

The Current State of Scholarly Journal Publishing in Africa

Findings & Analysis September 2014



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List of Acronyms and Terms

| | |
|------------|--|
| AJOL | African Journals OnLine - http://www.ajol.info/ |
| AJPP | African Journals Partnership Project – http://ajpp-online.org/ |
| ALMs | Article-level metrics |
| Altmetrics | “Alternative” metrics to Journal Impact Factor such as downloads and page views |
| APCs | Article-processing charges |
| AuthorAid | Global network of support and training for researchers in developing countries - http://www.authoraid.info/en/ |
| CC | Creative Commons licenses - https://creativecommons.org/ |
| CSIR | Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (South Africa) - http://www.csir.co.za/ |
| DHET | Department of Higher Education & Training (South Africa) – refers to the DHET List of Accredited Journals (2013) - http://dx.doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.741259 |
| DOAJ | Directory of Open Access Journals - http://www.doaj.org/ |
| DOI | Digital Object Identifier - http://www.doi.org/ |
| EIFL | Electronic Information for Libraries - http://www.eifl.net/ |
| GOAL | Global Open Access List - http://mailman.ecs.soton.ac.uk/mailman/listinfo/goal |
| HIFA2015 | Healthcare Information for All by 2015 (HIFA) Mailing List - http://www.hifa2015.org/ |
| IBSS | ProQuest’s International Bibliography of Social Sciences - http://www.proquest.com/libraries/academic/databases/ibss-set-c.html |
| IF | [Journal] Impact Factor |
| IP | Intellectual property |
| IPR | Intellectual property rights |
| ICT | Information & Communication Technologies |
| IFLA | International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions - http://www.ifla.org/ |
| ISI | Refers to what is now Thomson-Reuters Web of Science platform - http://thomsonreuters.com/thomson-reuters-web-of-science/ |
| ISSN | International Standard Serial Number |
| JIF | Journal Impact Factor |
| KM4Dev | Knowledge Management for Development - http://www.km4dev.org/ |
| OA | Open Access |
| OJS | Open Journal Systems - http://pkp.sfu.ca/ojs/ |
| PKP | Public Knowledge Project – http://pkp.sfu.ca |
| Sabinet | Sabinet Online and Legal Information - http://www.sabinet.co.za/ |
| Sida | Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency - http://www.sida.se |
| WAME | World Association of Medical Editors - http://www.wame.org/ |

Executive Summary

Over the past few years, the state of scholarly publishing – particularly in terms of the publishing of journals – has dramatically changed. This research project was designed to shine a light on the African journal publishing scene in order to learn how journal editors and publishers are dealing with issues such as Open Access, print vs. online distribution mechanisms, and the day-to-day management of journals.

During August and September of 2013, a survey was conducted; 330 responses were received from participants. Responses represented approximately 30% of known actively-publishing African-based journals, yet no definitive list of all such journals exists, making it impossible to note exactly what percentage of journals were represented in responses. Even so, many patterns emerged in the data, identifying some trends and a few points of concern in outlier data.

Journal publishing appears to be concentrated in two countries: South Africa and Nigeria. One third of the responses were from journals based in South Africa; nearly another third were from Nigeria. The remaining 38% of responses were from the rest of the continent.

Many journals are “scholar-journals” – in other words, journals that are supported by a few individuals or small group of scientists/scholars who publish a single scholarly journal in their field of study. Consistent with this finding, nearly half of respondents indicated that the Editor-in-Chief handles day-to-day journal operations. Over 60% of respondents indicated that their journal was published by a group based out of a university, scholarly society, or professional association. Only 19% of respondents indicated that their journal was published by a commercial publisher.

Journals were generally quite young – the highest concentration of journals were founded in the early 2000s. Those with an online presence most likely went online during or after 2000.

Most journals are available in both print and online. Unlike journals in many other parts of the world, most African-published journals still feel the need to offer printed versions, despite it being the biggest expense item for the majority of African journals. Some of the reasons shared for printing journals: requirements (or preferences) by university libraries, readers, and promotion committees at universities. Other respondents referred to accessibility issues for the target readership, raising concerns about lack of reliable internet access. A few respondents shared concerns about a lingering perception by some readers or universities that printed journals are more prestigious than online journals.

The financial status of journals is still a bit murky, although many respondents implied a scarcity of resources. Nearly one third of respondents indicated that their journal operates in a “cashless” environment, with no income or revenue, instead relying on volunteers and in-kind support from institutions. When asked directly about their journal’s current financial situation, over half of respondents to this question indicated that their journal was breaking even, while nearly one third indicated their journal was operating at a loss. However, a low number of participants responded to this question. Throughout the rest of the survey, responses generally indicated that the financial situation was quite grim. Cost recovery for all publishing models is quite difficult – direct funding from a national government was not a particularly significant source of income. Institutional support from universities was generally via in-kind support – office space, office equipment, telephones, or internet access.

In terms of labor-related expenses, small honorariums were mentioned by a few respondents to support Editors-in-Chief, Editorial Boards, or even peer reviewers who are notoriously hard to source. Finding good peer reviewers was mentioned as a constraint by several respondents.

Impact Factor was mentioned frequently by respondents – either as an overarching but extremely difficult to attain goal or in terms of the inappropriateness of use of Impact Factor as a metric of the quality of African journals. One respondent referred to the “Impact Factor Fundamentalism” within the industry. Many respondents raised pain points and frustrations surrounding Impact Factor in that their target authors (African researchers) are encouraged to publish in overseas journals. A disconnect emerged between African universities’ promotion policies that reward authors for publishing in overseas, high Impact Factor journals and the pressures faced by African journals to publish high-quality, contextually-relevant, development-oriented research.

The context of Open Access is also complicated. Roughly two thirds of respondents self-identified their journals as being Open Access, yet responses indicated confusion around that term – it is more likely that most of those journals are offering their content online in full text for free, and only a small subset of those journals include any re-use rights under Creative Commons or other open licensing scheme. Many of the Open Access journals noted a loss of income they had previously received from subscription income, which is a challenge.

Despite some fuzziness in the definition of Open Access, many respondents remarked on its importance for the future of journal publishing in the region. Concerns around the complexities of OA in Africa were voiced, as well as frequent mention of the need for financial sustainability and additional sources of income for journal publishing.

In response to questions scattered throughout the survey, many participants raised issues related to the need for further professional development and capacity building, particularly related to the technical aspects of supporting journals, moving journals online, working with online submission systems, XML markup, and other ICT-related skills.

Even with all of the challenges referred to by respondents, many individuals remain optimistic about the future and clearly indicated their support for African-based publishing efforts. However, despite the optimism, serious concerns are evident as well, often tied to bigger development and infrastructure issues outside of the publishing industry.

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Part 1: Introduction

Background

Over the past few years, the state of scholarly publishing has dramatically changed. Developments in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) have led to a global ecosystem for scholarly communication. In various parts of the world, we have witnessed shifts from print to electronic access, faster time to print, and the development and uptake of new models such as Open Access.

While a good deal of research has been conducted over the past few years regarding global trends in the shift from print to digital, changing dissemination and business models, and uptake of technology to support elements of publishing, no research has focused exclusively on these issues within Africa. This project was designed to fill this gap and explore such questions within the African context, particularly within the Sub-Saharan region.

Although readership of articles has become more global than ever, journal publishing practices and local demands on the publishing industry are not necessarily the same throughout the world. Our hypothesis was that although there is a dynamic publishing scene in Africa, the issues, trends, and challenges facing journal editors and publishers are not necessarily the same within the African context as on the global level.

Thus, the goal of this project was to collect, analyze, and disseminate knowledge about the current state of scholarly journal publishing in Africa in order to learn more about how journal editors and publishers are dealing with such issues as Open Access, print vs. online distribution mechanisms, adoption of ICT tools for management of journals, implementation of various financial models, and encountering challenges related to so-called “predatory Open Access.” Our aim was to solicit data, information, and knowledge from journal editors and publishers across the continent in order to share best practices, identify emerging trends, gain insights from editors about their successes and concerns, and shine a light on scholarly journal publishing in Africa.

In 2010, AJOL conducted a small-scale study among its journal editors. 102 Open Access titles published on the AJOL platform were asked to participate in the survey; nearly half (46) completed the survey. The 2010 AJOL study served as a proof-of-concept and jumping off point; this project built on that effort, yet broadened the focus. Research was conducted in order to gather both quantitative and qualitative data. The main component of data collection was through a survey, administered in August/September of 2013.

While this project is focused on Africa, it is hoped that follow-up work will be conducted by other researchers to look at similar issues in other parts of the world. The survey instrument will be released under a CC-BY license. Much of the data – that which can be anonymized – will be released as well in order to encourage re-use and comparison.

Methodology

Quantitative and qualitative data was gathered via a survey. The survey was drafted in July of 2013 by the research team and was sent to a group of 30+ experts in the field for their review and comments. A revised version of the survey was drafted in August of 2013, based on input from reviewers. The final survey included over 80 questions with over 300 variables; we aimed to be as thorough as possible, opting for comprehensiveness over brevity, even if it was at the expensive of potentially losing some respondents mid-way through due to “survey fatigue.”

In August, the survey was input into LimeSurvey¹, an open-source survey application, hosted on the Clobridge Consulting website. LimeSurvey was selected as the survey software for several reasons, but of key importance was its ability to offer a single survey in multiple languages. The survey was offered in both English and French. Other languages, particularly Arabic and Portuguese would have been ideal, but were not possible due to a combination of budgetary and timeline constraints. Furthermore, the survey was offered via an online form

¹ LimeSurvey: <http://www.limesurvey.org>

and as an “offline” survey which could be emailed back to the project team. Several people requested an offline copy, but only a few were completed.

The survey was open to editors and publishers of “African-based journals.” The research team assembled a working list of 1,012 known African-based journals excluding Hindawi² publications. The working list was based on entries in Ulrich’s Periodicals Directory, the SCImago Journal & Country Rank portal, Web of Knowledge, the South African DHET Accredited Journals list for 2013, ProQuest’s International Bibliography of Social Sciences, a list of registered Open Journal Systems (OJS) installations based out of African countries, and AJOL journals. As much as possible based on the information from these sources, the list was cleaned of duplicate entries and journals which have ceased operations. Approximately two weeks after invitations were sent, reminder/follow-up emails were sent. Invitations were sent in English and French.

Since there was no definitive source for this information, and much of the information collected was conflicting and incomplete, the decision was made to offer the survey as an open survey rather than limiting to a closed group of invitees. Furthermore, we hoped to uncover additional journals that were not on any lists. In this aspect, we were successful – respondents from several journals not on the list participated. Roughly 5-10% of journals represented by respondents were not in the team’s working list. Some journals were new, while other journals have gone through name changes or simply were not included in any of the lists.

In order to reach as many African-based journals as possible, messages were posted to several electronic mailing lists, blogs, websites, and social network sites such as: the World Association of Medical Editors (WAME) mailing list, HIFA2015 mailing list, Sabinet News, KM4Dev Mailing List, Global Open Access List, and the AuthorAid Mailing List. Furthermore, publishers and other organizations involved in supporting access to information and knowledge in Africa were encouraged to disseminate information about the survey and encourage editors to participate. Such organizations that were involved in outreach efforts include: African Journals Partnership Program (AJPP), Biomed Central, BioLine, EIFL, Elsevier, INASP, Public Knowledge Project (PKP), and Taylor & Francis.

Due to the sensitive nature of some of the questions, respondents were promised anonymity. As a result, the full data set will not be shared, although we will be releasing anonymized responses to many questions throughout 2014. Data will be deposited into an open data repository.

The survey received 330 responses.³ These responses represented approximately 30% of actively-publishing African-based journals of which we are aware, excluding Hindawi titles. However, since no definitive list of all African-based journals exists, it is impossible to note exactly what percentage of journals were included in responses.

Challenges

As already noted, identifying the target population was a challenge in itself. The research team tried to eliminate duplicate entries, but multiple entries for the same journals were included nonetheless. A combination of factors led to this issue: journals that have changed their title over the past few years, journals that have moved, established journals that have moved to new publishers, journals which have moved locations (countries or institutions). Whenever possible, the working list was edited throughout the process to eliminate duplications.

Furthermore, most of the directories and lists used to establish the working list are produced by publishers in the global North and do not include all journals based out of Africa. Several journals which responded were not included in any of the lists which were used as the starting point for identifying titles. Some journals do not have a web presence and do not advertise a contact person or email address.

² Hindawi journals (<http://www.hindawi.com/about/>) were excluded from the target population. Hindawi Publishing Corporation, a commercial publisher based out of Egypt, publishes a portfolio of over 400 international Open Access journals, most of which are led by editorial teams primarily based out of Europe, North America, and the global North -- according to the Hindawi website, more than 40,000 Editors serve on their journals’ Editorial Boards.

³ Responses from participants who did not complete the first question, from non-African journals, and non-usable responses (i.e. responses with “gggggg” for each question) were deleted from the data set.

Another challenge was dealing with multiple responses from a single journal, sometimes from the same person. When it was apparent that the same person responded multiple times, a deeper review usually indicated one complete response and a partial response. In these instances, the complete response was retained. In a few instances, two nearly-identical complete responses were offered at the same time. In these cases, we retained one of the two responses. However, we also encountered a few journals with multiple responses by different people – for instance, an Editor-in-Chief and another member of the Editorial Board or someone from a publisher’s office. Thus, of the total number of responses, approximately 300 journals were represented.

Likewise, the survey was open to both publishers and editors. If future iterations of this research are undertaken, it is recommended to limit responses to one per journal and to only invite responses from journal editors.

The length of the survey also led to some challenges. As part of the survey testing and review process, several reviewers noted the length of the survey – yet they also strongly suggested adding more questions. Based on input from reviewers, the decision was made to err on the side of being too long as a result of being comprehensive rather than not digging deeply enough into issues (but having a shorter survey). The result: not all participants made it to the end of the survey and some questions had far lower response rates than others. Of those who did make it to the end of the survey, several individuals thanked the research team for administering the survey and inquiring into these issues.

Emphasis on Patterns, Not Exact Numbers

As a result of the challenges in working with a fuzzy target audience and the inconsistent response rates to questions, it is important to look at patterns in the data, and not exact numbers. Even so, many of the patterns which emerged are quite clear – and others are murky. We recommend using this data to shed light on the nature of the current publishing scene – including its ambiguities – and hope this research is a starting point for further research and analysis in the future.

About the Research Team

The project was carried out by a research team lead by African Journals OnLine (AJOL), a non-profit organization based out of South Africa dedicated to increasing the visibility, access, and use of African-produced research output in support of quality African research and higher education, and Clobridge Consulting, a U.S.-based consulting firm focusing on supporting knowledge management, open knowledge, and libraries.

Funding was provided in part by Carnegie Corporation of New York and Sida, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency.

Part 2: Survey Results

Results presented here include details from many of the questions included in the report. Most results have been anonymized. In general, survey responses are presented in this report in the order in which they were asked.

1: Demographics

Section 1 of the survey focused on demographics of respondents in order to separate potential responses pertaining to journals not based in Africa and to get a better understanding of the demographic makeup of editors currently involved in the publishing process. Table 1 and Table 2 present the geographic breakdown of the countries where survey respondents are based.

Table 1: Breakdown of Responses by Country

| Country | Responses |
|--------------|-----------|
| South Africa | 105 |
| Nigeria | 99 |
| Egypt | 19 |
| Ethiopia | 18 |
| Ghana | 13 |
| Kenya | 13 |
| Uganda | 8 |
| Tanzania | 6 |
| Sudan | 5 |

Table 2: Countries with 1-3 Responses

Countries with 2-3 Responses:

Algeria (3), Cameroon (3), Madagascar (3), Rwanda (3), Botswana (2), Ivory Coast (2), Morocco (2), Mozambique (2), Senegal (2), Togo (2), Tunisia (2), Zambia (2), Zimbabwe (2)

Countries with 1 Response:

Burkina Faso, Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Libya, Malawi, Mauritius, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Angola, Benin, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Namibia, Niger, Republic of the Congo, Sao Tome, Seychelles, Somaliland, South Sudan, Swaziland, Western Sahara

Age and Gender of Respondents

In terms of age and gender of respondents: the bulk of respondents were born in the 1950s – 1970s (Figure 1), and the large predominance of respondents – nearly three-quarters – were male (Figure 2).

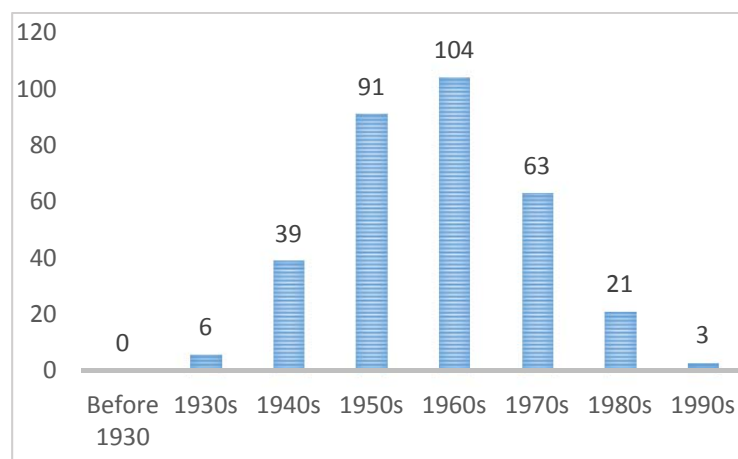


Figure 1: Birth Decades of Respondents

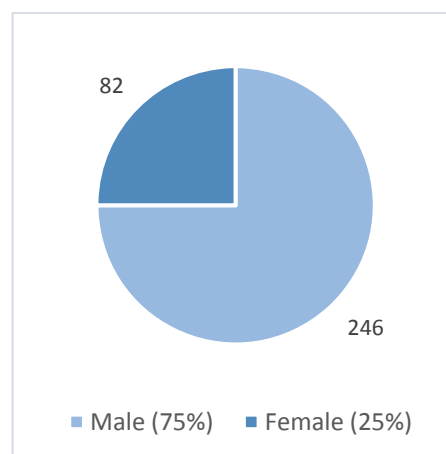


Figure 2: Respondents by Gender

Current Profession & Role in Publishing

Over two-thirds (67%) of survey respondents were working in universities as professors or lecturers at the time the survey was administered. The next most-common profession selected was full-time journal editor, publisher, or staff member – but only 13% of respondents picked this option. (See Figure 3.)

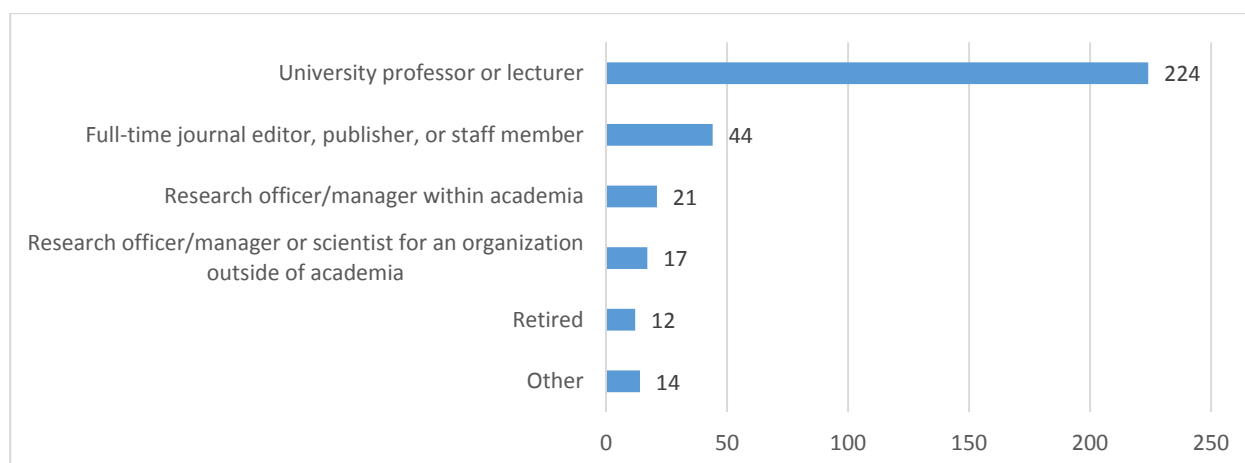


Figure 3: Respondents' Current Profession

The next question (Figure 4) examined respondents' connection to a journal or the publishing industry. Just over two-thirds (69%) of respondents participated in the survey did so in their capacity as Editor-in-Chief, representing a single journal. Ten percent (10%) of respondents are members of a journal's editorial board. Another 15% of respondents work as a journal manager or staff member in an editorial office, and three percent (3%) indicated that they work for a publishing organization.

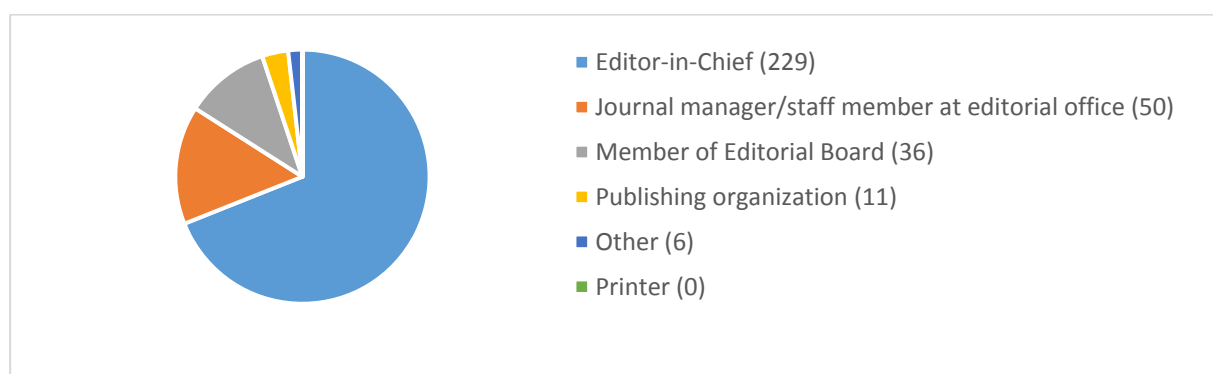


Figure 4: Respondents' Role in Publishing++

Respondents were then asked if they were primarily involved in supporting one journal or many. The heart of the survey, Sections 3 – 10, were designed to gather information about the current state of African-based scholarly journals. Thus, most questions were written such that respondents needed to answer on behalf of a single journal.

Section 2 was designed to elicit some broader information from journal publishers or others closely involved in supporting multiple journals. This next question served as a means of adding an extra "branch" to the survey for this purpose. When asked, "Is your primary involvement in publishing related to one journal or multiple journals," most respondents (237) indicated that they are involved in supporting one journal. On the other hand, 90 respondents answered that they were involved in supporting two or more journals and were sent to the next section. All other respondents were sent directly to Section 3.

2: For Publishers

Questions in Section 2 were intended for publishers or individuals who are closely involved in supporting two or more journals. When asked, “how many journals does your organization publish?,” most respondents indicated that they were involved in the production of just a few journals – over 50 respondents indicated that they were involved in supporting 2-4 journals. (See Figure 5.)

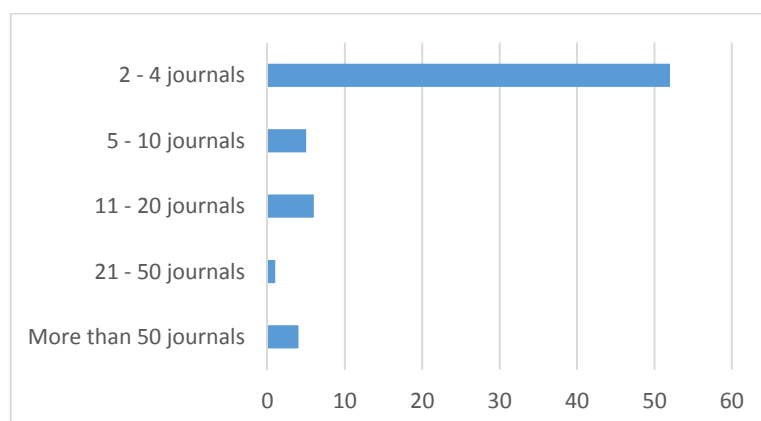


Figure 5: Number of Journals Published by Your Organization

A series of questions were asked in order to elicit information about what type(s) of services were offered by the publishing organization in general – not tied to a specific journal. The top three selections were: proofreading, overseeing the peer-review process, and online publication. Full results are presented in Figure 6.

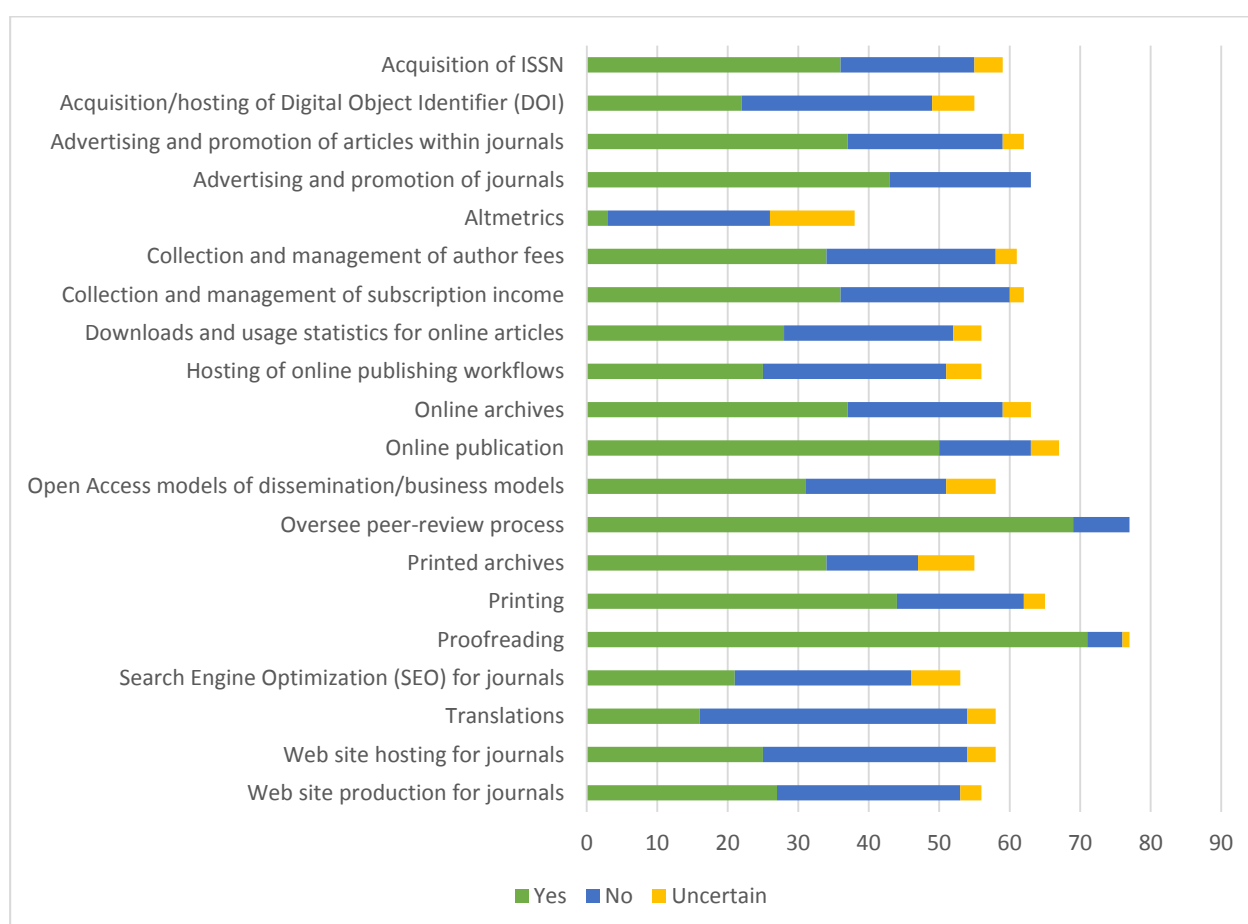


Figure 6: Services Provided by Your Organization

Respondents were also to describe any other publishing-related services they provided. Responses clustered around the following areas:

- Support for editors: providing help and mentoring for first-time authors, holding editorial meetings to discuss journal progress, training and support, soliciting guest editors

- Support for writers: organizing seminars for potential writers, soliciting manuscripts and authors, communicating with authors
- Production support: layout, formatting; editing manuscripts once they have been accepted by reviewers; oversee copy editing; communication with journal indexer (AJOL) on a regular basis
- Journal sales
- Distribution of the journal to end users, libraries, bookstores
- Other types/models of publishing: co-publishing with local partners; publishing research books, monographs, and academic textbooks; ad hoc publishing services for smaller items
- Preparation, collection and distribution of data and research: annual reports on usage, production schedule, marketing activity, citations, bibliometrics; preparing industry/research output briefings
- Assistance obtaining the South African Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) accreditation
- Digital preservation

3: About Your Journal

Questions in Section 3 were designed to gather general information about African-based journals including their subject matter, when they were founded, the number of issues published, and languages of publication. Respondents were asked to answer questions in Sections 3 – 10 about one particular journal.

Subject Area of Journals

Respondents were asked to indicate the primary subject area(s) of their journal. The Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) listing of subjects⁴ was used for the basis of response selections, with a space for additional areas to be included under “Other.” “Other” responses were then re-coded. Figure 7 indicates the top subject areas represented, those with thirty (30) or more responses. Top selections include a great deal of overlap. Even with the overlap, the sciences – particularly health and medical sciences, agriculture and food sciences, and environmental sciences – are the most represented areas.

