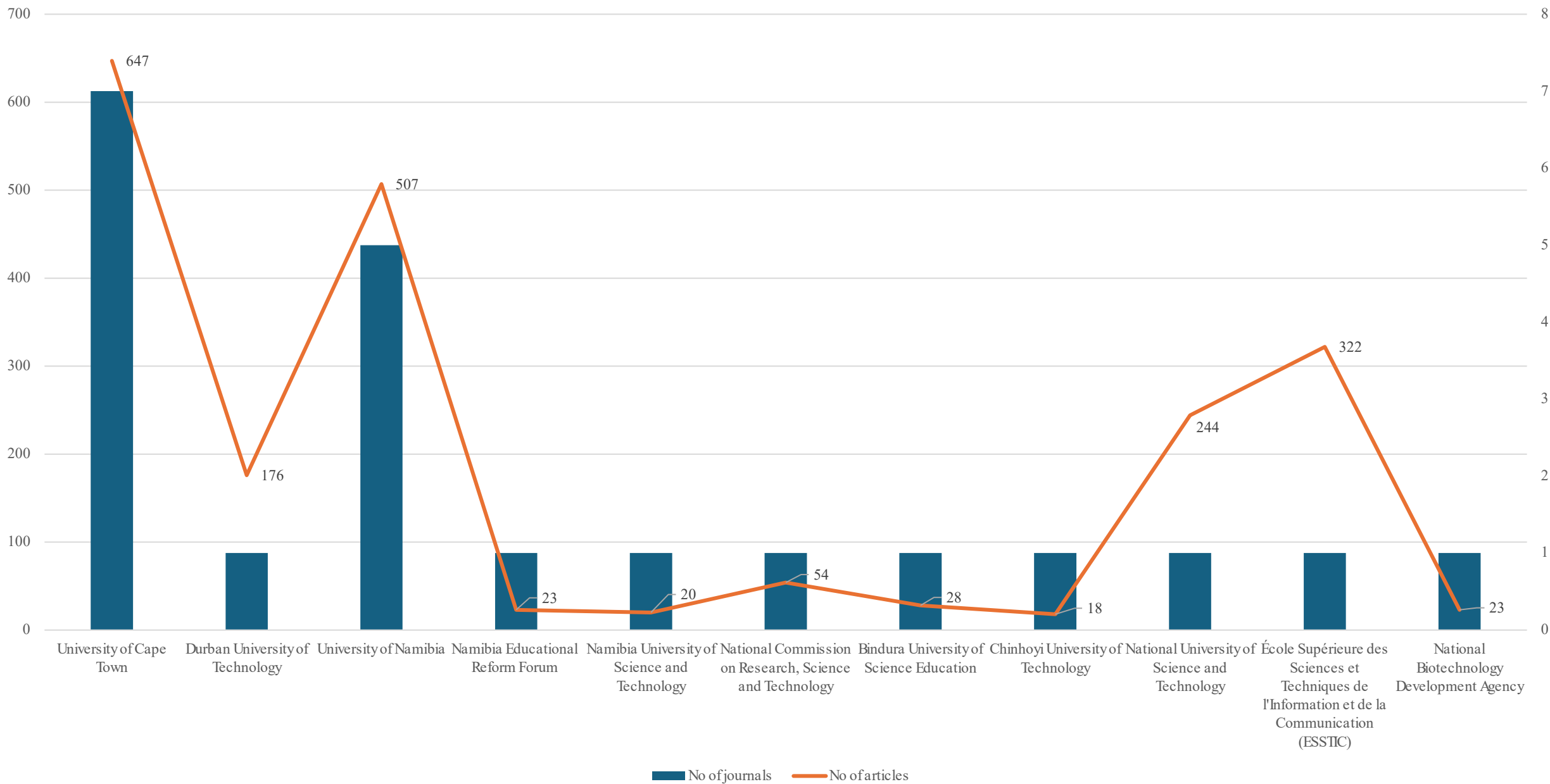
## Namibia Journal for Research, Science and Technology



