

# Enhancing research visibility in Africa: Leveraging DOAJ for Open Access publishing

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24 October 2024





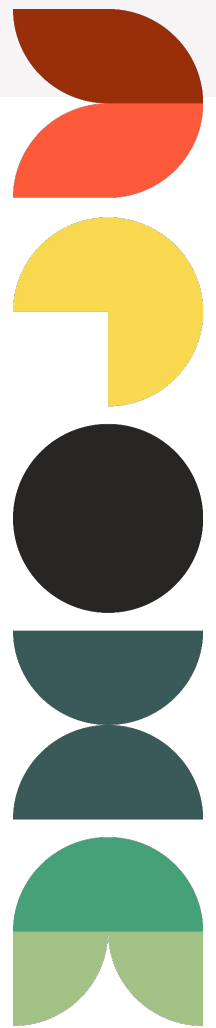
# Agenda

- What is the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)?
- Benefits of Open Access publishing for African scholars
- Strategies for overcoming common challenges in Open Access

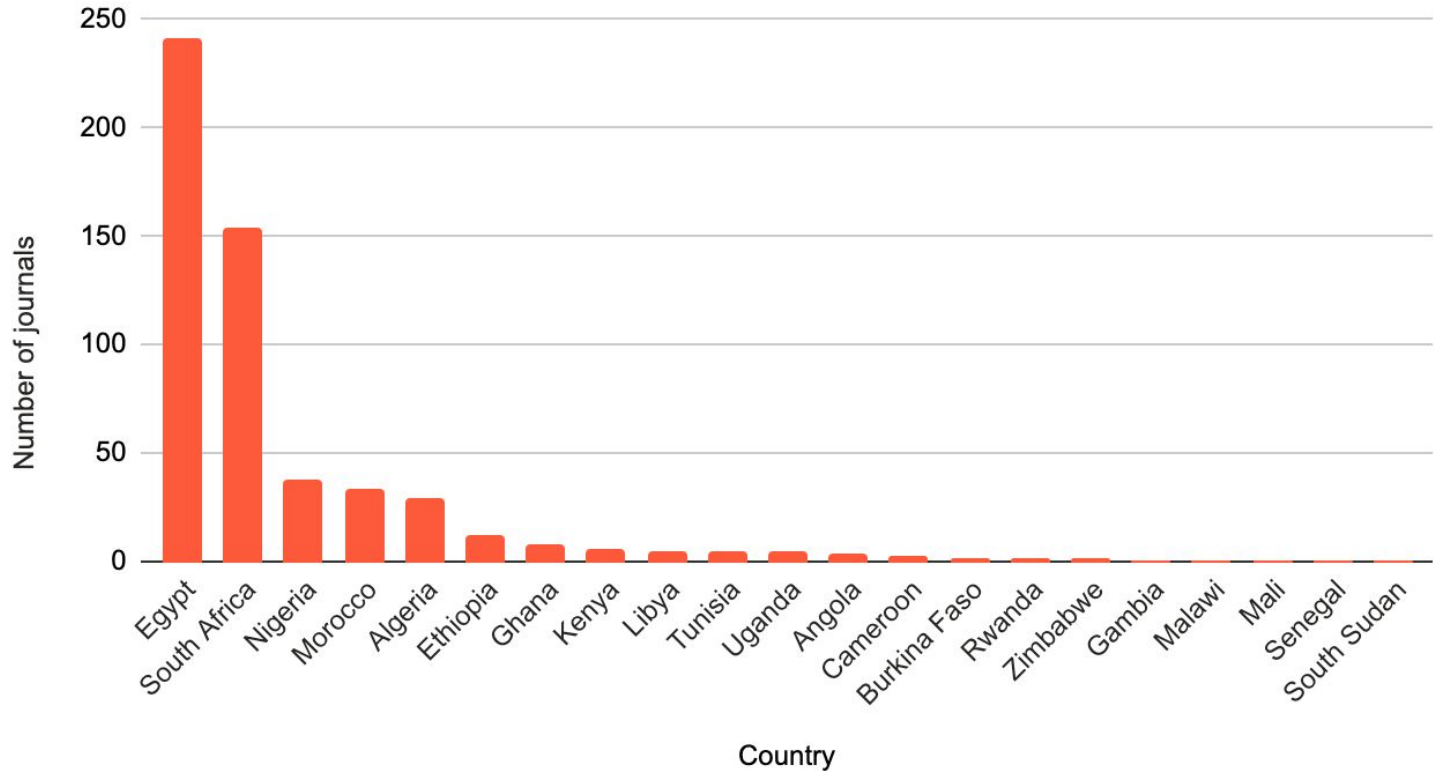
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## Open Access defined

- Immediate and free access to the reader to scholarly material (books, journals) without any barriers (e.g. pay a fee, delayed access)
- Copyright is defined
- User rights are defined (Creative Commons Licence)



