

Enhancing the uptake of research results in conservation decisions in Madagascar

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Background

- The research-practice gap is widely acknowledged in the field of conservation and needs to be addressed consequently .
- Most studies have been carried out in developed countries (e.g. UK, USA, Australia, New Zealand, France) on a wide range of conservation topics .
- Relatively fewer studies have been done in biologically-rich and poverty stricken countries.
- Impact is high on the agenda of research funding bodies.

Methods

- We surveyed headquarter-based conservation managers (i.e. professionals with some decision-making power that affects on-the-ground actions).
- We used questionnaires to gather data on:
 - ↳ The information sources* managers frequently use to inform their decisions (1)
 - ↳ Their information search and reception habits (2)
 - ↳ The barriers to accessing and using RR in conservation decisions (3)
- Our suggestions are based on the analysis of (1), (2) and (3).

Results

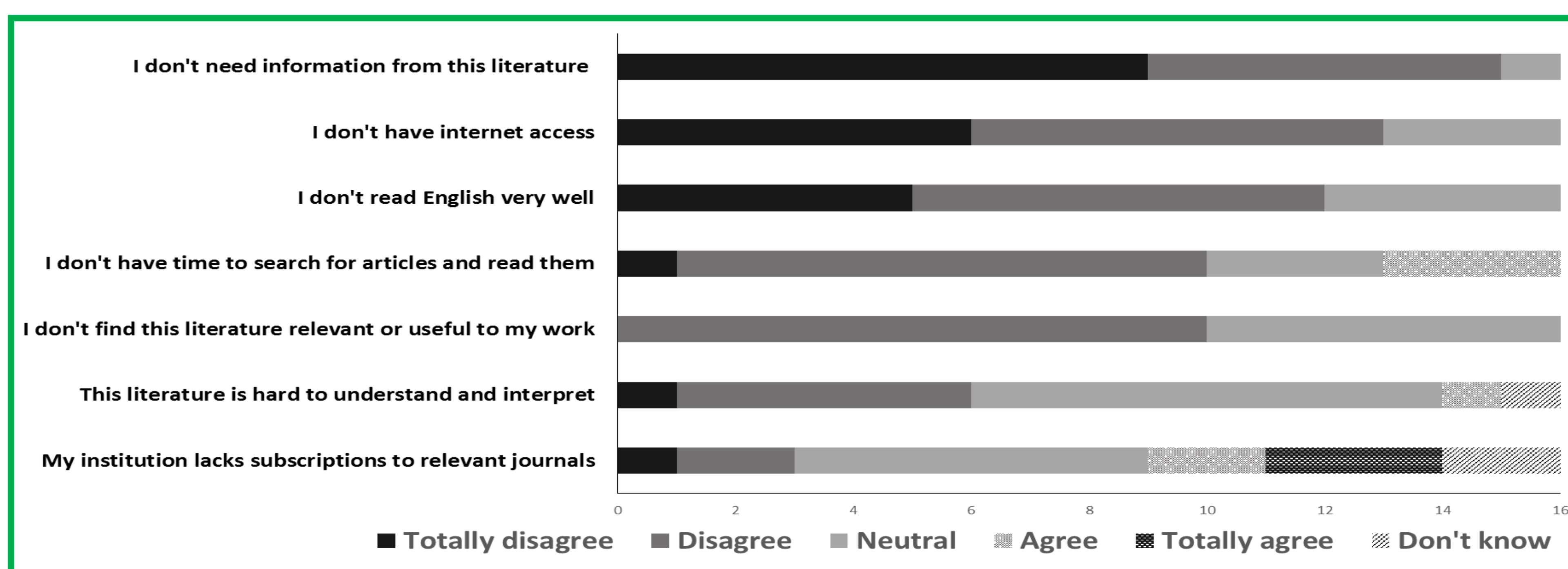


Fig. 1: Barriers to using peer-reviewed publications [X axis: number of respondents (n=16); Y axis: barrier statements]

