

Collaboration for sustainable open access publishing in Africa

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Diamond Open Access publishing in Africa is supported by African institutions and facilitated by continental publishing platforms, such as African Journals Online (AJOL). It is now discussed in the context of institutional and national open science policy developments aligned with the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science.

However, there are many challenges to its sustainability and quality:

- constant pressure of looking for funding to cover editorial, management, production and dissemination costs
- struggling to reconcile quality requirements and researchers' wish to publish within reasonably short timelines;
- inability to provide sufficient compensation, incentives and motivations for editorial work and peer review
- infrastructure and network issues.

To address these challenges EIFL, AJOL and WACREN, with support from Wellcome, are launching a three-year project in November 2023 to empower African diamond OA community and offer funding and cost-efficient, open, public, shared infrastructures, while maintaining diversity of publishing.



LANDSCAPE

Diamond OA community discussions and audit of diamond OA publishing in 22 countries to identify the needs of the essential diamond OA initiatives and funding priorities

PLATFORMS

Support to AJOL and disciplinary/national platforms in collaboration with WACREN

CAPACITY BUILDING

Knowledge sharing, building editorial capacity, quality enhancement, African diamond OA community of practice

INCENTIVES

Reducing the workload of editors, institutional positions for journal management, rewarding peer review, incentives for publishing in African journals

APPROACH

Developing participatory grant funding processes

QUALITY CHECKLISTS

Compiling a checklist for the audit of diamond OA publishing services in Africa and evaluation framework

GRANTS

Two open grant funding calls for proposals to strengthen quality diamond OA publishing across Africa

COMMITMENTS

Securing institutional and national commitments: embedding diamond OA support in open science policies, with budgets

FLIPPING TO DIAMOND

Flipping APC-based journals to diamond OA