

How to become a world top 300 University

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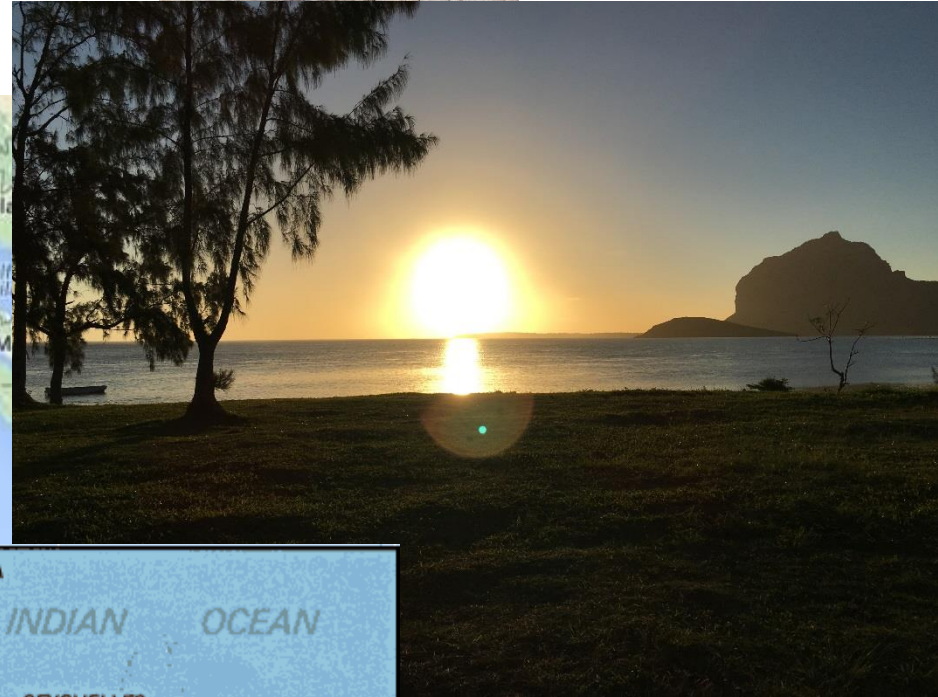
Top 300 ... by 2030

- The University of Mauritius
- Ambition
- Strategy
- Process
- Evaluation
- Benchmarking
- Interventions