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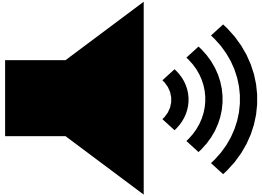
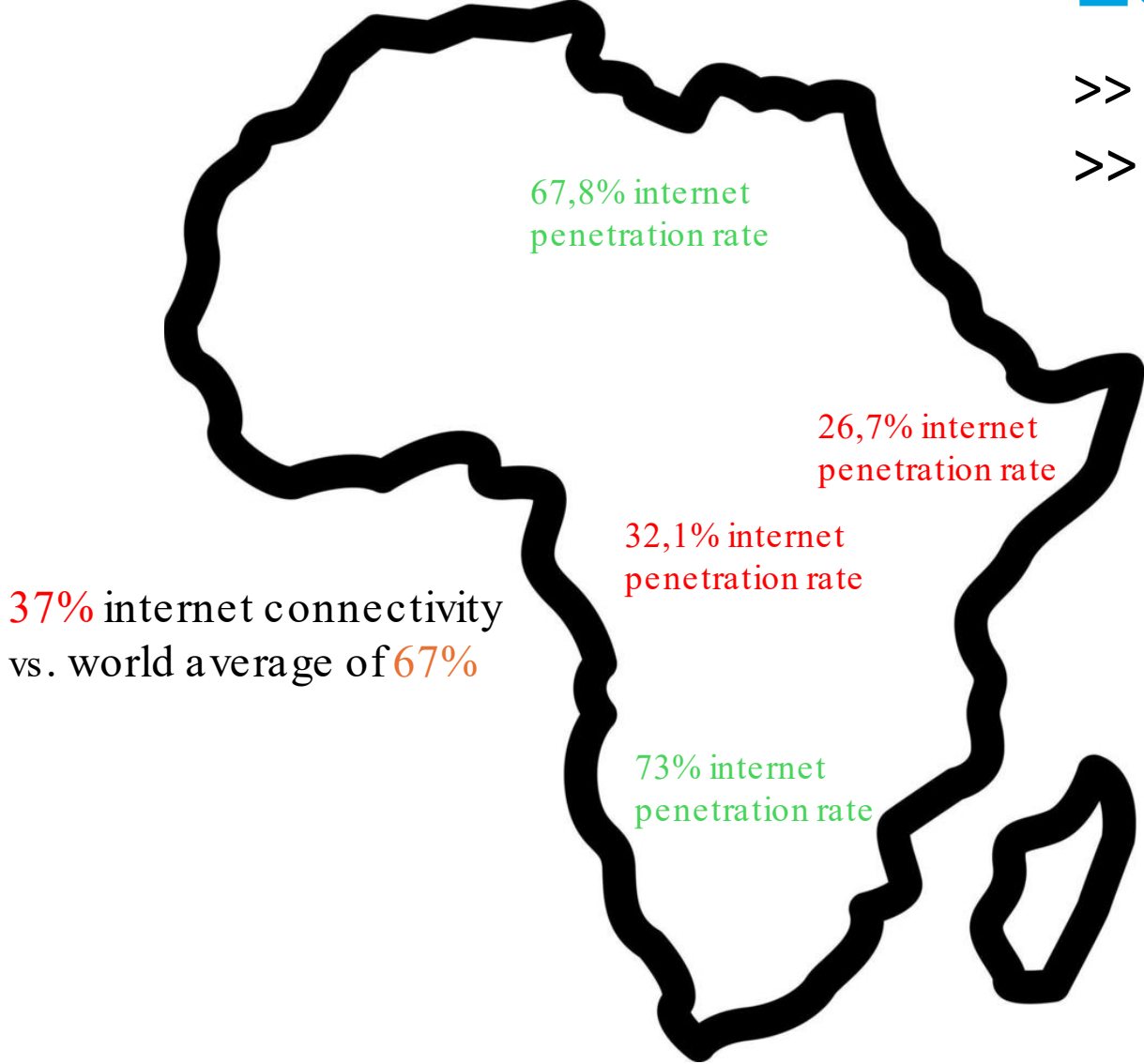
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# No. of journals and articles per institution on APOS