## Number of journals indexed in DOAJ from Africa 2024



Only **21** out of **54** African countries  
are represented in DOAJ



# Country journals not on DOAJ



- [Aland Islands](#) (0)
- [Algeria](#) (20)
- [Angola](#) (3)
- [Benin](#) (1)
- [Botswana](#) (3)
- [Brazil](#) (1)
- [Burkina Faso](#) (3)
- [Burundi](#) (1)
- [Cameroon](#) (13)
- [Canada](#) (1)
- [Congo, Democratic Republic](#) (7)
- [Congo, Republic](#) (1)
- [Côte d'Ivoire](#) (5)
- [Egypt, Arab Rep.](#) (24)
- [Eritrea](#) (1)
- [Eswatini](#) (3)
- [Ethiopia](#) (53)
- [Gambia, The](#) (2)
- [Ghana](#) (39)
- [Kenya](#) (50)
- [Lesotho](#) (1)
- [Libya](#) (5)
- [Madagascar](#) (1)
- [Malawi](#) (5)
- [Mauritius](#) (3)
- [Morocco](#) (3)
- [Mozambique](#) (1)
- [Nigeria](#) (303)
- [Rwanda](#) (10)
- [Senegal](#) (7)
- [Sierra Leone](#) (1)
- [South Africa](#) (106)
- [South Sudan](#) (1)
- [Sudan](#) (3)
- [Tanzania](#) (36)
- [Togo](#) (2)
- [Tunisia](#) (5)
- [Uganda](#) (13)
- [Zambia](#) (2)
- [Zimbabwe](#) (14)

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# What is the Directory of Open Access Journals?



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# About DOAJ - Directory of Open Access Journals

**1**

A unique and extensive index of diverse peer-reviewed open access journals.

**2**

Mission to raise profile, visibility and impact of all quality OA journals, globally regardless of discipline, geography or language.

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## About DOAJ - Directory of Open Access Journals

**3**

Our criteria are an unofficial gold standard for open access journal publishing, trusted across the scholarly community.

**4**

Our services and metadata are provided completely free of charge to all.