Mauritius

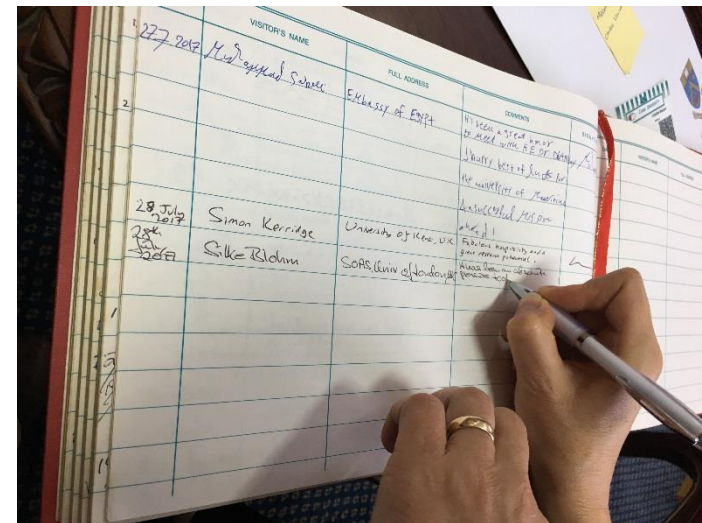




University of Mauritius



- 300 Academic Staff
- 12,000 Students
- Poles of Research Excellence





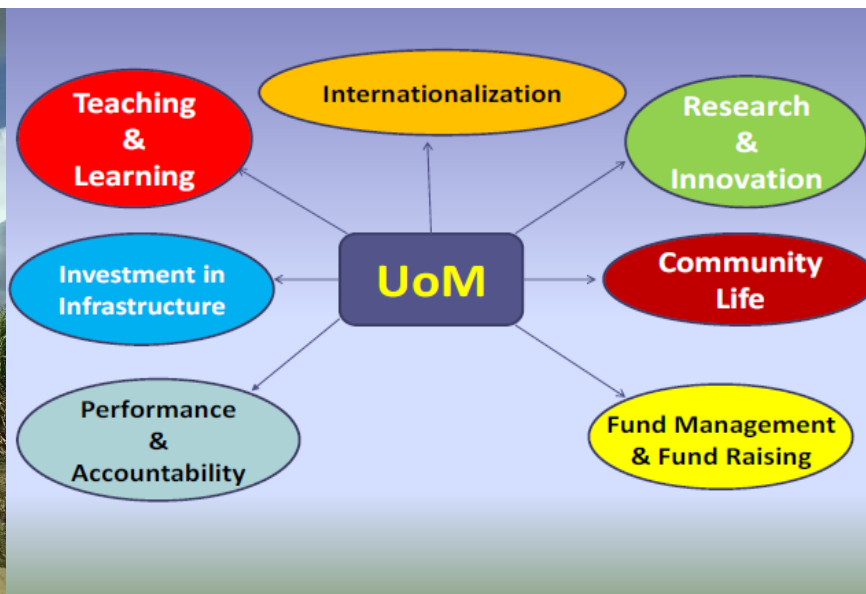
Ambitions

- Mauritius as a Country
- “Digital Mauritius 2030 Strategy”
- Ministry of Education
- Globally Recognised Top 300 University
- Only one real candidate (UoM)
- Additional Government funding for HE



Strategy

- Vice-Chancellor led
- Borrow from more mature institutions
- Two external consultants (Silke & Simon)
- A mini Research Assessment Exercise (RAE)





Strategy

Vice-Chancellor Professor Jhurry:

- *“to reposition the UoM as a research-intensive University”*
- *“With a view to strengthening Research at UoM, it is proposed to conduct a Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), a first of its kind in Mauritius.”*





Strategy

“The main aims of the RAE are to:

- (a) Take stock of the research undertaken at the UoM (Research Evaluation);
- (b) Evaluate the current standard of our research achievements (Research Evaluation);
- (c) Provide a new impetus to research and research capacity;
- (d) Sensitise academics on the task (responsibility) of engaging in research; and
- (e) Put in place a research quality audit.”





Process

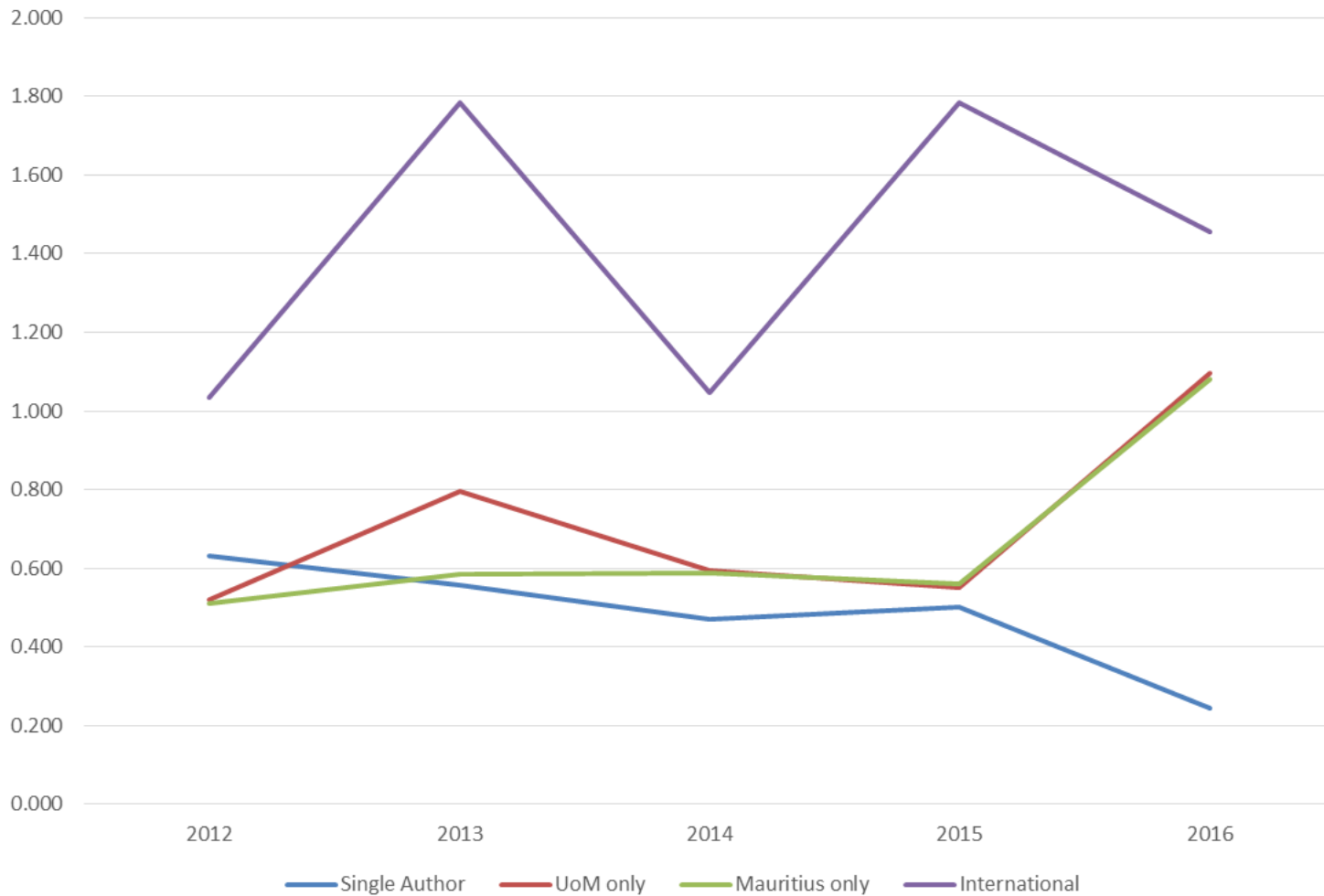
- VC engaged two consultants
- Scoping
- Silke & Simon visited for a week in July 2017
 - Advocacy
 - Some Development
 - Data Collection
 - Research Evaluation Design
- 2nd visit in May 2018, to evaluate