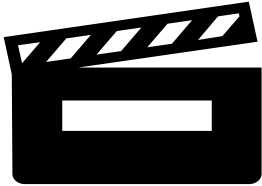


# Equitable access to knowledge

- >> Right to access & disseminate scholarship
- >> Diverse sharing of knowledge

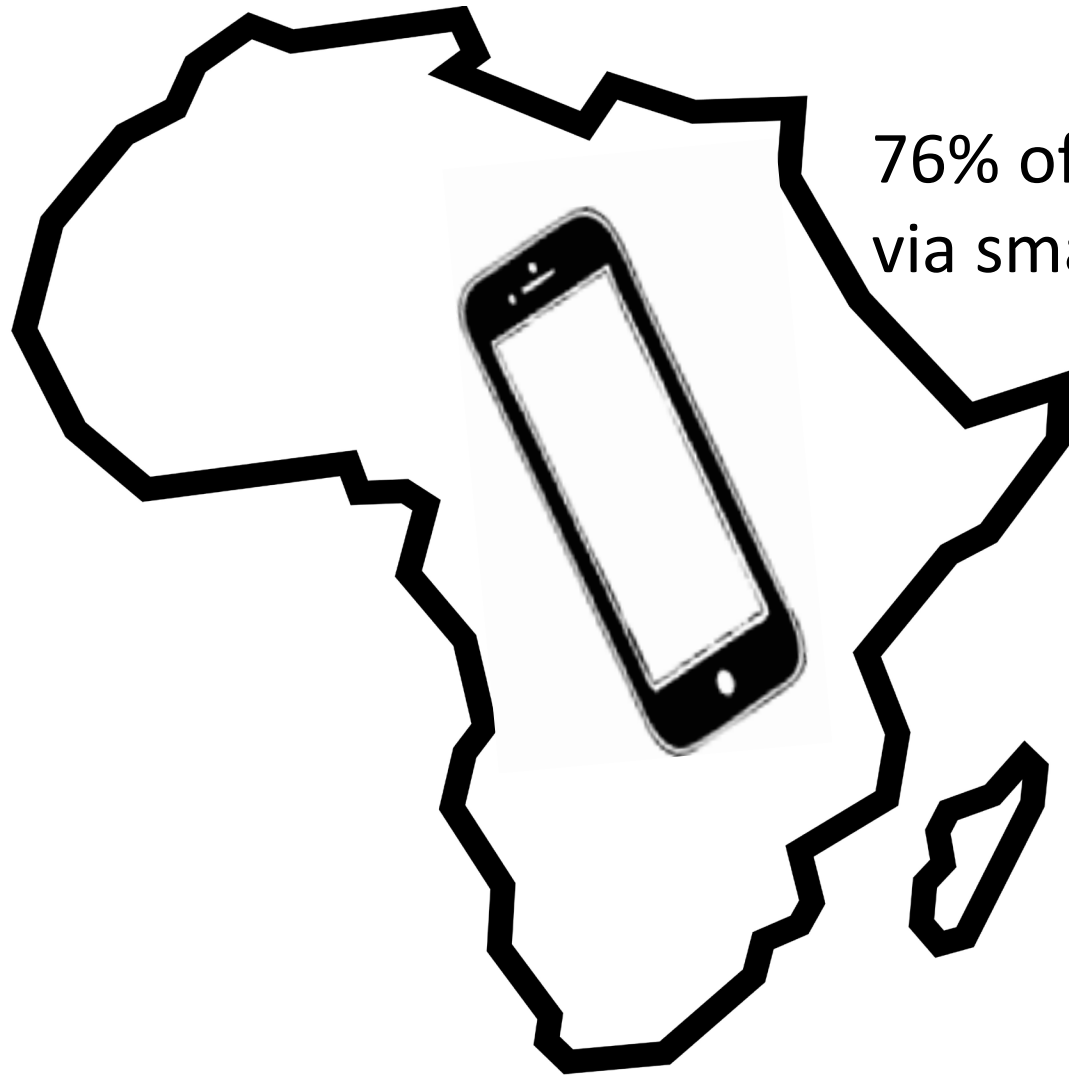


Audio clips



Embedded videos, with captions

# Equitable access to knowledge (cont.)



76% of Africans connect via smart phones



```
<HTML>  
  
<html>  
<title>HTML</title>  
<body>  
This is HTML!  
</body>  
</html>
```