# DOAJ and the history of open access

2003

Founded in 2003 during the "Innovation Years" of open access

Soon became the primary index for Open Access journals

2014

Inclusion criteria are extended to ensure only trustworthy journals are indexed

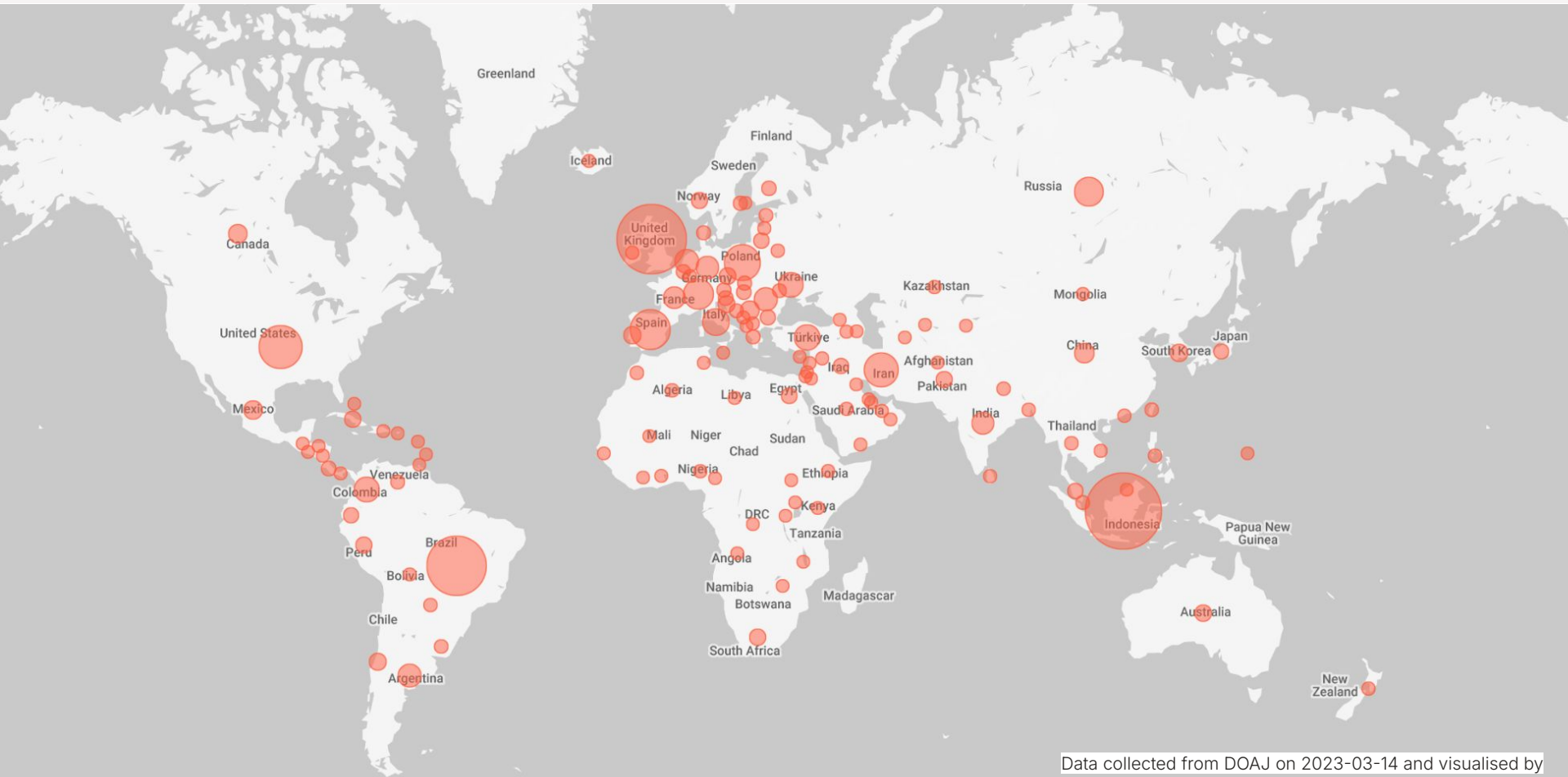
2016

Established our Ambassador programme to support and develop open access journals worldwide

2020 onwards

Integrated into funder open access policies and workflows worldwide, for example Plan S Journal Checker Tool, the South African DHET list and the Indian Medical Journals list

# Geographic spread of journals in DOAJ



Data collected from DOAJ on 2023-03-14 and visualised by  
Sophy O using DOAJ's CSV export found at <https://doaj.org/csv>



80

languages



136

countries



13,808

Diamond OA journals

21,039

journals





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## DOAJ statistics 2023

**7,926**  
applications &  
**4,126** update  
requests from  
journals

**24%** of  
applications  
accepted for  
inclusion

Average review  
time **under**  
**three months**

**20** core staff,  
**>100** volunteer  
editors & **21**  
ambassadors



Journals from societies and university presses



Journals from areas and languages under-represented in other databases



Library discovery systems, services and advice



Diamond / S20 journals





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# Benefits of Open Access publishing for African scholars





# Why index journals in DOAJ?

 Demonstrate your journal meets good publishing standards

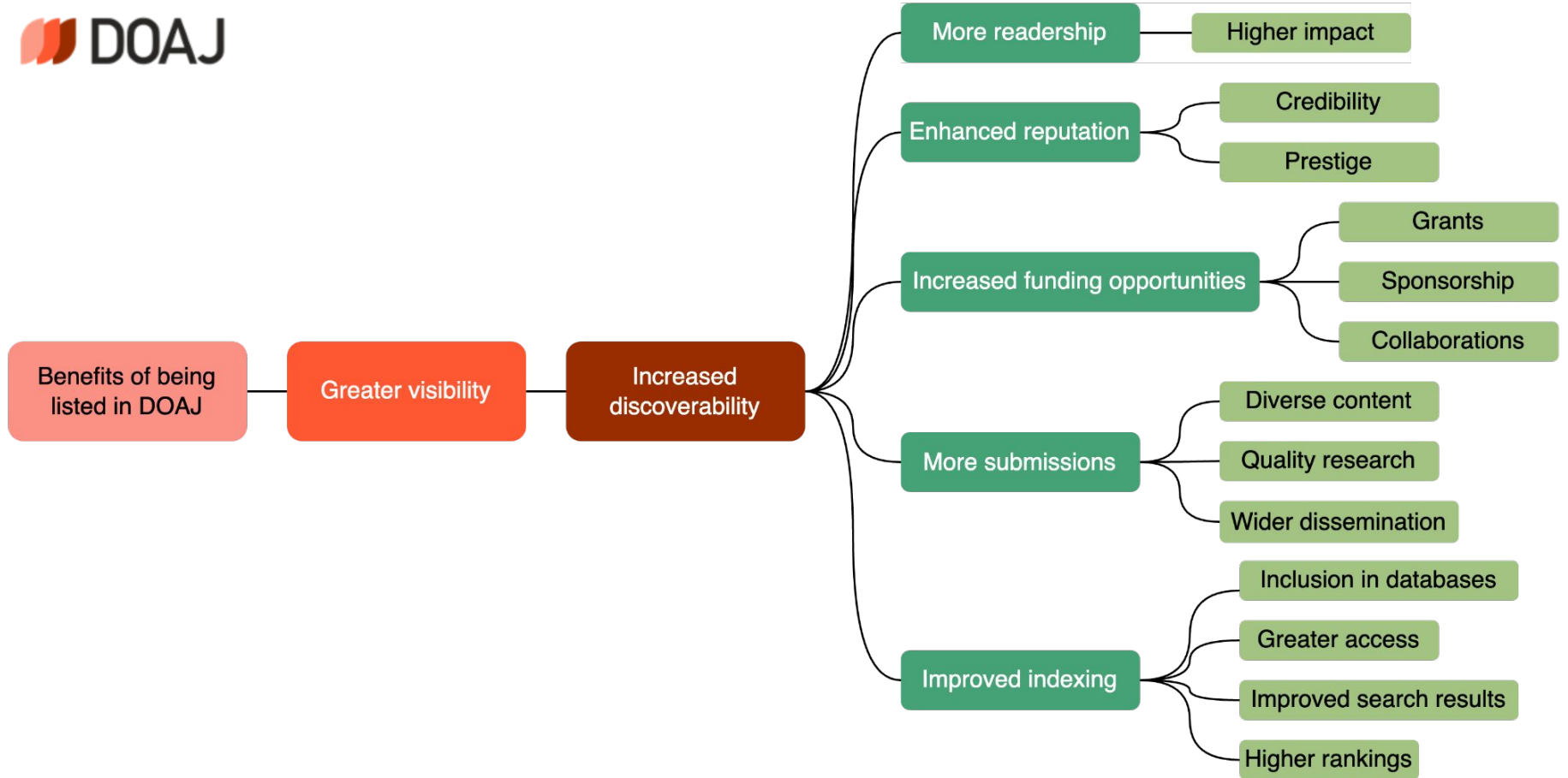
 Attract more authors and readers locally and from around the world

