

Kenya Research Information System (KRIS)

Brief

JKUAT Workshop Date:
12th February 2021

Time
9.00 am – 11.00 am

Mode of delivery
Virtual



AFRICA-ai- JAPAN Project.
African Union - African Innovation - JKUAT AND PAUSTI Network Project

Contact Information

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What is KRIS?

KRIS is a system built by Dr Petronilla Muthoni, with the assistance of Damaris Waema and Robert Kibet, all of the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, with funding from JICA through the Africa ai Japan project. The system is aimed at meeting the need for improved visibility of research done in Kenya. The system provides a platform that brings together researchers from institutions of higher learning and major research institutes in Kenya. This is achieved through an interactive web based portal, through which researchers will be able to create their profiles including areas of interest and contact details; populate and update information on research projects they are/have been involved in, and upload and/or create links to publications and relevant project outputs. The system incorporates multiple search criteria to enhance information retrieval. For example, one can search for research projects or researchers by institution, research area, or a combination of both, or by use of key words. The portal provides for a central messaging center, through which various news and notifications can be passed, and a discussion board through which researchers can engage in a conversation.

The system incorporates mechanisms to secure data that is considered sensitive. A researcher, on upload of research documents, can select whether to make them public or private. Public documents are accessible by anyone visiting the site. For private documents, a user will need to request for access from the owner of the files. The researcher (owner) receives notifications of the request, both on email and on his dashboard, and can either approve or deny the request. If approved, the file becomes downloadable by the requester.

Data visualization techniques have been incorporated to enable researchers get a view of the data in various forms, making it easy to make inferences that would be useful for various purposes. For example, one can view top research areas, institutions, researchers and funders, and publications by research areas over a certain period of time.

Why the workshop?

The workshop is aimed at taking researchers through the main functionalities of the system, and be given a chance to interact with it. We will then seek feedback on the functionalities, usability and other issues towards improving the system. This exercise is also seen as a way of creating awareness of the system and the intended benefits, and encouraging users to make use of it once implemented fully.

Who can attend?

All researchers at Kenyan Universities