# Inclusion of marginalised voices

- >> value multiple perspectives of research
- >> accelerate niche community-specific research



2010 – 2022: 389  
articles published



No of downloads (as  
at Jan 2023): 462 000



2018 – 2022: 138  
papers indexed; 421  
citations





# Removal of financial barriers

>> article processing charges eliminated

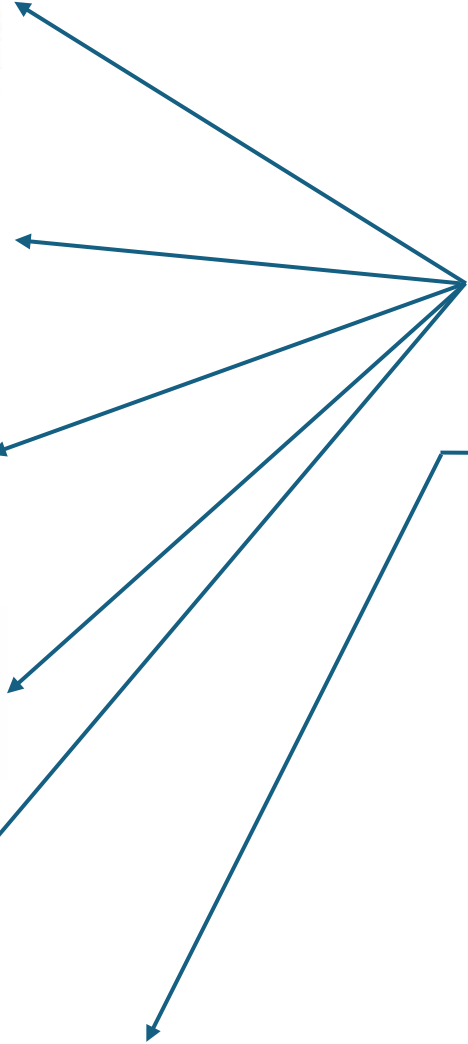
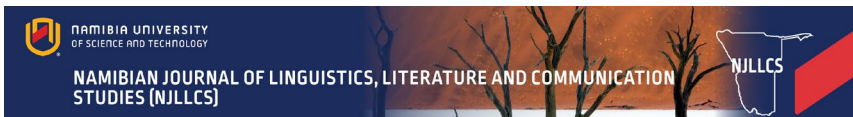
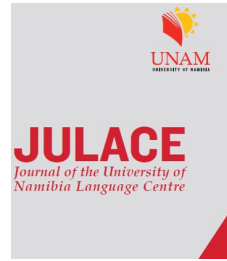
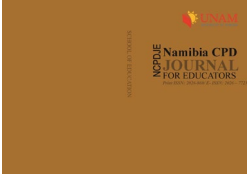
## Cost-effectiveness of multi-tenant model

- Installation once
- Centralised upgrades & maintenance



- ✓ Research freedom
- ✓ Relatable African scholarship
- ✓ Address research needs of own communities