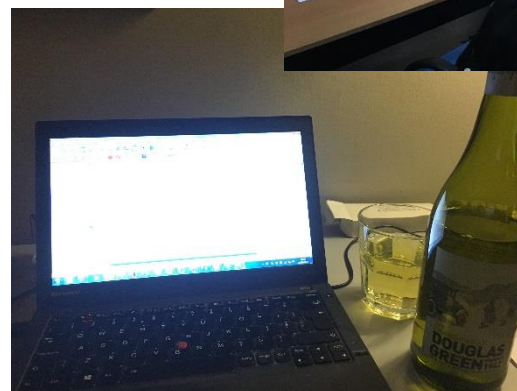
Evaluation

Field Weighted Citatoin Index by year depending on co-authorship type



Data Collection (week 1)

- Lead by UoM
- Includes policies, eg research and HR
- Also faculty research information collected
- UoM developed
 - Web form
 - Database
- → sustainable



Faculty Data Collection

- Background information – Departmental & Faculty
- Research Strategy / Plan / Vision
- Seminar series
- Support for PGRs & ECRs
- External Links / Partnerships
- Departmental/Faculty funds for research support



Data Collection (for Evaluation)

Research Information - Individual

- Staff – see details
- PhD Students – LIST, see details
- PostDocs – LIST, see details
- Externally Funded Research Projects – LIST, see details
- Other External Funding (eg Consultancy) – LIST, see details
- Research Outputs (Publications) – LIST, see details
- Other Activities (eg cttes, editorships, awards) – LIST, see details
- Research Impact – free text on how their research is, and/or could have impact in the future, and the name of 3 people who could corroborate that
- Any other Info – free text

Evaluation period: 5 years, 2012-2016



Data Collection (for Evaluation)

Research Information - Departmental

- ***Research Impact (has the research made a difference?)***
 - For each Department, 1-3 Impact Case Studies. How a piece of research actually had impact, ideally with some evidence.
 - An impact case study is max 4 pages and describes research done at UoM (1997-2016) and real world impact that it has led to (2012-2016). There is a template for the Impact Case Studies with sections on the research, how it led to the impact and the actual impact that accrued, with verifiable evidence to support the claims.
- ***Research Environment***
 - Each department should write a statement (template to be provided) of how they support research and research impact, their staff, PhD students, and what contributions have been made to the field





After Data Collection

We propose to:

Create a baseline profile for each department

- Using SciVal to create FWCI and also % publications in top journals for Staff/Dept/Uni
- Measuring research income and
- Research student completions (& numbers)
- But also take a holistic view in order to provide an assessment of the research environment



Benchmarking

- Will follow the data collection
- Includes identification of benchmark institutions



Interventions



Advocacy:

- Why is research important
- How can you find the time
- How can you find the money
- Don't underestimate yourself
- What do you have to offer
- Play to your strengths!



Interventions

Data Collection

- Based on REF
- Light touch
[existing data: capture and make accessible]
- Trialled by spreadsheet
- On-line forms developed in-house
- Working with senior stakeholders
 - (VC, DVC, Planning, ...)



Interventions

- Research Office
 - There isn't one! ... Yet!



Encourage all academic staff

- To aim to publish in the best journals (“less might be more”)
- assume that external research funding is an expectation rather than an ambition
- co-work and hence co-author where appropriate
- network themselves academically
- mentor and/or be mentored by a colleague
- to create a ORCID iD and account
- create a ResearchGate (prefer academia.edu?) profile
- create an altmetric (or prefer plum?) profile



Conclusions

- Strategy is in place (since 2017)
- Driven from the top (and the country)
- Evaluation (next month)
- Collaboration and internationalisation
- And advocacy... culture change
- ... Still 12 years to go!



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