

Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN

RESEARCH4LIFE TRAINING MOOC



Many researchers, physicians, students and policymakers in developing countries continue to struggle with up-to-date, peer reviewed scientific literature, essential for research, dissemination and practice. Over the past two decades, UN-publisher Research4Life (R4L) partnership has worked to bridge the digital divide, providing free or low-cost access to research for publicly funded institutions in the world's least resourced countries. Over 9,000 institutions in 120 countries are now registered to access the more than 100,000 resources in R4L. Elsevier is one of the 6 original founding and driving partners, providing a quarter of that research.

Through Open Access and programs such as Research4Life, training rather than access has become the dominant issue for the global South. Traditionally, much of R4L information literacy capacity building has happened in a face-to-face, train-the-trainer capacity through the UN partners and the Elsevier Foundation-funded MLA/Librarians without Borders program. In order to significantly scale up virtual training, a 2019 grant from the Elsevier Foundation was awarded to the FAO-led R4L Capacity Development Team to create a pilot MOOC. The MOOC aims to equip Research4Life users with the knowledge and skills needed to develop capacities in information use, scholarly communication and information management in least developed countries.



Primary outcome

The Research4Life training MOOC contributes to the development of skills and competences to access scientific resources for low-income countries.

Goals

- Identify and evaluate information sources, develop search strategy, familiarize search techniques.
- Understand ethical considerations in academia, gain skills in citing and referencing.
- Obtain deep knowledge about the institutional framework of Research4Life programmes.
- Access and search Research4Life content effectively, including browsing collections, using discovery and bibliometric analytical tools.
- Align MOOC and Librarians without Borders curricula to create a pipeline of virtual to face-to-face training courses.

Milestone

2,207 people enrolled in the course from **95** countries (61% participation; 48% completion)

- The MOOC consists of five modules including twenty-two lessons, focusing on developing capacities in information use, scholarly communication, and information management.

Level of evidence

Level 1	Quasi-experimental
Level 2	Pre-post or cross-sectional
Level 3	Point-in-time study
Level 4	Performance metrics/stats
Level 5	Anecdotal evidence

The MOOC demonstrated immediate impact through the increase in the number of institutions registered for Research4Life: 27 new registrations were received from the participating countries.

Future plans

- The R4L Capacity Development team can now facilitate online courses building on lessons learned and feedback from the participants.
- A train-the-trainer program combining the MOOC with face-to-face workshops will be delivered in 2020 by FAO and ITOCA.
- FAO has prepared a range of scalable options for donors to support capacity development and training, through face-to-face workshops, blended learning and online training. The UN Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries has agreed to fund delivery of two additional R4L MOOCs in 2020. FAO also plans to undertake further fundraising and publisher collaboration to add modules in 2021 focusing on authorship skills and research impact assessment.

Beneficiary group

Librarians and researchers.

Demographic

Female: 39.42%, male: 60.44%, prefer not to say: 0.14%

Budget

\$43,000

FAO contributed 10% of the resources in-kind to coordinate the MOOC team and support participants.

Location

Research4Life-eligible developing and emerging countries.



- Research4Life MOOC
- Participants
- Badges
- Grades
- Pre-Course Instructions
- Module 1: Scholarly Communication and Research4Life
- Module 2: Discovery and Re-Use of Scholarly Literature
- Module 3: Discipline-Specific Browsing and Searching
- Module 4: Additional Discipline-Specific Resources
- Module 5: Advocate on Research4Life and Facilitate Capacity Development
- Course Assessment and Certificate

Research4Life MOOC: Hinari, AGORA, OARE, ARDI and GOALI

Dashboard / My courses / A| Research4Life / Research4Life MOOC

Welcome

Research4Life MOOC | November 2019

Research4Life MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) will equip existing and future users of the Research4Life programmes (Hinari, AGORA, OARE, ARDI and GOALI) with the knowledge and skills required to access and use the platform efficiently.