University of Namibia



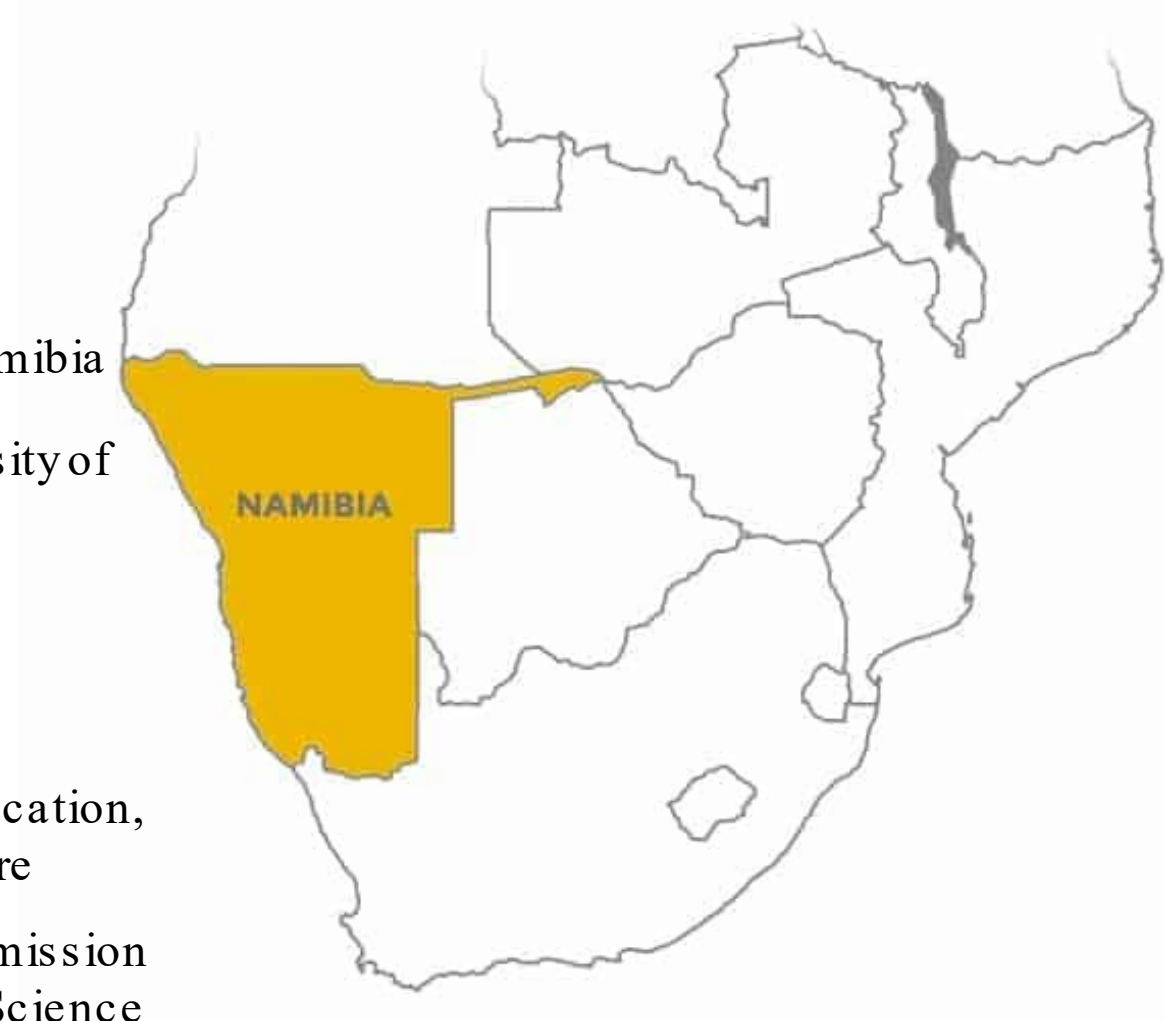
Namibia University of Science and Technology



Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture



National Commission on Research, Science and Technology



# Spotlight on NUST, Namibia

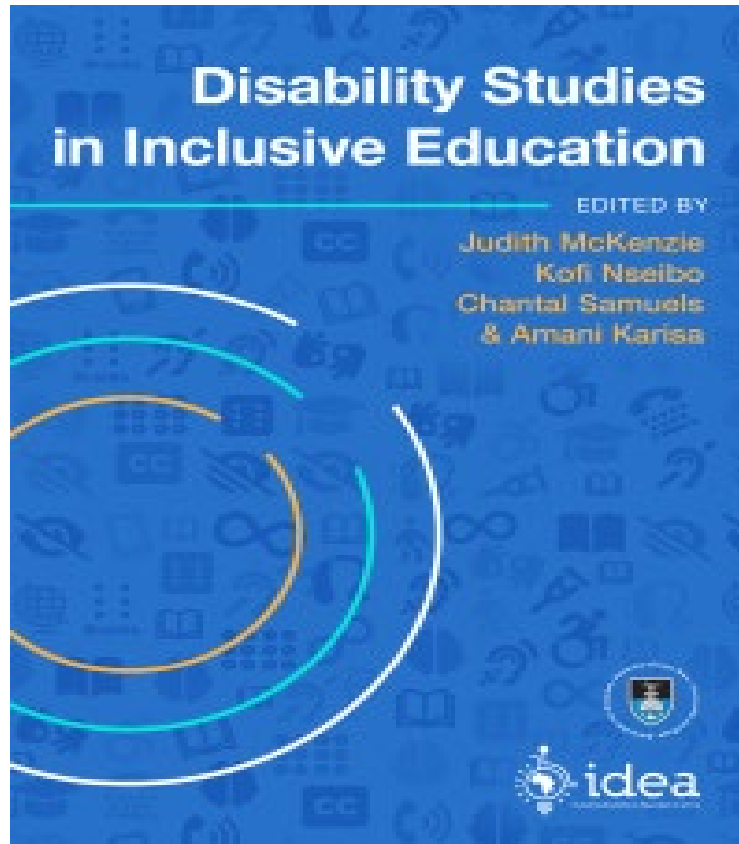


- Oldest journal in the country
- Flipped to diamond open access
- Directory of Open Access Journals *SOON*



# Decolonising scholarly communication

>> promoting and sharing diverse scholarship



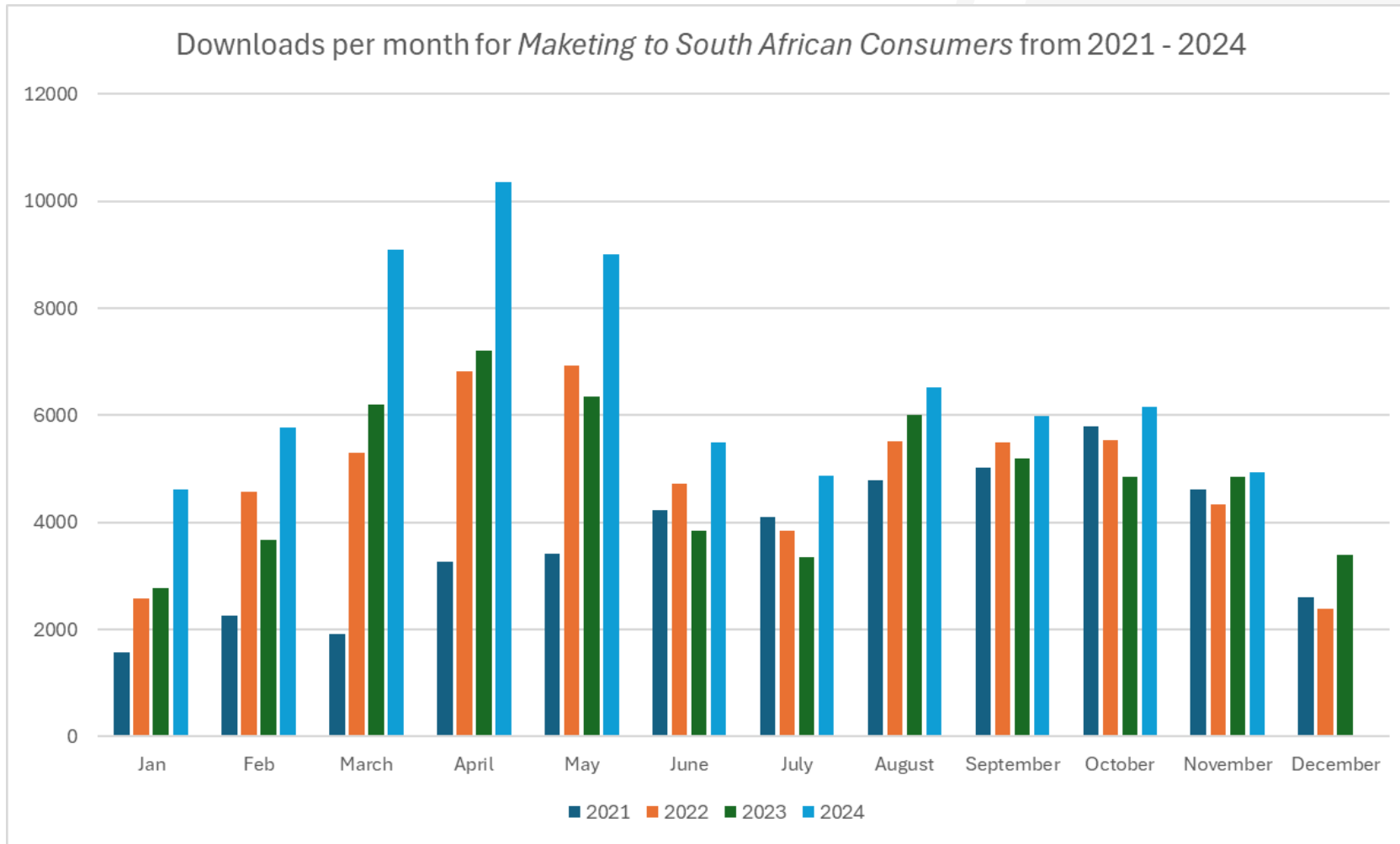
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# Decolonising scholarly communication