 Inclusion of Journals in local languages

 Increase discoverability of your journal in search engines and indexing services

 Enhance the reputation and societal impact of your journal (also in your country)

 DOAJ index included in government lists like DHET(South Africa)



# Open Access Publishing in Africa: Advancing Research Outputs to Global Visibility

## Promotion of Open Access Publications and Visibility by Institutions in South Africa

Patrick Ajibade<sup>1</sup> and Ndakasharwa Muchaonyerwa<sup>2</sup>

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### Abstract

*The purpose of the study was to examine the status of Africa in the open access environment as well as the challenges of providing global visibility to African research outputs. A descriptive bibliometric approach was adopted for the study. Data was extracted from two world repository directories (Registry of Open Access Repositories - ROAR and Directory of Open Access Repositories - DOAR) and Directory of Open Access Journals - DOAJ to determine the presence of Africa and size of repositories and records found in the directories. Findings reveal*

**Keywords:** Open Access, Institutional Repository, Scholarly Communication, Research Productivity, Research Visibility, Africa

### Introduction

The adoption of open access scholarly communication in Africa has been an issue of great concern among scholars within and outside Africa (Bowdoin, 2011; Ezema, 2011; Chalabi and Dahmane, 2012; Ezema, 2013; Nwagwu, 2013; Fox and Hanlon, 2015). These scholars are concerned with the provision of a sustainable ICT infrastructure, capacity building and political will among African governments for the adoption of open access in Africa. The increasing interest in open access scholarly communication is because of the great opportunities which open access initiatives provide for wider dissemination of research findings, particularly among the developing countries. Open access movement evolved in response to paucity of research materials created by journal publishers who through business

Received: 22 April 2022  
Accepted: 12 February 2023

*Information Technology infrastructure, internet connectivity, platform agility and institutional governance remain significant challenges to Open Access (OA) publishing on the African continent. This study examined South African libraries and institutions' efforts to promote open-access publications. Bibliometric tools were used to analyse research outputs, trends, and citations. An informetric analysis of abstracts and titles of (n = 4,808) samples from the Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) outputs in Scopus Databases was conducted. The top 1,999 of these outputs accounted for a total citation count of (n = 18, 913), representing 1,686 of the total link strengths of the outputs. This finding suggests that OA may promote the visibility and prominence of African scholarship and knowledge dissemination in the Social Sciences. Our findings present the extent of SSH contributions to Open Access Publishing (OAP) and the most prolific contributors and institutional ranking of OAP in South Africa. The descriptive statistics of the publications metric summary were max = 4,808,  $\mu = 57.742$ ,  $\sigma^2 = 186857.721$ , and  $\sigma = 432.270$ . The implications of these findings suggest that low OAP will significantly hinder African scholarship, knowledge dissemination and scholar's visibility. It is recommended that institutions promote more OAP to increase the visibility and prominence of South African scholars' academic output.*

**Keywords:** Bibliometric analysis, citation trends, informetric analysis, open access publication, research output, Social Sciences and Humanities

# Open-access papers draw more citations from a broader readership

New study addresses long-standing debate about whether free-to-read papers have increased reach

24 JAN 2024 • 8:00 PM ET • BY [JEFFREY BRAINARD](#)

[Home](#) > [Scientometrics](#) > [Article](#)

## Open access research outputs receive more diverse citations

[Open access](#) | Published: 08 January 2024

Volume 129, pages 825–845, (2024) [Cite this article](#)

<https://www.science.org/content/article/open-access-papers-draw-more-citations-broader-readership>

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11192-023-04894-0>

# DOAJ supports challenges faced by African journals

- Limited visibility and discoverability
- Lack of resources and capacity
- Quality and editorial standards
- Language barriers and regional representation
- Challenges in achieving global standards
- Low international collaboration and citations
- Ethical and copyright challenges

# DOAJ supports development and sustainability of OA publishing of African journals

- Free access to global indexing boosts visibility and discoverability
- Capacity-building workshops improve journal management and editorial quality
- Technical guidance helps journals meet international standards
- Advocacy for APC-free models supports financially sustainable OA publishing
- Multilingual inclusivity enhances access to non-English research
- Partnerships with initiatives promote regional and international collaboration
- Encouragement of OA policies ensures long-term support for African research

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# DOAJ Ambassador Programme



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## Our ambassador programme

DOAJ Ambassadors are volunteers from all over the world.

