

# The Higher Education Landscape in Africa: Improving Graduate Training and Research for SDGs

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# Main Messages

- Africa is capable of developing **globally competitive** universities to deal with its numerous development challenges (SDGs) through graduate training and research
- But a number of pre-requisites have to be met as soon as possible
  - ✓ An appropriate use of new technologies
  - ✓ An overhaul of instructional pedagogy
  - ✓ A new focus on governance systems allowing for differentiation and greater partnerships

# Factors Behind Recent Global Trends in Higher Education

- Globalization, internationalization and technological changes are key factors influencing change in the importance, scope and complexity of higher education environments
- Technology has become central to the process of teaching and learning in higher education
- Technology is driving wider access to education and training.

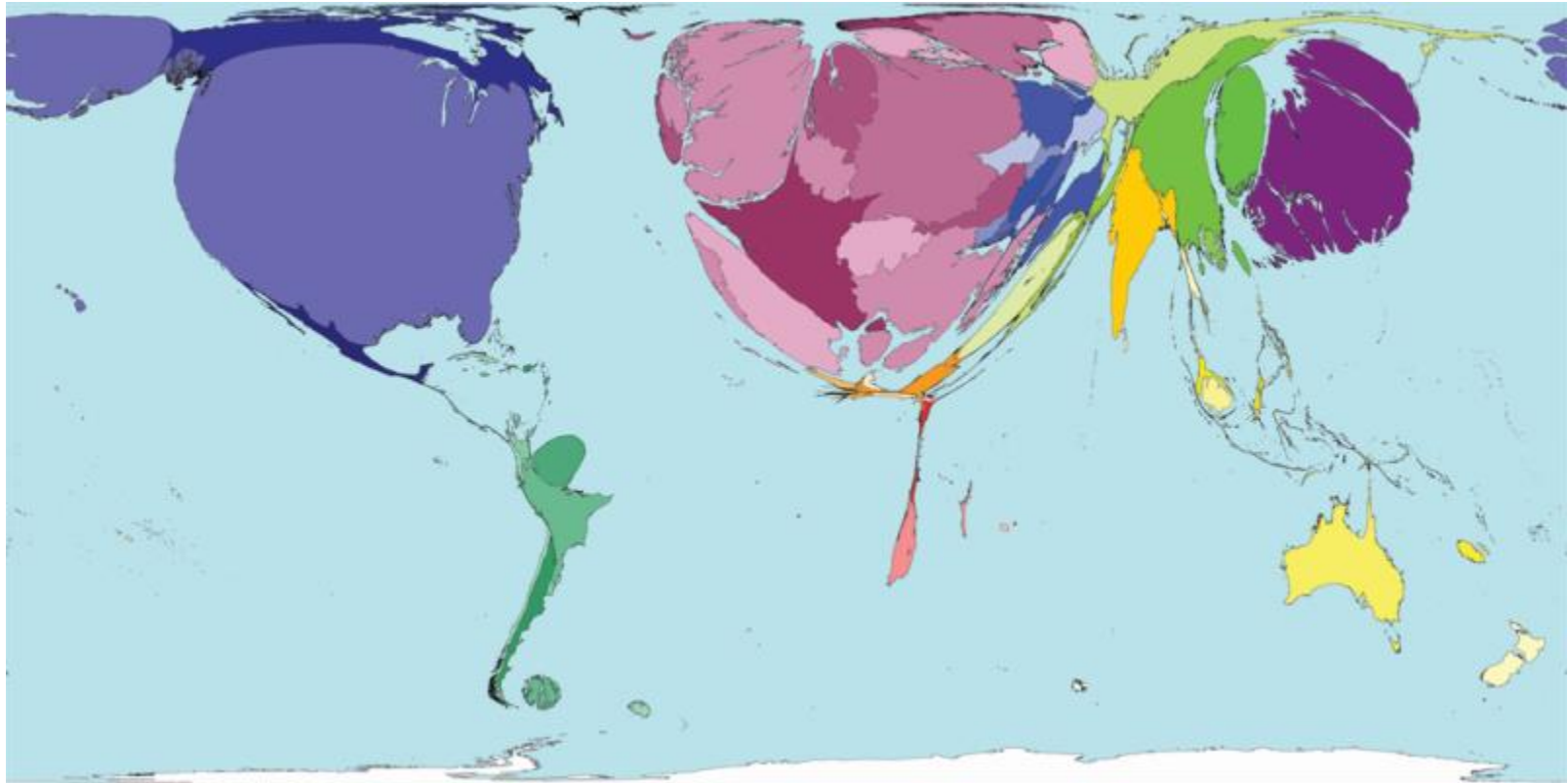
## *Technology in Research*

- Technological innovations such as digital curation and preservation, (big) data and analytics, and open access to peer-reviewed scholarly research are already significantly shaping both research and teaching.
- Digital technology gives researchers new tools to facilitate data collection, analysis and dissemination, while students now have access to an ever-increasing range of online resources for study

# The State of African Universities

- Are African universities generating, transferring and applying knowledge that can be used to solve contemporary African and global problems, such as poverty, climate change, low infrastructure, low advancement in technology, international terrorism, Ebola and lifestyle diseases?
- Are the universities preserving knowledge for future use?
- Providing solutions to these and several other questions is key if the university in Africa is to remain relevant

# World Map Based on Scientific Research Produced



# *Challenges*

- Questions about relevance
- High graduate unemployment
- Universities no longer have monopoly over HE
- Low proportion (20%) of women in HEIs