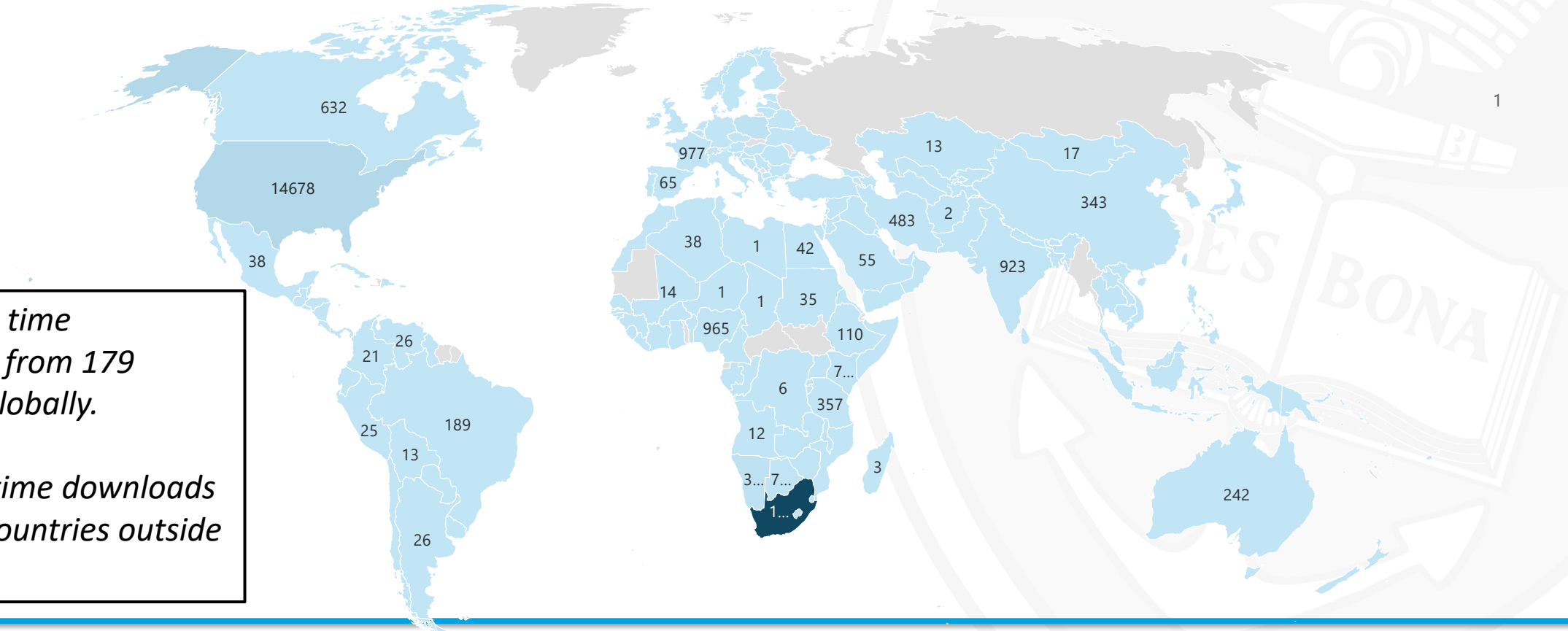
>> accessing relatable scholarship



# Decolonising scholarly communication

>> promoting opportunities for bidirectional flow of scholarship

Geographic distribution of downloads from March 2020 - November 2024 for Constitutional Law for Students



- 281 900 all time downloads from 179 countries globally.
- 35 207 all time downloads from 134 countries outside of Africa.



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# Capacity building and collaboration

>> inclusive of all Africans, leaving no one behind



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Home > Open Journals

