**Audit, Act & Amplify: Your Research Impact Readiness Challenge**  
**Delivery Format:** Interactive digital workbook (Google Docs) and a collaborative leaderboard.  
**Duration:** 5–7 days before workshop (spread over 2–3 hours total)

**✅ SECTION 1: Reality Check — Institutional Intelligence Hunt**

**Task:** You will conduct a **mini-investigation** into your institution’s research ecosystem.

**Instructions:**

* Interview a staff member in the Research Office or equivalent (or review internal policy documents) in the university/research institution.
* Compile short answers to:
  + What systems support research grant applications?
  + Is there institutional support for Open Access? What platform is used (e.g., DSpace)?
  + Are there internal incentives for publishing or collaborating internationally?
  + What training exists for early-career researchers?
* Upload insights to a **shared drive** under your university’s “column.” (**IT team supporting the workshop will create this**)

**Innovation Factor:**  
This exercise promotes intra-institutional engagement and benchmarking with other participants. Live SharePoint or Google drive becomes a visual comparison of African HEI systems.

**✅ SECTION 2: Digital Footprint Scavenger Hunt**

**Task:** “Gamified” profile creation and enhancement across platforms.

**Instructions:** Complete these actions and take screenshots as evidence. Each task carries points. The most active participants get special recognition during the workshop.

| **Task** | **Platform** | **Points** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Create/update ORCID profile and link to publications | ORCID | 5 |
| Update Google Scholar with accurate publications and keywords | Google Scholar | 5 |
| Post about your latest research on LinkedIn with #AfricanResearchExcellence | LinkedIn | 10 |
| Join a relevant group/discussion on ResearchGate and ask/answer a question | ResearchGate | 10 |
| Search and download a relevant preprint from arXiv or SSRN | arXiv/SSRN | 5 |
| Follow 5 African researchers in your field on Twitter/X | Twitter/X | 5 |
| Find one paper in your field with high Altmetric attention & reflect on why | Altmetric Explorer | 5 |

Upload screenshots + 1-sentence reflections in the provided Google Form.

**Innovation Factor:**  
This exercise promotes gamification and social media use; encourages real-time action, not just reflection.

**✅ SECTION 3: Research Visibility Canvas (Collaborative Visual Assignment)**

**Tool:** Canva collaborative whiteboard, Google my maps, TimelineJS KnightLab, Flourish, or PiktoChart.

**Task:** Design a **“Research Visibility Canvas”** showing your:

* Current digital presence
* Ideal future state (3–5 years)
* Barriers
* Institutional enablers needed
* Personal goals for growth

Templates and examples will be provided. Submit your canvas via link to be reviewed during the first workshop session.

**Innovation Factor:**  
This exercise promotes visual thinking + strategic reflection = deeper engagement. Allows participants to think long-term and visually compare journeys with peers.

**✅ SECTION 4: Video Challenge — The Research Advocacy Pitch**

**Task:** Record and upload a **1-minute pitch video** (vertical, like Instagram Stories or TikTok format) answering:

* What’s the most urgent research challenge in your field in Africa?
* Why should funders, industry, or collaborators care?
* What would visibility and support mean to your impact?

Upload to a private YouTube link or Flip platform. Participants will vote on the most compelling pitches.

**Innovation Factor:**  
This exercise combines advocacy, storytelling, and strategic thinking. Mimics real-world research communication trends.

**✅ SECTION 5: Journal Sleuth Mission**

**Task:** Investigate and compare **two target journals** you might submit your next paper to.  
Create a comparison table with:

* Journal scope and impact factor
* APCs and waiver policy
* Peer review timeline
* Open Access policy
* Indexed in Scopus/Web of Science?

Submit as a short infographic (via Canva or PowerPoint).

**Innovation Factor:**  
Turns journal selection into a strategic analysis process — prepares researchers to publish smarter.

**💯 Final Deliverable: Impact Readiness Portfolio**

You will compile all your outputs:

* Institutional audit summary
* Scavenger hunt form/screenshots
* Visibility Canvas
* Pitch video link
* Journal infographic

Submit via shared Google Drive or Share Point before the workshop. Top 5 portfolios will be showcased during the workshop.