Ambassadors...

- promote journal quality and the importance of standards
- advocate for open access
- promote DOAJ
- support DOAJ indexing for local journal editors and publishers



Ambassadors Gimena del Rio Riande and Ivonne Lujano

In 2023, Ambassadors  
took part in **61 public  
engagements and events**  
around the world

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## DOAJ as an open scholarly infrastructure...

- 1**  
cannot be bought or sold.
- 2**  
is committed to openness, diversity and accountability.
- 3**  
has adopted the Principles of Open Scholarly Infrastructure in 2022.
- 4**  
collaborates with other open infrastructures to drive change towards an open and transparent culture.

# DOAJ and the community

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Founders of



Partners of





# Open Access

## Journals Toolkit

- Self-guided online resource
- Launched in 2023 by OASPA and DOAJ
- Content created by a diverse Editorial Board of experts in the field
- Editorial Board responsible for keeping the content up to date
- Available in English and French
- Soon available in Arabic



# Open Access

Journals Toolkit

Breaks down essential information for OA journals

## Getting started

How to set up an OA journal

## Running a journal

Editorial considerations of journal management

## Indexing

How to build and maintain your journal's profile

## Staffing

How to build roles and responsibilities

## Policies

How to develop policies and guidelines for your authors

## Infrastructure

Find out more about establishing and running an online journal

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# Criteria for inclusion in DOAJ



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## Journal website

- Secure website (https) recommended
- Register a security certificate for journal

“A small data file used to confirm the authenticity, identity, and reliability of a website or web application. The file contains verified information about the publisher and the domain.”

<http://obiter.mandela.ac.za/> vs <https://obiter.mandela.ac.za/>
- No intrusive advertising (pop-ups etc); No misleading metrics/over-optimisation of metrics



HOME ABOUT SUBMIT GUIDELINES AND POLICIES ARCHIVES CONTACT US Q SEARCH

HOME / About the Journal

## About the Journal

### Vision

To publish and promote the widest diversity of excellent South African research for the local and global academic community and inform policymakers and the public.

### Mission

The *South African Journal of Science* is an open access, multidisciplinary journal published bimonthly by the Academy of Science of South Africa. Its objective is to promote the visibility and impact of South African and African research by publishing high-quality original research from Africa or on African-relevant issues that will be of interest to readers in any discipline and for the benefit of scholars, educators, the general public and policymakers. It also provides a forum for discussion of news and developments in research and higher education.

In order to be considered, submissions from countries outside South Africa must show relevance or application beyond an immediate local context - they must have clear relevance or application more broadly on the continent.

SUBMIT

SIGN UP

SAJS IN THE NEWS



<https://sajs.co.za/>

### Impact factor

Journal Impact Factor™ from Clarivate™ 2022 = 2.4

CiteScore™ from Elsevier™ 2022 = 2.5

[released in 2023]

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## Journal website

Information must be available and easily findable on:

- Aims/focus and scope
- Open access policy
- Author charges (even if zero)
- Instructions for authors
- Contact details
- Editorial board, with affiliations for all members

## Editorial Team

### Editor-in-Chief


Prof Cedric de Coning ✉ 

Research Professor, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs

Senior Advisor to ACCORD

Norway

### Managing Editor


Dr Andrea Prah ✉ 

Research Unit

African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD)

Durban, South Africa

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- Prof Kwesi Aning , Director, Faculty of Academic Affairs & Research, Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre, Ghana and Clinical Professor of Peacekeeping Practice, Kennesaw State University, Atlanta, USA
- Prof Kasaija Apuuli, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science and Public Administration, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda
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- Prof Chris Landsberg , South African National Chair, African Diplomacy and Foreign Policy, Faculty of Humanities, and Senior Associate in the School of Leadership, University of Johannesburg, South Africa



[https://orcid.org/  
0000-0001-7071-5181](https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7071-5181)

⊖ Is this you? [Sign in to start editing](#)

🖨️ [Printable version](#)

Name

**Khabo Mahlangu**

Activities

[Collapse all](#)

▾ **Employment (1)**

☰ Sort

**National Department of Health: Pretoria, Tshwane, ZA**

2005-10-01 to present | Assistant Director (Department of Health)  
Employment

[Show more detail](#)

Source: Khabo Mahlangu

🔗 Help

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## Peer Review

- Journals must apply a rigorous review process
- Peer review by at least two independent reviewers
- Editorial review allowed only for journals in arts and humanities
- Faculty oversight required for student journals
- Describe journal review process on journal website
- Plagiarism checking recommended but not required for inclusion in DOAJ
- State name of checking service or protocol used

# Types of peer review on the DOAJ application form

## 1 Editorial review

This means that the peer review is only conducted by members from the editorial team, with no external reviewers. This type of peer review is only accepted for arts and humanities journals.