## Guidelines to establish a Journal



Future plans

Neutral space with Regional REN  
Expansion to increase  
Visibility & discoverability



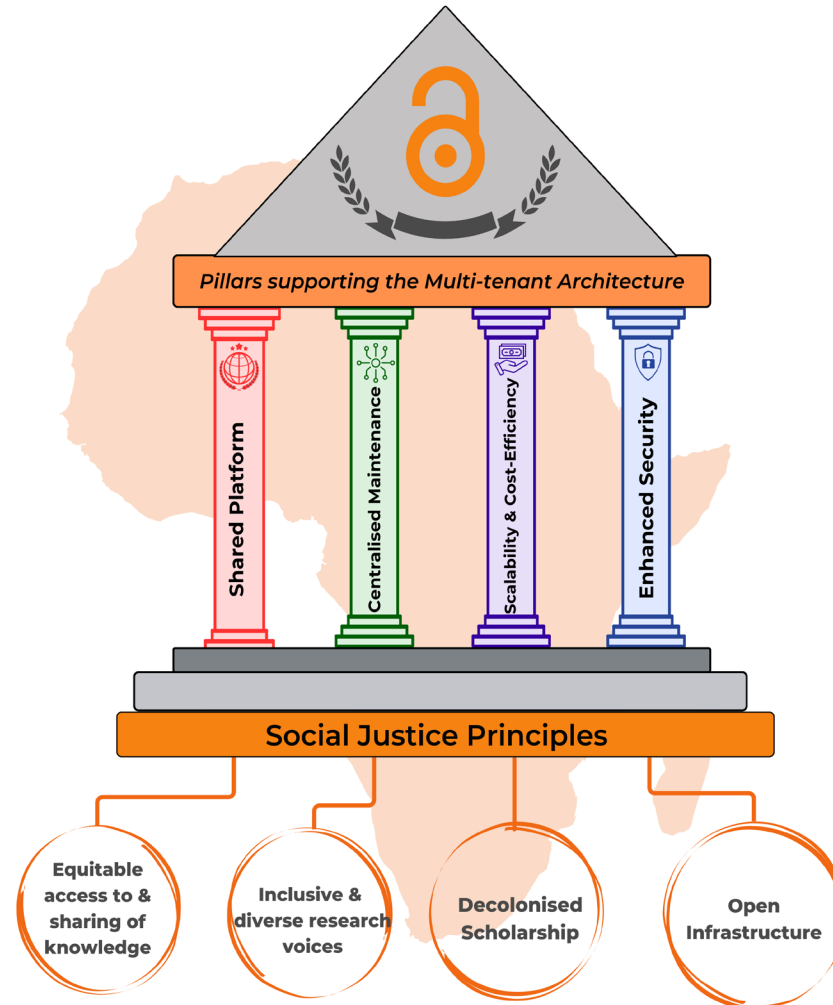
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# In Summary



# Conclusion

- African knowledge production can flourish through Diamond Open Access
- African scholarship is mainstreamed and no longer side-lined
- Participation in scholarly bi-directional flow of knowledge
- Denorthernisation leads to balance to global knowledge economy



# Thank You

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