

A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE ROLE OF LUCRID IN DRIVING e-LEARNING ENGAGEMENT AT LANDMARK UNIVERSITY

The Landmark University Centre for Research, Innovation, and Discoveries (LUCRID) which was inaugurated in August 2019 (operating initially as a Committee system between April 2011-July 2019) was established with the mandate of driving and coordinating cutting-edge research, university-industry research linkages, consulting services and strategic research and development (R&D) partnership with local, national, and multi-national organizations, in the pursuit of Landmark's vision and mission; coupled with the University's SCOPUS Publication drive for global relevance. It comprises of different units including the Consulting Unit, Strategic Partnership and Innovation Unit, Research and Development Unit, Conference and Attendance Unit, Scopus Publication unit, Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer Unit, as well as International Office, Linkages and Grant Management Unit. LUCRID is headed by a Director. The operations of all these units centered on the seventeen SDG groups headed by coordinators who reports directly to the Director of LUCRID.

Landmark University (LMU) seeks to be a world class University for academic excellence in the path of meeting societal needs. Consequently, the importance of research and innovation to attaining academic excellence is recognized by the University management. One of the University's fundamental tasks is to therefore transform into a research-driven institution through the provision of outstanding conditions for learning and research; with the aid of several global standard facilities including the LMU e-learning platform.

The LMU e-learning facility which was situated in the Centre for Systems and Information Services (CSIS) Directorate, has served as a great platform for actualizing the teaching and research drive of the University; especially with respect to the activities at LUCRID. The COVID and the Post-COVID period had witnessed an increase in the use of e-learning at LUCRID. The e-learning had been used to present and project virtual online Webinars that centers on quality academic and research activities. Some of the topics covered include (i) Research, Publication, and Ranking: A Re-assessment of Landmark model; (ii) Educational Technology and Quality Assurance: Challenges and Opportunities; (iii) Driving Academic Quality and Exploits Beyond the Accreditation Benchmarks; (iv) Curriculum Development, Programme Objectives and Institutional Goal: Alignment and Balance; (v) Content Delivery Approach and Assessments; and so on.

Another area of advantage of the e-learning platform is in the area of dissemination of information to the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Coordinators that manned each of the SDGs in alignment with the global SDG standards. With this, Research activities had been on the increase in the University, even during the recently lockdown period, as evidenced on the volume of research publications on the SCOPUS platform.