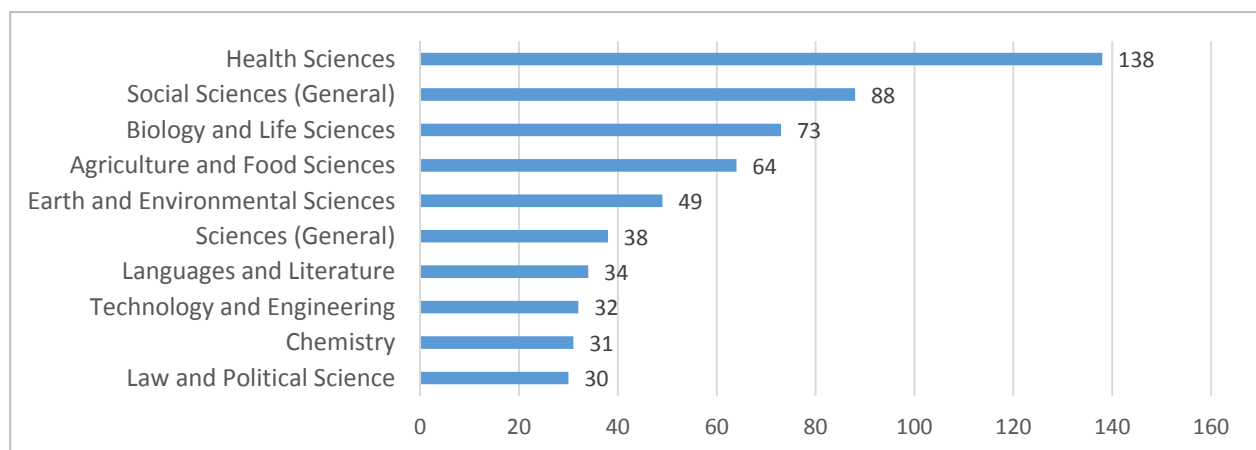


Figure 7: Subject Areas of Journals

Journals' Age

Respondents were asked when the journal was founded. The decade between 2000 and 2009 had the most responses, with the 1990s and 1980s following. Results are presented in Figure 8.

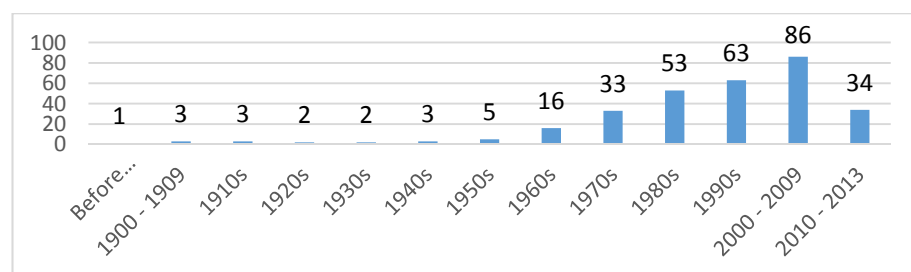


Figure 8: Founding Decade of Journals

Frequency of Publication

When asked how many issues were published in 2012, most respondents (83%) indicated their journal published between one and four issues. Interesting, 19 individuals noted that their journals published in an “issue-less” environment, a recent trend that is beginning to gain steam around the world.

⁴ The Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) list of subjects as of July 2013 was used for the basis for answer options. Choices included: Agriculture and Food Sciences; Arts and Architecture; Biology and Life Sciences; Business and Economics; Chemistry; Earth and Environmental Sciences; Health Sciences; History and Archaeology; Languages and Literature; Law and Political Science; Mathematics and Statistics; Marine or Aquatic Science; Philosophy and Religion; Physics and Astronomy; Sciences (General); Social Sciences (General); Technology and Engineering; Other [please explain]. This list was available from <http://www.doaj.org>. However, between July and December of 2013, DOAJ has changed how subjects are represented in their database.

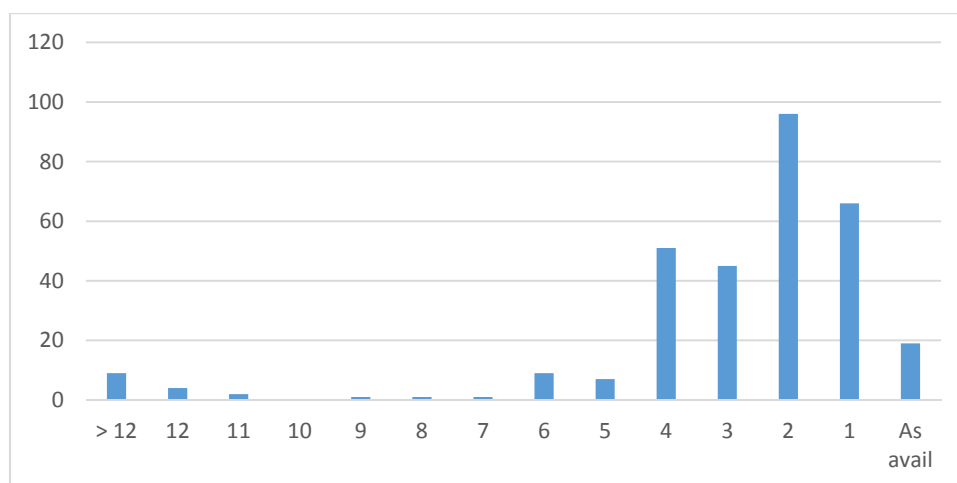


Figure 9: Frequency of Publication (2012)

Languages

Three questions were asked regarding language. First, participants were asked, “what is the main language of this journal?” As indicated in Figure 10, the predominant language of journals represented in the survey is English – 289 individuals (91% of respondents to this question) selected English.

Participants were then asked if the journal publishes articles in other languages besides the primary language. Over three-quarters of respondents (241 responses) indicated that they did not publish articles in other languages.

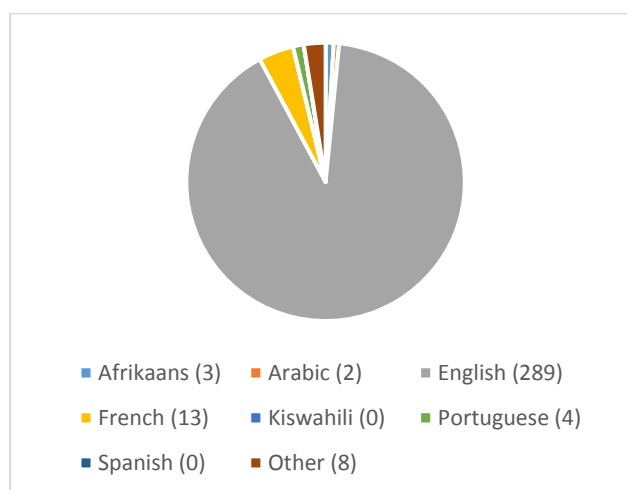


Figure 10: Main Language of Journal

For those journals which do publish in other languages besides their primary language, responses were varied. French was the most-often selected option (34 respondents), followed by English (26), and then Afrikaans (20). The option for “Other” was also used several times – 19 individuals selected this response. Of these, responses, German was referenced nine times and Dutch 6 times. A few participants either referenced specific African languages or included a note indicating that their journal accepts any of the South African languages. Italian and Mandarin were also cited. See Table 3 for the full set of responses.

Table 3: Breakdown of Additional Languages Accepted for Publication

| Breakdown of Responses | | Breakdown of “Other” responses | |
|------------------------|-----------|---|-----------|
| Language | Responses | Language/Note | Responses |
| French | 34 | German | 9 |
| English | 26 | Dutch | 6 |
| Afrikaans | 20 | Any of the official South African languages | 3 |
| Other | 19 | Xhosa | 3 |
| Arabic | 3 | Amharic | 1 |
| Spanish | 3 | Kinyarwanda | 1 |
| Portuguese | 2 | Yoruba | 1 |
| Kiswahili | 1 | | |

4: Journal Operating Status & Details

Section 4 examined journals' operating status and general details about operations.

Current Operating Status & Lapses in Publication

When asked about the current operating status, nearly all respondents (98%) indicated that their journal was currently active and publishing new issues or articles. (See Figure 12.) However, when asked if this journal has experienced any interruptions in publishing, 56 respondents (20%) indicated that their journal had indeed experienced an interruption at some point in time. (See Figure 11.)

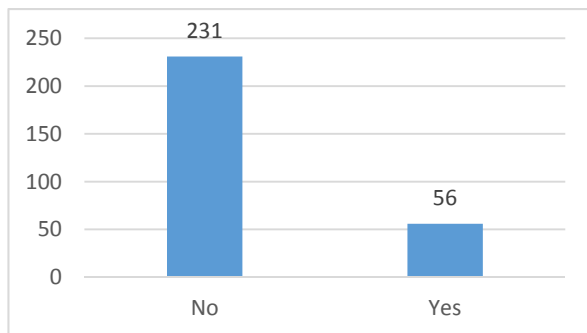


Figure 11: Has this journal experienced any interruptions in publishing?

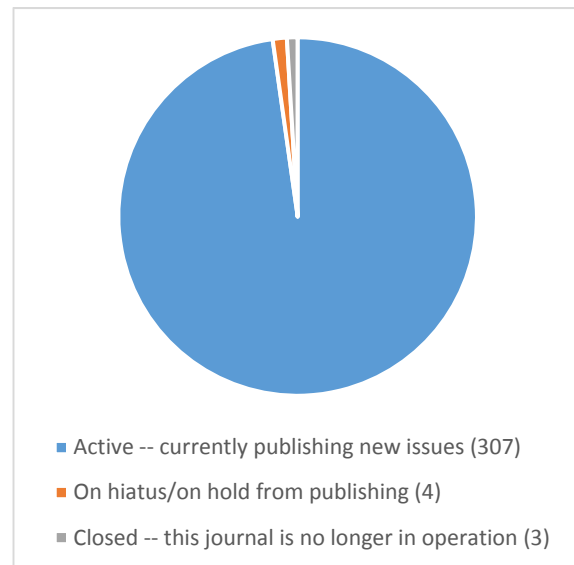


Figure 12: Current Operating Status

Fifty-one (51) individuals responded to a follow-up question asking for details about lapses in publishing. Descriptions of the lapses run the gamut from occasional inconsistencies due to staff turnover or economic issues to security-related problems or strikes. Examples of responses regarding occasional or one-time lapses due to staff or Editorial Board turnover include:

“When staff turnover in the organization, it has occasionally skipped an issue.”
 “For a year when the journal had change in its editor-in-chief”
 “Yes due to occasional interruptions in managerial team and sponsorship”
 “Changes in the editorial Board membership has caused the journal to lapse”

Sample responses regarding lapses specifically because of insufficient funds:

“Due to funding, the Journal was in comma for some years”
 “Lack of funds.”

Unique responses due to challenges of different sorts:

“Industrial Strike”
 “Security challenges at base between 2009-2012”
 “Lack of manuscripts”
 “Yes during 2010 while we waited for accreditation”

Manuscript Selection & Peer Review

When asked about the process for accepting articles (Figure 13), most respondents indicated some form of peer-review:

- Peer review for all (263 responses)
- Preliminary review by Editor-in-Chief or a manager, followed by peer-review (247 responses)
- Editorial Board conducting review of all submissions (102 responses)

- Editor-in-Chief reviewing all submissions (85 responses)

However, responses also indicated that some journals accept all manuscripts (5) or all manuscripts within a particular subject area (29), without going through the peer review process.

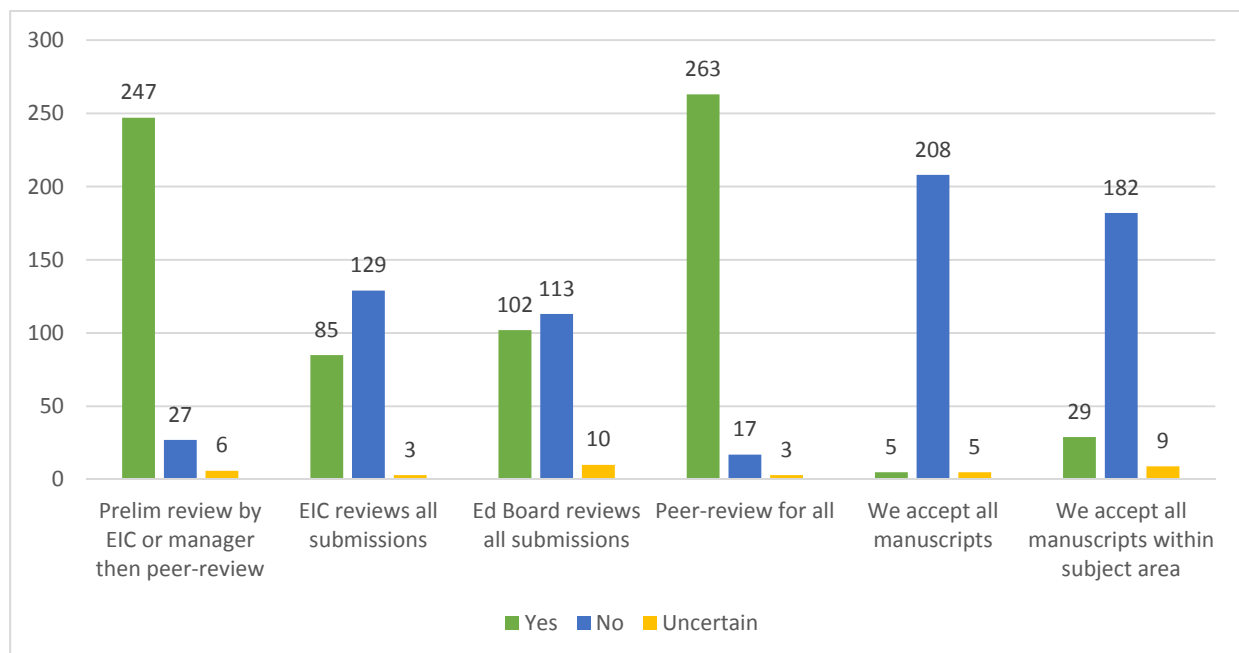


Figure 13: Process to Select Articles for Publication

Digital Object Identifiers and International Standard Serial Numbers

Participants were asked about use of various systems, including International Standard Serial Numbers (ISSNs) and Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs). Nearly all respondents (96%) indicated use of ISSNs, while around half (48%) of respondents indicated use of DOIs.

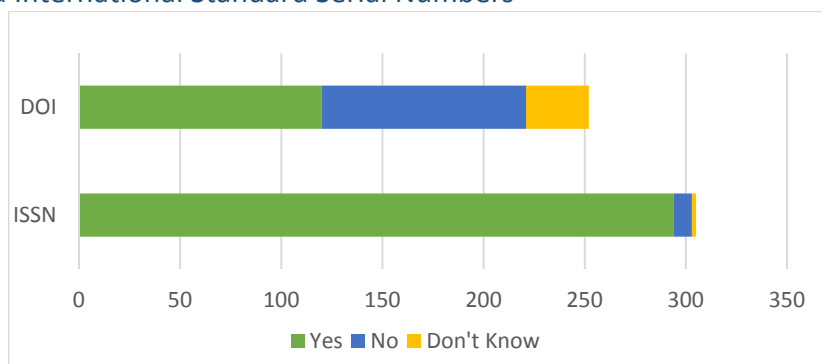


Figure 14: Use of DOIs and ISSNs

Online Submission Systems

When asked about use of online submission systems, nearly two-thirds (64%) of respondents indicated that they used an online submission system for authors to submit their manuscripts.

When asked in a follow-up question for details about the system(s) used, responses indicated a lack of clarity with this question as “Email” was the system listed most often (30 times), with Microsoft Word or other word processing systems listed another 25 times. (See Figure 16.)

However, many individuals did list systems specifically designed to support publishing efforts. Open Journal System (OJS) was listed by 27 respondents, followed by ScholarOne (25), and Elsevier’s Electronic System (9).

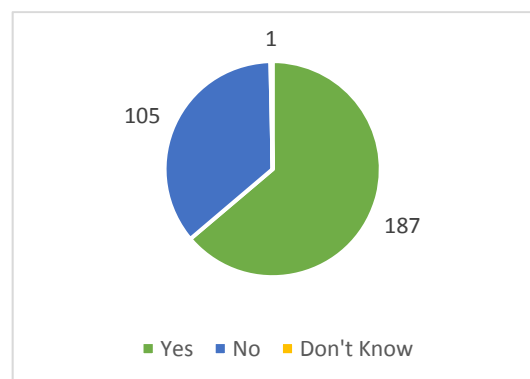


Figure 15: Use of Online Submission Systems

Other responses mentioned once or twice include: Joomla (2), MedKnow (2), Editorial Manager (2), Scopemed/ejmanager (1), Plone CMS (1), Osprey Academic & Publishing Submission Systems (1), open source system (1), Journal Manager™ (1), Dropbox (1), CATS (1), and AJOL (1).

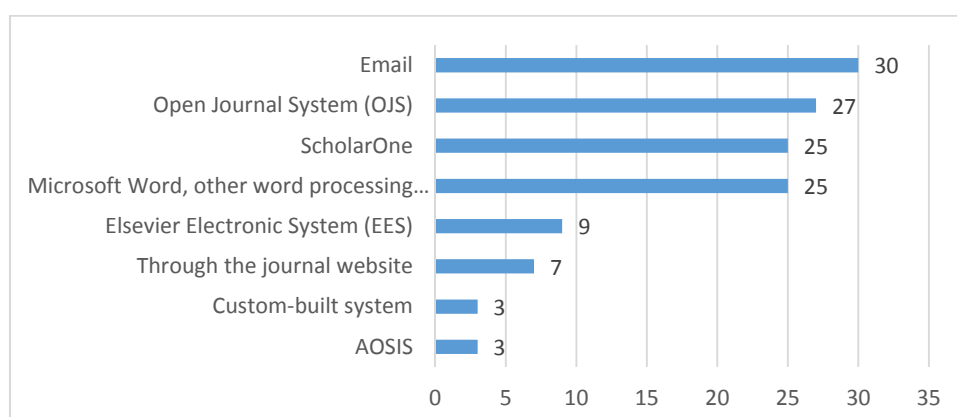


Figure 16: Software or System Used to Accept Online Submission of Journal Articles

Tracking Impact & Usage

Not surprisingly, citations were selected by the highest number of individuals (120) as a way in which they tracked their journal's impact. Other top ways for tracking impact or measuring usage included: downloads, comments, and page views. Figure 17 displays all responses.

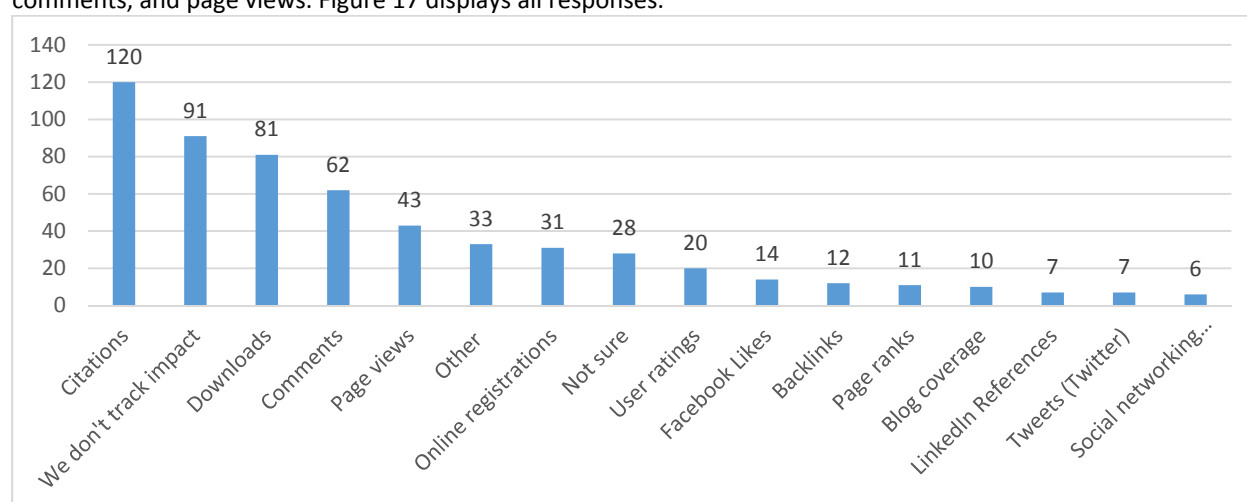


Figure 17: Measures for Tracking Journal Impact

In addition to the various ways in which usage is measured and tracked, 91 individuals indicated that they did not track impact in any way.

Participants were also asked about their adoption of article-level metrics (ALMs), a burgeoning way in which many journals are beginning to track access to and usage of journals at the article level. Most respondents (148 respondents or 71% of those who answered this question) indicated they were not using article-level metrics.

5: Journal Access & Formats

Section 5 of the survey focused on understanding which were the predominant formats and ways by which readers are able to access journals.

Print and Online Access

In the initial question for this section, the terminology “Open Access” was consciously not introduced. Instead, respondents were asked whether they offered print (hard copy) or an online (electronic version) to readers, and then inquired if that option was available for a fee or for free. Nearly the same number of individuals responded to the question regarding print access (276) as online access (275). For print access, nearly three quarters (72%) of respondents indicated that they offer print subscriptions for a fee. An additional 18% offered print subscriptions for free. Surprisingly, only 26 individuals (9%) indicated that they do not offer print access – a surprising result, when compared with responses to questions later in the survey regarding Open Access (See Section 8) and Subscriptions (Section 9). Breakdowns of print, online, fee and free options are presented in Figure 18.

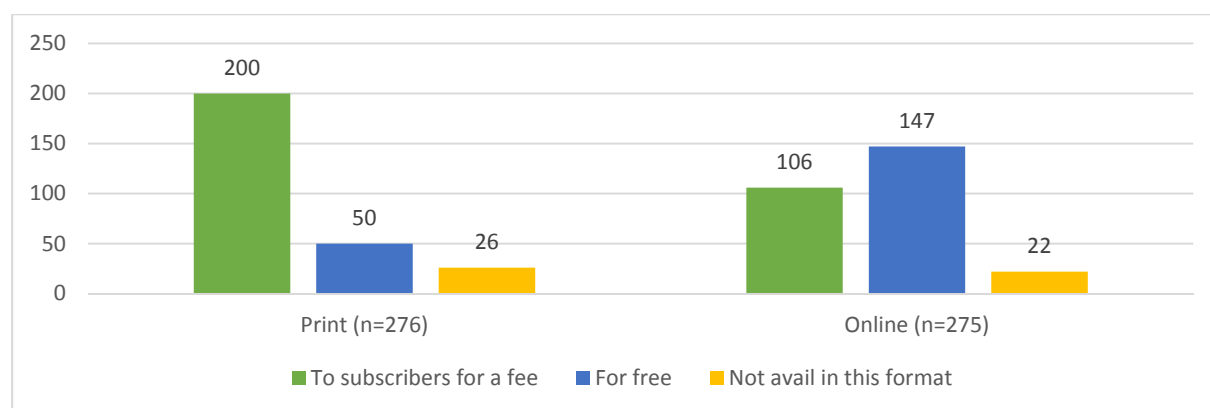


Figure 18: Breakdown of Free/Fee Print and Online Access

Reasons for Print Copies

In terms of print access: three quarters of respondents (75%) indicated that their journal was available in print – 250 out of the 333 respondents selected either “printed copies for a fee” or “printed copies for free” when asked about the formats in which their journal was available. Due to the costs associated with production and distribution of printed copies, the high percentage of journals offering hard copies was somewhat surprising – although responses are a bit inconsistent with later questions in Section 8 about Open Access.

Those who indicated that their journal was available in print were asked the follow-up question: “What are the top reasons for offering this title in a printed version/hard copy?” Common themes included printing for libraries or archives; institutional preference for tenure/promotion/review purposes; because subscribers are paying for print; preferences of subscribers/readers; and concerns about lack of internet access, expense of internet access, or inconsistent internet access. Due to the rich nature of these responses, additional responses are presented in full in Appendix 1.

Working with Printers

This group of respondents was also asked about their experiences working with printers. Specifically, participants were asked: “What services does your printer provide for this journal? Please explain.” Of the 193 responses to this question, most respondents (163 or 84%) indicated that their printers handled print-related tasks – i.e., document preparation for printing, typesetting, layout, mailings, bindings, cover art, etc. Additional tasks or services mentioned in response included: making the online/digital version available, providing PDF copies for distribution and copy editing. Some respondents indicated that they worked with an organization such as AOSIS or NISC to handle a variety of tasks related to publishing and printing. In these cases, the lines between “publisher” and “printer” were often fuzzy. Other organizations mentioned in this context: Taylor & Francis, Elsevier, UNISA Press.

First Online Access

The 253 respondents who noted that their journal was available online were asked details about when this first occurred. The year 2000 was the first point at which more than 1-2 journals moved online in a given year;

during that year, 15 journals began to offer online access. Since that point, the numbers have been rising at a somewhat steady rate until 2013 (the year when this survey was administered).

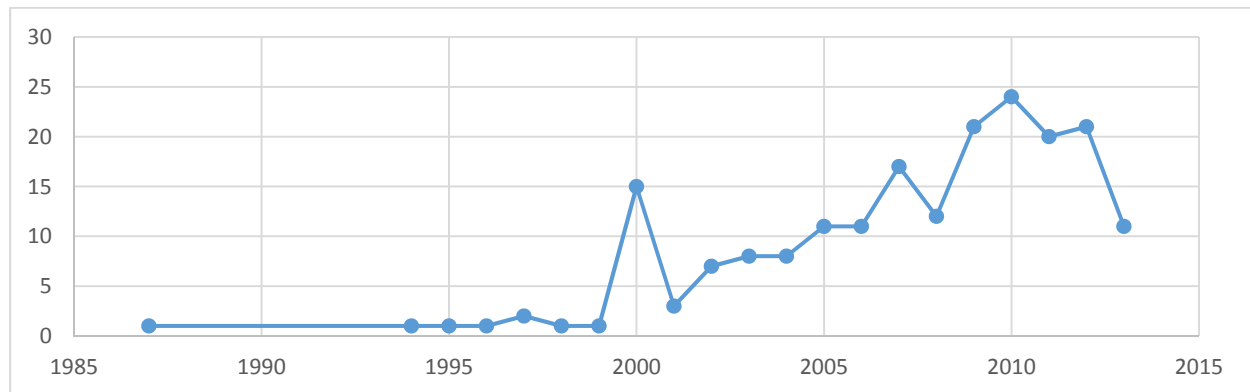


Figure 19: Year Journal Moved Online

Inclusion in Indexes, Directories, Aggregators

Respondents were asked for details about in which indexes, aggregators, and databases their journal was included. Options selected by ten or more respondents are presented in Figure 20.

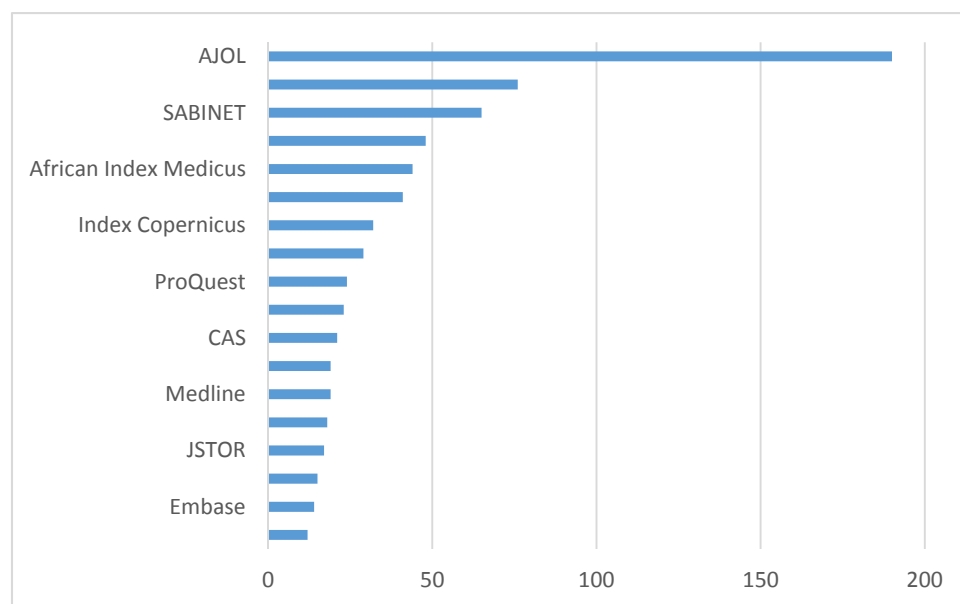


Figure 20: Indexes, Directories, Aggregators Selected by 10+ Respondents

A follow-up question asked respondents to list other indexes, databases, or journal aggregators where the journal appears. Responses covered a tremendous range of search engines, publisher names, libraries, websites, and governmental departments. For instance, Google, Google Scholar, EBSCO, Thomson Reuters, ProQuest, and HeinOnline were all mentioned numerous times, as were individual university websites. The South African Department of Higher Education Accredited Journal List was also mentioned by multiple respondents. The scope and range of responses indicated an awareness of the importance of including journals in various search engines, directories, websites, and other types of listings, and it is evident that significant efforts are being made to be included in these.

Permission to Deposit Articles or Manuscripts into Repositories

When asked whether the journal allows authors to deposit manuscripts or the published version of articles into repositories, nearly two thirds (63%) of those who responded to this question allowed the final/typeset version of articles to be deposited into repositories either immediately or after a delay. Journals appear to have an overwhelming preference for allowing the final/typeset version of articles to be deposited rather than

the author's version or a peer-reviewed version of manuscripts. (See Figure 21.) The degree to which authors choose to deposit their manuscripts into repositories was not addressed.