# Challenges

- Reduced funding for HEIs
- Brain drain
- Low ICT utilization
- Ageing faculty
- Deteriorating infrastructure



# Some Positive Developments

- Some universities are beginning to take on the challenges in a concerted manner and good leadership counts
- African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA) brings together 16 of the region's best universities to deal with the challenges in a collaborative manner
- Focus is on
  - Enhanced research
  - Graduate training
  - Research Management
  - Research Advocacy

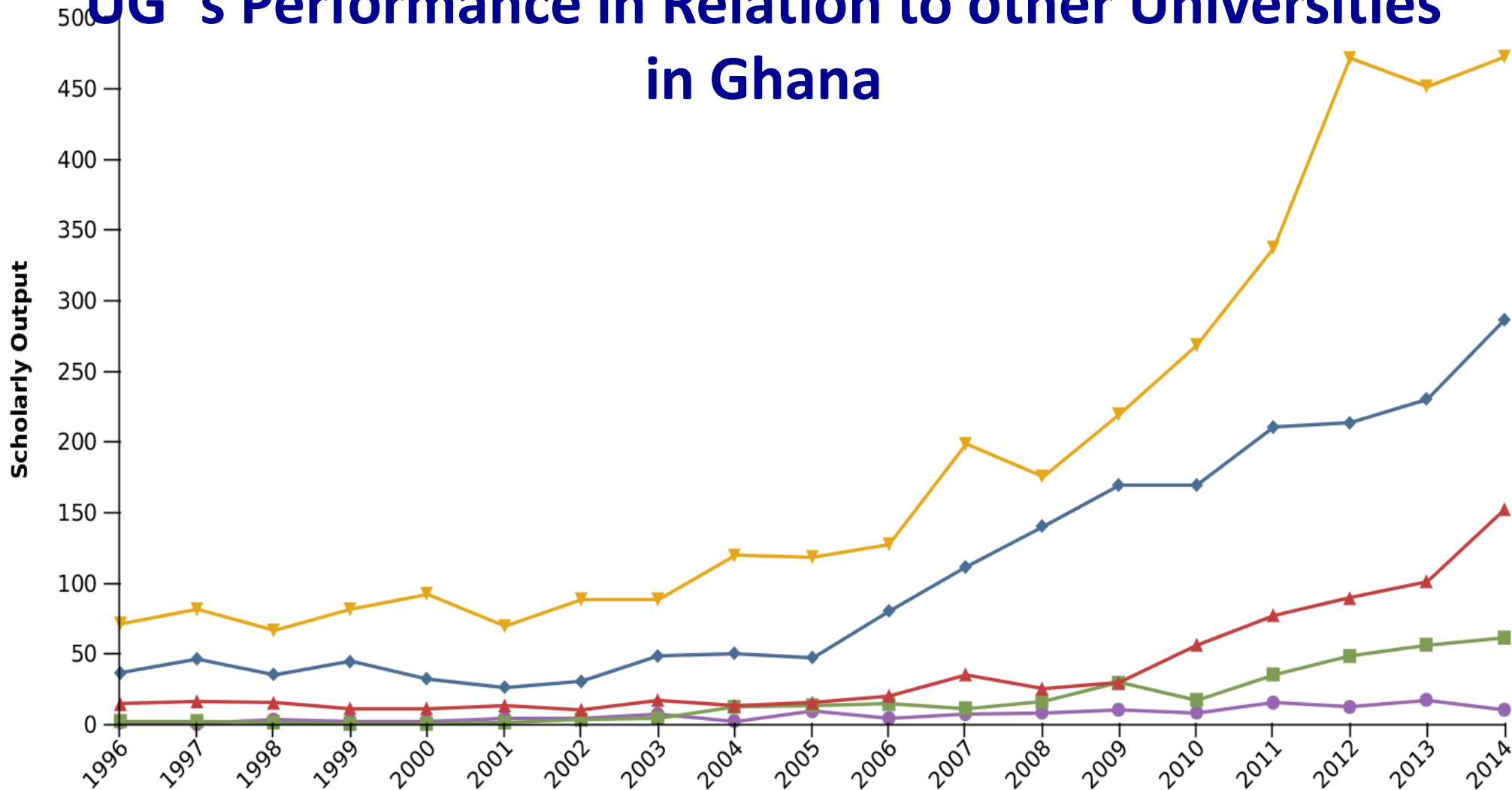


# Focus Areas of ARUA

Natural Sciences	Humanities/Social Sciences
Climate Change	Migration and Mobility
Water Conservation	Poverty and Inequality
Energy	Unemployment and Skills Development
Materials Development and Nanotechnology	Notions of Identity
Non-Communicable Diseases	Good Governance
Food Security	Urbanisation and Habitable Cities
	Post-Conflict Societies

# UG's Performance in Relation to other Universities in Ghana

SciVal



## Chart Legend

- Council for Scientific and Industrial Research Ghana [Institution]
- ◆ Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology [Institution]
- University for Development Studies Ghana [Institution]
- ▲ University of Cape Coast Ghana [Institution]
- ▼ University of Ghana [Institution]

Matrix Details

# Way forward

- Three interrelated activities stand out as critical towards securing a positive future for research and PG training
  1. Maintain acceptable levels of Autonomy with accountability in a differentiated environment
  2. Double efforts to re-engineer instructional pedagogy making use of new technologies
  3. Build partnerships for university governance to fill funding gap created by the retreating African State and other traditional donor agencies through markets and performance-driven funding arrangements