

# Enabling eTechnology Access for Active Retired Professors to Support Cross-Border eCollaboration

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## Purpose

To recommend that the university provide structured access to institutional eTechnology for active retired professors in order to strengthen cross-border academic collaboration and extend the university's intellectual and global engagement.

## Background

Digital infrastructure underpins nearly all academic activity—research, publishing, teaching support, and collaboration. Retired professors often remain professionally active, contributing to international research networks, mentoring, and scholarly output. However, lack of continued access to university eServices can limit their ability to participate effectively.

## Key Issue

Without institutional eTechnology access, active retired professors face barriers to collaboration across multiple types of borders:

- *Organizational borders*: Limited ability to collaborate across universities, research centers, and consortia due to lack of recognized institutional credentials.
- *Professional borders*: Reduced engagement with active faculty, early-career researchers, and professional networks that rely on authenticated platforms.
- *Institutional borders*: Loss of access to internal systems (email, repositories, digital libraries, collaboration tools) that enable ongoing academic contribution.
- *Political (national/regulatory) borders*: Increased friction in international collaboration where identity verification, data access, and compliance depend on institutional affiliation.

## Recommendation

Establish a formal “Active Retired Professor” (or equivalent) digital status that provides controlled access to key university eServices.

## Proposed Access Model

- *Identity & Authentication*: Maintain institutional credentials with appropriate status designation (e.g., emeritus/affiliated researcher).

- **Core eServices Access:**
  - Institutional email
  - Research collaboration platforms
  - Selected digital library and database access (aligned with licensing agreements)
- **Role-Based Permissions:** Tailored access levels based on engagement (e.g., mentoring, research participation).
- **Security & Compliance:**
  - Adherence to data protection and licensing policies
  - Periodic account review (e.g., annual validation of activity)
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### **Benefits to the University**

- Sustains and expands global research collaboration
- Enhances institutional reputation and visibility
- Preserves intellectual capital and mentorship capacity
- Enables compliant and secure participation in international academic ecosystems

### **Conclusion**

Providing eTechnology access to active retired professors is a strategic, low-cost investment that bridges organizational, professional, institutional, and political borders. It ensures continued academic contribution while reinforcing the university's role in a globally connected research environment.

## **Google AI Mode 24.04.2026**

Active retired professors represent a massive, often untapped reservoir of academic experience that can be bridged through eTechnology. Enabling this access allows for "active aging" where scholars remain intellectually engaged across national borders.

### **Core Strategies for Access**

- **Institutional Identity Continuity:** Universities should maintain university email accounts and digital credentials for retired faculty to ensure they remain connected to scholarly networks.
- **Targeted eLiteracy Programs:** Training should move beyond general IT to focus on useful research tools like AI-powered literature reviews, automated citation management, and virtual classroom management.
- **User-Centered Design:** Technology must be adapted for "Grey Digital" users, incorporating larger fonts, voice recognition, and intuitive interfaces to mitigate sensory or motor limitations.

- *"Cold" vs. "Warm" Support:* While family support is helpful, formal ICT instruction (cold support) is often more effective for mastering professional collaboration tools.

## Facilitating Cross-Border eCollaboration

Digital transformation allows retired academics to transcend physical distance through structured networks:

- *Professors Emeriti Networks:* Organizations like the eRegion network facilitate virtual e-meetings and workshops specifically for those 55+, focusing on the "Silver eConomy".
- *Virtual Mentorship:* AI platforms can match retired experts with younger researchers globally for remote thesis supervision or joint project guidance.
- *Interoperability Frameworks:* Developing common standards across borders—such as shared digital libraries and data-sharing agreements—simplifies collaboration and reduces administrative "red tape".
- *Multilingual Platforms:* Using Technology-Enhanced Learning (TEL) platforms that support domain terminology in multiple languages helps bridge communication gaps in international research teams.

## Overcoming Common Barriers

| Barrier               | Solution  |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Identity Loss</b>  | Advocate against terminating email/portal access upon retirement.                                       |
| <b>Cognitive Load</b> | Provide hardcopy or simplified digital instruction manuals rather than "one-size-fits-all" classes.     |
| <b>Security Fears</b> | Focused training on cybersecurity to build confidence in using online banking or research repositories. |
| <b>High Costs</b>     | Institutional or governmental subsidies for high-quality software and hardware.                         |

## Key Benefits to Institutions

- *Knowledge Preservation:* Retaining "institutional memory" that would otherwise be lost.
- *Policy Consultation:* Accessing a pool of experts for curriculum development and educational reform.
- *Global Networking:* Strengthening higher education networks through diverse, cross-cultural perspectives.