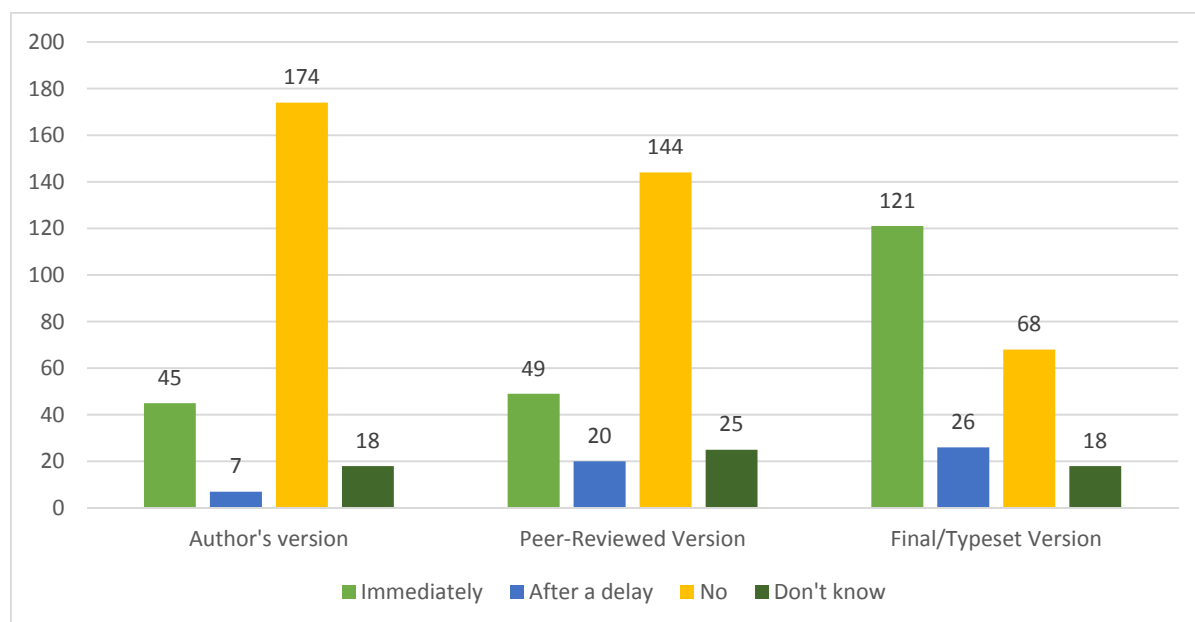


Figure 21: Permission to Deposit Articles or Manuscripts in Repositories

6: Management, Publishing, and Other Support for the Journal

Questions in Section 6 related to journals' management and operations – both day-to-day and long-term – such as which type of organization is responsible for publishing each journal and who is responsible for its long-term operations and ensuring its ongoing support.

Types of Organization Serving as Publisher

Most respondents to this question indicated that their journal was published by a university (31%) or a scholarly society, professional society, or association (30%). Commercial publishers were the third most-selected response (19%). (See Figure 22.) Responses listed under “University” include university presses, university departments, research centers affiliated with universities, and all other types of university affiliates. Co-published was not an provided option, although it was listed three times under “other.” It is likely that at least a few other journals that participated would fit into this category as well.

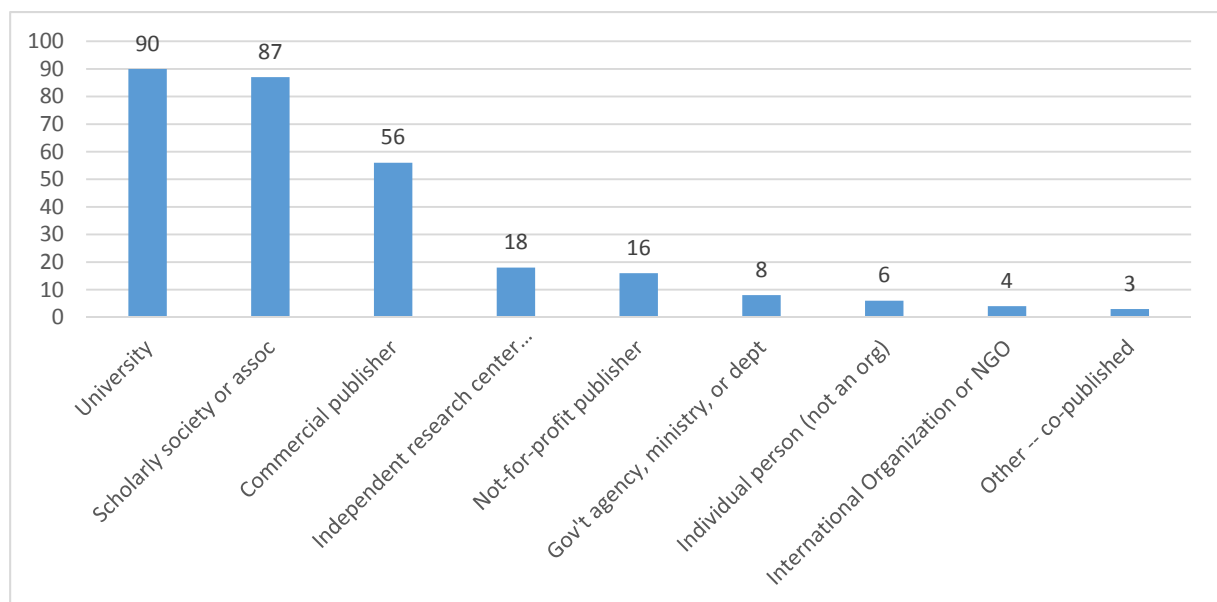


Figure 22: Types of Publishing Organizations

Day-to-Day Operations & Long-Term Oversight

Two questions were asked to discover who handles daily operations and who is ultimately responsible for the continuation of each journal. Management of daily operations is presented in Figure 23. Nearly half of respondents (48%) indicated that the Editor-in-Chief was responsible for daily operations.

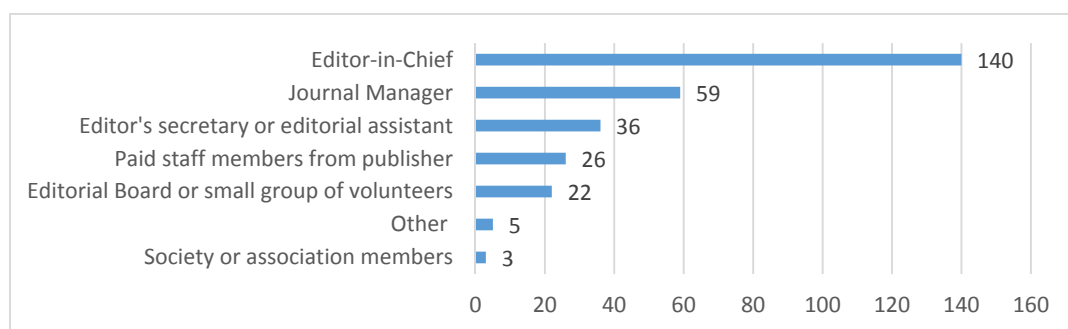


Figure 23: Who Handles Day-to-Day Operations?

In terms of long-term responsibilities, participants were asked: “Who is ultimately responsible for the continuation and future of this journal?” Results are presented in Figure 24. The top response to this question was “Scholarly society or association,” and was selected by 36% of respondents – which was not surprising, considering the high number of African-based journals run by such organizations. However, the second-most selected response was “Editor,” selected by nearly one quarter of respondents (24%). Compared with journals run out of the global North, a tremendous amount of responsibility – and burden – rests on a single individual or a small group of highly-involved editors. The number of respondents selecting the option for “Editor” in this

question is consistent with comments offered elsewhere in the survey about the contributions of one or two people sustaining a single journal.

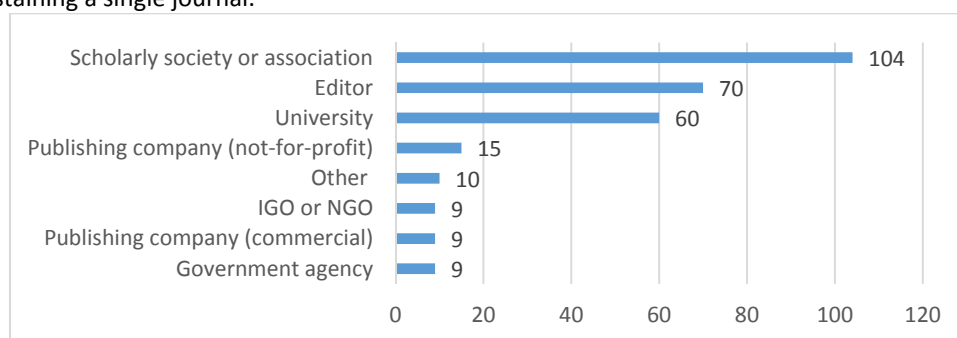


Figure 24: Who is Ultimately Responsible for the Continuation of this Journal?

Services Adopted by Journal

Participants were asked to select services from a list which their journals used – and who provides the services, i.e. the publisher or the journal. Results from this question are presented in Figure 25. Table 4 shares the top responses for services offered by publishers that journals are using, while Table 5 lists the most frequently-used services journals are handling on their own. Both of these tables present services selected by 50 or more respondents.

Table 4: Uptake of Services Provided by Publishers

| Publisher-Provided Service | Responses |
|---|-----------|
| Printing | 113 |
| Online publication | 88 |
| Web site hosting for journals | 84 |
| Acquisition of ISSN | 80 |
| Web site production for journals | 80 |
| Advertising and promotion of journals | 77 |
| Online archives | 77 |
| Collection & management of subscription income | 67 |
| Download/usage statistics for online articles | 67 |
| Acquisition/hosting of DOI | 66 |
| Advertising & promotion of articles within journals | 64 |
| Printed archives | 55 |
| Proofreading | 52 |
| Search Engine Optimization (SEO) for journals | 50 |

Table 5: Journals' Provision of Services

| Journal-Provided Service | Responses |
|---|-----------|
| Oversee peer-review process | 180 |
| Proofreading | 164 |
| Acquisition of ISSN | 133 |
| Printed archives | 100 |
| Advertising & promotion of journals | 95 |
| Online publication | 93 |
| Collection & mgmt. of subscription income | 92 |
| Collection & management of author fees | 88 |
| Printing | 84 |
| Advertising & promotion of articles within journals | 81 |
| Online archives | 78 |
| Web site hosting for journals | 76 |
| Web site production for journals | 74 |
| Open Access models of dissemination/business models | 61 |
| Download/usage statistics for online | 50 |

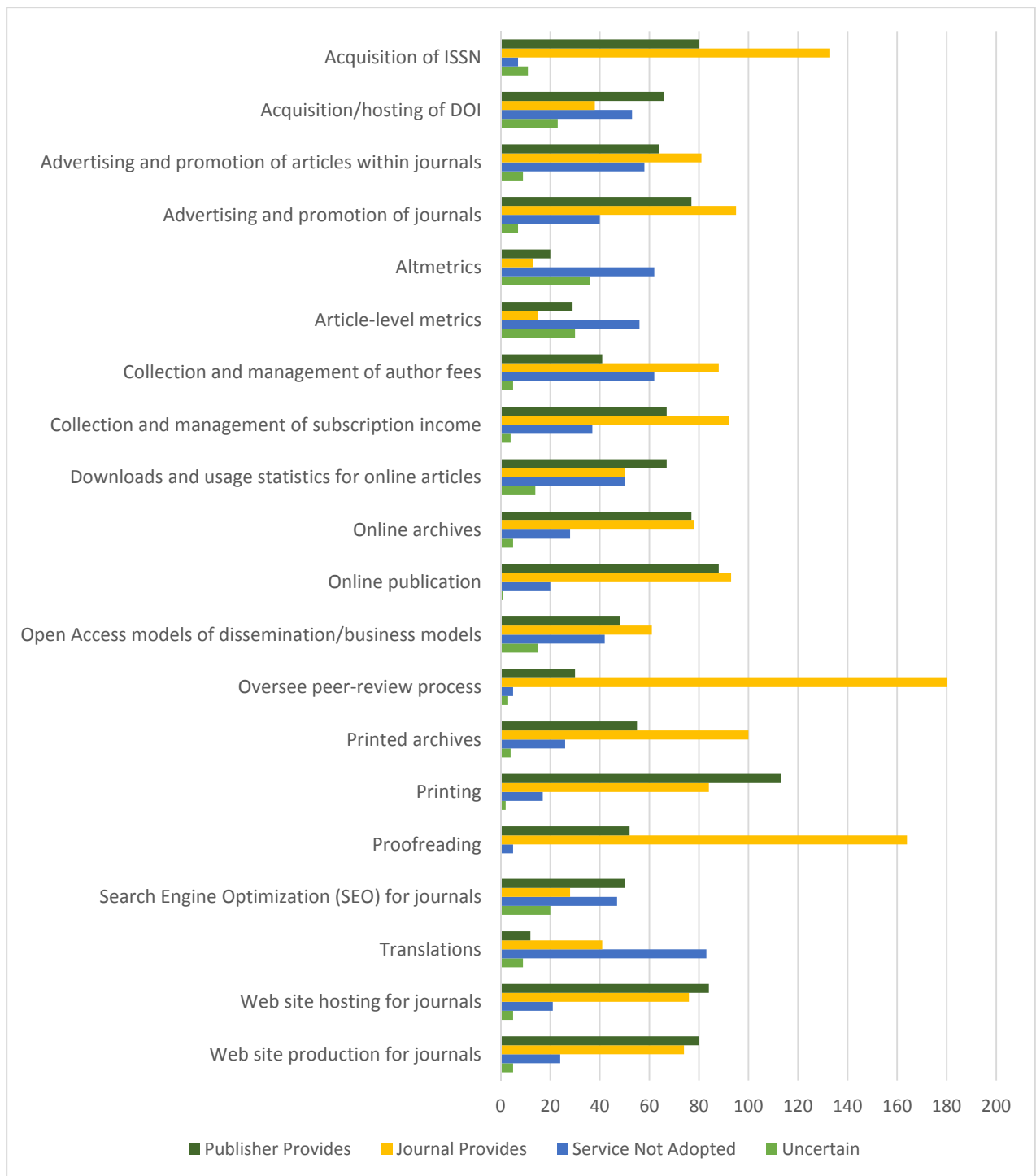


Figure 25: Services Adopted by Journals

Participants were then asked a follow-up question to better understand which services they might *want* their publisher to provide. One hundred and forty (140) individuals responded to this question. Of these responses, 21 people that they were either happy with the current menu of services provided by their publisher, 2 noted that the question was not applicable, and 2 implied that the question was not applicable because they do not have a publisher. A few of the comments indicating no further services are needed praised publishers either by name or in general:

“The current publishers (Taylor & Francis in collaboration with NISC) do everything with need”
 “To be honest, nothing beyond the great service they already provide!”
 “To be honest, very happy with the existing process. Only wish my reviewers were quicker!”
 “Very happy with all the services they supply”
 “We are very happy with Springer”

Of the remainder, 24 responses focused on advertising, marketing, and promotion. Examples of responses in this category include:

“Advertising and marketing because this is currently a very labour-intensive activity undertaken by the editorial staff of the journal.”

“Advertising and promotion of articles within journals”

“Advertising the journal in order to ensure wider circulation.”

“Journal advertising and distribution. However, we understand that we are using a small publisher. Bigger publishers are not interested in material on Africa because it does not offer a huge market. So we have to meet all publishing costs and sell our own journals.”

“Promotion, article-level metrics. Publisher does not have the resources to devote to these important issues.”

“Publicity and review, to further increase efficiency.”

“Sourcing advertisement to generate funds for the Journal.”

Eight individuals referred to printing issues; three of these responses re-iterated responses to the earlier question inquiring about why journals are offering printed versions:

“Print hard copies because internet access in Sub-Saharan Africa is limited”

“Printing of hard copies, we used to provide but ran out of money”

“Quality printing because people still value paper printing”

The rest of the results include a wide variety of responses, some of which were presented as options in the previous question, but many are unique. Due to the rich nature of these responses, additional responses are presented in full in Appendix 2.

7: Economics of Journal Publishing

The following set of questions raised issues related to journals' expenses, income sources, and revenue. The data from these questions is anonymized in order to protect confidentiality of responses, particularly for these questions which are highly sensitive in nature. These questions were asked in order to develop an aggregated overview of the business models tied to journal publishing in Africa, in order to better offer support and long-term sustainability strategies at a broad scale.

Current and Anticipated Financial Status

When asked, "What is your journal's current financial situation?" over half of respondents to this question (58%) indicated that their journal was breaking even, while nearly one third (29%) indicated that their journal was operating at a loss. However, when asked to anticipate the journal's future in 3-5 years, a strong sense of optimism emerged – over half of respondents (53%) anticipated that their journal would be breaking even, and a surprising 39% of respondents are guessing that their journal will be operating at a surplus. It is important to note that only roughly two-thirds of respondents answered these questions. Participants were given the opportunity to share any further comments regarding their journal's current economic situation. The full text of these responses is presented in Appendix 3.

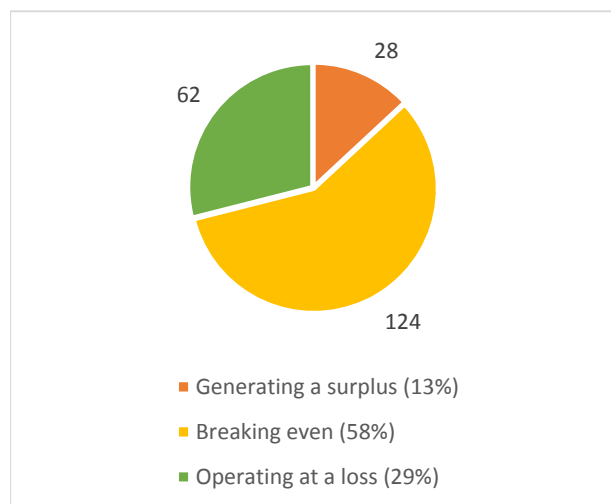


Figure 26: Current Financial Status

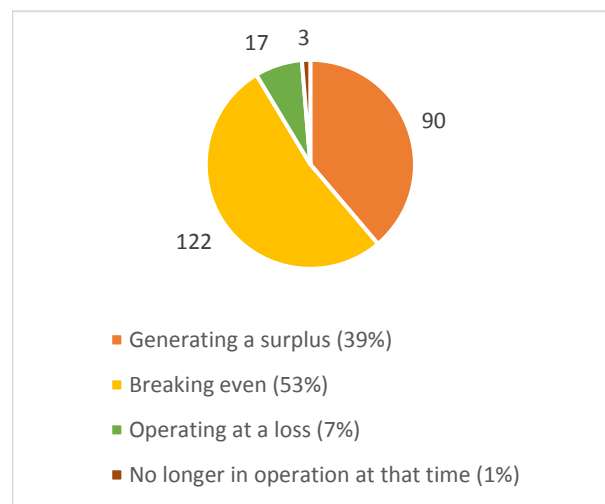


Figure 27: Anticipated Financial Status in 3-5 Years

Operating in a "Cashless" Environment

Not all journals in Africa operate with funding or cash of any sort. When asked, "does the journal receive monetary funding, income, or revenue of any kind," nearly one third of individuals responding to this question (28%) indicated that they operate in a "cashless" environment (Figure 28).

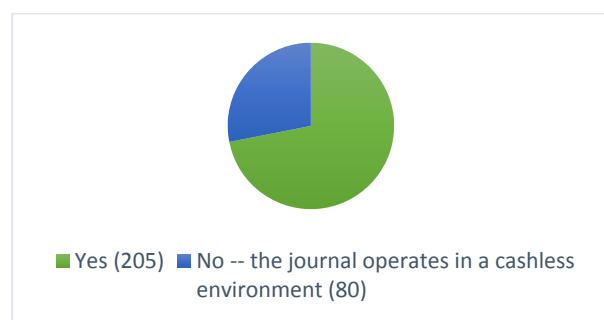


Figure 28: Journals' Use of Monetary Funding

Non-Financial Support & Resources

Like most scholarly journals, African-based journals in general are heavily dependent on various types of non-financial support or resources. When asked about the sources of non-financial support or resources, top responses were volunteer time of peer reviewers, the Editor-in-Chief, and editors.

However, in addition to volunteered time of reviewers and editors, many respondents also indicated other sources of non-financial support which make it possible for journals to operate. Of particular note: the high number of journals which receive free use of office space, computers, and internet access. 288 individuals responded to this question. Figure 29 presents the number of responses to each option and the percentage of responses for each option (based on the 288 responses for this question).

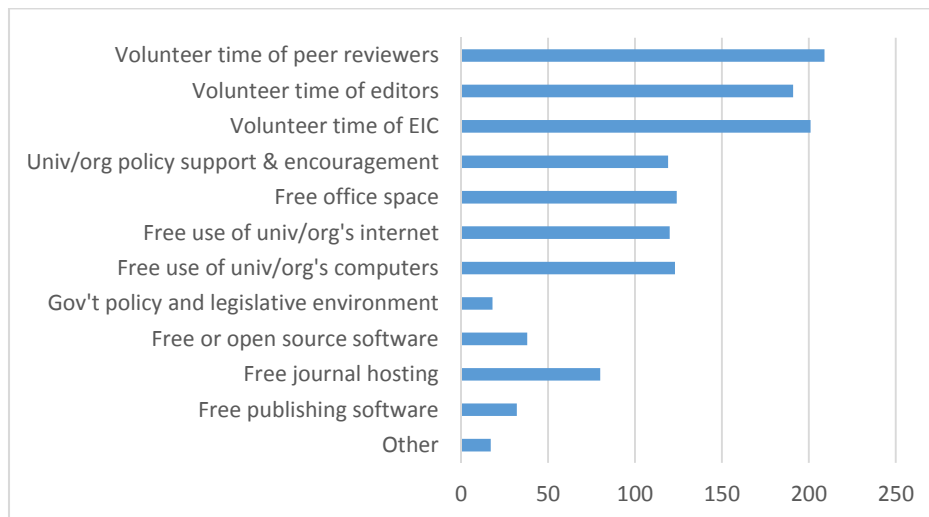


Figure 29: Sources of Non-Financial Support

Sources of Monetary Funding, Income, and Revenue

For those journals which do utilize money, the journals' sources of income, funding, and revenue are quite varied yet cluster around a few key areas:

- 1) External donations, grants, and funds from organizations or individuals such as the Editor-in-Chief
- 2) Internal funding from the association, university, or other organization that manages the journal
- 3) Income from article-processing charges (APCs) and author fees
- 4) Income from print subscriptions

These areas are consistent with the responses selected from options presented to respondents (see Figure 30) and from a follow-up question requesting details about other sources of funding, income, or revenue.

Article-processing charges (APCs) and author fees of various types was the category selected as "very important" by the highest number of respondents (81).

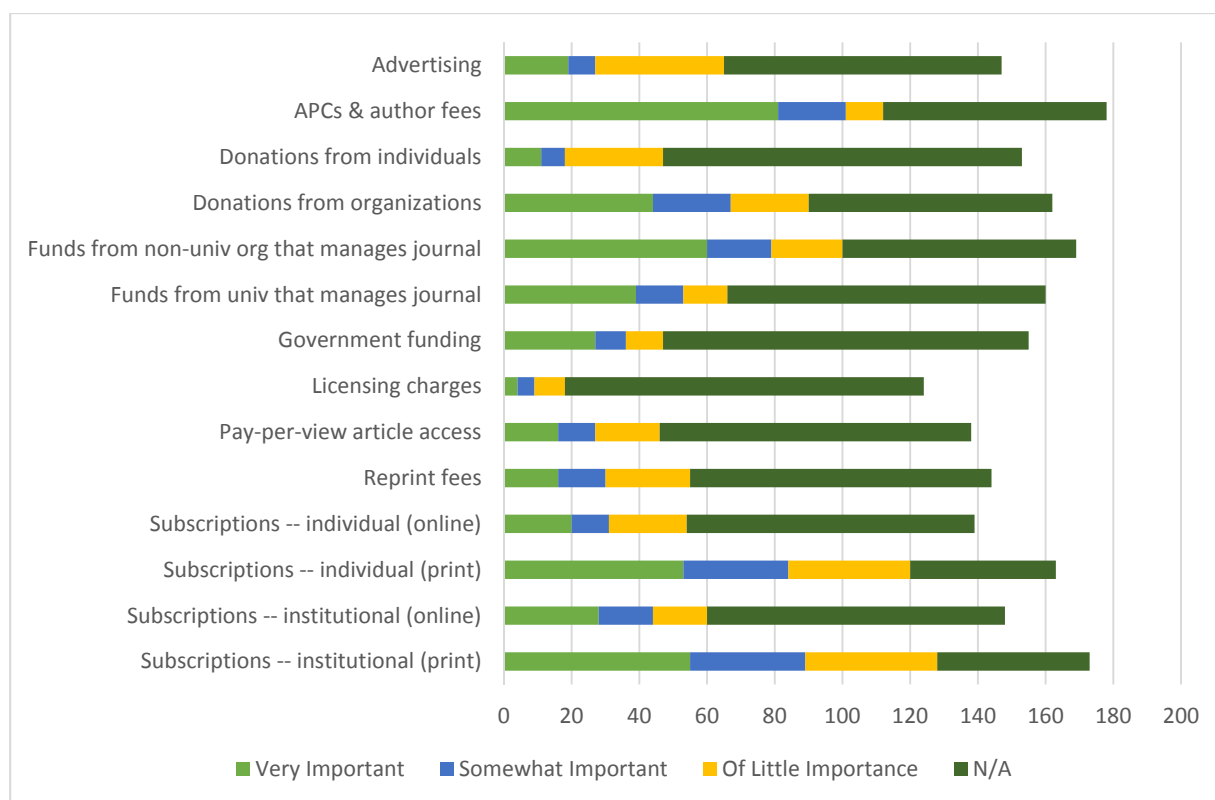


Figure 30: Sources of Funding, Income, and Revenue

In the open-ended follow-up question, these themes were reiterated – and the confusing nature of this question was also apparent responses based on overlap with options presented.

Other unique responses that were mentioned in this space include:

- “As [our journal] has a partnership with a publishing company the responses need to be treated differently. The not for profit org. raises funds to provide the editorial content for journals in order to sustain the partnership and publish the journal.”
- “Editor's university based research incentive funds. This is indirect funding which is given to lecturers based on the actual publications they have produced. A Maximum of ZAR 10 000 per year. The recipients have freedom to use these funds for research purposes.”
- “Local dental manufacturers – very important”
- “Sale of hard copies”
- “The publishing company does other science publications work and training business and part of the income from other business also supports publishing of the journal. The other sources are very important.”

A handful of specific organizations were mentioned as sources of one-time grant funding or as the source of core funding.

Author Fees & Waivers

The 112 individuals which indicated that their journal used APCs or author fees in the previous question were asked a short series of follow-up questions to explore the specifics of these charges. The first two questions focused on printing-related charges. See Table 6 for responses.

Table 6: Author Fees -- Print-Related Charges

| Fees Charged | Yes | No |
|--------------|-----|----|
|--------------|-----|----|

| | | |
|--|----|----|
| Page fees for printing | 56 | 51 |
| Figure fees for printing color or black & white figures, charts, illustrations | 20 | 76 |

The next two questions focused on general-purpose “article-processing charges” (APCs) – a concept that is widely used in North America, Europe, and Australia to recoup publishing costs specifically for Open Access. However, in other parts of the world such as Africa, these APCs are not specific to Open Access publishing. As presented in Table 7, individuals who responded to this question indicated that their journal levied APCs only to authors once their manuscript has been accepted for publication (61 responses) as compared with at the point of submission (29 responses).

Table 7: Author Fees -- General-Purpose APCs

| Fees Charged | Yes | No |
|---|-----|----|
| Article processing charges (APCs) at point of submission in order for manuscripts to be considered | 29 | 66 |
| Article processing charges (APCs) after manuscripts have been accepted but before their publication | 61 | 37 |

While many “Northern” and “Western” journals are able to offer waivers for these fees to authors from various countries or who meet certain criteria based on their professional status, the situation is less consistent for African-based journals. Fifty-two individuals answered the open-ended question, “please describe conditions under which a waiver or exemption [to these charges] is made.”

Slightly less than half of the responses (25 out of 52) indicated that waivers or exceptions are granted under certain circumstances. Of these, several people noted that exemptions are made based on location. Eight people specifically referenced the South African DHET subsidy system and noted that charges were waived for authors outside of South Africa. For example, one respondent wrote:

“The page fees are linked to the subsidy system of the DHET. Any author that cannot be linked to an institution that falls under the system, may publish without page fees enforced.”

Three other respondents indicated some level of location-based waivers:

“Periodic waivers for authors outside of Nigeria [where the journal is based].”

“If we get good editorial matter of overseas scholarship we waiver the page make-up fee.”

“When authors from African countries cannot afford to pay the publication fees.”

Other reasons for issuing waivers included lack of funds, either by an individual author or at the university where the author is employed (5 responses); if an author is a member of a group or category – i.e. a member of the society which publishes the journal, resident doctors, authors not working at a university, current/past Editors-in-Chief. Others noted some level of editorial discretion in issuing waivers: “Invited guest editors”, “Invited review articles,” “Editorial article with state-of-the-art,” “Guest edited editions are responsible for their own page fees (some receive sponsorship and don't charge page fees in this case).” “Highly important invited manuscripts, or good quality manuscript from a country with a low socio-economic standard.”

Slightly more than half of those who responded to this question (27 out of 52) indicated that waivers or exemptions are not granted.

Expenses

Participants were also asked to share their main expenses. Responses to this question were more spread out across options, although “printing costs” was the clear expenses for most journals – 173 individuals selected this as a “significant” source of their journal’s expenses. Similarly, “graphic design and typesetting,” expenses mostly tied to print versions of articles and journals, was the second-most selected option (87).