## 2 Peer review

This means that the author(s), editor and peer reviewers all know the identity of each other. The peer review is confined to only these people.



## 3 Anonymous peer review

This means that the author(s) do not know the identity of the peer reviewers, but the peer reviewers and the editors know the identity of the authors.



## 4 Double anonymous peer review

In this type of review, neither the author(s) nor the peer reviewers know each other's identity. The editor(s) knows everyone's identities, and will remove any identifiable information for both the author(s) and the peer reviewers.



## 5 Post-publication peer review

Instead of doing the review before publication, the journal provides a platform to enable the review to be done in public, with the community acting as peer reviewers. Anyone can make comments on the article published, and identities are not hidden.



## 6 Open peer review

A peer review can be 'open' in several ways with a focus on transparency, for example through publishing the peer review open, the authors, editors and peer reviewers having an open discussion, open peer review via preprints before publication.



## 7 Other

Any other type of peer review that does not fit the definitions of the other categories.



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# Licensing

- Use licensing to:
  - Inform readers how they may reuse content
  - Inform readers of any reuse that is not allowed
  - Protect the author and journal against unauthorised use
- DOAJ recommends use of Creative Commons licenses (or equivalent)
- No charge for using CC Licenses - Choose a CC-license:  
<https://chooser-beta.creativecommons.org/>
- State your licensing terms on the journal website

# Terms



BY

## Attribution

Others can copy, distribute, display, perform and remix your work if they credit you as the creator.



SA

## Share Alike

Others can distribute your work only under a license identical to the one you have chosen for your work.



NC

## No commercialisation

Others can copy, distribute, display, perform or remix your work but for non-commercial purposes only.



ND

## No Derivatives

Others can only copy, distribute, display or perform verbatim copies of your work.

# Licenses



CC by



CC by SA



CC by NC



CC by ND



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CC by NC ND

economic sector, Higher Education contributes more to South Africa's gross value added than other economic sectors such as Wood and Wood Products, Textiles, Clothing and Leather Goods, or Paper and Paper Products. It is comparable to sectors such as Gold Mining, and Beverages and Tobacco. Taking into account a number of assumptions, which are explained in the text, for 2018 the total economic impact was estimated at about ZAR513 billion. Governmental expenditure on higher education in that year was ZAR66 billion. These figures produce a cost-benefit ratio for the sector of 1 : 7.7, considering only these four university activities.

#### Significance:

The South African public higher education institutions form a very significant economic sector within the national economy. In terms of the gross value added, it is very similar in size to the gold mining industry. Taking into account four activities of universities, this sector contributes about ZAR500 billion annually to the economy, which is likely to be an underestimate of the actual contribution. This finding opens the way for policymakers to understand the importance of the sector as an area of investment. Recognising the potential limitations of the use of the modelling developed for other economies, our study indicates the importance of further work to indigenise the economic modelling for local conditions.

#### METRICS

Vol. 119 No. 9/10 (2023)

SECTION

Research Article

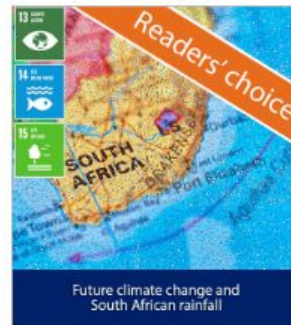
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July/August 2023

#### SAJS Discussion Series



Discussions on  
Load Shedding

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# Copyright

- Copyright of a published work can be held by the author or journal/publisher
- Best practice in open access is for authors to retain copyright
- But DOAJ will accept journals where copyright is transferred
- State your copyright policy on the journal website
- We recommend to provide an author agreement/a link to such an agreement

[This form must be completed by all authors and authors should be listed and sign in the order in which they appear in the manuscript. The completed form must be uploaded during online submission of the manuscript. Manuscripts will not be considered for publication until the completed form has been received.]

