

V. Research4Life

Over the past two decades, [Research4Life](#) (R4L) 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. As a unique public-private partnership between UN agencies, universities and publishers, it aims to reduce the knowledge gap, stimulating productive and effective research, and promoting international collaborative research.

Research4Life is central to Elsevier's goal of achieving universal access to research information: as a founding and driving partner, Elsevier contributes over 20% of the peer reviewed resources in Research4Life, encompassing databases such as Science Direct, Scopus, Clinical Key, Mendeley and Embase.

Every 5 years, Research4Life conducts a series of strategic reviews to support the evolution of its strategy. Conducted in 2020 and 2021, the landscape, user and infrastructure reviews clearly show that the landscape in which Research4Life is operating is evolving rapidly and that the partnership has not yet achieved its full potential in terms of awareness, reach, understanding, effective usage and impact due to under-resourcing. To respond to Research4Life's unmet resource need and enable the partnership to scale up capacity building, the Friends of Research4Life (FoR4L) was established as a US-based 501(c)(3) charitable organization with an independent governance structure and Board of Directors.

The mission of Friends of Research4Life is to serve as an effective fundraising vehicle and accelerate Research4Life's goal to provide much-needed access to peer-reviewed research, extend Research4Life training initiatives that help level the playing field for researchers in lower- and middle-income countries, significantly increase awareness and usage of the resources offered by the Research4Life publishing partners, and facilitate the research communication process.

“This is really about increasing impact. Friends of Research4Life will enable us to catalyze support for Research4Life, so that we can scale up the important contributions made over the past two decades in access, information literacy and capacity building in developing countries. We invite like-minded organizations to join us in ramping up support.” — YLANN SCHEMM, Chair, Research4Life Executive Council.

- 154,000+ total resources
- 30,000+ journals
- 131,000+ books
- 155+ other information resources
- 10,500+ registered institutions
- 125+ countries
- 200+ publishers partners
- 5 UN Agencies

“Doctors could now read updates and get news that would be useful for their research: Research4Life was the main reference for reliable information.”

Dr. Le Thanh Ni
Cho Ray Hospital
Vietnam

“I can't imagine being able to do my research without Research4Life. Neurosurgery is a rapidly evolving field, and Research4Life allows me to read what I need to be able to stay up to date.”

Dr. Pratyush Shrestha
Upendra Devkota Memorial
National Institute of Neurological and Allied Sciences
Nepal

“Research4Life helps me get better, early diagnoses and improves disease management and the overall wellbeing of a community. This has a long-term impact.”

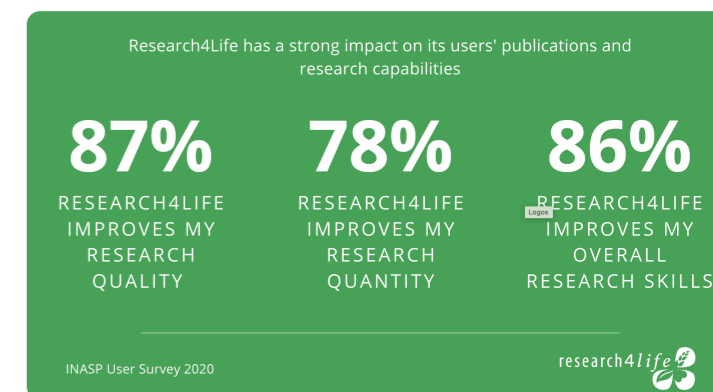
Dr. Lulu Fundikira
School of Medicine, MUHAS
Tanzania

Unique contributions

The Elsevier Foundation contributes important resources to Research4Life information literacy capacity building:

- Ylann Schemm, Director of the Elsevier Foundation, has worked with Research4Life since 2009 and currently serves as Chair of Research4Life's Executive Council. Domiziana Francescon, Elsevier Foundation Partnerships Manager, is the Co-Chair of the Communications and Marketing team. In addition, colleagues throughout Elsevier are involved in a range of Research4Life taskforces e.g. eligibility, fundraising, technology and training.
- Over the years, the Elsevier Foundation has played a key role in supporting capacity building for Research4Life, providing over \$500,000 in grants to support training since 2008. This includes funds for the first FAO-led training MOOC and a decade of support for the Medical Library Association's Librarians without Borders® program supporting 25 training grants for librarians and 90 training workshops in 40+ countries.
- In 2022, the Elsevier Foundation will support Research4Life's newly launched [Country Connectors project](#). This new training approach aims to address the need for local interventions to heighten awareness and strengthen capacity of information use and management, as well as build communities of evidence users within national and regional settings. Coupled with well-planned implementation frameworks per region and country, this tailored approach will produce high impact for Research4Life.

“The wealth of information available in Research4Life can transform your research for life. It has worked for me. It will surely work for you.” — SAMUEL TETTEH, Senior Lecturer, University of Cape Coast, Ghana



Strategic plan to 2030

For the past 20 years Research4Life has sought to bridge the digital research divide for researchers, librarians, doctors, policymakers, and many others in developing countries – equipping them with the access and tools they need to find evidence-based research and make robust decisions based on trusted, peer reviewed information.

While the pandemic has underscored the critical role that science plays in society, it has also revealed just how rapidly the world in which we operate has evolved since Research4Life was founded. This realization has helped Research4Life to consider its own role as a public private partnership as it shapes its 2022 Strategic Plan.

Based on a series of strategic reviews with partners, users and experts, Research4Life will expand its focus beyond access to knowledge. To truly support a more inclusive and equitable research ecosystem and make progress on the UN SDGs, Research4Life will take a more holistic approach, supporting its community of users with both access and capacity building as both consumers and producers of research.