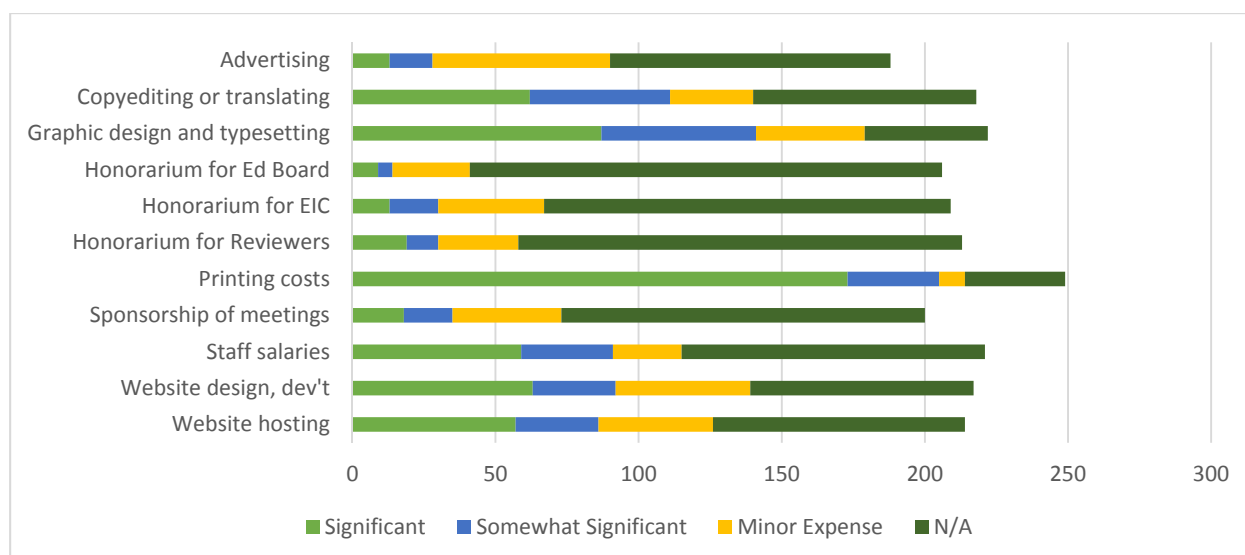


Figure 31: Journal Expenses

Table 8 presents the total number of responses when combined for each expense for “Significant” and “Somewhat Significant.”

Table 8: Expenses – Significant + Somewhat Significant

| Expense | Responses |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Printing costs | 205 |
| Graphic design and typesetting | 141 |
| Copyediting or translating | 111 |
| Website design, development | 92 |
| Staff salaries | 91 |
| Website hosting | 86 |
| Sponsorship of meetings | 35 |
| Honorarium for Reviewers | 30 |
| Honorarium for Editor-in-Chief | 30 |
| Advertising | 28 |
| Honorarium for Editorial Board | 14 |

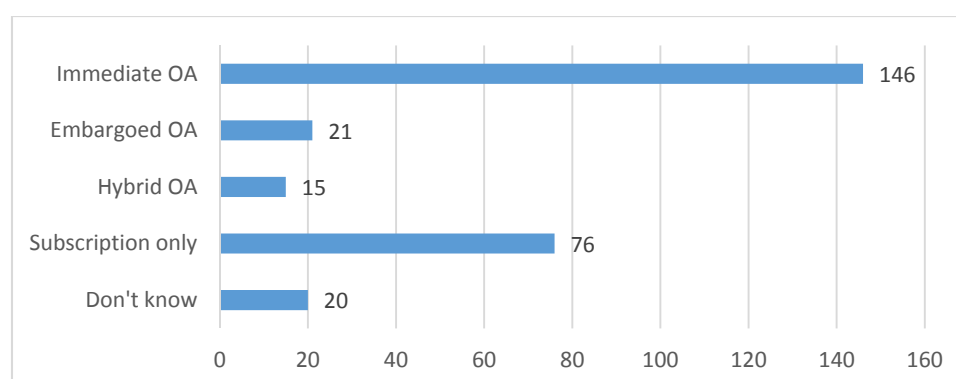
When asked to describe “any other expenses this journal incurs, expenses which were not listed in the previous question,” the most often-cited expenses were related to the postage, mailing, and distribution of printed journals – seventeen individuals referred to some aspect of distributing printed copies of journals.

Other responses include:

- Purchase and rental of office equipment, including computers, scanners, printers, photocopiers; other types of office supplies such as stationery (approx. 10-15 responses)
- Transportation (4)
- Internet and telephone (4)
- Honorarium for writers, editors, student workers

8: Current Access Model: Open Access or Subscription?

Questions in Section 9 and 10 required a question to separate those following an Open Access model from those using a subscription or closed-access model. Respondents were asked to choose only one access model. Individuals who selected “subscription/closed access only” were sent to Section 10. The rest of the respondents were sent to Section 9.



Over half of respondents indicated that their journal offers immediate Open Access. Nearly one third (27%) of respondents are using a subscription-only model.

Comparison: South African-Based Journals vs. Other African-Based Journals

Based on the large number of respondents from South Africa, we examined the breakdown of South African respondents as compared to the total set of results and compared the South-African based journals to non-South African journals. This analysis will be repeated in the future for Nigeria. This analysis yielded some similar results but highlighted a few important differences – particularly in terms of the breakdown of immediate/full Open Access and subscription models. The set of journals based out of South Africa had a higher percentage of Immediate Open Access (58% compared to 42% of journals based elsewhere in Africa). On the flip side, journals based out of South Africa included a smaller percentage than the average of subscription-only journals – 25% of journals based out of South Africa used a subscription-only model, while all 33% of other African-based journals were using a subscription-only model.

Table 9: Access Models, Percentage Breakdown by South African Journals

| | South African-based journals | All other African-based journals | Total |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------|
| Immediate Open Access | 58% | 42% | 53% |
| Embargoed Open Access | 7% | 9% | 8% |
| Hybrid Open Access | 3% | 10% | 5% |
| Subscription only | 25% | 33% | 27% |
| I don't know | 7% | 7% | 7% |

Table 10: Access Models, Response Breakdown by South African Journals

| | South African-based journals | All other African-based journals | Total |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------|
| Immediate Open Access | 108 | 38 | 146 |
| Embargoed Open Access | 13 | 8 | 21 |
| Hybrid Open Access | 6 | 9 | 15 |
| Subscription only | 46 | 30 | 76 |
| I don't know | 14 | 6 | 20 |

9: Open Access

Questions in Section 8 were presented to individuals who selected any of the Open Access options to the question, “Currently, is your journal Open Access (OA)?”

Shifting to Open Access

The first few questions in this section focused on longevity with Open Access – whether or not the journal was launched as an Open Access journal and if it transitioned to OA, how long ago that occurred. Of the nearly 150 individuals who responded to the question which inquired whether their journal was always Open Access or if it shifted from a subscription model to Open Access, two thirds (99 out of 152) indicated that their journal launched with an Open Access model.

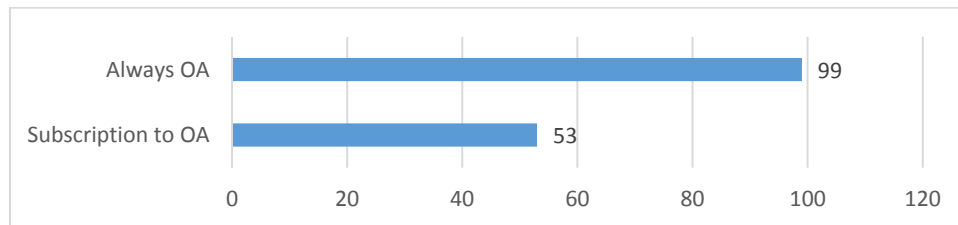


Figure 32: Was this journal always Open Access?

Those that shifted from subscription to Open Access were then asked a follow-up question to determine the approximate year when the shift occurred. A few journals made the switch before 2005, but 20 journals transitioned from subscription to Open Access between 2005 and 2009, and another 27 transitioned more recently, between 2010 and 2012.

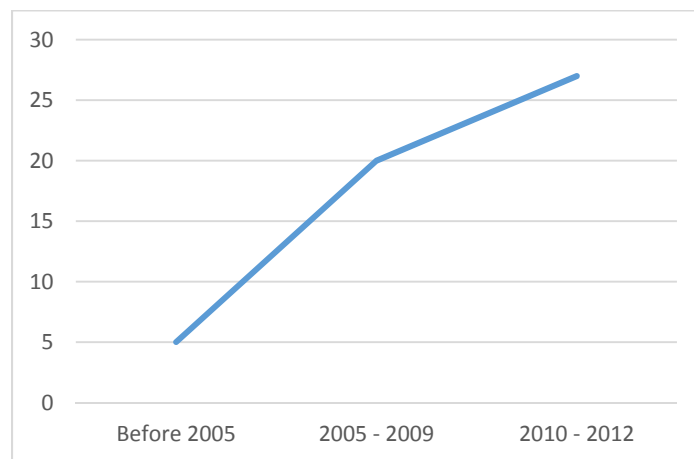


Figure 33: Year of Shift from Subscription to Open Access

Journals which changed to Open Access were also asked, “What’s changed [since you became Open Access]? How do you know?” Thirty nine individuals responded to this question. Most responses highlighted some aspect of increased visibility, with a few people highlighting issues related to journal management and financing.

Representative comments related to increased visibility (27 responses) include:

- “Highly visible, easier to manage.”
- “Citations and downloaded manuscripts increased dramatically.”
- “Submissions went up.”
- “Raised visibility, accessibility, indexability – usage statistics, downloads, visits and citations, impact factor.”

In particular, responses highlighted increased numbers of submissions, increased numbers of *international* submissions, increased downloads, more comments by readers, increased citations. Responses related to management and finance (4) include:

- “Much easier to manage without the headache of finding the costs of printing.”
- “We don’t have to manage subscriptions. We hope citations have improved but haven’t measured.”
- “We had failed to publish on regular basis and the subscribers were complaining. We changed to open access and we run it as per articles received and peer reviewed.”

- “Financial burden and need to obtain advertising sponsors is less of an issue. Handling subscription issues no longer necessary.”

Factors & Motivations in Support of Open Access

The next questions were posed to all respondents who indicated their journal Open Access in any form (immediate, embargoed, or hybrid OA). The first question in this subsection delved into factors and motivations which lead to the decision to be openly accessible. Personal beliefs of the Editor-in-Chief and increasing awareness about Open Access at the global level were by far the top two factors cited by respondents. For both of these options, nearly 120 respondents selected that they were “very important” factors in this decision, followed by increased awareness about Open Access at the national level (86 responses). Figure 34 includes the full breakdown of responses.

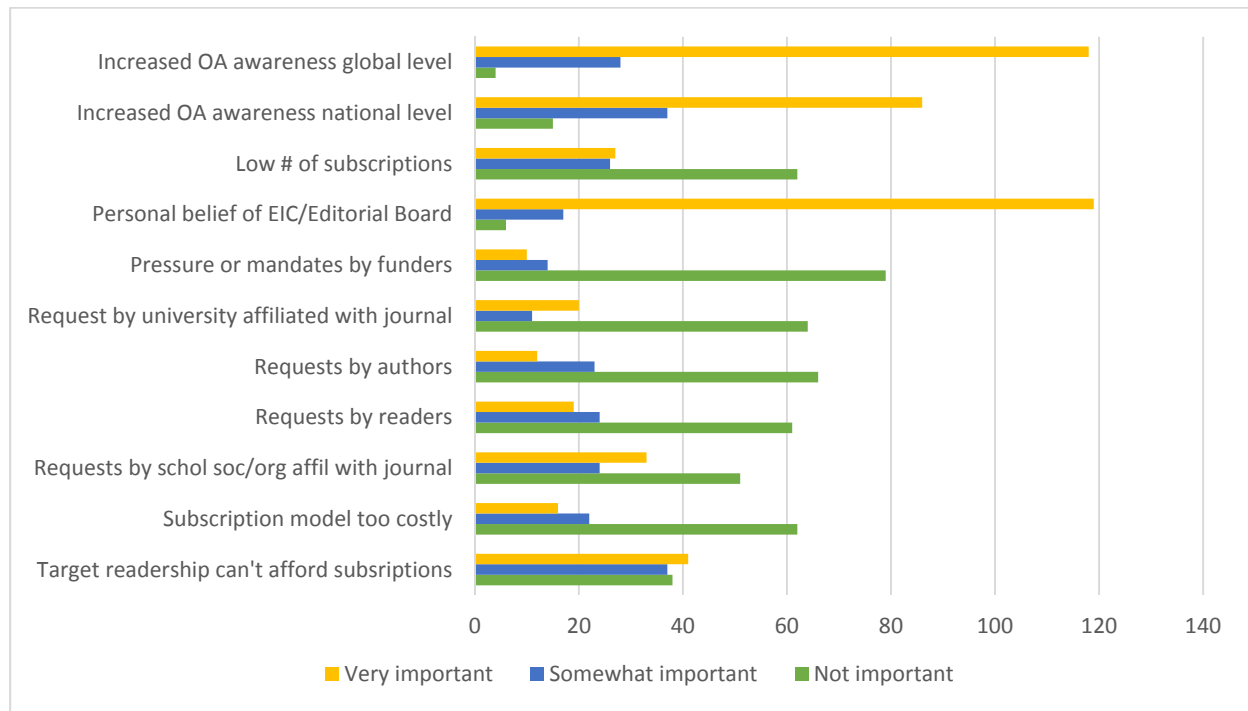


Figure 34: Factors and Motivations for Becoming Openly-Accessible

Elements of the Enabling Environment

A related question was then posed to survey respondents: “What role did each of the following play in making it possible for your journal to be Open Access?”

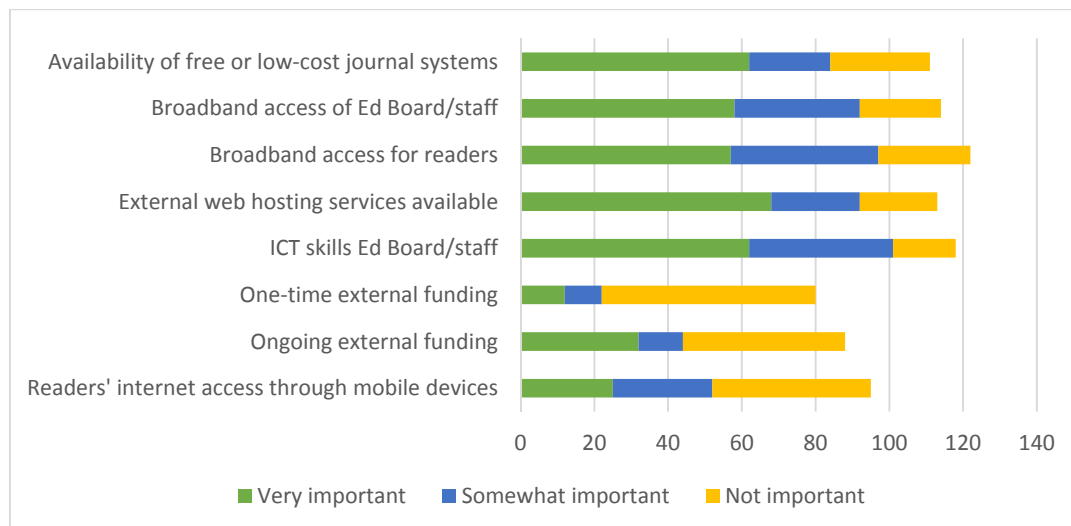


Figure 35: Elements of the Enabling Environment for Open Access

Technology-related factors were most highly rated as playing a key role in making it possible for journals to be Open Access: the availability of free or low-cost journal systems, broadband access of the Editorial Board and/or staff, readers' broadband access, web hosting, and ICT skills of journals' teams all received around 60 votes for playing a "very important" role and another 20-40 votes for playing a "somewhat important" role.

Unsurprisingly, individuals responding to the survey by and large did not feel that funding – either one-time external funding or ongoing external funding – played a significant role in enabling journals to use an Open Access model. This is perhaps because very few scholar journals do receive external funding and find ways to publish without this.

When asked what other key factors led to the decision to be Open Access, several people echoed themes which were already beginning to emerge. For instance, several respondents reiterated the importance of personal beliefs/imperative to provide free access to research. Some sample responses in this vein:

- "Personal belief of editor or editorial board to share research outcomes as widely as possible."
- "No other realistic option in a market where we cannot sell the printed material, if we are to meet one main objective 'to take information to health practitioners.'"
- "It's the right thing to do!"

Increased visibility also received several responses:

- "It appears to be a good plan on a developing continent to promote access to editorial matter for scholarship in other parts of Africa."

A complete list of responses to this question is presented in Appendix 4.

Open Access: Perceived Successfulness, Benefits, and Challenges

The last four questions in this section tried to touch on respondents' experiences with Open Access – what they believed to be the benefits for their journals as well as challenges they have experienced.

When asked about benefits their journals have experienced as a result of being Open Access, most individuals selected increased visibility in one way or another. (Figure 36.)

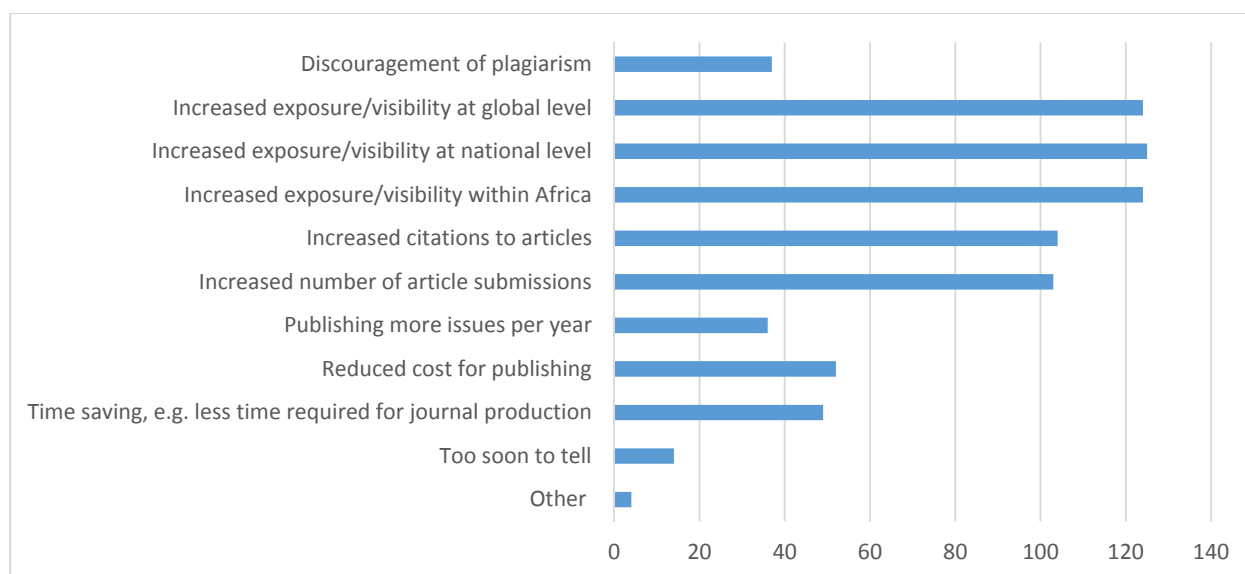


Figure 36: Benefits Experienced via Open Access

Respondents were asked to select all which applied. Percentages displayed in Table 11 were calculated based on the number of respondents to this question (182).

Table 11: Benefits Experienced via Open Access

| Benefits | Responses | Percent |
|---|-----------|---------|
| Increased visibility at national level | 125 | 69% |
| Increased visibility within Africa | 124 | 68% |
| Increased citations to articles | 124 | 68% |
| Increased visibility at global level | 104 | 57% |
| Increased number of article submissions | 103 | 57% |
| Reduced cost for publishing | 52 | 29% |
| Time saving | 49 | 27% |
| Discouragement of plagiarism | 37 | 20% |
| Publishing more issues per year | 36 | 20% |
| Too soon to tell | 14 | 8% |
| Other | 4 | 2% |

The next question followed-up with an open-ended question to inquire ways in which respondents know, measure, or assess these benefits. Ten responses specifically indicated that the journal was not or not yet conducting assessment in any particular way. Many additional responses suggest that their gauge was based on the Editor's or Editorial Board's perception. Other responses indicate that journals are using metrics such as article downloads and page views, comments, increase/changes in Impact Factor, increased submissions, and surveys.

Other types of benefits noted include a decrease in issues with plagiarism, decrease in expenses, increase in reach of journal in terms of readers and authors, increased visibility measured through news references, and positive feedback from readers and key stakeholders. Selected and noteworthy responses are presented in Table 12. A complete list of responses is presented in Appendix 5.

Table 12: Sample Responses – Measuring Benefits of Open Access

“1. Increased rate of citations; 2. Vast increased article submission rate; 3. Three-fold increase in the number of issues published per year within a period of 6 years; 4. Four-fold increase in the number of articles published per issue.”

“Authors are advised to pass their articles through plagiarism checkers before submission. So the editorial team has observed less and less of plagiarism in articles submitted.”

“Expense comparison.”

“From site statistics, opinion survey from members of sponsoring association, performance review.”

“Increase and diversity of nationalities submitting their work to the journal.”

“Increase submissions and letters to Editor.”

“Increased contribution of articles from other countries suggest that readership across Africa and Middle East countries has improved.”

“Questionnaires; feedback by readers; number of subscribers; representation in Malagasy newspress.”

“Since we have moved to OJS we can keep track of all statistics.”

Not all experiences with Open Access have been positive or smooth transitions. Participants were asked: “What difficulties has your journal had because it is Open Access? How do you know?” Responses covered a wide range of topics. Challenges with funding, online access, and technology in general were the three themes which emerged most frequently, yet other difficulties should not be dismissed.

Of the difficulties mentioned, several are related to maintaining the dual model of printing and offering articles as Open Access. Several respondents also indicated challenges with finances – i.e. being able to raise enough money to support the Open Access model due to decreasing sales of print copies or print subscriptions. A sample of responses are shared in Table 13. A complete list of responses (excluding those indicating “none”) is presented in Appendix 6.

Table 13: Difficulties Encountered Due to Open Access Model – Examples of Responses

“At the moment we have a hybrid of open access online/plus print editions. Speed and reliability of internet in the African context can sometimes be a problem.”

“Cannot measure this, but perhaps a tendency to attract a greater number of inappropriate (outside scope, low quality) submissions, on account of the increased global visibility, and the attraction of no submission or publishing fees.”

“Cost has escalated dramatically (especially prepress costs (getting articles copy-edited and laid out) due to increased number of papers and we did run into financial difficulties having to publish much more papers which necessitated a society subsidy.”

“It needs to have its own manager for fast communication with authors, reviewers and other relevant communication like this one.”

“Limited fund is generated because no subscription is charged.”

“Limited proficiency in the use of some open software systems for journal management.”

“Many traditional subscribers are unable to operate within the digital environment and struggle to access the journal, subscribe electronically, and download copies. Many still insist on printed copies of the journal.”

“Persistent bias by some scholars against the Open Access model: we know through their comments, that frequently indicate that they think journals in print are more prestigious and more widely read.”

“Reducing paid-up online and hard copy subscriptions. This is evident from our financial records.”

“Since open access and no subscription fee for readership, financing has been an issue as most authors from developing countries make requests for full waiver of Article Processing Charges.”

Finally, those currently involved in supporting an Open Access journal were asked for their insights to offer others. Participants were asked, “What might be helpful for others to know who are considering Open Access?”

Several respondents mentioned topics related to: economics of OA: challenges with sustainability of journals, raising funds for journals without subscriptions or with decreasing subscriptions; increased visibility, exposure, and reach of journal; decrease in plagiarism; importance of technical skills to support online submissions and journals’ websites; and support for free and wider access to knowledge. Some sample responses are presented in Table 14. A complete list of responses is available in Appendix 7.

Table 14: Helpful Comments for Journals Considering Open Access -- Examples of Responses

"Contrary to popular belief, the Open Access model increases visibility in a world in which so many countries are extremely poor and therefore unable to pay for subscriptions."

"Dramatic increase in exposure"

"Enhanced visibility of journal and more citations likely"

"For journals in Africa, there's still the need for print editions due to low internet access, and most policy makers and readers like to have hard-copies they can reference to easily."

"Give careful consideration to your financial model."

"High speed and reliable internet connection. Good skills in IT would be an advantage. Ability to learn and adapt to change is crucial."

"It helps a lot if one can get external funding (sponsorship/grants, selling PDF as reprints, as part of a paper edition with advertising, etc.) and not charge APCs immediately to keep local and loyal contributors"

"Knowledge should not be about making money but sharing what we know as humans for the greater good. Everything is not a business!!!"

"La maitrise de la technologie est essentielle" ("Mastery of technology is essential")

"Le libre accès est essentiel dans domaine scientifique" ("Free access is essential in science")

"Open Access is a useful means of disseminating research. The key is to think outside the box and innovate means of staying sustainable."

"Open access is important and it is easy to detect if an article has been published before and where it was published. It also makes information sharing and access less cumbersome."

"They have to know it is a sacrifice and needs some responsible professionals to give their time freely to expand and upgrade the research endeavor locally as well as internationally."

"We are very married to this idea. Knowledge needs to be quickly and freely accessible"

10: Subscription Model

As previously mentioned, one key question branched respondents to questions related to Open Access (Section 8) or questions related to subscriptions/toll access (Section 9). In the branching question, 76 individuals responded that their journal exclusively used a subscription model. These questions had a particularly low number of respondents – in part due to branching (i.e., those who indicated that their journal was only using a subscription model were shown these questions) and in part because of likely survey fatigue at this point in the survey. Even so, the open-ended questions presented in this section elicited some particularly noteworthy comments which give insight into the tensions between closed and open access.

Perceived Success and Benefits of Subscription Model

When asked whether they felt their current subscription model is successful, fewer respondents indicated that they felt the model was successful (28 out of 66) as compared to those who did not (38 out of 66). (See Figure 37.)

When asked about the benefits of the current subscription model, responses centered on a few categories as seen in Table 15. These loosely-defined and somewhat overlapping categories are designed to present the high-level themes, not offer a statistical comparison. For instance, the categories for “Income,” “Subscriptions and Printed Versions,” and “Benefits of Membership” include some overlap.

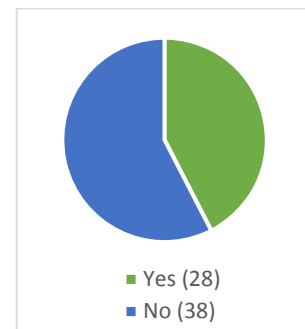


Figure 37: Do you feel your current subscription model is successful?

Table 15: Benefits of Subscription Model – Summary of Responses

| Category | Count |
|---|-------|
| Subscriptions lead to income | 15 |
| Current model works well | 8 |
| Subscriptions as related to printed editions | 7 |
| Journal access and/or printed copies as benefits of membership | 7 |
| Miscellaneous/other | 7 |
| Responses indicated downsides of current model (rather than benefits) | 2 |

Examples of typical responses related to income generation include:

- “Assured source of income.”
- “Generates income to support the future of the journal.”
- “Generates much-needed funds.”
- “Helps [in] partially meeting the cost of production of the journals.”

One-time responses of note:

- “Authors can only publish after subscription.”
- “Targeted free distribution to major repository libraries sponsored by limited funds raised from sponsors.”

Responses loosely categorized as “works well”:

- “Happy with management”
- “It is easy.”
- “It primarily enables us to have an outlet for our research studies.”
- “It works extremely well.”
- “Low maintenance”
- “Simplicity”
- “Minimise les dépenses” (“Minimizes expenses”)
- “The library of the National Museums of Kenya receives many hard copy journals on exchange for ours.”

Responses related to membership benefits:

- "After members pay their membership fees, they are provided with a free copy of the current issue of the journal. This is one way in which members gain benefit from membership in the society. This was initially started with the launching of the journal and has continued up until now. It was all about adopting a way of doing things, not about preferring a model."
- "This is a society journal and members receive the journal as part of their membership dues."
- "Journal comes free with professional registration."

Responses referring to the connection between subscriptions and print:

- "Caters for the needs of those not computer literate and printed copies are always available, unlike challenges of solely online copies."
- "Institutions in the country prefer print journals since Internet connectivity can be absent, unpredictable or simply absent"
- "It covers printing costs"
- "Provides subscribers with a printed copy"
- "Subsidized printing"

Challenges with Subscription Model

Respondents were also asked what issues or difficulties they have with their current subscription model. Sixty three (63) individuals responded, although 13 indicated that they did not have any difficulties with the current model or the question was not applicable. Other responses raised the following issues:

- Challenges with financial transactions – exorbitant bank fees, particularly for international transactions; difficulties accepting payments in other currencies
- Managing subscriptions and/or printing is "cumbersome" or "burdensome"
- Income often is less than expenses, or income breaks event
- Declining or stagnant subscription base, with no opportunities for growth in subscriptions
- Lack of visibility of journal, lack of access to journal articles
- Interested readers don't or can't buy articles because of the expense
- Issues with mail services – mailing expenses, inconsistency with mail delivery
- Some pressures to offer open access

The expense of financial transactions across international lines was cited by several respondents as a top challenge with the current subscription model. For instance, one respondent explained:

"Bank charges on subscriptions paid from other African countries (South Africa especially); our subscription is not that high but bank charges can be x5 of the subscription!"

Another respondent explained running into similar challenges with payments from online aggregators:

"...It is difficult to implement a payment system that can trace the money to the journal. Thus far, SABINET has been the most profitable online outlet for the journal. It brings to us about R20 000 per year. By contrast, HeinOnline has been very unhelpful. They send us ridiculous cheques of US\$32 every year, which we have never succeeded in cashing. The funds we spend to send them the data exceeds what we get, and we are not even sure whether that database gives us any meaningful international presence."

Several respondents noted that the income they receive from subscriptions is not sufficient:

- "Insufficient funds to operate the journal."
- "Income not large enough."
- "It [income] does not cover running expenses."
- "We just manage to break even. We are not visible enough."

One respondent observed: "Subscription is low and so is the money that come with the subscription; we have no clear way of assessing the impact or lack of it on the universal reading public."