Communication language in this course is English. The course will be available over 5-week period from 11 November to Sunday 15 December 2019. First day of the course, 11 November, Monday is about getting familiarised with the course page and introductions. The first Module and the lessons will be available for you to read and download by Tuesday, 12 November. Please always check the Calendar and News & Updates right under this section to find about the activities and announcements.

Participants are expected to spend on average six to eight hours per week on lessons and activities, such as contributing to discussion forums and webinars. This is an online course and you can allocate your time as you wish. You are not required to be present online at a certain date or time.

All participants enrolled in this course are required to read and agree with the following Code of Conduct.

For your questions, please contact us at AIMS@fao.org.

NEWS & UPDATES

How to cite this course:

"Research4Life MOOC" (2019). The Research4Life MOOC was supported by the Elsevier Foundation and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The work is licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0 International.

LATEST ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Add a new topic...
- 15 Dec, 13:21
Ilkay Holt
Closure Date for the Course Platform
- 13 Dec, 15:30
Ilkay Holt
Mailing List for the Participants of Research4Life MOOC
- 12 Dec, 18:34
Ilkay Holt
Things to do before the end of the course
- 10 Dec, 21:57
Ilkay Holt
Course exam and Certificates
- 4 Dec, 17:35
Ilkay Holt
Optional exercises on Summon and Dimensions in Module 3
- Older topics ...

CALENDAR

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



Research4Life MOOC



MODULE 1: Scholarly communication and Research4Life

Lesson 1.1: Scientific landscape

Learning objectives

- Have an overview of scholarly communication and scientific publishing
- Understand publishing economy and open access business models
- Perceive channels to disseminate scholarly work
- Identify trustworthy environments to publish in
- Become familiar with open data and open science movements

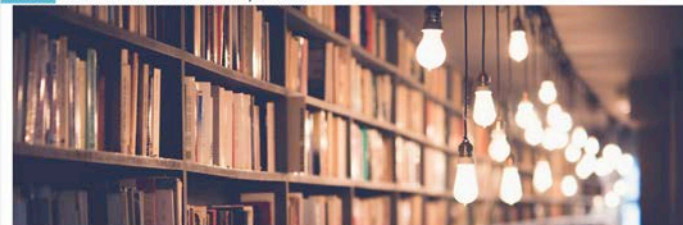
"Research4Life MOOC", 2019 (Massive Open Online Course). The Research4Life MOOC was funded by the Elsevier Foundation and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Research4Life is a public-private partnership of WHO, FAO, UNEP, WHO, I.O. Cornell and Yale Universities, the International Association of STM Publishers. It is the collective name for five programmes - Hinari, AGORA, OARE, ARDI and GOALI - that provide developing countries with free or low-cost access to academic and professional peer-reviewed content online.

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Module 1: Scholarly Communication and Research4Life

Restricted Available from 12 November 2019, 1:00 AM



This module includes key concepts about Research4Life including the institutional framework, programme coverages, eligibility for Research4Life programmes, user agreements, registration processes, advocacy strategies, promotional tools and support services to foster the usage of Research4Life and its programmes.

Forum: 1 Files: 3 URLs: 2 Quiz: 1
Progress: 0 / 1

During the course, 27 new institutions registered for access to Research4Life, from participating countries, including Benin, Bhutan, Cameroon, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania. This indicated that the MOOC effectively led to a more widespread awareness of the Research4Life platform.

A second edition of the MOOC will run from 20 April to 24 May 2020, and participants are expected to spend on average six to eight hours per week on lessons and activities, such as contributing to discussion forums and webinars.

“The course was an eye-opener to me. I used to hear my colleagues mention words like Bibliometrics, Scopus, Dimensions, ClinicalKey. I would wonder which world they were coming from. I now have a clearer concept of this hidden world of academia.”

— REUBEN WASWA NABIE, Kenya, Course participant