#### PUBLISHING AGREEMENT

Publisher:	Academy of Science of South Africa
Title of Manuscript:	
Publication:	South African Journal of Science
Name(s) & contact details [address, telephone number, email address] of all Author(s):	

[https://assafza-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/person/nadiag\\_assaf\\_or\\_g\\_za/EXGWDpigCaFJm-mF\\_DV\\_yyQB0OQ9OSe69FAxFeWdcMwajA?rttime=HOJohyfc20g](https://assafza-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/person/nadiag_assaf_or_g_za/EXGWDpigCaFJm-mF_DV_yyQB0OQ9OSe69FAxFeWdcMwajA?rttime=HOJohyfc20g)



#### AFRICAN JOURNAL ON CONFLICT RESOLUTION

##### Author Statement

*(To be completed by each author individually. Please print, sign and scan.  
Electronic signatures are also permitted)*

**I hereby confirm that I have read the AJCR Guidelines for Authors (accessible [here](#)) and that my submission abides by the standards set out in these rules. I further confirm that my submission is entirely based on original research and that all unoriginal or paraphrased content has been clearly referenced according to the Harvard Style (author date: page number). I hereby confirm that my submission has not been published before and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere.**

**I understand that any copyright infringement or plagiarism in my paper constitutes a serious offence and will lead to an immediate**

<https://journals.assaf.org.za/index.php/ajcr/libraryFiles/downloadPublic/136>

## Submit an Article

1. Start

2. Upload Submission

3. Enter Metadata

4. Confirmation

5. Next Steps

### Section

*Articles must be submitted to one of the journal's sections. \**

### Submission Requirements

You must read and acknowledge that you've completed the requirements below before proceeding.

- The submission has not been previously published, nor is it before another journal for consideration (or an explanation has been provided in Comments to the Editor). Note: If the submission is a revised conference paper, the additional supporting information that must be submitted is detailed below and under "Authors" tab.
- All authors have signed the Consent to Publish form and this is included in the submission. The CAJ form that is available online must be used.
- The submission file is in OpenOffice, Microsoft Word, or RTF document file format.
- The text adheres to the stylistic and bibliographic requirements outlined in the Author Guidelines below.
- Where available, URLs and dois for the references have been provided.
- Where available, author ORCID ids for authors have been provided.
- The names, affiliations, and email addresses of two potential reviewers to evaluate the manuscript have been provided in the cover letter (for peer-reviewed manuscripts only).

Ideas and information are not covered by copyright, how they are **expressed** are.

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# Copyright best practice

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## Authors retain copyright of their work

- Publisher has the right of first publication
- Recommended but *not required* for inclusion in DOAJ

## Authors also retain full publishing rights

- Publisher is granted non-exclusive rights to publish and distribute
- Publishers cannot license rights to third parties
- Authors can reuse their work without restriction
- Recommended but *not required* for inclusion in DOAJ

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Apply for inclusion in  
DOAJ



## Application form

Read our [Guide to applying](#) first. It will help you understand the basic criteria that your journal should meet. If you need help with the application form, please [contact us](#).

You can [print or download](#) a PDF list of the questions.

Log in or register to submit your application.

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## Log in to your account

→ Don't have an account? [Register here](#).

Email address or username

*email@example.com*

# Register

DOAJ is free to use without logging in.

You only need an account if you wish to create an application for a journal's inclusion in the DOAJ or you are a volunteer.

Name

Email address



I'm not a robot



REGISTER

ⓘ Thank you, please verify email address [inacsmith@gmail.com](mailto:inacsmith@gmail.com) to set your password and login. (Dismiss)

Please visit <https://doaj.org/account/reset/32917a3a8c184f11a95ff776ec08942b> and choose a password. You have 14 days from the date of this email. After 14 days, go to <https://doaj.org/account/forgot> and enter your email address. This will let you set a password.

Hi Ina Smith

Please set your new password.

Password

Repeat Password

UPDATE

If you have any difficulties with your account, please [contact us](#).

 New password has been set and you're now logged in. (Dismiss)

DIRECTORY OF OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS



Application form

Guide to applying

The DOAJ Seal

Transparency & best practice

Publisher information

Licensing & copyright

## Open access compliance

PAGE 1 OF 7

You are now logged in. When you submit your application, it will be registered to this account. Please note:


1. The application form takes approximately 30 minutes to complete.
2. Your progress is automatically saved.
3. You can return to this application at any time by clicking [My account](#) → [Publisher](#) at the top.
4. You can [print](#) or [download](#) a PDF list of the questions.
5. You must apply online.

DOAJ only accepts fully open access journals


Open Access is the condition where the copyright holder of a scholarly work grants usage rights to others using an open license (Creative Commons or equivalent) allowing for immediate free access to the work and permitting any user to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of articles, crawl them for indexing, pass them as data to software, or use them for any other lawful purpose.

Does the journal adhere to DOAJ's definition of open access? 

- Yes
- No

The journal website must display its open access statement. Where can we find this information? 

Link to the journal's open access statement

When did the journal start to publish all content using an open license? 