Several respondents (12) suggested that the current closed-access model is limiting their journals' visibility. Examples of responses include:

- "Voir la limitation de l'accessibilite aux articles publies ; restent disponibles seulement aux abonnées" (published articles have limited accessibility and are only available to subscribers)
- "it looks like many readers may find it difficult to access the journal due to their inability to pay the money required to view the articles"
- "Journal is not known very widely. Need more exposure and online access may provide that."

In terms of issues with the mail, two respondents wrote:

- "Difficulty in delivering hard copies to subscribers"
- "Hard copies do not always reach all members."

One respondent mentioned that his/her journal faced a challenge with extra copies of printed journals – "large number of unsubscribed journals are left over."

Other respondents commented on the time-consuming nature of maintaining subscriptions:

- "The management of the journal is time consuming in addition with the other duties of my day job."
- "Too burdensome for Editorial Board."
- "We do not have a secretariat to follow up with activities."
- "Finding a secretary/treasurer combination willing to keep membership details up to date."

A few more respondents (9) mentioned a stagnant or declining subscription based:

- "Difficult to expand subscription base"
- "Few institutions and individuals subscribe"
- "Few subscribers"
- "Fewer and fewer people are interested in subscribing"
- "Financial, and somehow a limited audience"
- "Non-renewal or late renewal"
- "Obvious non-payment, admin to sort this out, may join for a single year and then leave region."
- "Small client market. Relies on the local [country] market that is facing economic hardship."
- "Too few subscribers."

Three individuals mentioned pressures related to free/open access:

- "Universities in South Africa are beginning to require that articles be made available for free on their university repositories. Our current policy will be a disincentive for SA academics to publish unless we accommodate that new requirement."
- "We are being pressured to offer open access."
- "Many people now use open access journals and they don't subscribe to these types of journals."

One respondent raised several of these issues: "Transacting with different currencies; inadequate staff to handle subscriptions; maintaining subscribers; failure of the postal system."

On the other hand, a few respondents used this space to reiterate their satisfaction:

- "As Not for profit publication, we are satisfied with the present state of affairs."
- "There are no issues."

One respondent noted the benefits of co-publishing with an international publishing organization:

"Subscriptions are managed by Taylor and Francis, co-publishers of the journal. They also market the journal in Africa and internationally reaching a bigger possible market more effectively."

Impact of OA on Publishing Environment

This issue of whether Open Access has had an impact on your publishing environment was posed as a separate open-ended question. A summary of comments and some specific examples are presented to give a sense of the tone and nature of responses.

Roughly the same number of individuals indicated that their publishing environment has not been impacted by Open Access (14) as those that believe Open Access has impacted their publishing environment (13). Another 4-5 respondents indicated that they did not know – "not to date that we have noticed," "I cannot tell," etc. One individual indicated no impact yet, but expects so in the future: "Not so far but it will in the future." Another 12 respondents suggested that the question was not applicable, some specifying that it was not applicable because their journal is not Open Access. The remainder of the responses could not be easily categorized and included comments about Open Access in general.

Of those who indicated that their publishing environment has not been impacted by Open Access, most responses were brief and to the point: "No," "Not yet," "Not that I'm aware of," "No, not directly." One individual wrote, "No, because [title of journal] is the only journal in existence devoted to research on [topic]."

From those responses which could be easily interpreted, responses indicating that Open Access has (or possibly has) impacted their publishing environment shared more details:

- "Yes, I think if researchers cannot access a particular article they will seek similar material elsewhere."
- "Yes, we have noticed a significant reduction in the number of articles submitted for review to our journal."
- "I guess so. People want instant access to information and cannot get that easily from a subscription journal."

Some of these comments focused specifically on lack of visibility and/or usage:

- "It is also no doubt that visibility and regional/international readership of the journal could have been increased if it was open access."
- "Yes. Journals with open access receive more readers or hits."
- "Many journals are going open and this journal is considering that option at present. Open access allows for more visibility of the journal."

Others suggested that their journals might want to become Open Access but had barriers. One respondent wrote: "We want to go open access, we do not know how." Another person wrote: "We would happily go open access but who would fund the journal?" Another respondent indicated that his/her journal was in the process of considering a switch: "Not as yet, although there is a great deal of discussion of the future at editor meetings and in the communications from our publisher." Two other respondents also suggested that their journals might become Open Access in the future.

Additional Comments on Open & Closed Access from Subscription-Based Journals

Twenty people (who are currently using a subscription model) shared their additional thoughts regarding subscription models and/or Open Access. A few people shared their feelings on Open Access in general (both positive and negative), several individuals indicated that their journals are considering or planning on transitioning to Open Access, and two respondents reflected on some general issues/challenges faced by their journals.

One respondent wrote of several important, inter-connected challenges:

"We are struggling to raise funds. Having been funded for six years, our funder expects us to be self-sufficient. The publishers do not take on African journals, that is, those that publish material on countries other than South Africa, because they have no distribution outlets in African countries and also because they think there is no market in Africa. We are therefore expected to pay publishers fully

for publishing our journals. Electronic publishing might lessen the printing costs, but it might also affect the reception of our journal. There is already prejudice against African journals. Prejudices against online journals would just make issue too difficult for us. This is of course a pity because African journals have to be accessed by all African researchers, they do lack access to the major publishing databases.”

General concerns with Open Access:

- “Not in favour of open access, as somebody must pay for disseminating the scientific information published.”
- “O/A has many positive aspects to it, but also negative ones, we think that it has adversely affected the standard of journal publishing. There are way too few stringent quality criteria built into o/a, like newspapers, almost anyone can now become an editor and publish a 'scholarly' journal.”
- “Open access is expensive and makes the author carry the burden of publication.”
- “Authors’ works that might have otherwise attracted royalties from manufacturers will not.”

One participant raised several issues related to Open Access, specifically in terms of its context within Africa: “Open Access would of course be ideal, as the hope is that the articles [the journal] produces would be read widely. Financial sustainability is the constraint. The very low subscription rate (\$15) for individuals based in Africa is one way we have tried to address the access issue in Africa.”

The same person also noted some issues regarding peer review and Open Access: “I am concerned at the open access online journals that call for papers one week, promising to publish them the next, peer reviewed. I don't believe these are credible claims.”

Responses from those planning or considering switching to Open Access:

- “In the near future we will be embarking on open access publishing.”
- “The editorial board had agreed we subscribe to the Open Access publishing model to increase readership.”
- “We are considering dumping hard copy publishing and adopting Open Access if we can afford it.”
- “We would like to convert to an Open access journal with an embargo period of one year.”
- “Although authors may opt to pay for open access this is not widely known. We are looking at introducing some form of open access in the near future.”

Responses indicating a preference for Open Access:

- “I would prefer if we go open access route.”
- “Open access will be encouraged if we are financially sound.”

Requests for more information and/or training about Open Access:

- “Advise us on how to go on open access. We would appreciate that.”
- “I would like to know more about the advantages of open access in economic terms over our subscription method.”

Other top concerns, not specifically tied to Open Access:

- “Lack of marketing is the main obstacle of the journal”
- “It is our hope that when we have funds to employ a secretary/administrator then services will improve.”

Miscellaneous comments:

- “Open access should help the journal to get ISI rating.”
- “Subscriptions are handled by our publisher (T&F) so I don't have anything to do with them.”

11: Author Issues

Questions in Section 11 are related to support for and interactions with authors.

Copyright and Licenses

When asked who typically owns the copyright for published articles, nearly two-thirds of individuals who responded to this question (228) indicated that their authors sign over copyright to the journal or publisher. The rest of responses indicated that authors retain copyright. See Figure 38.

Respondents were then asked for further details about which type(s) of licenses their journals currently offer. Consistently, copyright was the most commonly-used license as the default. The Creative Commons Attribution license (CC-BY) was the second most-common default license, with 29 respondents selecting this option.

Figure 39 includes the full breakdown by type of license.

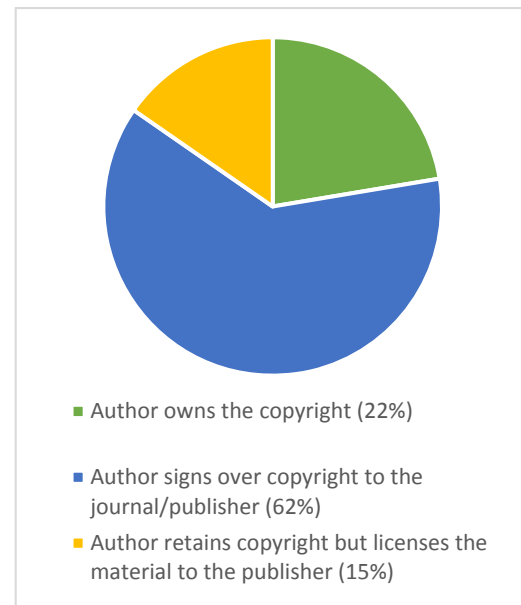


Figure 38: Copyright Ownership of Articles

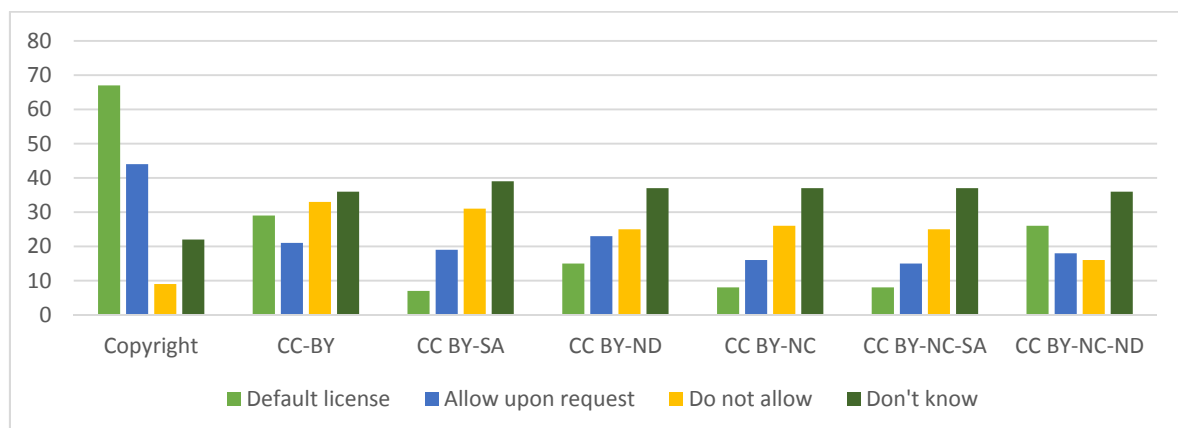


Figure 39: Types of Licenses Offered

When respondents were asked if their journal used any other licensing options, no alternatives to Creative Commons or copyright were noted in responses. However, two respondents indicated that they did not understand the question (“I am not sure what you mean by ‘license’ here”), and two respondents noted that their journals do not use licenses. One respondent wrote, “We don’t bother with licenses,” while a second indicated, “We don’t have an active licensing system in place.” The high number of individuals selecting “don’t know” for each option also indicates a potentially high lack of familiarity among editors regarding licensing and copyright.

Competition for Manuscripts

In an open-ended question, respondents were asked: “Has your journal ever experienced competition for manuscripts from overseas journals? Other journals in Africa? Please explain.” Responses generally fell into a few camps. In addition to those that fairly clearly indicated “yes” or “no,” there were several responses that indicated a more neutral option – something close to “not really” or “yes, but a typical amount.”

Of the nearly 200 responses, roughly 120 were categorized as “no” or “not really.” Examples of responses indicating that respondents’ journals have not experienced any/much competition for manuscripts:

- "Not necessarily, because we focus on an issue - reproductive health that is currently not addressed by many journals in Africa or globally."
- "Not to my knowledge but potential authors must publish internationally to improve their rating with the South African funding body. This disadvantages local journals."
- "This is a common problem for local journals, but our journal has a fairly high impact rate, and is well known within the research community and therefore solicits a huge number of manuscripts internationally."
- "We publish articles with research work done within Africa."
- "Several other African journals publish similar material, and so authors select the outlet that promotes their work best."

Roughly 70 participants indicated that their journals had experienced some degree of competition for manuscripts.

- "I cannot fully tell. However, at least one author indicated that if we confirmed we only publish online, he would reconsider his decision to publish with us."
- "I think we are always in competition from 'overseas' journals and certainly know that many authors will try 'overseas; first and go local second"
- "Most research teams in the country are obliged to publish their work in journals selected by their collaborating overseas universities."
- "Our main competition is top journals from Europe and the US. Authors prefer their work to go into the highest-impact journal possible."
- "Since overseas journals are generally perceived to be more prestigious than journals published in Africa, many potential authors prefer to send their articles overseas."
- "There is significant competition for good manuscripts internationally and in Africa"
- "University and funding organisation (NRF in South Africa) encourage authors to publish overseas"
- "Yes - manuscripts regularly go to overseas journals. It's not clear why, but some authors have expressed negative sentiments about publishing in a South African based journal."
- "Yes - there are lot more open access journals that are readily available"
- "YES, BECAUSE WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO GET THE ISI INDEX. When we applied, we were denied ISI INDEX because we had not qualified."
- "Yes, international IF-listed journals are more attractive to potential authors; there is a high pressure on academics to publish in IF-ranked journals. That is one of the reasons why we are struggling in getting enough contributions."
- "Yes, it is sometimes difficult to persuade authors to publish in an African-based journal."
- "Yes, most authors prefer to publish abroad since they score more points for promotion purpose."

The remaining ten or so responses indicated that they didn't know or didn't easily fall into either category.

12: Current & Future Issues – Open-Ended Questions

The last set of questions asked respondents about current and future issues related to publishing in general.

Predatory Open Access

Respondents were asked if they familiar with the term “predatory Open Access,” and if so, “has this influenced your journal’s practices in any way?” This question received 185 responses. Of these responses, 75% indicated that the respondent was not familiar with the term ‘Predatory Open Access,’ while 26% of respondents were familiar with the term.

Table 16: Familiarity with 'Predatory Open Access'

| | Responses | Percent |
|--|-----------|---------|
| “No” – I am not familiar with the term ‘Predatory Open Access’ | 136 | 74% |
| “Yes” – I am familiar with the term ‘Predatory Open Access’ | 49 | 26% |
| Total | 185 | 100% |

Only six respondents indicated that this concept has directly influenced their journal’s practices. Responses with explanatory notes include:

- “It has influenced my journal's practices in that we have in place a firm policy that guard against predatory practices and we adhere to it strictly.”
- “‘Predatory OA’ is an issue and is a concern for authors in making sense of OA as a model.”
- “Predatory Open Access has moved us to continuously enforce publication standards and to only charge Article Processing Fees on acceptance for publication.”
- “We make it explicit that ability to pay is not a condition for publication, and only invoice on acceptance.”

Additional comments about predatory Open Access from respondents:

- “‘Predatory publishing’ is a big concern for many African authors with its exploitative dimensions, taking advantage of the publishing imperative.”
- “The journals are rubbish and not scholarly accredited.”
- “We advise all our students and colleagues not to publish in or cite articles from predatory OA journals.”
- “It hasn't influenced journal's practices, as [we don't] charge authors to publish.”
- “I have heard about it but it does not affect us in anyway because our journal follows the best global practices in journal publishing. Besides, our journal is not an open access journal.”
- “It hasn't influenced our work in any way because we have our niche area and those interested in advancing the course of academic research do seek us out, instead of the other way round.”
- “It is a menace.”
- “No. [Our journal] publishes papers based on research quality as resulted from thorough peer-review process and board of editors’ decisions. The Journal has given 80% full waiver of APC to authors as we see quality research as a priority.”
- “Not really, we have maintained a strict adherence to our peer-review process.”
- “We have never charged author fees, and do not plan to in the future.”
- “We have waivers and discounts in place for low-income countries (many from Africa) to enable authors from these countries to have access to OA options. We place great importance on the standards and integrity of the peer review and editorial processes to assure authors that acceptance is based on the quality and suitability of their articles and not subject in any way to their ability to pay.”
- “We maintained integrity in peer review and do not charge exorbitant processing fees.”
- “We make sure there is quality peer review process.”
- “No, it has not although we get a lot of questions and we need to guide editors and authors.”
- “There is a lot of this on WAME forum.⁵ I think we need to learn more about this and create awareness among authors.”

⁵ World Association of Medical Editors (WAME): <http://www.wame.org/>

- “We always have to warn our editors and societies against these scams and refer them to Beall's list.⁶”

Responses to other open-ended questions are presented as Appendix 8 – 11.

⁶ Beall's List of Publishers: <http://scholarlyoa.com/publishers/>

Part 3: Observations & Notes

Although survey participants raised a wide range of issues in their responses, several common themes emerged. Common attributes and characterizations of journals and key issues which emerged throughout responses are presented in this section.

African-Based Scholarly Journals: An Overview of the Environment

Recognizing that there is no such thing as a “typical” scholarly journal, particularly within a continent as heterogeneous as Africa, it is possible to identify some commonalities. These common traits will be captured, presented, and shared via an infographic. A proof-of-concept of the infographic is presented in Figure 40.

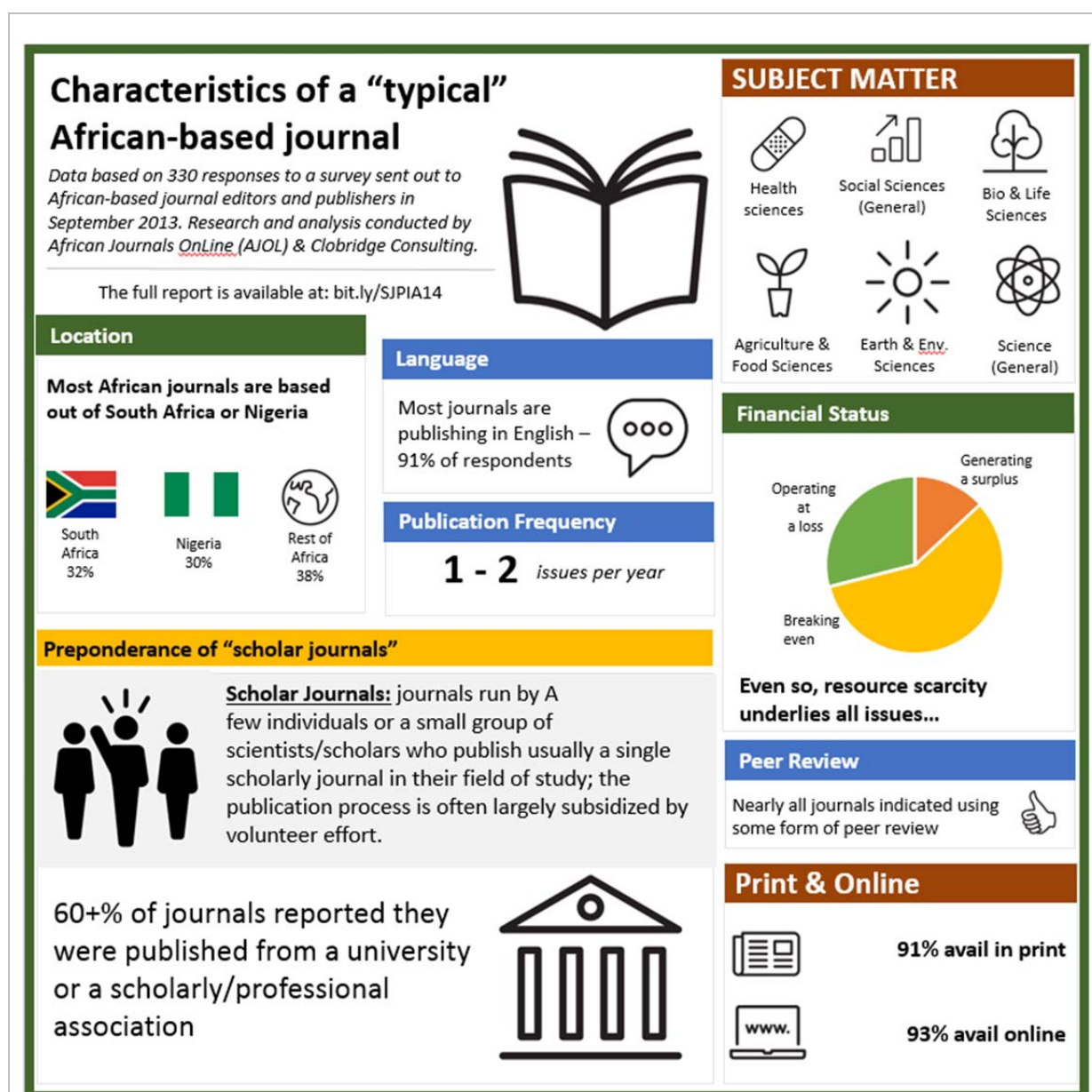


Figure 40: The Typical African-Based Scholarly Journal -- An Infographic

Impact Factor Fundamentalism

In recent years, many Open Access advocates around the world have pushed for alternates to the ISI Impact Factor, the reigning quantitative metric for determining the value or impact of articles. However, the issues surrounding Impact Factor are even more pronounced in Africa. While Impact Factor was not directly addressed through the survey, the survey elicited a striking number of comments regarding pressures around Impact Factor, particularly the pressures that African researchers face in publishing in journals which have received higher Impact Factors even if that means focusing on research interests of the global North, at the expense of subjects of importance to developing countries or localized research interests. As Gray and Wiens (2014) wrote in a recent report: “Of particular concern was the effect that this system has had given its bias in favour of the research interests of the global North, in consigning developing country research to the periphery and undervaluing research that was of relevance to Africa.”⁷

While this study was not designed to focus explicitly on Impact Factor or national/university-level policies for the review and promotion of researchers, these issues are inherently intertwined with journal publishing. As long as African researchers are pushed to publish in journals with Impact Factors and overseas journals in order to receive higher “promotion points” from their universities as suggested by survey respondents, African journals will continue to be at a disadvantage compared to their Northern counterparts; with the quality research done in the continent, by Africans and on African issues sent overseas for publication.

It would be useful for future studies to examine the promotion and review policies and practices of African universities in regards to journal publishing.

Economics of Journal Publishing & Long-Term Sustainability of Journals

Throughout the survey, respondents’ answers emphasized a scarcity of resources for all types of business models.

Rather strikingly, close to one third of respondents indicated that they operate in a “cashless” environment (Figure 28), which highlights the pervasiveness of resource scarcity for scholarly journals throughout Africa.

For journals that rely on funding income, sources of funds appear to come from a variety of sources. Print subscriptions, author-side fees, and donations all play a significant role. Likewise, it was common for respondents to place a high level of importance on funding from managing organizations (universities, scholarly societies, professional associations) and external funding. However, few respondents indicated that the government was a particularly important source of funding – a key difference from other parts of the world such as Latin America, where Open Access is being embraced and supported in policy and funding by the public sector.

Respondents also emphasized in-kind support from affiliated organizations (e.g. office space, Internet access, telephones) and the volunteer time of editors, peer reviewers, and Editors-in-Chief as playing a significant role in supporting their journals’ operations. However, several respondents noted concern about an over-reliance on one or two dedicated members of the team and raised concerns about future of their journals once these individuals retire.

In terms of expenses, printing continues to require a significant investment by African journals, even as many journals in the rest of the world are shifting to online-only or print-on-demand models.

Surprisingly, while most journals are operating on small budgets, some respondents indicated they are paying honorarium to Editorial Board members, Editors-in-Chief, or peer reviewers (Table 8) – a practice which is different from most journals operating elsewhere in the world.

Another surprise: contrary to responses to other questions, participants indicated a great deal optimism for the future. Of those who answered the question, “What do you anticipate your financial status to be in 3-5 years,” over half indicated that they expected their journal to be breaking even at that point and another 39% of respondents believe that their journal will be generating a surplus at that point.

⁷ Eve Gray and Kelsey Wiens. “Open Access Dialogues: Report on the Global Electronic Debates.” Retrieved from <https://www.ids.ac.uk/files/dmfile/OpenAccessDialoguesReport.pdf> on September 28, 2014.

Even with the self-reported optimism, questions remain about the long-term financial sustainability for many African-based journals.

Tensions between Open Access, Subscription-Based Models, and Print

Issues related to Open Access are hardly straightforward. As one respondent noted:

“Open Access is of course a major issue and very complex for those living and operating in Africa. Too often it is held up to be a panacea for 'the developing world'. OA may boost dissemination but it arguably impedes or complicates knowledge production for many in Africa. Discussion needs to be grounded in the operational aspects of running journals and the very real costs involved and also the importance of knowledge production from local contexts.”

Open Access may offer free access for readers, but the very real loss of income from subscriptions and sales of printed copies of journals was noted by several respondents and contributed to some journals' lack of financial stability. Whereas in the Global North, many Open Access journals have introduced article-processing as a means of generating income to support operations, many African-based journal already have author-side fees in place. Furthermore, many journals in the Global North offer waivers for authors from selected countries, but few African-based journals reported offering waivers, thus incentivizing local authors to publish elsewhere. As one respondent noted:

“Since open access and no subscription fee for readership, financing has been an issue as most authors from developing countries make requests for full waiver of Article Processing Charges.”

When asked about the benefits of Open Access, the survey elicited several comments such as “easier to manage without the headache of finding the costs of printing,” but a high percentage of respondents indicated that they are (still) producing print publications for a combination of reasons. As one respondent noted:

“Many traditional subscribers are unable to operate within the digital environment and struggle to access the journal, subscribe electronically, and download copies. Many still insist on printed copies of the journal.”

Key themes which surfaced repeatedly referred to institutional preferences for print in terms of tenure/review/promotion, preferences by readers, concerns about adequate internet access, and the importance of long-term preservation and access.

Confusion around Terminology

The survey indicated some level of confusion with terminology, most notably around Open Access as compared with online access.

Further work might be conducted in the future to review journals' copyright policies in comparison with their self-reported status as Open Access. In other words, are some journals self-reporting their status as “Open Access” when they are not consistent with the DOAJ or OASPA criteria of being an Open Access journal? The issue of defining Open Access is much broader than this study, yet confusion with terminology reiterates the challenge.

Three other areas in which lack of clarity around terminology was apparent: “online submission systems,” “altmetrics” and “predatory Open Access.”

Need for Capacity Building

Underscoring many of the comments was an interest by respondents in receiving more training and building up capacity to support scholarly publishing in general. Potential areas for professional and skills development include: Creative Commons licenses and international copyright issues, copyediting, graphics, website development, long-term digital preservation, use of online journal systems such as Open Journal Systems (OJS) or ScholarOne. Other topics of interest: altmetrics, article-level metrics, and Google Analytics.

Part 4: Future Directions

Next Steps

While a first round of data analysis has been completed, the data has uncovered some interesting results that merit continued analysis. South Africa and Nigeria each represented approximately one third of responses; it is expected that further analysis at the country level might shed light on further similarities and differences. The research team intends to conduct further country-level analysis on a subset of questions, particularly questions related to:

- Breakdown of types of publisher
- Author-processing charges/author fees
- Open Access vs. subscription journals

Appendices

Appendix 1: Reasons for Offering the Journal in Print

This appendix presents the complete answer set for responses to the question, "What are the top reasons for offering this title in a printed version/hard copy?"