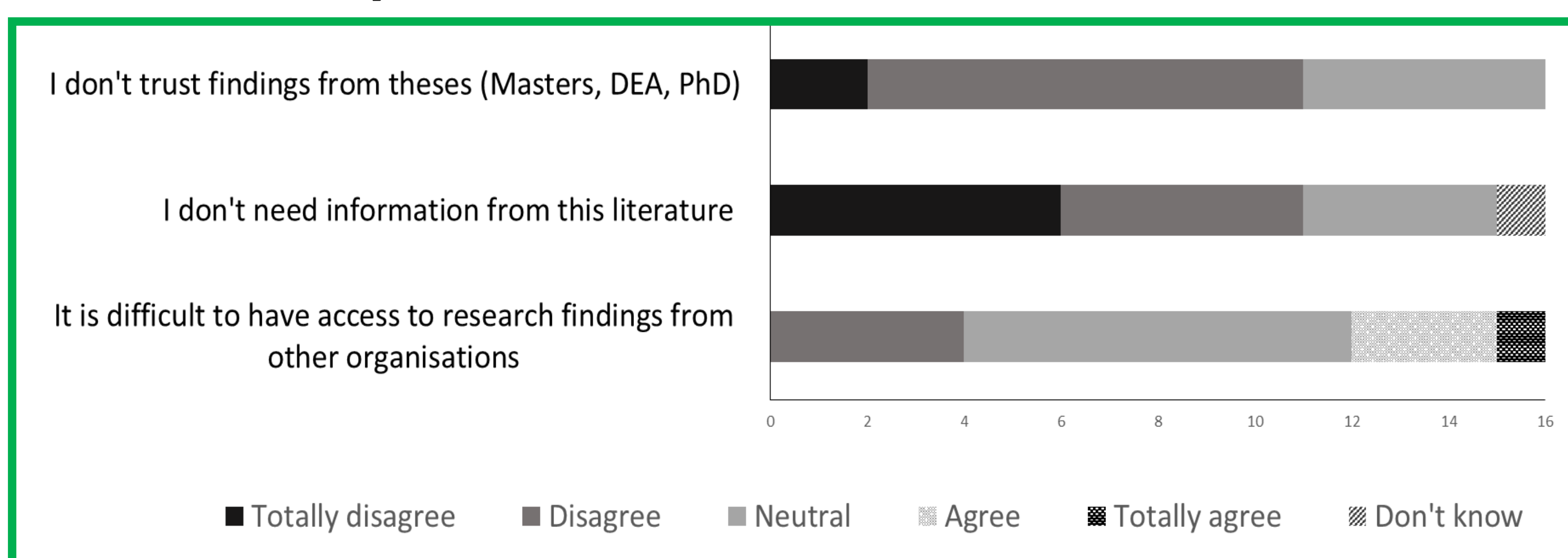


Fig. 2: Barriers to using non peer-reviewed publications [X-axis: number of respondents (n=16); Y-axis: barrier statements]

Reluctance to share research results and associated data

Applicability of the results

Fig. 3: Other barriers mentioned

[from a thematic analysis of open-ended questions]

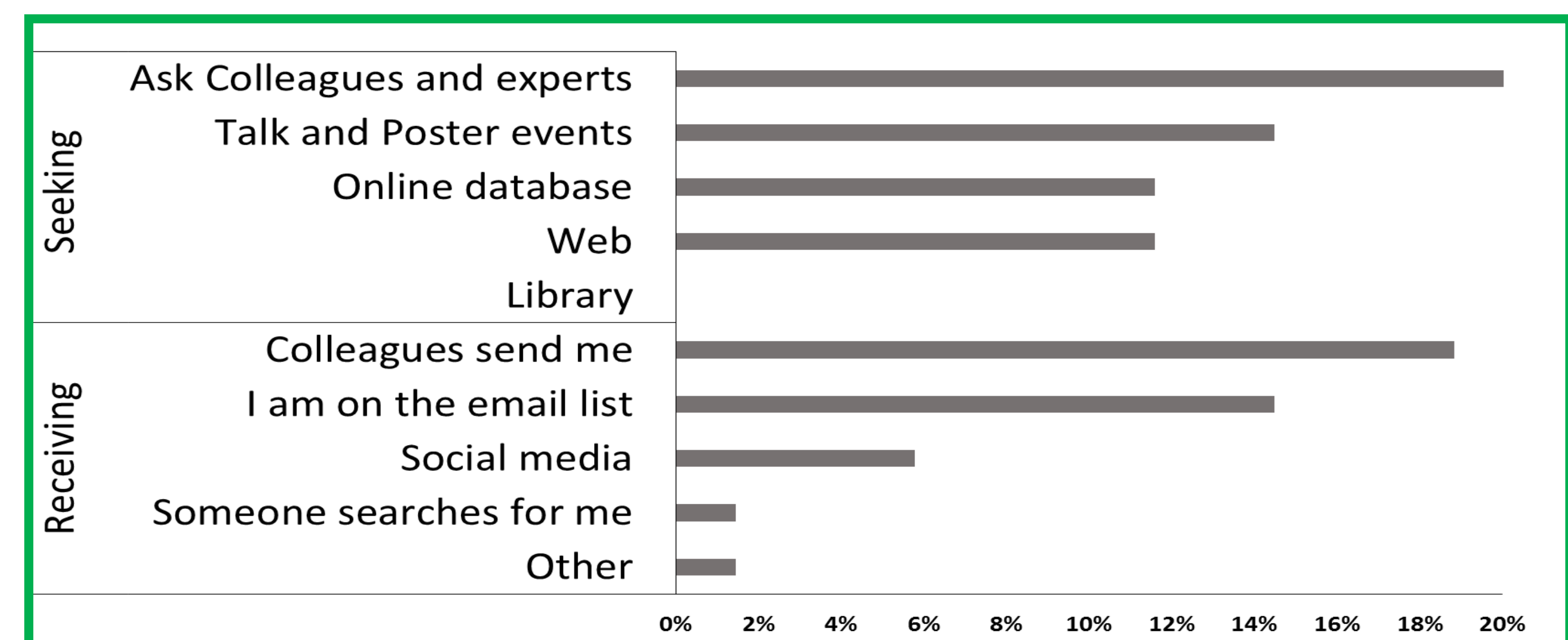


Fig. 4: How managers search for and receive research results [X-axis: how often a response option (on Y-axis) was reported (n=16)]

Suggestions

Create a repository of Madagascar-relevant research results

- ↳ Centralised for easy retrieval of research results (RR)
- ↳ Need for metrics (e.g. number of citations, downloads, etc.)



Metrics reflect the utility of the RR to potential users and enhance the recognition and visibility of the holder

Create a discussion platform between researchers and managers

- ↳ Fosters direct interaction
- ↳ Need for metrics (e.g. number of citations, downloads, etc.)



Metrics reflect the contribution of the researchers or the managers involved in the discussions/exchange

But further considerations are needed

- Maintenance costs of the database
- Willingness of stakeholders (i.e. researchers, managers) to engage
- Effectiveness of metrics to deliver their promises
- Terms and conditions of RR/data sharing and use

*Results are not shown

Acknowledgments

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