### APPLICATION PROGRESS

- 1 Open access compliance
- 2 About
- 3 Copyright & licensing
- 4 Editorial
- 5 Business model
- 6 Best practice
- 7 Review your answers

### RELATED HELP

[Guide to applying](#)

[The DOAJ Seal](#)

[Transparency & best practice](#)

[Why index your journal in DOAJ?](#)

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# Editorial process



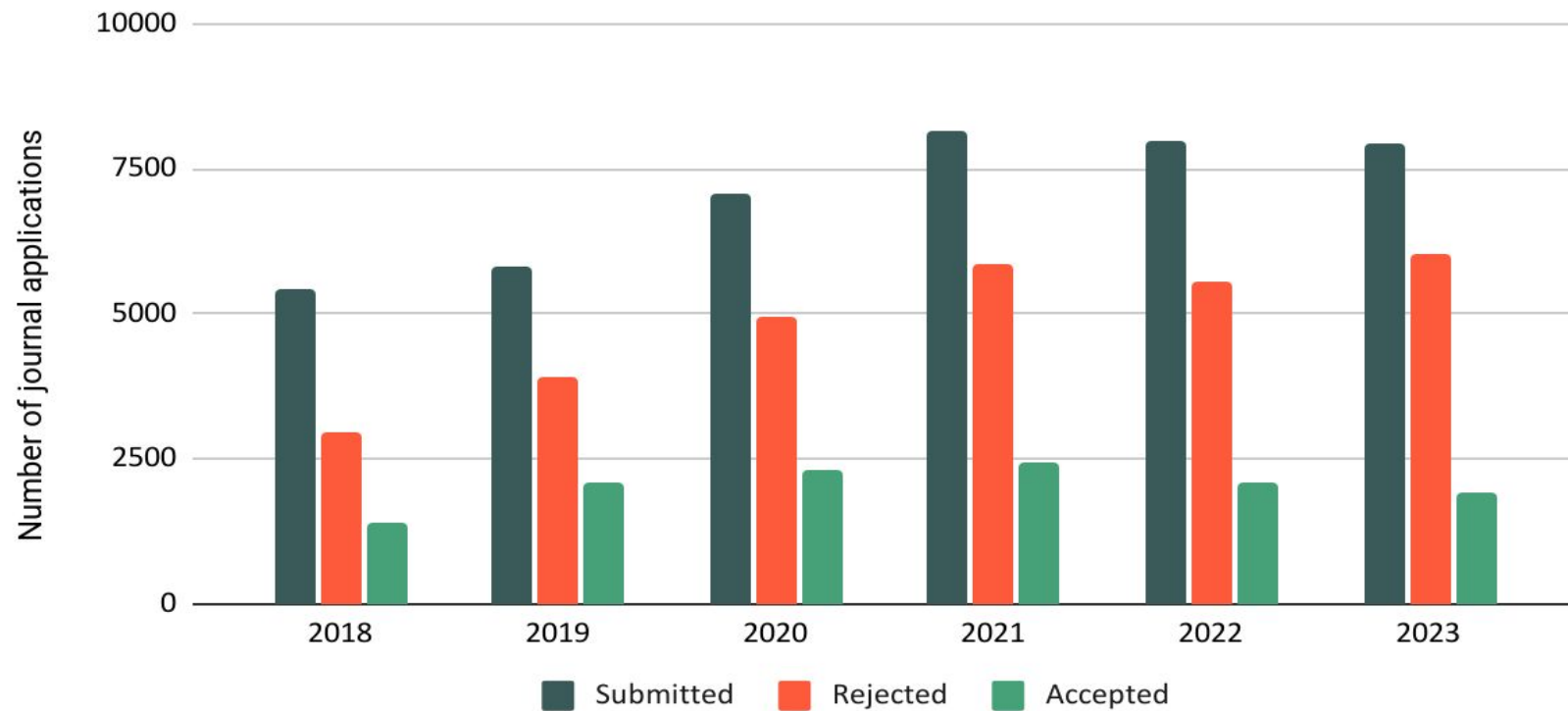
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# DOAJ Review and decision



Current application  
processing time:  
**3 months**

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DOAJ criteria, application process,  
and (sometimes) rejection help  
journals increase their own  
standards.



“ DOAJ indexing was a difficult but doable process. We enjoyed working with the DOAJ team as support in the work process. ”

“ Firstly, our application was rejected, as we did not have proper copyright arrangements. After that, we consulted with some experts and lawyers, adopted the CC copyright model, and arranged everything else in order to really become an open access journal. ”

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## Help and documentation

- Guide to applying  
<https://doaj.org/apply/guide/>
- Reference version of the application form  
<https://doaj.org/static/doaj/docs/2023-07-04-DOAJQuestions.pdf>
- DOAJ application guide for OJS journals  
<https://docs.pkp.sfu.ca/doaj/en/>
- DOAJ helpdesk  
[helpdesk@doaj.org](mailto:helpdesk@doaj.org)

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## How librarians and research support staff use DOAJ

- Our metadata is integrated with library discovery systems & gives users access to a more diverse range of content
- Our metadata is used in other systems used by libraries and enabling a transition to OA, eg. Unsub, Plan S Journal Checker Tool, Sherpa Romeo

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## How librarians and research support staff use DOAJ

- Source of trusted quality journals when advising researchers where to publish
- Checking for inclusion in DOAJ is embedded in Open Access workflows, i.e. allocating funding for APCs

# Questions?

Ina Smith  
DOAJ Ambassador  
[ina@doaj.org](mailto:ina@doaj.org)