- Many institutional libraries require hard copies. 2. Hard copies are required are mandatory in some universities for promotion of academic staff
- Poor ICT competence among contributors
- To ensure that the journal is the libraries for student and staff use. 2. To ensure that the issues are accessible to areas without internet facilities. 3. To raise fund through sales of the printed copies.
- To make it available to people who do not have access to online facilities; 2. We also believe that print copy cannot be done away with
- Academic libraries can make the hard copy available to university staff/students. Many people still prefer to read articles in print form.
- Academics still like hardcopies to read.
- Accessibility. Internet not accessible to majority of people
- [Journal title] est la revue scientifique de [association name]. Pour ce faire les membres payent une cotisation annuelle qui leur permet de recevoir respectivement, chaque numero edite
- Author and researcher demand/interest. Customers in some parts of the world, especially Asia, associate print with prestige so having a print edition as an option is vital. In many European countries VAT is an issue and customers like to have a print edition as an option.
- Author preferences, available in local library and bookstores.
- Authors and libraries request a hard copy
- Authors can always refer to back editions from the Editorial office ; In some Institutions original hard copies are requested for promotion exercise
- Authors demand
- Availability to subscribers
- Because it increases the visibility of the journal within the African setting. Also, our indexing companies always demand hard copies.
- Because there is still many subscribers/ institutions who prefer a hard copy
- Benefit of [society name] membership ; For libraries
- Both staff and students actually like hardcopies to work from. Also good way to ensure copies in Libraries
- Certains auteurs ont besoin de la version papier pour la gestion de leur carrière. La version papier est souvent demandée dans les dossiers.
- Colleagues preferred hard copies to electronics but sustaining that is increasingly becoming difficult which affects production sometimes as there are backlog of unsold copies. Buying journals is not that popular around here.
- Continual medical education for nephrologists in the Arab World.
- Contributing authors' request
- Contributors demand for promotion
- Co-operation of University's printing press
- Copies for libraries
- Copies for university libraries, exchange with other countries by mail.
- Demand from the readers remains high.
- Demande du lectorat ; Tires à parts physiques ; Vente
- Doctors still like something tangible.
- Durabilité et accessibilité en Afrique subsaharienne
- Ease of Reference
- Easy distribution in Africa
- Economic , Library availability
- Facilité d'accès, vues difficultés internet
- Finances
- Financial and expediency
- First, it is the usual practice in Nigeria where this journal is based. Secondly, it to make it available to those who may not have ready access to internet facility
- For advertising
- For archiving
- For circulation and sales
- For dissemination to some libraries and other important readers and our archives
- For easy accessibility to readers in urban and rural settings
- For exchange with other academic institutions and libraries
- For exchange with other journals on Life Sciences and so that we can stock the library of the National Museums of Kenya.
- For financial reasons.
- For libraries; and for subscribers where internet connectivity not available
- For libraries and people who have non-continuous internet system
- For libraries and use of students most often
- For Libraries. It originally was hard copy, we have gone to electronic. At this stage we publish one yearly hard copy, though may in future consider not to.
- For members of the association that owns the journal, for submission to libraries and preference of readers for hard copies in spite of online access
- For some fellows of the colleges
- For wide coverage and circulation
- For wider circulation and assurance of reaching the target audience
- For wider circulation particularly in countries where technology is a problem/ challenge.
- For those with no Internet access
- Formality
- Hard copy is the model of publishing of all publications of the Nigerian [institute name]. These are printed for sale and the online version are offered for free

- Has potential to reach more users. Hard copy remains useful in countries where internet is unreliable.
- Have experience to produce journal in this way; our institute has not got an up-to-date website and the Editor has no knowledge of how to mount the journal to a website or how to get payment for downloads. We exist on a shoe-string budget and haven't had enough funds for website hosting fees.
- Historical
- Historical
- I don't know
- Internet access is still very expensive and sometimes not available. Many are not internet savvy . Poor power supply makes the internet option not attractive
- It has become a culture since this was commonly used by the time of its establishment and needs plan and trained human power to manage the e-system
- It is a journal produced by an [association type] and distributed to its members.
- IT IS CONVENTIONAL; Many people are still not internet accessible
- It is easier and cheaper
- It is part of a membership fees of the journal's parent organisation.
- It is somehow still preferred by some subscribers
- It is the official journal of the [Association name] and members receive a hard copy - may prefer to read it in this format.
- It is the only journal as far as i know that is dedicated to the field of [field type]
- It is what is convenient to us.
- Knowledge dissemination
- Knowledge gap in using online technologies
- L'accès à l'outil informatique reste encore limité et la version papier permet d'une part une facile circulation de la revue dans le monde estudiantin et en outre cela permet une meilleur lisibilité de la revue et de notre laboratoire.
- Lack of fund for continuity ; Lack of equipment and skills for on line version
- Legal field still regards print journals as more authoritative.
- Les lecteurs n'ont pas forcément accès à l'internet
- Les raisons sont d'abord techniques, manque de logiciel de gestion de revue électronique de type Lodel et la formation à son utilisation. L eformat papier est pour le moment le modele standard accepté par les instances nationales d'évaluations des chercheurs et qui est largement accessibles à nos lecteurs dont la majeure partie ne dispose pas les moyens d'accès Internet fiable. Il a également l'effet "génération papier"
- Libraries demand it.
- Library and referral purposes
- Library use
- Limited access to online version for subscribers in rural parts of the country.
- L'impression de ce journal dans une version papier est très limité (un nombre restreint sur demande)
- L'impression du journal dans une version papier est très limitée: sur demande
- Mainly for libraries, various offices and for some readers who want hard copies.
- Many historians, etc. still prefer hard copies.
- Many members of the Society prefer this
- Many readers prefer
- Many readers prefer the hardcopy. They are good for promotional purposes
- Members of the [Association name] require this.
- Members of the [Association name] voted to retain hard copy.
- Members of the [Society name] sometimes prefer a hard copy
- Members of the Society prefer a hard copy
- Membership benefit of a professional association
- Most authors prefer the printed version for submission in their institutions for assessment for promotion. Some readers prefer to buy hard copy because they are not used to reading from a computer monitor. Thirdly, many do not have access to the internet because of high cost of subscription, lack of skills to use the internet, etc.
- Most cultural historians prefer a hard copy
- Most members of [Association name] (that owns the journal) do not have access to online facilities
- Most of our Association members are not easily internet compliant.
- Most of our primary targeted audiences don not have online access.
- Most of our subscribers are still happy to receive it in hard copy.
- Most people read this version
- Most preferred option for Nigerian authors
- Needed in Nigeria and most authors and institutions prefer this
- Not all members of the Associations have knowledge using Internet
- Not everyone has access to electronic facilities
- Not sufficient financial resources yet to go for unrestricted open access. This journal is linked to an academic society. Members of the society prefer to receive hard copy.
- Nous avons commence par la version papier, il est maintenant question de reflechir sur la version online qui nous parait plus facile a gerer en termes d'economie financiere. C'etait un challenge pour nous de commencer par quelque chose
- Of benefit to contributors to have the hard copy on shelf ; of benefit to organisers; of benefit to sponsors to receive a hardcopy as token of appreciation for donation
- Older members still prefer a paper copy.
- On demand.
- Only on request
- Organisation is member based and they still insist on paper copy
- Our funder requires it.
- Our readership demands it
- Our subscribers prefer to receive hard copy and are prepared to pay for it
- Paper still has a place in majority of the world especially in West Africa
- Part of a professional organisation service
- Poor internet access for users

- Poor Internet accessibility; constant power failures
- Poor internet connections in rural Africa
- Posting hard copies to 52 countries of the World Health Organization Afro region
- Preferred by some readers and libraries
- Printed copies are traditional and expected internet access unreliable in many parts of the country
- Professional presentation of journal.
- Promoting academic work in the field of conflict resolution, and disseminating results of academic research to institutions and individuals on a select mailing list.
- Promotion and marketing
- Publishers requirements
- Reach readers who do not have access to on-line versions and for wider dissemination to learners and target readership in Africa.
- Readers prefer it, and it is the official academic journal of a learned society.
- Reference Libraries require hard copy versions.
- REFERENCING PURPOSE IN LIBRARY
- Request from authors and libraries
- Request of Authors/contributors
- Request of scientific academic promotion committees in some countries
- Research
- Saving costs, and benefit as part of membership
- Sentimental! Also we need archives in our Library! Some people just love the hard copy!
- So that it can be accessible in libraries and research institutions
- Some authors need a hard copy
- Some authors/libraries want the journal issue in hard copy
- Some indexing bodies and institutions insist on hard copy
- Some of the readers prefer hard copies and the libraries prefer to have the hard copies.
- Some of the subscribers are in rural areas where internet access is not very easy.
- Some readers do not have the electronic means to handle e-copies. Hard copies are more visible to the reading public.
- Some scholars and universities still value hard copies. It's evidence.
- Some subscribers still prefer hard copies and not all authors are computer friendly
- Some subscribers (individual and libraries) prefer printed copies.
- Still demand for printed version from libraries
- Subscribers like it. Many libraries and resource centres in Africa not set up for electronic versions
- Subscribers wanted it
- Subscribers who prefer hard copies.
- Subscription for authors/readers and libraries
- Technical and financial reasons: Not well funded until recently. No infrastructure to house the journal and support staff.
- That is the default model of all publications of the [Institute name]. The idea of open access is new and we print hard copies for sale and offer the online version for free.
- The cost of running the journal comes from subscription.
- The four supporting societies voted that hardcopy version was required for some society members and because we are an African Journal.
- The hard copy is a benefit to the members of the [Society name], who funds the journal.
- The host institution is still working out the modalities for hosting online versions of the journal.
- The journal is provided as a tangible member benefit of Society membership. >80% of funding is generated from advertising inside a printed journal and <20% comes from a Society subsidy.
- The journal was started before e-journal system was widely used, and now we need to think and train managers to do it online. Furthermore the journal was established by the university senate and needs its decision to change into the new set-up, which will of course will be no problem if appropriate manpower is trained and assigned
- The printed copies are only available to specialist group members and wildlife authorities in the range States of the species which the journal covers.
- The [Association name] has no capacity to maintain online modes
- The technology for a full online version is yet to be acquired
- The title started as a print publication.
- The tradition had been to print hardcopy before the advent of online publishing in Nigeria, many people still prefer to have a hardcopy for their library.
- There are still a few libraries and staff of [university name] preferring hard copy. Also archiving in our library and resource Centre. We also send hard copies to Thompson Reuters (ISI)
- There has always been a printed version. Not opted to change it yet.
- This is an annual archive of professional architectural work in SA
- This is released from a medical university in Tanzania
- This is required by many authors for their university promotion.
- This is still popular source of reading in Nigeria
- This journal is aimed at policy makers and practitioners in the criminal justice system, we have found that hard copies are the best way to reach this readership
- This title is mainly written by and for African academics, researchers and practitioners, many of whom do not have regular access to reliable internet facilities.
- This was the option open to us at the founding of the journal. We have decided to go online as from 2014
- To allow access to developing scholars who do not have online access
- To allow for easy referencing, more so internet connections are not always available in our environment
- To ensure accreditation at the South African Higher Education authorities.
- To ensure local accessibility and availability

- To keep it on the shelves of libraries that do not have access to electronic systems
- To make accessible for authors without internet facilities. As souvenir for our professional members and tertiary institutions
- To make it more convenient for our members who are not Internet savvy.
- To reach the local readers and researchers
- To serve the local readers and researchers first and then the global level
- To subscribers
- Tradition
- Tradition... And some long-term/older subscribers are maintaining a collection. Greater 'visibility' of the hard copy to stakeholders who may not be academics (e.g. It can be displayed at exhibitions, reception, etc.)
- Tradition: Journal was initially only printed in hard copy
- Traditional way of publishing. Readers still prefer printed model.
- Uninterrupted Internet access not guaranteed in our local environment. Hard copy very accessible.
- Validity
- We accepted printed version because of the environment the Journals are domicile, because of the country inadequate power supply and Email Spoofing and Email Phishing
- We attempted an electronic-only model, but have received many requests for printed copies, particularly from libraries.
- We don't have a direct website for the journal but we're hosted by African Journals Online (AJOL). Most of our clients still prefer the hard copy.
- We have many institutional subscribers, primarily University libraries
- We maintain hard copies because internet access is still largely epileptic in Nigeria.
- We observed that the readers in Nigeria still prefer print editions, due to several reasons even though the online version is free
- We started as print and have remained so particularly since most of our subscribers like to have a printed copy
- We started off in this format. However due to cost we foresee that this format will be terminated at some stage.
- We want to supply to staffs contributes, local community who do not have access to the internet. We also send it to the library.
- Wider circulation among the reading public who may not have access to online version; generate fund.
- Basically [Journal title] belongs to [University name] and our Research Directorate will publish
- Easy availability of back copies from the editorial office. The Journal has just received sponsorship and the donors give hard / printed copies to all Nigeria University libraries.
- Exchanges with international libraries
- Free distribution to all hospitals countrywide
- Initially when the website was developed, an online submission feature was included. As it is not user friendly, we do not use it. The website was developed by an external website hosting company so I have no knowledge of what kind of software or system was used by the web hosting company.
- Library and archiving
- Many members do not have internet access
- No reason. Making effort to go online
- Not all health professionals in African countries have free internet access
- Printed copies are better!
- Private use
- Some subscribers prefer hard copy.

Appendix 2: Additional Services Requested of Publishers

This appendix presents the remainder of comments in response to the question, "What services do you wish your publisher was able to provide? Why?"

- A practical software programme for processing submissions of articles and peer reviews of articles received by the journal.
- Acquisition/hosting of Digital Object Identifier (DOI)
- Article level metric
- Automated billing for publication charges: currently this is done manually and takes significant time.
- Better metrics - we need to be able to improve our ability to track usage and citations
- Better proofreading services
- Better tracking of the journal's impact.
- Bureaucratic support on a continuous basis
- Capacity building and training of editorial team members, as well as stipend for services rendered as volunteers
- Carry more local articles (increase local content)
- Collection and management of fees, printing and proofreading
- Costly & time-consuming
- Discount on printing fees
- DOI and Indexing
- DOI Number
- Editing and proofreading of accepted manuscripts.
- Editorial assistance. It is difficult to manage the journal alongside my own teaching and research responsibilities.
- Employ full time manager because the submission is increasing with time.
- Employ manager appropriate to the area and a sort of incentives for the editors and reviewers
- Employment of professional manager and incentives to editorial board members and peer reviewers.
- Encourage young Authors to send papers for publishing in the journal
- Facilitate the adoption of an online submission system
- Faster delivery of hard copies
- Financement des personnels en charge du suivi et de la vie du journal. Le redacteur en chef et ses adjoints, le secretariat et le volet distribution. Pour un meilleur engagement de tous ces volontaires qui sont au service des autres universitaires
- Financement régulier pour assurer une parution régulière
- Finances for publishing and hiring of staff
- Financial management (collection of page fees and subscription fees), distribution of journal to subscribers. These are technical issues that do not impact on the quality of the journal, but do consume resources and time.
- Financial support to enable the journal give some waivers to deserving authors.
- Formation en gestion électronique de revue pour créer une version électronique;
- Full-time executive editor, professional language editors, assistants
- Funds for reviewers
- Funds through subscription and marketing
- Hire full time journal manager and production experts
- Hoping to get one who will provide a website for the journal
- Host a proper website for online submission and review of manuscripts. Start secure online payment by authors for handling and page charge
- Hosting of journal, typesetting, proof reading, manuscript tracking
- Impact factor
- Improve online services
- Independent funding of the journal so that we are not dependent on advertising income for our survival
- Institutional repository
- Journals available in bookstores.
- Language editing and proof reading as this is our main concern in publishing. African Authors do not pay any fees for publication of their articles
- Les Presses de [l'Université] vont avoir une nouvelle mission dans le cadre de la redynamisation de la politique de la recherche à [l'Université]. Il est prévu que la Direction de la Recherche Scientifique de [l'Université] restructure la division e la publication et elle pourrai en ce moment être d'un grand soutien à l'activité de l'édition à l'ul. Pour nous il faudrait mettre en, place un comité pluridisciplinaire qui va s'occuper de la lecture des articles et en outre de s'occuper aussi de l'édition ce qui va éviter de laisser dans le document des fautes fâcheuses qui écornent la qualité scientifique.
- Linking to other databases
- Maintaining print archives
- Making the journal available to readers.
- Management and promotion of the journal including citation tracking, etc as well as an online submission administration etc.
- Mise online et tenue des statistiques en vue d'évaluer l'impact et adhérer à Pubmed et medline
- More detailed proof reading.
- More funding
- More journal databases
- Need a researcher
- Need to employ a photographer
- On line submission process, better indexing for more visibility, employ a journal manager
- Online access including collection of subscriptions;
- Online collection of fees, website hosting: For sustainability of the journal.
- Online publication
- Online publishing services. All activities are easily tracked and all interested parties are able to follow the progress of any given issue.
- Online publishing software and adequate support for using it
- Online submission and tracking system to help with the management of the peer review process.
- Online submission process

- Open Access
- Open access
- Open access online publications: reduce workload of editor, make journal more visible, reduce processing time of articles
- Open access, administration of funds, advertising
- Open Access: This would make articles more readily accessible to users
- Our Journal is not "published" If you call the AJOL a "publisher", I would like them to make a facility available to add search words to articles.
- Oversee Peer-Review process: This would help maintain regularity of publication.
- Plus grand visibilité et indexation du journal
- Prendre en charge les frais de publication.
- Printing, marketing, advising about future
- Proofreading, sourcing indexation, website hosting
- Provide funding
- Provision of DOI for easy access of papers by authors
- Provision of ISSN number, online publishing services
- Publication
- Publication. The reason for the printing of articles
- Publisher owns Journal, but self-managed open access system.
- Put the journal on Scopus, Sciencedirect, join the COPE, attend editors' conferences and workshops
- Regularite de lamise a disposition des fonds d'edition; Interressement des referees?Lecteurs
- Rien
- SEO, DOI
- Site web propre au journal pour faciliter l'accès aux articles
- Stability on fund provision.
- Staff training. To improve skills of staff
- Support with financial costs
- The publisher disseminate scientific information to its members and others that are relevant to the profession and livestock development in the country.
- To be on Med Line with more exposure.
- To get English writing editing for new submissions for free.
- To have the online publication
- To help in journal citation
- Tracking of impact factor. It will provide us with information about how the journal is doing.
- Typesetting
- Typesetting, copy editing, proof reading, online submission system, altmetrics, advertising and journal production and dissemination
- Typesetting, proofreading
- Web hosting. To increase visibility
- Web site hosting to widen the client base.
- Webhosting and provision of free online access
- Web-related activities
- Wider distribution of journals. For wider spread
- XML files to PUBMED

Appendix 3: Additional Comments Regarding Journals' Current Economic Situation

Appendix 3 presents all of the comments (excluding those which indicated "none" in some form) received when respondents were asked to share any other comments regarding their journal's current economic situation.

- Advertise for Drug companies at some amount.
- All members of the journal are volunteering and have no fixed salaries. We wish in the future to have a full time working team to focus basically on the work of the journal only.
- An offer to buy the Journal from a large publishing company in the USA has been proposed. We are in the process of negotiations.
- [Journal title] a cessé la publication en 2009. De 1980 à 1999 il était rédigé, imprimé et publié en RD Congo. Depuis 2000 il était publié à partire de la Belgique.
- As an organization providing [type of] expertise and services across the continent, [organization name] takes research seriously and employs 7 full-time staff in its Knowledge Production Department (about 15% of the staff at its main office in South Africa). Over 20 years, [organization name] has also been encouraging academic work in [discipline] as far as possible – initially by several circulars to about 140 universities and tertiary institutions in 25 countries, and since 1999 mainly by disseminating the academic journal. [Organisation name] therefore remains committed to allocate part of its core funding to the journal.
- As editor, I have no real knowledge of this
- As the journal is owned by [publisher name] I do not have a clear sense of its financial situation
- As the journal is published by a Government agency/parastatal, all of the costs of production, staff, etc. are borne by the publisher. In answering the questions above I have considered the costs borne by the publisher, as there are no costs borne by the journal. There is also almost no income earned by the journal - hence overall financial status for the publisher would be 'operating at a loss', but intentionally.
- [Association name] in Nigeria has to fund journal for now
- Authors' contributions or fee payments keep the Journal going, as well as volunteer staff services
- Authors do not pay page fee on time
- Besoin d'un appui des bailleurs de fonds internationaux pour le recrutement d'un redacteur en chef permanent
- Breaking even
- Challenging but manageable
- [Journal title] will almost certainly not survive as an individual journal but will become the educational component of the [other journal title]
- Current financial situation us very poor, effort to make the student buy has not been accepted by the university authority.
- Current funding from donor organizations enables the journal to pay over-head costs. Our open access policy limits our ability to generate income.
- Currently, the journal is funded by Tertiary Education Trust Fund and so is able to print hard copies and advertise adequately.
- Dans la plupart des cas les abonnements aux revues ne se font plus surtout dans nos pays africains. Or de plus en plus la compétition avec les autres revues obligent les universités africaines à faire plus d'effort si nous voulons être responsables et respectés des autres quand bien même ils ont plus de moyens que nous. Il n'est pas question de baisser les bras et pour cela nous avons opté pour:
- Dependent on donations by university and title owner
- Dire situation with hope of improvement in future
- Due to low interest in buying of journals generally, the printed copies are piled up in the Editor's office making it difficult to have good financial base to operate effectively. The burden of production is burnt by the authors through the fees being paid
- Due to low number of subscribers it is a challenge to publish the journal
- En difficulté car je ne trouve pas de bailleurs de fond et la version papier est distribué gratuitement
- Everything is based on volunteering. Without that, the journal would not survive.
- Expensive costs of the publisher are paid by the university
- For now, we manage to break even from the sales of printed copies. We hope that in the future, the Journal will no longer operate open access.
- Fully funded by the [organization name]. Its financial future is secure.
- Fundraising by the not-for profit organisation is ongoing to sustain its work as it derives no revenue from the journal sales.
- Grim
- Have support from industries occasionally.
- If our current funder, [donor name], ceases to fund us, we will struggle to remain a print journal. We could however survive as an electronic journal, if the editor in chief remains, who can continue to use some of the available resources at [University name] to meet the expenses involved in producing the journal. Should the editor in chief taken on greater responsibilities at the university, chances of the journal not surviving are high.
- Inadequate funding from page charges due to competing Open Access journals, poor reading attitude of students, scholars etc
- Institutional subscriptions cover publishing costs annually.
- It is by volunteers, the printing is also done by the university. Thus, no need for the fund.
- It is totally run by the university for only printing the rest services are for free from admin as well as academic staff of the university, currently becoming very critical issue to manage.
- It is tough for the journal. The journal market in Nigeria has all but collapsed especially for independent journals like ours. Advert market gone. Low subscriber base. Depends on editors donations

- It's completely without money so the financial situation is not relevant
- Journal able to operate at a surplus because university pays printing costs, editor and reviewers volunteer time and authors pay page fees
- Journal d'un Centre National de recherche scientifique dont lers dépense sont inclus dans le fonctionnement et le journal reste gratiut et destiné à une diffusion institutionnel
- Journal finances is okay
- La mise ne ligne des numéros; éditer un nombre raisonnable d'exemplaire par numéro et mettre en liogne
- Le journal est subventionné par l'état algérien
- Many of the above questions relate to the publishing house's expenses and can only answered by them, for the Editor has no insight into this and it does not concern the journal editorial board members or the operation of the journal from their point of view.
- Nécessité d'un lobbying pour appuyer les publications et collaboration avec AJPP pour améliorer la visibilité
- Needs indexing in Pubmed and Index Copernicus to improve subscription level
- Needs sponsors
- No concern to generate income for now
- Notre journal est pour le moment annuaire (un numero chaque année) et toutes les préparations sont faites volontairement (gratuitement) par l'Editeur en Chef lui même (avec l'aide de ses associés et des experts dans le processus de l'évaluation des manuscrits). Ainsi le journal n'a pas un vrai budget financier (aucun gain et les dépenses sont mineures)
- Nous journal est soutenu par la faculte de medecine et donc un budget a ete vote pour son fonctionnement, nous attendons que ce budget soit executoire afin que certains volets de la prise en charge des redacteurs et autres personnels soit effectifs pour la motivation de tout ce monde.
- On peut pas parler ni d'equilibre financier ni de fonctionnement à perte car le journal n'apporte pas de l'argent et que tout est réalisé volontairement (gratuitement) par l'Editeur en chef (avec l'aide de ses associés et des experts pour l'evaluation des manuscrits)
- [Journal title] intends to go online and open access. That will be a drain on resources initially.
- Prior to the Government support it had been most difficult meeting production cost. Sources of revenue had been through page charges and online access income through AJOL
- Promotion by [publisher name, and now by [other publisher], has benefited circulation and visibility greatly.
- Quality articles do not come in good quantity
- Recently launched
- Sales of the journal have increased as per publishers' report - not clear whether the journal is breaking even.
- So far we have charged no processing fee, and thus have been unable to give honoraria to peer reviewers. We plan to begin charging such fees from 2014. Nevertheless, the members of the Editorial Board shall continue to serve without any payments: this will ensure that their operations are beyond reproach.
- Subscription
- Supported mainly by the university which is not enough for future development
- Tant que le soutient de AFENET persistera (herbergement du bureau Afrique de l'est dals les locaux de AFENET), notre budget sera equilibre
- The cost of printing and distribution are very significant and cannot be sufficiently covered by the page charges
- The cost of production is high hence the journal cannot be published as at when due. There is no remuneration for the editorial board members.
- The donation to the Journal is not regular
- The financial administration of [University name] oversees the process of income and expenses of the journal.
- The general outlook is very bright, and the finances of [journal title] are very sound. Our membership of Sabinet has increased our institutional subscriptions and we receive money from Sabinet in this regard. We have also managed to build a very good brand around [journal title] and many well-meaning organisations are willing to come on board with funds to support our growth. In terms of finance, on balance, we are in surplus since our operation costs is far lower than the receipts. This trend will continue in the coming years and we hope the brand will eventually pay honorarium to editors and some cash transfers to our dedicated reviewers.
- The journal depends on government subsidy. This should gradually decline to ensure the sustainability of the journal
- The journal has only recently become viable. It functioned from hand to mouth for many years, and was only sustained by the Editor's passion and commitment.
- The journal is an integral part of the department and so finances of the journal are not determined in isolation. There has always been sufficient capital (financial and human) to keep the journal in operation and that is certain to hold in the future.
- The journal is at the verge of a measure structural adjustment
- The journal is free access on line and all the reviewers are volunteering; and the scientist who works as an Editor and the IT person they use some of their official time or extra time volunteered. The Editorial Board has not met for years due to financial constrains
- The journal is funded as part of the many activities of [organization name]. It is not published for profit.
- The journal is growing owing to author and researcher interest. Growing to 6 issues in 2014.
- The journal is supported by the university to print the hard copy and put the articles online. The rest is done voluntary basis.
- The journal needs a committed funding source, beyond authors' fees and society funds
- The journal needs financial support

- The journal was not being hosted by anyone until now. Therefore no funds were generated from articles/ subscriptions. Since mid-2013 SABINET hosts our journal and it is hoped this will see a rise in income for the journal so that a full-time language editor can be appointed
- The journal will not operate unless the publishers think it is worth their while to continue publishing it for educational purposes.
- The Journal's finances are largely dependent on the Professional Society availing it its share (5%) of annual subscription paid by members. The Society is yet to honour this pledge.
- The open access policy of the journal equally applies to the people running it - they all do it on a freelance basis.
- The publication of the journal is funded by the [Society name] and a significant corporate donor.
- The publisher and co-publisher sponsor the publication costs of the journal. The journal editor and board only pay for their own conference attendance.
- The publishers are doing their best to generate interest in the journal
- The students are the major segment of the reading publish who purchase the hard copy versions. However, new regulations in the university requesting students to purchase at will at a price fixed by the university has restricted financial flows.
- The [University] has offered grants to "in-house" journals in 2013. Whether this grant materialised, or whether it continues to be offered, we don't know.
- There are lots of back volumes if sold will generate income
- There is currently a new editor in chief who is considering going fully online (open access) in order to reduce processing costs.
- There is great potential for sustainability. What is required is a business model that can accommodate the delicate balance of operational cost and sustainability.
- There is publishing fees
- Token charges on all paper submitted
- Tough
- We are donor funded and if the funding stops the journal will cease.
- We are fortunate to be able to sell advertising to pharmaceutical and device companies, although this revenue is under increasing pressure (economical, ethical, marketing code, etc). We are in the process to diversify the revenue streams by introducing author publishing charges (APCs) and to offer the journal on a tablet/mobile platform. Selling reprints has become a significant additional revenue stream
- We are gaining some money from royalties which is helpful
- We are unable to sell a reasonable number of copies, which makes it hard for us to recover the monies invested in printing the journal
- We are waiting for funding from [organisation name] who have approved a grant for publication of the print copy
- We do not aim to have this journal as a profit-making entity. It is strictly non-profit. We will be required to operate completely independently (without university support) within the next three years, and need to plan accordingly.
- We get strong funding from organizations that support the continued development of Afrikaans as a scientific language. No page charges levied.
- We have a surplus account.
- We have just received an intervention fund from the Tertiary Education Fund (TETFUND) of Nigeria through the university to put life into the journal.
- We have kept our charges to authors low so that the cost is not a barrier to anyone with good quality relevant articles. In some cases we have to give full or partial waiver to those who cannot afford to pay.
- We have no permanent funding source for printing which has caused delays in publication in the past. Also, we have no left over money from the journal's printing budget to use as modest honorarium (once in a while) for editor in chief and associate editors who are engaged full time with the journal's work and provide service for free at all times.
- We hope that governmental support should continue
- We hope to get publication funds/grants from supporting bodies
- We need to find a better publishing offer with at least the same services
- We receive no monetary support from our institution, which I think is shameful, since the existence of accredited journals is to the institution's credit.
- We recently introduced publication charges to cover support staff costs and it will be a while before we discover if this is sustainable (particularly as the charge is waived if authors can't pay).
- We shall like to expand our sales outlet
- We use our salaries and time to manage the journal.
- We would like to be able to generate income from the journal in order to be able to sustain it without donor grants in the long term
- Within two years, the frequency of the journal will increase from three to four issues per year.
- Without external financial support we can no longer afford to have a hard copy version of our journal

Appendix 4: Additional Factors in Becoming Open Access

Respondents were asked, "What other key factors led to the decision to be Open Access?" Full responses are presented here.

- (1) The need to make our authors' work more available to the scientific public. (2) To enable researchers to source funding via articles published in the journal. (3) To promote interest in African Lepidoptera. (4) To improve the standard of articles in the journal. (5) To make articles available as soon as peer review and editing process is complete, without waiting for a full issue to be complete.
- As editor-in-chief I believe in free access to academic information. 2) With moving to open access we are moving towards less printed hard copies, which is more environmentally friendly.
- C'est une question de principe: On doit penser à la gratuité de la Science (la science ne se vend pas). D'accord on peut vendre au moins le support des données scientifiques telque les livres et les ouvrages. Mais dans le cas du web (internet) comme support ce n'est pas couteux voir très peu couteux si l'editeur et ses associés et les experts font tout le boulot gratuitement et / ou si des institutions ou des associations savantes contribuent financièrement. 2.Le libre accès a une très grande importance aux chercheurs surtout pour ceux des pays de tiers monde
- Wider dissemination research results from developing countries to a global readership, 2. Greater access to research findings by authors in developing countries
- A need for accessible publishing outlets for research from Africa
- African Journals partnership project
- As our journal is newly emerging, we expect that making the journal open access will make the journal easily visible to readers that increases the rate of contributions.
- As stated above awareness of the benefits of Open Access to research was the driving motivation
- Complexity and cost of charging minor fees, especially to international subscribers for back issues or single articles. Also a desire to increase citation rates and readership.
- Convenient
- Ease of managing peer review process.
- Editors previous experience and knowledge in promoting open access
- Failure to publish on regular basis due to not having a dedicated office with an editor and resources to operate the journal
- Globalization
- Increase impact factor
- Increasing readership and hence citations.
- It appears to be a good plan on a developing continent to promote access to editorial matter for scholarship in other parts of Africa.
- It was one of the listed conditions which the one-time [donor] fund grant required.
- It's the right thing to do!
- Journal produit par un Centre National de recherche scientifique destiné aux chercheurs
- Le journal étant subventionné
- Le Journal n'est pas à but lucratif, nous demandons à certains auteurs des frais de publication pour palier aux dépenses dûes aux employés à mi-temps (1 ingénieur et 1 secrétaire) ainsi qu'aux frais d'hébergement du site, de la publicité et autre.
- Mainly the decision of [publisher]
- Making locally produced papers more accessible to the rest of the world. Increasing our pipelines to ensure editorial security.
- More access to overseas readers
- More people will access it
- Most readers do not have credit/debit cards to pay
- Move in South Africa to open scholarly journals
- Need for global accessibility and citation impact measurement
- New thinking in publication output which was novel in the late 1990s.
- No other realistic option in a market where we cannot sell the printed material, if we are to meet one main objective to 'take information to health practitioners '
- Offer and technical support from AJOL for hosting
- One of the main aim of the journal system is to provide authors with a free publishing platform.
- Ours is not online publishing because we make pdfs available when the journal is camera ready.
- Partnerships
- Personal belief of editor or editorial board to share research outcomes as widely as possible
- Poverty and low income in the land
- Pressures from authors, the editorial board and the university lead to open access. The fact that the [University] offered OJS free of charge helped us to decide.
- Print costs were the only issue
- Publishing with [publisher] automatically led to the hybrid option. Personally I would like to move away from [publisher] to open access.
- Quicker turn-around time for publication
- Reachability; free for everyone, especially students/researchers in Madagascar
- The convenient contemporary facilities of making data (in this case, research findings in [organization]'s field of operation) available across the country, continent and world.
- The cost of print publishing within a model that distributed print copies free of charge to subscribers, led to a move toward lower-cost free online publishing (which was then Open Access) with subscriber-pays print publishing.
- The creativity of African Journals Online staff
- The funds from the government
- The journal began as working papers (delivered to university libraries for free), when the journal went online there was no question that it would continue to be open access. The journal is published as a service to the academic community.

- The purpose of the journal is to inform policy and practice in South Africa, as such it is essential that the journal is freely available to the target audience
- The team that established the [journal title] had no finances to invest in any other model.
- The university is an academic center and its objective is creating scholarly forum for international scholars and simultaneously upgrade its research working level of its staff.
- To reach out to all
- Tout le monde a droit à l'information
- Training and awareness by AJOL, INASP, CARLIGH and PKP
- Visibility of the journals.accessibilty of the journals
- Visibility, accessibility, indexability, free to end users
- We are open access after a limited period of time and since African scholars use our website we made it open access as we are a no-profit organization
- We needed to popularize the journal

Appendix 5: Journals' methods of measuring benefits of Open Access

The full list of responses to the question, "How do you measure or assess [the benefits of Open Access]?" Are presented in this appendix.

- How do you measure or assess these benefits?
- Increased rate of citations; 2. Vast increased article submission rate; 3. Three-fold increase in the number of issues published per year within a period of 6 years; 4. Four-fold increase in the number of articles published per issue
- Article metrics
- As far as I am aware access is only by subscription. It is currently limited to a little over 1,000. How it has changed/could change I am not sure.
- Author surveys, article level metrics
- Authors are advised to pass their articles through plagiarism checkers before submission. So the editorial team has observed less and less of plagiarism in articles submitted.
- By comparing with the pre-open access era
- By general experience
- By increased number of articles submitted from outside South Africa
- By means of a readers' survey questionnaire, and also by occasionally receiving encouraging feedback from readers and authors
- By monthly downloads
- By monthly metrics
- By the increased number of submissions.
- Citation et évaluation des chercheurs
- Citation hits by Pubmed
- Commendations from the academic community for the high quality of production and scholastic editorial content
- Comments received from readers and academic community
- Comments received via different channels.
- Comments/feedbacks
- Comparing statistics on a year to year basis, comparing impact factor and monitoring the sophisticated stats and citation analysis on the system.
- DOI and tracking of articles and experience
- Editor's perception
- Expense comparison
- Feedback from authors and readers, as well as Society members
- Feedback from stakeholders
- From site statistics, opinion survey from members of sponsoring association, performance review
- From the website
- Great (2)
- High
- High importance
- Impact factor
- Impressionistic
- Increase and diversity of nationalities submitting their work to the journal
- Increase in impact factor.
- Increase number of article submissions
- Increase number of manuscripts received.
- Increase submissions and letters to Editor
- Increased contribution of articles from other countries suggests that readership across Africa and Middle East countries has improved.
- Increased submission of articles
- Increased submissions
- Increased visibility
- It is very good
- Linkout Stats and online free registrations
- Mentally
- Metrics
- More submissions
- Notre journal est en ligne et en libre accès, nos articles sont évalués par le monde entier dès leur publication. Nos articles sont évalués par des pairs avant leur publication. Voir comités (Editorial Board et Board of Associated Editors)
- Nous avons rejetés 19 articles sur 45 publiés.
- Number of articles and issues over time
- Number of enquiries and cash transfers from AJOL
- Number of submissions received
- Once a volume is done you just upload, you don't start thinking of printing cost
- Our assessment is informal, but we plan to use the various assessment tools available.
- Par échange avec les utilisateurs.
- Publisher provides data
- Questionnaires; feedback by readers; number of subscribers; representation in Malagasy newspress
- Recommendations by colleagues
- Record submissions
- Release from financial issues
- Responses / submissions to the journal
- Rewarding and great
- Since going online we seem to always have sufficient content.
- Since we have moved to OJS we can keep track of all statistics.
- Site visits and downloads, and citations
- Statistical results.
- Sur les statistiques disponibles
- Surveys
- The journal is findable by open searches and readable without subscription.
- Through comments from users.
- Through increased subscription and papers submission by authors
- Through our submission records as well as the monitoring of the journal's impact
- Through our website and information from hosts of the journal
- We are provided with statistics.
- We have set monitoring mechanisms
- We hope to see an increase in subscriptions as well as citation rates.
- We track the performance of the content we put online. We also get reviews from users of our content.
- Website metrics

Appendix 6: Difficulties Encountered Due to Open Access Model

Appendix 6 presents a complete list of responses to the question, “What difficulties has your journal had because it is Open Access? How do you know?” Thirty five (35) individuals responded by indicating they had not encountered any such difficulties. Two more people indicated that it was “too soon to tell.” Furthermore, a few of the responses seem to be benefits of Open Access rather than difficulties, yet all responses are presented here.

- At the moment we have a hybrid of open access online/plus print editions. Speed and reliability of internet in the African context can sometimes be a problem.
- Cannot measure this, but perhaps a tendency to attract a greater number of inappropriate (outside scope, low quality) submissions, on account of the increased global visibility, and the attraction of no submission or publishing fees.
- Cost has escalated dramatically (especially prepress costs (getting articles copy-edited and laid out) due to increased number of papers and we did run into financial difficulties having to publish much more papers which necessitated a society subsidy
- Decrease subscriptions
- Editeur malhonete
- Financement pour la version papier ;
- Finding people who can manage the system.
- Global visibility, measured by international indexes such as Scopus and ISI
- I guess it may have negative impact to generate income that runs the journal.
- It is time consuming and expensive, because we need to pay for certain services, such as language editing.
- It needs to have its own manager for fast communication with authors, reviewers and other relevant communication like this one.
- J'ai simplement sentis que le libre accès n'arrange pas tous les auteurs pour raison de plagiat ou de travaux déjà publiés.
- Just break even and no profits
- Knowing about the impact factor.
- La connexion internet est parfois très difficile.
- Large number of articles
- Limited fund is generated because no subscription is charged
- Limited proficiency in the use of some open software systems for journal management
- Little funding
- Little subscription of the hard copy
- Long period to complete the refereeing process
- Lost several issues after changing the host
- Many traditional subscribers are unable to operate within the digital environment and struggle to access the journal, subscribe electronically, and download copies. Many still insist on printed copies of the journal.
- No advertisements
- No more subscriptions from interested researchers for a fee
- Non-availability of reviewers
- None except financial problem.
- Nothing – subscription income was minimal before.
- Only that we need to be supported by donor grants in order to be able to continue to publish
- Our website crashes because of too many users
- Persistent bias by some scholars against the Open Access model: we know through their comments, that frequently indicate that they think journals in print are more prestigious and more widely read.
- Production of thirty years of journal archives from printed copies
- Quantité d'exemplaires souvent épuisé
- Reduce the sale of print copy and this is dragging the journal down financially because that is the major source of income of the journal.
- Reduced subscriptions for the print edition
- Reducing paid-up online and hard copy subscriptions. This is evident from our financial records.
- Securing multi-year funding to keep the journal free.
- Since open access and no subscription fee for readership, financing has been an issue as most authors from developing countries make requests for full waiver of Article Processing Charges.
- Some authors complained on submission system
- Sustaining capacity. The constant delicate balance between maintaining and extending capacity
- The authors do not know the system
- The management of some universities discourage or disapprove of papers published in Open access journal for the promotion of academic staff
- There is limited financial resource
- We get pressure to get the hardcopies out fast as the soft copy get online immediately
- We hardly sell all print copies ordered for and even when we go to conferences to market, people say oh! It's free online so why should I buy the print copy.

Appendix 7: Insights for others considering Open Access

Appendix 7 shares responses to the question, "What might be helpful for others to know who are considering Open Access?"

- Maintain a high standard right from the onset 2. Maintain regular communication with authors and reviewers
- A devoted team who believes in the importance and viability of an OA journal and a drive to deliver quality scholarship to the academic world.
- A significantly larger audience
- Advertising more for the work published in any journal.
- Contrary to popular belief, the Open Access model increases visibility in a world in which so many countries are extremely poor and therefore unable to pay for subscriptions.
- Dissemination of knowledge
- Dramatic increase in exposure
- Enhanced visibility of journal and more citations likely
- Facilité de joindre un plus grand nombre. ("Ease of reaching a larger number of people.")
- Faire connaître le projet
- Faire le partenariat avec les grand maison d'editions ("Establish partnerships with large publishing houses.")
- Find a trained web manager first.
- For journals in Africa, there's still the need for print editions due to low internet access, and most policy makers and readers like to have hard-copies they can reference to easily.
- Give careful consideration to your financial model.
- High speed and reliable internet connection. Good skills in IT would be an advantage. Ability to learn and adapt to change is crucial.
- I still believe we have academic readers who search websites for specific content but that the majority of readers will more readily pick up a paper copy and at least browse through it and this has some commercial value if profitable. Although it doesn't have value in terms of citations, impact, etc.
- If they follow the no of downloads
- Increase journal visibility
- It checks plagiarism
- It helps a lot if one can get external funding (sponsorship/grants, selling PDF as reprints, as part of a paper edition with advertising, etc.) And not charge APCs immediately to keep local and loyal contributors
- It improve journal visibility
- It increases visibility
- It is beneficial in many ways
- It is cheap to run
- Knowledge should not be about making money but sharing what we know as humans for the greater good. Everything is not a business!!!
- La maitrise de la technologie est essentielle ("Mastery of technology is essential")
- Le libre accès est essentiel dans domaine scientifique ("Free access is essential in science")
- L'évaluation rapide et permanente par les chimistes du monde. ("The rapid and ongoing evaluation by chemists in the world.")
- More people will share knowledge from reading your journal.
- Must be sustainable
- My model is now called electronic journals with profitable print extensions
- Needs commitment of time, that's all
- No cost recovery
- OA is not for free
- Online submission and distribution systems need to be very simple and user-friendly. An option should be made available for those who wish a more traditional access to the journal.
- Open Access is a useful means of disseminating research. The key is to think outside the box and innovate a means of staying sustainable.
- Open access is important and it is easy to detect if an article has been published before and where it was published. It also makes information sharing and access less cumbersome.
- Read the open access declaration
- Readership has to be improved. That's the only way to improve a research area further and further. A research idea may be locked in somebody who may not be able to afford a subscription fee and thus, deprive the world of the opportunity to advance in that area.
- Reliable online publisher which can provide comprehensive services
- Society subsidy and APC should be introduced asap if advertising revenue cannot pay for everything
- Source of funding is crucial. External funding will be helpful.
- Subscription income is unlikely to be substantial for a minor journal and you can't expect to attract quality submissions from authors who want their work read if you hide behind a paywall. Nature or Science can do that, but a less known journal can't expect every library in the world to subscribe to it.
- The information could easily be disseminated easily world wide
- They have to fund the journals until it is accepted and recognized widely so that hard copies can be authored by libraries.
- They have to know it is a sacrifice and need some responsible professionals to give their time freely to expand and upgrade the research endeavor locally as well as internationally.
- They should know that Open Access is basically publishing for fame not fortune
- Think about funding
- To look for financial support.
- Too soon to advise.
- We are very married to this idea. Knowledge needs to be quickly and freely accessible

- While open access provides visibility for the journal, it might limit the paid-up subscriptions and the financial sustainability of a journal
- Wider visibility
- With open access it is harder to know the readers (demographics, etc.) And make assumptions/analyses about the use and impact of the journal. This is of minor importance, however, when the benefits of open access sharing of knowledge are taken into account
- You have to ensure quality as you are now more visible
- You need good It support
- You then lose income

Appendix 8: One thing to change about scholarly publishing

Respondents were asked, "If you could change one thing about the scholarly publishing industry, what would it be?" A complete list of responses is presented here.

- "forced" article submissions and/or publications by doctoral students from some universities and academics from most universities
- A fraction of government research funding should go towards supporting open access platforms, which will cost a lot less in the long run than journal subscriptions.
- Access to poor countries need to be free
- Accorder le libre acces total a la publication scientifique.
- All authors should be allowed to publish free of charge and also to download full text publications free
- All freely available
- All journals should be open access
- All journals should be open access. No third party hosting. Hosting should be by the Universities, because of sustainability.
- All Journals should go open access
- All open access
- All should allow students to access the journals free of charge
- Always publishing journals on time.
- An African Impact factor system is very desirable
- As I am not the Editor-in-Chief I not in a position to answer any of these questions
- Assurer l'accès à un grand nombre de lecteurs l'accès aux publications scientifiques quelle que soit la revue
- Attitude towards publication, scholars should publish for contribution to knowledge rather than for promotion
- Availing the online service free to Journals doing well but unable to support the service.
- Avoir plus de fonds pour favoriser à chaque publication une double évaluation par les pairs
- Better peer reviewers in South Africa
- Bias
- Charge authors a little not thousands of dollars
- Cheaper electronic support such as affordable electronic submission system, affordable webhosting.
- Close it down
- Closed format of publishing
- Create a model whereby research will be affordable to developing countries as well assisting them to provide quality research.
- Creativity, visibility, versatility and universality of published content. I look forward to a future of the publishing industry where there would be no subscription fees, where the business of publishing would be one of helping authors, publishers and editors learn in a cooperative venture in pushing the frontiers of knowledge forward and farther.
- Créer des organismes indépendants de citations (Impact Factor).
- Currently very happy
- Decrease cost
- Dedicated reviewers
- Elimination of page fee for authors
- Éliminer la version papier et opter pour le libre accès.
- Encourage more articles to be published
- Encourage Open Access for all scholarly journals
- ENGLISH LANGUAGE would not be used to disqualify scientific papers especially from countries where ENGLISH is not the first language.
- Ensure that all accredited journals receive full financial support
- Excessive page charges by some publishers
- Fairness of international journals publishing work from Africa
- Fewer journals!
- Financial support by governmental top-slicing policy
- Financial support for Journal and its staff
- Finding ways to generate resources to operate smoothly
- Force scientist to purchase their own journals
- Free share of scientific knowledge
- FUNDING
- Funding agencies must make apcs available to authors. Even with colourful advertising-carrying publications, 30-35% of all revenue is spent on getting contents into a PDF.
- Funding and review process.
- Funding for publishing to be built into funding for research projects.
- Getting a website and getting more reviewers
- Good software for editing
- Government and donor organizations to fund quality journals
- Greater financial security.
- Greater institutional support
- I hope that scholarly publishing would be online accessed to save time and effort
- I would change its management structure. Staff associated with the journal should be on full time and not be academics fully engaged in teaching and research and at the same time in publishing. The Editor-in-Chief should be freed from day to day academic work so that he/she can have time to attend to the management of the journal.
- I would encourage reviewers to be a bit more positive about submissions, providing recommendations that could encourage publication, rather than listing reasons to avoid publication - the good may be hidden in the bad
- I would like to reduce cost of production
- I would like to see publishing an article becoming the result of a piece of significant research which needs to be published, rather than the result of pressure to publish no matter what. Get rid of the publish-or-perish syndrome... (HOW is another matter of course...)

- I would make people to start paying for articles submitted for publication in form of publication fee. The journal has not been charging publication fee. This is one of the reasons why the journal is running at a loss.
- I would pay authors for their published work.
- I would require all publishers to make their online content fully accessible to persons with visual disabilities like myself. "Accessibility" here does not have to do with exemption from payment; rather, it refers to "usability" with screen-readers (software that makes it possible for persons with visual disabilities to use computers without human assistance).
- If a body can take up the licenses of the journals and partly support the production of the journal, it may assist in our own situation
- If publishers were to take interest in scholarship for its own sake, rather than for its commercial value.
- If we take Ethiopian case, nowadays writers are emerging very well. The problem is resource of publication. So satisfying publication resources would change the industry.
- Impact factor fundamentalism
- Improve the quality of manuscript published.
- Improved business climate especially cheaper access to development funds
- Improved circulation and increased issues per year.
- Improving access through reduction of cost to access scholarly work
- In Africa, the wider economic and social systems and environment need to be improved for most journals to thrive. Poverty and lack of human and material resources are still major challenges
- Increase number of issues published in a year
- Increase the exposure of African Journals in Africa
- Index all journals that have the correct management and review policies in place, so that everybody has the same opportunities. Small journals (like ours publishing about 10 papers per year) to not a realistic chance of being taken up in indexes like Thomson Reuters ISI or Sciverse/Scopus
- Informações mais detalhadas sobre o funcionamento em geral e indexações
- Information should be disseminated freely. Some of the scholarly published journals manuscript processing fee which could not be affordable in the developing part of the world.
- Institute rigorous modalities and procedures for setting journals
- ISI Indexing would not be the top mark for a good scientific manuscript. We have vital scientific information that can be shared globally but is disqualified on the basis of the English language or because the scientific work has been carried out in Africa.
- Je n'ai jamais penser à ce point.
- Je suis ravi par l'existence de Universal Impact Factor.
- Journals should have a better network among the publishers on national;regional;and at worldlevel
- Journals should not be fussy about adherence to APA or Harvard Systems, what is important is the content
- L'accès à plus de compétence étrangère, collaboration entre les reviewers
- Les revues scientifiques payantes commencent à représenter un problème qui s'accroît d'une année à une autre: - En effet dans ces revues on ne peut publier que si on paye une somme d'argent qui est entraîné de devenir de plus en plus importante et en tout cas difficile pour la majorité des chercheurs particulièrement du tiers monde de la payer. - le problème que ces revues souvent avec impact factor (relativement gonflé !!!!)Sont nettement moins exigées que les revues non payantes: par exemple un auteur peut publier ces résultats dans une revue payante d'impact factor 5, alors s'il veut être publié. Ainsi on doit revoir les structures de ces revues apparemment scientifiques mais en réalité des centres ou des boîtes de commerces!!! En plus il faut revoir les méthodologies de l'évaluation des indices d'impact factor
- Less of a focus on having a journal Impact Factor through Thomson Reuters. This is incredibly hard for African journals to achieve, and journals that "play the game" get considered as better quality above smaller journals that are not included due to size.
- Low quality of research.
- Lower barriers to access for journal indices
- Make access more open for all scientific journals. Problem is how to pick up the costs of publication
- Make all journals free access
- Make all journals open access
- Make all Open Access
- Make all open access to discourage plagiarism
- Make it all open access.
- Make it cheaper to publish
- Make journal openly available to all online
- Make most journals open access
- Make online publishing/open access mandatory
- Make open access in economic interest of publishers and thus incentivize them to try and head this way
- More appreciation for the level of skill involved and financial incentives for Editors/staff.
- More editorial support.
- More quality, less quantity
- More scholars willing to be consulting editors who can work within a time limit;
- More subscribers and to publish online
- Move to open access. I would like to see subsidy from government for submission software and typesetting/copyediting. These are the main obstacles to going open access.
- Need for more open source platforms without fees attached
- No more hard copies
- No answer for now
- No comment.
- No.
- NONE
- None
- Nothing
- Nothing

- Nothing for now
- Nothing to change.
- Nothing worth mentioning.
- Open access
- Open access for all.
- Open access is reasonable for scholars but the problem is you cannot do it without financial support. So, it is a paradox!
- Our biggest concern is not with printing or publishing per se; it is getting scholars to review articles for our journal promptly. Colleagues take so much time to review papers sent to them and this has the effect of delaying prompt publication of journal. I therefore desire a situation where articles are promptly reviewed so that journals can be published as at when due.
- Page layout
- Photocopying.
- PLAGIARISM
- Producing a journal is a lot of work and it is not particularly well rewarded or supported.
- Proliferation of open access journals with no credibility ie fake journals
- Provide endowments for authors as incentive for increased output
- Provide open access to registered students, researchers and academic employees of universities.
- Reduce costs
- Reduce the cost
- Reduce the cost of publishing on line
- Regular training for editors to come to grasp with ever changing techniques in publishing industries
- Remove the capitalist pressure
- Remuneration for authors. I would like to see authors been remunerated for their articles that are accepted for publication and published
- Reviewers delay
- Small publishers need more help on how they can continue publishing with less financial input
- Some form of compensation for editors and editorial staff members
- Some means could be found to finance a single open access model without compromising standards
- Stop aligning journals with academic institutions
- Stop plagiarism, make all journals open access
- Subscription charges by our online hosts to trickle down to the journal. Lack of funds has restrained us to one issue per year.
- Taking academic's intellectual property, locking it under copyright and then making huge amount of money from it!
- That is would be more widely accessible in Africa and reach the writers and readership which will sustain it. It is often inaccessible for many people.
- That peer review would be considered an honour and an obligation on the part of experts in and outside of academia, to contribute back into the field and to assist new authors to improve their work.
- The authors and publishers should benefit most and not the distributors
- The current funding model for medical journals in South Africa is unsustainable - the societies should be prepared to fund them from member's subscriptions
- The fact that it caters for such a small minority making its viability very difficult.
- The high cost of publishing in free access online journals
- The idea of making it a business avenue for making money
- The interplay between local and global is really key. I believe taking this into account to a greater extent across its models, subject coverage, systems, and reach is a key issue.
- The need for all journals/scholarly publications to be open access
- The peer review process, an important aspect, depends on a reviewer's cooperation and goodwill. It is this part of the publishing that takes up too much time in our context. I wish there would be some way to speed this process, apart from monetary incentives.
- The reliance on citation rates for scholarly recognition.
- The review process
- The sale of research outputs
- There is need to raise the standard of journals from the African Continent. It appears there are discriminations in the consideration of journals for indexing by Medline/Pubmed
- There should be less stress on publication outputs as indication of scholarly production. Far too much is published that is not ripe yet for publication
- Thomson Reuters sont difficiles d'accès et ne citent que les journaux qu'ils parrainent. Une façon de décourager les éditeurs particulièrement ceux d'Afrique.
- To cancel all fees for submitting and requesting papers in order to make science available for everyone. The only thing that control submissions are not the fees but the quality of the research
- To have lower APC's, to rather to get other sustainable models for journals than APC's
- To reemphasize the "scholarly" concept in all that we publish!
- Too short in the game to answer.
- Une place pour des textes difficiles et documentaires et longs.
- Universities need to acknowledge systematically the benefits which accrue to these institutions from the presence of good-quality academic publishing by institutional affiliates or departments.
- Using simple format for publication, and ease of access to articles worldwide
- Vulgariser les revues électroniques pour améliorer l'accès et renforcer la sécurité pour éviter le plagiat
- We have to find a way of speeding up or changing the review process. I appreciate the tradition and understand the need for blind review but it takes a long time and many reviewers leave one 'standing' – in other words agree to review but then don't and one has to keep finding new reviewers – really does slow the process down

Appendix 9: Top Concerns, Next 3-5 Years

Respondents were asked, "What are your top concerns related to publishing for the next 3-5 years?" All responses are included here.

- Designing the project that helps to cover at least 50 per cent of publication cost.
- Maintaining or even making stricter the present strong editorial policy of the journal.
- The need to raise the quality of papers submitted. The need for sufficient finances for the journal's operations.
- The journal seeks to publish articles and book reviews on subjects relating to conflict, its management and resolution, as well as peacemaking, peacekeeping and peace building in Africa. It aims to be a conduit between theory and practice.
- 1) Growth of e-publishing , 2) declining reading habits, 3) declining purchasing power, 4) rise of copyright infringement, 5) general decline of the industry
- 1) Lack of adequate research facilities to generate data for publishing may affect the publishing in the next 3-5 years, 2) Poor attitude to research publications and reading
- I desire a situation where we can attract more good quality papers from across the world to publish in our journal. Right now such articles come in trickles.
- A qualidade do que é publicado
- Able to publish on time
- Accessibility to a wider audience
- Accessibility to quality scholarly publishing.
- Advertising revenue becoming less and less.
- Also, funding - to ensure quality printing.
- Annales Aequatoria abandonné le combat faute de successeur au rédacteur en chef.
- As [journal title] is concerned with gender equality and women our concerns relate to women's continued capacity to publish critical debate and their research in the journals that are based on African soil, with largely African readership.
- Aucune
- Author contribution of articles
- Authors will move to open access electronic journals which offer faster print times.
- Availability of good quality manuscripts
- Availability of quality research outputs due to dwindling research funds in developing countries.
- Becoming the preferred journal for top-rated authors
- Being on Pubmed
- Besoin de financements pour l'édition et, surtout, pour le développement d'un site internet de la revue [journal title] afin d'assurer sa régularité de parution et l'accessibilité aux articles
- CHALLENGES OF ONLINE PUBLICATIONS
- Commercialization is taking more priority over excellence. More junks are now published on the altar of academic excellence
- Containing costs
- Continuation
- Continuation without financial difficulties, improving the quantity and quality of the content, improving the indexing of the journal and its
- Continued financing
- Continued funding for the journal
- Continuity of the Journal. Appropriate staff (with sufficient interest and enthusiasm) are not available on voluntary basis (or very little honorary imbursement).
- Costs and the need for financial support
- Curtailing publication of 'junk' - articles that are not reviewed but are just published as long as the authors can pay
- De part mon statut à l'Université de Lomé et dans la nouvelle politique de la recherche des efforts seront faits pour créer un pool informatique équipé au service de la publication. Inciter la création des organes publication dans les domaines où il n'en pas encore.
- Declining focus of academics on research and analytic pursuits
- Ease the publishing and distribution processes.
- Édition online et plus de visibilité sur les moteurs de recherche comme Pubmed et medline
- Encourager les gens à publier leurs recherches.
- Ensuring guest editors are aware of their roles and responsibilities in meeting production deadlines
- Ensuring that the journal's readership continues to grow year on year.
- Ensuring the availability of funding to cover staff costs of managing the journal
- Entry of non-publishers (like Amazon) in a predatory manner.
- Excellence and production of well edited journals
- Expanding readership
- Faire de notre journal un journal de qualité scientifique, indexé ISI.
- Finance
- Financement
- Finances
- FINANCES
- Financial support to ensure continuing running of the journal
- Financial sustainability
- Financial sustainability especially for African publishing is my main concern. Africa is not generally a reading society, and are often unwilling to pay for published texts.
- Financial viability
- Financing the journal
- Finding the resources to go open access
- Finding willing and competent reviewers, turnaround time (slow turnaround time leading good authors to choose other journals), plagiarism
- For journals to go open, to see the worth and the impact thereof and to have sustainable open models.
- Formation aux NTIC appliqué en édition scientifique

- Full self-managed open access
- Funding
- Funding
- Funding problems
- Funding problems, problem of free reviewing as our journal does, indexing,
- Funding. Quality of research publications.
- Generating sustainable means of income to continue printing in hard copy and maintaining a permanent employee at the editorial office to oversee all tasks.
- Get more quality scholarly articles from around the world
- Get the journal internationally accredited with Scielo, IBSS or ISI Thomson
- Getting funding to run an independent office of the journal and engage a full time Secretary/Communication Expert
- Getting good quality essays to publish for each issue.
- Getting in enough quality articles that pass the peer review process and can be published.
- Getting our journal indexed in Pubmed and increasing the frequency of publication, which will also be a factor of continued patronage by researchers
- Getting registered on Medline
- Getting the journal on the web
- Getting volunteer peer reviewers.
- Getting volunteer reviewers review manuscripts in time.
- Good reviewers
- Good scientific articles
- Greater exposure
- Have well trained hands and facilities.
- Having been heavily reliant on advertising revenue, we hope not to scare off our loyal local contributors by slowly introducing reasonable APCs. We do, however, know that the business focus will have to be more author-friendly and focused to render a competitive pay-for service. It is difficult for a small local publisher to compete with major publishers in terms of technological developments which seem to play a big role in making articles discoverable. We are therefore in the process of forming co-publishing agreements with larger publishers to keep abreast, without losing our identity and autonomy.
- High workload of volunteer editorial staff
- Hope to improve the quality of print and publish as when due.
- How to adopt on line submission process, and web hosting for the journal.
- How to raise the visibility of the journal around the world
- I am worried that the slow response of reviewers.
- Identify reviewers prepared to evaluate article
- If the journal is not supported to a much larger extent than at the present, it will not be able to survive.
- If you mean publishing as a whole, for those of us who can't afford or haven't the skills to put our journals online are becoming obsolete.
- I'm very concerned that University Open Access policies that are not well thought out will have a bad effect on the publishing business. It is essential that publishers keep providing editorial support and add value to journals. Whether the articles are OA or not, it should not mean that publishers must be by-passed. Essential service!
- Impact tracking
- Improve/expand content
- Improved circulation, adverts and increase number of volumes. Hiring a secretary/administrator will possibly solve the current problems.
- Improving content
- Improving journal publishing in Africa as well as have other editors/publishers take online publishing/open seriously/
- In relation to [journal title], we see the journal taking on very big role on the continent and rubbing shoulders with the very well established international journals.
- Incentives for free supporters and workshops to promote the journal
- Increase number of issues per year
- Increase of journal impact factor
- Increase of submissions, Impact factor
- Increase readership
- Increase the number of subscribers
- Increasing currency restrictions between countries, making international subscriptions and page fees very difficult to collect.
- Increasing the Editions of the journal.
- Indexation de la revue dans des bases de données comme scopus, rendre sa visibilité plus large et intégrer d'autres membres du comité scientifique de différents pays
- Institutional Support
- Invigorate our website and the social networks for feedback
- Getting [journal title] listed on the important international indexes (Like ISI and Scopus)
- Issues of plagiarism, both deliberate and ignorant.
- It seems laws and university policies are changing and our publisher will need to keep us apprised and operating on a financially sustainable basis.
- Journal Should get more citation and Impact factor
- Journals in Africa attract little respect from Universities in Africa and in the North. I am afraid this is going to kill the journals on the continent as everybody is struggling to get their work published in Europe or North America.
- Just to keep going; we have lasted for 15 years and I don't want to stop. The journal will collapse without the input from the two editors
- La compétition sera de plus en plus rude pour les journaux Africains vu le nombre croissant de grands éditeurs qui adoptent le modèle open access et offrent de plate forme de publication gratuites aux auteurs africains.
- Lack of broadband access in most parts of Africa.
- Les financements extérieurs indisponibles pour le journal,
- Less publications coming out of Africa

- Living up to our objective as stated on our copyright page:
- Maintaining a dedicated Editor, without which our journal will cease operations
- Maintaining standards and securing a steady flow of articles
- Managing too many manuscripts
- Members of our Society do not see the online system as part of what they pay membership fees for.
- More authors to write article for publication, and increase in frequency of publication
- More journal access
- More journals going out of business
- More productive working together across stakeholders and representatives from publishers, editors, scholarly societies, librarians, and others. Too often there has been position-taking rather than true dialogue.
- Motivation for authors and reviewers.
- Motivation for peer reviewers to respond on time.
- My concerns are related to online submission of manuscripts, and online access for articles.
- N/A
- Need to improve quality manuscripts; have to reduce costs to break even.
- No concerns.
- No means to enforce them, even no motivation.
- None
- None
- None
- None. Perhaps more published reviewing of journals would help.
- Non-publication of negative results
- Nothing
- Obtaining impact factors
- Ongoing sales.
- Open access has turned a well-defined academic research based endeavor into a Wild West free for all, whilst not contributing to the development of scholarly publishing nearly in the same way as traditional publishing. It has also lowered the standard of work that students consult more and more. There are of course (major) exceptions to the rule.
- Open Access is of course a major issue and very complex for those living and operating in Africa. Too often it is held up to be a panacea for 'the developing world'. OA may boost dissemination but it arguably impedes or complicates knowledge production for many in Africa. Discussion needs to be grounded in the operational aspects of running journals and the very real costs involved and also the importance of knowledge production from local contexts.
- Open access rubbish
- Open Journal Systems
- Plagiarism
- Plagiarism may remain a problem unless anti plagiarism software made more accessible
- Poor quality articles from authors
- Poor quality papers
- Predatory open access journals
- Presently, our journal is only breaking even in finances, funding will help lift its scope and activity.
- Preservation and access to digital archives.
- Printing equipment
- Proficiency in English and competence in scientific writing by local researchers
- Proliferation of journals
- Proliferation of predatory open access publishing might damage the credibility of open access publishing
- Publishing industry technology in Africa is lagging behind of Europe and other continents. For example, the e-book is still a novelty in Africa and when it finally reaches Africa most publishing companies will fold.
- Qualité et sortir les numéros en couleurs
- Quality and quantity of publications
- Quality of articles and originality
- Quality of research output
- Quality of submissions and ability to source peer reviewers on an on-going basis without being able to offer an incentive for their time.
- Really happy with shift to on-line submission – used to run journal from an Excel spreadsheet so happy with shift!
- Resource to fund printing and handling for journals from poor countries where many people cannot afford to pay subscription
- Reviewers
- Securing quality editorial content that will reflect what is happening in transdisciplinary research in all parts of the world.
- Self-plagiarism
- Submission of articles and prompt reviews.
- Sustainability
- Sustainability - both in term of content and funding
- Sustainability and a financial and business model.
- Sustainability in terms of editorial work load.
- Sustainability of business models with dwindling economic fortunes
- Sustainability of Open Access, the diminishing funding for libraries, the coming talent shortage in journal editing and management
- Sustainability of the journal
- Sustainable financial resources
- Sustaining the journal long term
- Sustenance in terms of cost of publishing
- That it will become increasingly digitized/on-line
- That our journal will publish more issues annually and reach a wider readership, although I have stepped down as Editor-in-Chief
- That subscription, impact won't increase. That the quality of published material will be low
- That the cost of open access will escalate to the extent that developing world journals (authors and readers) will no longer be viable.
- That we will be able to maintain the journal standards as we become known to a wider audience and more manuscripts are submitted
- The cost which is too high
- The effect of open access.
- The excessive proliferation of online journals without a corresponding quality control mechanism

- The fund dedicated to the publisher and to produce the printed versions
 - The future of printed editions.
 - The increasing cost of publishing articles
 - The system of page fees to remain in place
 - To achieve wider indexing and listing, complete membership of cross ref and secure a DOI, improve quality of publishing, increase the frequency of publishing as well as achieve efficiency in online publication process
 - To be financially self-sufficient, to keep improving on the quality of the journal, to enhance the quality of peer-review and editing.
 - To be fully open access
 - To find reviewers willing to do the required tasks.
 - To increase the number issues per year from 3 to 4 issues per year.
 - To increase the number of issue per annum
 - To make it open access
 - To publish more regularly and to move gradually to online publishing. May even get into open-access online publication, if the costs of production could be written off.
 - To publish quality papers and to be indexed in Pubmed
 - To publish the journal online
 - To run the show alone.
 - To start publishing multiple issues annually
 - Too little time
 - Too many articles submitted.
 - Too many journals!
 - Too many new titles are diluting quality, while pressures to publish in high impact journals are making publishing in top journals harder.
 - Top quality papers will be submitted to European and American and Australian journals first - more academic prestige to publish there, rather than in Africa
 - Training of young science editors
 - Trouver d'autres Editeurs volontaires et / ou un petit budget qui va nous permettre de publier plus qu'un numéro chaque année. En plus de publier certain numéro spéciaux suite à des Congrès internationaux organisés par notre association [Association] qui
- maleureusement à ce jour n'a pas de support financier parmanent, mais juste elle peut recevoir des aides occasionelles très minimales
- Upgrade the design
 - Use of hired professional editorial staff
 - Volume of work as editor-in-chief
 - We are a very energetic group and we don't anticipate any problems in the near to long term. However, economy wide changes, and regulatory issues may impact the publishing profession, in general and our work in particular, but mostly for good!
 - We foresee a more vibrant industry with new models and methods of disseminating academic research over and above open access. We foresee very stiff competition from new breed of journals that would make those incapable of adapting to change exit the publishing industry altogether. And we foresee a very vibrant industry that collects and cluster works in the style that AJOL currently does, helping to enlarge the industry, particularly in Africa. Funding for budding journals would growth and the dynamics of the industry in Africa and around the globe would welcome synergies from different fields.
 - We need to cover the basic costs (server/web maintenance). Time of volunteers (all editors) is limited; motivation as well. Recruiting new editors is difficult.
 - We want to go online and get hosted by more outlets
 - Website
 - Who does rating, how fair is the system and how can my journal be among the highly rated ones?
 - Who will take over the Editorship now that I am retired
 - Wide acceptability and increasing number of issues in a year
 - Wish I could push for higher reading culture in Nigeria
 - With majority of research in Africa now collaborative; work will ultimately be published in more established "Northern Hemisphere" journals that have high impact factors and greater prestige.

Appendix 10: Additional comments regarding publishing in Africa

Participants were asked to share any other insights, observations, ideas, or thoughts about publishing in Africa. All responses are included here.

- 1) I am very happy to have Institutions like AJOL that collects African writings and make accessible to the global readers. We have to encourage it. 2) Conducting researches of this kind also solves problems of African journals. Thank you for taking this initiative.
- Africa is still underrepresented in the journal, both in terms of academic contributions and subscriptions. Our financial base is Europe/America (through subscriptions)
- African banks are not geared for the online world of commerce, making it difficult to manage e-journal publishing models or make use of internet distribution channels.
- African journal publishers need donations from patriotic citizens and organizations to grow quality academic journals in Africa.
- African scholars tend to publish outside of Africa.
- AJOL has been doing an excellent job promoting African journals. She deserves congratulations.
- AJOL is doing a great job for African Journals by keeping them online
- All journals published especially those affiliated to professional societies and associations should be supported to ensure continuity of scientific information sharing among their members and worldwide.
- Attendre la pacification de l'Afrique (Centrale) et rester sévère dans l'acceptation de textes Attendre la fin de la dictature de l'élitisme (pécuniaire) anglophone (UK et USA).
- AUCUNE
- AUTHOR WORKSHOPS, AUTHOR WORKSHOPS, AUTHOR WORKSHOPS
- Authors (from Africa and other continents) often express their appreciation for our constructive way of communicating shortcomings in submitted articles and suggesting possible remedies. Several authors do follow our suggestions and resubmit their reworked articles (not always with success, though).
- Authors should be consistent on how many times they publish in a year.
- Availability and access across mobile platforms are more and more important! Make the knowledge freely available to that our people can learn!!
- Awareness is increasing for publishing quality articles in quality journals and African journals have to reach quality
- Courses should be taken on scientific writing and plagiarism in the higher institutions. Seminars should be held regularly to enlighten people both lecturers and students of the effects and consequences of plagiarism
- Dearth of IT personnel with skills required for online publishing in Africa
- Design of a web site.
- Difficult to attract good quality copy from the region
- Editorial support for novice writers is urgently needed.
- Encourage African scientists to publish their work in Journal published in Africa and hosted by Africans.
- Encourage people to submit. Encourage people to read journals, undertake peer reviewed university research and thereby to understand the standard required and to stress good clean methods with logical deduction.
- Encouraging and supportive funding agencies shall be attracted to expand the research forums like journal at any cost.
- Encouraging visibility of more scholarly work from Africa on the internet
- Expand.
- Focus on African problems/challenges could make research unpublishable in other countries; low impact factor; financial challenges; few subscribers
- Generating sustainable means of income to continue printing in hard copy and maintaining a permanent employee at the editorial office to oversee all tasks.
- Governments should provide needed soft and hardware to aid the industry
- Greater awareness needed. National policy required, and journals should be properly managed. Use proper software, e.g. OJS.
- Has a lot of potential.
- I suspect that South Africa is a special case.
- If African journals want to go OA, then how do they find sustainable models into the future? Also, quality measures are key - can these journals ensure they have valued tried-and-trusted editorial and production processes and not just offer a hosting service? African journals deserve to compete with the best journals internationally.
- Il y a un travail à faire dans les universités francophones pour permettre une diffusion à grande échelle des résultats de nos travaux.
- Important to communicate and disseminate research findings and role of AJOL is highly commendable.
- Improved online services such as automated submissions
- Improvement in internet infrastructure
- In Africa we need encouragement in the area of funding and recognition of effort by institutions such as Thompson Reuters, through issuance of impact factors to Journals
- Increased Government and Institutional support
- Institutions of higher learning need to support publishing of research papers.
- It is expensive to maintain the Journal's plan. People are not very willing to volunteer and Journals are financially unable to pay
- It is very exciting times with a lot of scholarship coming from South Africa and Nigeria
- It might take some time for the business community to be actively involved in supporting research

pursuits. The support from African governments is also very weak.

- It needs a lot of follow-ups to get papers
- Journals should strive to establish publishing houses.
- Judging by South Africa there are probably far too many journals. Amalgamation may help, as will taking advantage of special publishing arrangements with major publishing houses.
- La qualité doit être renforcée et les éditeurs formés davantage aux outils
- Lack of funds or financial support for publishing scholarly journals should be addressed and the appropriate authorities should make it a priority.
- Le manque d'organismes encourageant l'édition en Afrique.
- L'édition est orpheline en Afrique et l'accès internet est limité
- L'édition scientifique en Afrique risque de disparaître pour des raisons financières et d'évolution vers l'électronique ainsi que la manque de formation des chargés de l'édition pour les permettre de s'adopter. Il faut encourager l'acquisition de mini-imprimerie dans les institutions productrices de la littératures scientifiques.
- Les éditeurs africains devront s'adapter, se former afin de faire face aux défis futurs
- Look at scandals relating to African Open Access journals based in Nigeria
- Make access to funding easier and cheaper, educate the public to read more , zero tolerance to publication misconduct , educate institutions and employers that open access is as good as traditional
- Many journals are moribund because of sustainability problem arising from subscriptions or publication cost. Some journals are published by individuals and at a point in time they get frustrated and abandon further production.
- Many journals die out because African scholars prefer to submit in foreign journals
- More collaboration between African countries regarding research.
- More funding need to be made available. A Trust fund needs to be established for the purpose in Africa, especially to support the open access policy now being advocated as the best practice in publishing.
- Most African people don't have the funds to pay for their submissions in journal requiring fees. Also the level of papers is not that high due to low resources and low level of innovation. Research in Africa needs encouragement and financial supports.
- Most publishing tend to be mainly driven by monetary gain as opposed to knowledge dissemination. The result: scholarly publication is endangered; financial support from the universities or other sources are no longer guaranteed because of the (mis)conception that such funds would be misappropriated and/or sheer dereliction of duty by those who should support publishing on Africa.
- Much of the growth in publishing would occur in Africa in the future. This would require a dynamic crop of people to experiment and possibly be willing to make mistakes. I think many global publishing houses will emerge in Africa too, dispensing with the

need to seek these out abroad. National governments and research institutions will see clearly the correlation between top quality academic research and economic performance and would commit funds to the industry. The old fashioned armed chair style of academic pursuit would undergo tremendous change, with a new crop of academics interested in disseminating knowledge. An overwhelming majority of Africans would leave behind the skepticism of the continents perceived problems and embrace a new future of optimism and hope. To this end, most of the content in leading journals on the continent will drum home the continents immense potential and hint on the probabilities rather than churn out problems. The overall future is a very upbeat one from our stand point, and organisations such as the [organization name] would spearhead some of these efforts.

- N/A
- Need for greater co-operation across the continent
- Need for more funding
- Need to think out of the box and use available resources
- No (14)
- Non-African academics publish more about Africa than African academics.
- Not a profitable venture. The effort invested by all is just for the academic interest.
- Not easy and we are always playing second fiddle to 'overseas'. Also competing in a very narrow market – maybe 'open up' the Science journals more and reduce subject specific journals –i.e. Botany, Zoology, entomology etc.
- Online publishing will enable Africa to obtain knowledge for development. Open access will make it free to the readers in Africa.
- Open access is a huge advance in accessibility of research materials, which, in turn, should improve research outputs.
- Open access key for success in Africa
- Open access publishing has greatly benefitted African authors and researchers. It should encouraged including all-round to enhance quality, regular publishing and some stipends for volunteers/part-time staff
- Our submissions and readership is very small and thus make it very difficult to run a viable journal.
- Printing costs are too high. Postage is a nightmare. Writing standards are low. Volunteerism is essential. Currency exchanges make subscriptions expensive. Methods of payment are a challenge. It is done as a professional service, but that's about it.
- Promote open access
- Promouvoir une expertise scientifique africaine capable d'assurer de façon efficiente, les revues scientifiques africaines
- Publish more researches carried out by African researchers
- Publishing in Africa is undergoing many challenges, but we are managing.
- Publishing industry in Africa should embrace technological change. The industry should encourage online publishing and e-book.

- Publishing is hard; not many faculty members/scholars submit articles; very limited resources to run the publication of journals.
- Quality of papers is wanting due to poor research facilities and funding.
- Que les éditeurs se réunissent pour partager leurs expériences et valoriser leurs journaux au niveau international
- Relevance of the article to the immediate environment, and use of simple, comprehensible, and easily understood language
- Review peer review process for promotion in universities and colleges that inhibit growth of local journals and collaboration among academics e.g. criteria that require publication of certain proportion of scholarly work in foreign journals
- Science is more expensive in Africa and this hurts publishing. Also, African journals are considered inferior even by Africans.
- Scientific publishing does not seem to be a flourishing business. High quality scientific journalism has to be supported by official bodies (e.g. Universities) with good financial support if it were to succeed.
- Several journals remain obscure because they are not indexed on major indexing platforms. This hinders patronage by researchers desiring to publish scholarly and impactful articles
- Should be encouraged and capacity built for it.
- Stronger cooperation and contribution is required among all African countries.
- The biggest concern for me regarding journals publishing in Africa is the support provided to authors - academic institutions are not training their students in writing for the academic journals market. Developmental editing of submitted papers, and multiple re-submissions take up a lot of my journal editors' time. I think the most useful think for the continent would be to keep focusing on providing support and funding for higher education, with a specific focus on careers in academia (writing, research output) and not simply commercial vocational training.
- The citation value of African authors seem to be better than high-volume, low citation value articles coming from China, India and the Eastern-European Countries. We need to empower more authors and make APCs available to carry some of the publishing fees.
- The future is bright! This is Africa's century!
- The future is bright.
- The internet and email has made all the difference! For research, for peer review, for dissemination purposes. Located at the southern tip of Africa, the journal was operating in a very different environment when it began. Only five years ago did [journal title] go digital, and that changes everything.
- The place of local and regional journals needs more recognition and these titles are under more pressure than ever in the increasingly globalised and increasingly OA worlds.
- The prestige of publishing academic work in Africa needs enhancing.
- The problem of the extremely low output in Africa of quality journal articles does not lie with the journals per se, but with social and cultural systems and people living and working in conditions that are not conducive for high quality work. It is endemic.
- There is a dire need to train up articulate and academically astute writers and researchers for competitive international publishing world.
- There is a huge skills gap. The quality of writing and original research is a huge concern. At the same time, there is a huge potential for new insights and research. In the legal field, the scope for original research is so vast.
- There is a need to encourage publishing in journal in Africa
- There is need for man power development in that area.
- There is need to fund hard copies as not all individuals have access to the internet
- There is still an unmet need for publishing outlets with the right amount of capacity to publish research and to support researchers in their publication efforts.
- Training in all aspects of online publishing needed.
- Training of all readers in internet skills and utilization
- Training, training regarding editorial best practices and OA models
- Translation by Google into other languages offered by publisher make it possible to publish in home language
- We are dealing in a very fragmented market in terms of languages. Africa still suffers a lot of power outages and small band width for electronic distribution and dissemination of publications.
- We have major challenges and opportunities, but our journals require greater regional and continental exposure and integration of knowledge to make headway in the 21st century.
- We have two sister journals - one in Spanish covering Latin America, one for Asia. We would support one for Africa managed and published in Africa if this was possible.
- We in Africa have learnt to survive with a chronic economic crunch. Now we are into innovative models of publishing!
- We need better link between publishing journals and universities in Madagascar for example; free access to all main publishers; need fast internet access; need computers.
- We need more collaboration among publishers, because resources are scarce. We also need to improve training and visibility for local publishers.
- We need to be more visible in Africa
- We should have an INDEXING body (Like ISI) meeting the needs of African scholars and researchers. It should be professionally managed ,competitive and recognized globally
- We should push Africa to read more generally. Publishers should be encouraged in the arduous task that they are performing
- We should strengthen the African journals by publishing high quality manuscripts in African journals.

- While the rest is contemplating the impending death of the book, we have not as yet been able to make sure that the hard copy of the book is accessible to large audiences. So while the rest sees e-publishing as a panacea, we are still faced with mammoth development challenges that hampers access to knowledge. The access to knowledge is the preserve of the privileged middle and upper classes.
- Willing volunteers for paper review
- With more funds, we can have a well-equipped journal office with full support staff. This will enhance the operations of the journal.
- With the advent of mobile technology; and the tapping of enormous natural and people resources, the sky is the limit for Africa.
- With the increasing availability of adaptive technology (software and hardware that makes computers accessible to persons with disabilities), the open access model is a really welcome initiative for such persons. The fact that I can edit a journal and upload it myself despite my total visual disability is testimony to this fact. Let the needs of persons with disabilities in relation to accessibility be shared more broadly.
- Worryingly, OA could actually have the counterproductive effect of silencing or diluting African voices if barriers to publishing are perceived too great.

Appendix 11: Final Comments & Thoughts

At the conclusion of the survey, participants were given one last opportunity to share any final comments, thoughts, or concerns they have regarding scholarly publishing in Africa or this project. Responses are included here.

- Accroître les possibilités d'ateliers de formation des équipes de rédactions et des lecteurs des revues scientifiques africaines
- African Journals have a lot of catching up to do. Scientists must invest in peer reviewing to improve the quality of the journals in Africa.
- African needs more scholarly journals respected around the world for quality of production and editorial content.
- Any volunteer to help us with the journal is very much welcome
- Best of luck with the survey and analysis. A complex and changing publishing environment and much to learn for all of us.
- Best wishes for the completion of the questionnaire.
- Bien cordialement
- Commendable initiative. I wish the result will have positive impact on publishing journals in Africa.
- Depending on the purpose, problem statement and length of the questionnaire, I would suggest that a number of other applicable questions could also have been asked.
- Do not have the time to complete the survey. Much toooo long.
- Due to the format of your questions, all the answers are not entirely correct since we have two publishers (University Press and commercial). Also, many tasks (e.g. Proofreading) are shared between the Association and the Press.
- Editors in most African journals do not get formal training on editorial process. Again existing editors lack the necessary funds to attend update courses on scholarly publication
- Encourage the dissemination of research findings through the publication of well edited journal articles.
- Favoriser l'assistance des bailleurs de fonds pour permettre aux revues scientifiques africaines de développer des sites internet afin de faciliter leur accessibilité aux scientifiques du continent et du monde
- Good project
- Good survey, thank you!
- Hope to see results of such a research on the African scientific publishing
- How do I know this is not a hoax?
- I am not on Skype, but will wish to.
- I am really enlightened, I wished I had enough information to help with this project.... Cheers
- I find this interesting. I hope it influences scholarly publishing in Africa
- I hope I am not too late - see that the closing date was yesterday!
- I hope that something useful/constructive will come out of this survey. African scholarly publishing needs an upgrade.
- I see this survey as opening a new research agenda in journal publishing and I would like to have detail of the reports to open new research areas for me
- I think that more and more journals should go online and be open access so that they can be accessed easily. A quality control mechanism should be put in place to ensure that only African journals that meet international standards are listed on the AJOL. Finally Africans should be encouraged to publish in their journals.
- I think that some of the terms used in the survey are very technical - ie aggregators and almetrics. The real difficulties of publishing may be obscured by this technical platform.
- I think the survey is very good to improve research articles forums like journal in Africa. I suggest intervention be followed creating links with us to share their rich experience and some funding, if possible, for creating common forms and trainings to develop our human power in this line.
- I wish scholarly publishing in Africa will grow with all the necessary support by seminars/workshops etc. Some of us need encouragement
- I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the organizers of this survey. I believe at the end of this research we would be able to pin point where we are lacking and hope to improve on it.
- I wish you all the best.
- I wish you success in your endeavour. Thanks
- In the end I think that good free indexing engines will sort out the mess but in the short term predatory open access will be a problem in countries where the system recognises not "peer reviewed" paper equally. I have had phd applications from students whose published work is rubbish (plagiarised, poor English, generally poor scholarship).
- Inciter les états et leurs organismes à encourager l'édition savante en Afrique.
- Intérêt d'échanger régulièrement entre éditeurs et de renforcer la formation des jeunes éditeurs dans les institutions de recherche et les universités.
- It needs more institutional support
- Je vous félicite déjà de cette initiative qui pourra être suivie par l'établissement d'une base de données des revues publiées en Afrique ; que les rédacteurs en chefs des différentes revues partagent leurs expériences et s'entraident afin de les faire connaître et les valoriser.
- J'encourage tout effort destiné à renforcer la qualité scientifique des publications
- J'espère que ce projet représente un point de départ pour réfléchir concrètement à l'édition savante en Afrique tout en croyant à un futur lumineux de l'Afrique "le berceau de notre origine"
- Journals need financial support for continuity. This can be done by donors, rich persons will to support quality journals in Africa

- Keeping the standard up is very important.
- L'initiative est bonne et nous tenons dire toute notre gratitude au (x) initiateur (s) et dans la mesure du possible nous ne ménagerons pas nos efforts pour apporter notre contribution pour la réussite du projet.
- Looking forward to the outcome of this survey. Good, thorough survey.
- Many questions relate to the publishers and not editors...
- Merci d'avoir pris de telle initiative, l'enquête.
- Merci de m'avoir associé à cette enquête. Les réflexions, je prendrai un peu de temps et verrai comment les aligner un jour.
- Most grateful for the interaction.
- My own research concerns scholarly publishing in Africa, especially the history of publishing, so I would like to become more involved in future research projects.
- N/A
- Need to encourage fora for Editors and publishers to meet regularly for exchange of ideas
- Nil (3)
- No thanks!
- None (3)
- Not at all clear on the idea of open access and need clarification and some convincing that it is the way to go – I appreciate the ease of access but worry about integrity of the 'publishing game' – I see so many shocking articles getting accepted and it counts for University promotion and, to be fair, some of it is rubbish – it's a game I am afraid and I take stock in impact factors and H-index – simply because it's the only way of dividing good for not so good
- Nothing special
- Online/open access publishing should be encourage to go to the next level
- Open access for African journals is desirable but this will reduce their incomes. Successful African journals should be provided grants so that they can make their journals online.
- Our continent needs to enhance scholarly publishing commensurate with the spectrum of problems it should identify, analyze and address.
- Our journal is not Africa based but it has a significant proportion of the papers it publishes by Africans and a significant proportion of its readers living in Africa
- Please incorporate questions on accessibility of content by persons with disabilities in future surveys: I had to slot these in, perhaps rather awkwardly. I would be happy to assist in this regard.
- Prospects are good, as evidenced by the increasing number of African journals being published (online by AJOL)
- Publishers in academic publishing should encourage online publishing; i.e. authors submit articles online, editors send articles to peer reviewers who also work on the articles online, the whole editing is done online until the article is published. Text book publishing should now look at e-book publishing. The corporate business should assist publishing industry providing funds so that published material becomes cheaper or even open access.
- Publishing is still experiencing difficulties in Africa largely because of inadequate ICT software. African countries should endeavor to invest in the publishing business as well as update their copyright laws.
- Publishing. The international journals are a real pressure/competitor for a regional journal such as [journal title]. International journals are sending out requests/invitations for publishing or joining editorial boards on a continuously growing frequency = quite aggressive marketing! A little journal where everything is based on volunteer work has no chance to compete.
- Researchers should be current in using modern technologies for their work.
- Thank you (5)
- Thank you for giving me this opportunity
- Thank you for taking the time and interest to look into publishing matters in Africa.
- Thank you for this detailed survey
- Thank you so very much!
- Thank you very much for undertaking this comprehensive and meaningful survey.
- The future can only bright for scholarly publishing in Africa if publishing outlets stay sustainable and embrace both Green, Gold and Hybrid open access models
- The initial question is poorly structured in the options it enables respondents to select. Although the journal is based in South Africa, I am based in the UK.
- The journal is not mine. It's a school journal which is just starting. So some of these things have to go through the normal protocol for approval. I am just the Editor in Chief until it stands on its own.
- The problem of internet access is a major obstacle to scholarly publishing in Nigeria. In addition, the quality of research that we see is very low because of lack of laboratory facilities and other infrastructure. Capacity for research conceptualization also needs to be strengthened.
- The project to promote scholarly publishing and open access in Africa is quite rewarding and should be sustained. It will help to improve research output and access
- The study of academic journals is a topic that a (very) few colleagues in Africa have an interest in, but we would enjoy being part of the project as far as it relates to our field of communication, media and journalism studies.
- The survey project is timely. Though a bit long, the questions were clear and easy to answer. Well done and God bless!
- There is serious need for African Impact Factor system development
- There is still a large group of researchers in who do not believe in online publishing!
- They need support to get access to abstracting outfit and citation and impact factor rating
- This is a great project, nice work
- This is a very important piece of research and you should be congratulated in taking on the task.

- This is an important research. I do hope its findings would be used to improve the status of publishing of journals in the African region.
- This is a wonderful survey and more grease to the elbows of the staff of AJOL for putting together such a vast array of issues relating to raising the standard of publishing in Africa. I can only say that what you've started would add sufficient energy to the green shoots that are emerging in the realm of publishing in Africa. Best wishes and love to you all.
- This project is very encouraging. Africa's research is scattered such that researchers and scientist don't know what others are doing. This will help bring us together.
- This should be ongoing.
- Tres bon questionnaire. Les informations collectees permettront a coup sur d'etablir un inventaire de base de la situation de l'edition et du open access en afrique.
- Un projet sur l'édition scientifique en Afrique est extrêmement important pour la communauté scientifique? Je fonde un grand espoir de l'analyse que vous aller aboutir. Je fait souvent refence à cette citation de Carol Priestley, Directrice de INASP "....les revues publiées en Afrique....." en attendant votre conclusion. Bon courage
- Universities and or institutions should give an important place for scholarly publication and support it financially and in all ways. Universities must make publishing a requirement for faculty.
- Very challenging as there are a lot of papers submitted, majority of which are not so good.
- We have to dream big. And generate revenue. Maybe from ethical adverts one day.
- We are moving in the right direction in serving African with the appropriate evidence from Africa
- We have a long way to go towards sustainability and increasing our reach. Since we are an NGO publisher and all the work is done part time by the editor, it would be very helpful to have additional support and assistance to get listed on citation indices and to develop our business model. I have now started a mentoring programme to assist academics, government researchers and others to get published in peer reviewed journals. The intention is to ensure a supply quality articles in the long term - as one of my concerns is the high number of low quality articles submitted and therefore the high attrition rate.
- We have been looking for sponsor(s) at local or international levels.
- We need to continue to publish as Africa has a lot to share. We are also now supporting journals in the region to broaden the opportunity to publish