

The No-Fee Open Access Publishing Community of Practice in Africa



Global Summit
Diamond Open Access
BENGALURU 2026

Diamond OA Initiatives - Lessons from the No-Fee Open Access Publishing Community of Practice in Africa

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Why Diamond Open Access Matters for Africa

- ▶ No fees for authors or readers; APCs and paywalls exclude African researchers and readers.
- ▶ Prioritizes research dissemination over profit.
- ▶ Community-led and academically centered.
- ▶ Multilingual and supports bibliodiversity.
- ▶ Reflects the values of the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science, promoting openness, inclusion, and collaboration.



Collaboration for Sustainable Open Access Publishing in Africa and EIFL Landscape Study of No-Fee Open Access Publishing in Africa

Landscape Study: Mapping and analysis of Diamond Open Access journals and platforms across Africa

- ▶ 199 no-fee OA journals
- ▶ 21 institutional, national, or continental platforms
- ▶ 25 country reports

Key Findings

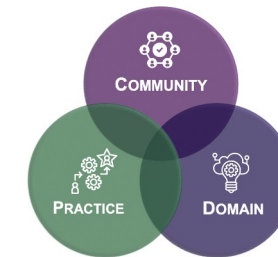
- ▶ **Small-scale operations:** 64.8% publish up to 20 and 31.7% published 11-20 articles in 2023
- ▶ **Volunteer-driven:** 60% rely fully or partly on unpaid work
- ▶ **Institutional funding:** 45.7% receive some form of base or negotiated subsidy
- ▶ **Sustainability gap:** 71.4% lack annual budgets; only 56.8% have sustainability plans
- ▶ **Visibility:** 53% indexed in AJOL, 33% in DOAJ, 10-13% in Scopus/WoS
- ▶ **Financial and human resource constraints:** Financial constraints are the most pressing challenge, affecting 74.9% of respondents, while nearly half (45.2%) report a lack of human resources.
- ▶ **Infrastructure and administrative challenges:** Affect more than 30% of respondents.



Collaboration for Sustainable Open Access Publishing in Africa and EIFL Landscape Study of No-Fee Open Access Publishing in Africa

Case for a No-fee OA Community of Practice in Africa

- ▶ The Community of Practice (CoP) was launched as a direct response to the challenges and needs identified in a landscape study, such as the need for training, editorial and platform support, and policy guidance.
- ▶ Country reports that formed part of the landscape study, such as the Namibia report, revealed that despite the recognition of the importance of collaboration and capacity development to strengthen Diamond OA in Africa, plans for country-level communities of practice did not materialise, largely due to a lack of funding.



From Study to Action: No-Fee OA Publishing in Africa CoP

Purpose of the CoP

- ▶ The CoP was launched to build capacity and facilitate collaboration among editors and publishers of no-fee open access (OA) journals and books across Africa. It is open to all editors and publishers affiliated with African organisations that publish no-fee open access journals or books.



Current State

- ▶ A growing Community of Practice (CoP) advancing Diamond OA
- ▶ Moderated by WACREN, in partnership with EIFL and AJOL
- ▶ Over 380 members including editors and publishers of no-fee OA journals and books across Africa
- ▶ Monthly Meetings



Focus of the No-Fee Open Access Publishing in Africa Community of Practice

- ▶ **Capacity building:** Building editorial, technical, and management skills for sustainable Diamond OA publishing.
- ▶ **Collaboration and peer learning:** Fostering knowledge exchange and co-developing resources.
- ▶ **Quality and visibility:** Strengthening editorial standards, indexing, and discoverability of African Diamond OA journals.
- ▶ **Advocacy and policy alignment:** Providing evidence and sharing the impact of Diamond OA publishing to inform national and institutional adoption and support in Africa.
- ▶ **Sustainability pathways:** Exploring funding opportunities, sustainable diamond OA models and infrastructure support.



DIAMOND OA COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Guidelines, policy templates and sustainability models for Diamond OA journal publishing

Reusing and building upon DIAMAS project results



2025 Outputs of the No-Fee OA Publishing in Africa Community of Practice

Training and Guidance Sessions

- ▶ Journal indexing and visibility
- ▶ Copyright and open licences
- ▶ OJS themes, customisation, and workflows
- ▶ ISSN registration: best practices
- ▶ Optimising journal operations
- ▶ Strengthening African journals through DOAJ
- ▶ Using AI in peer review: potential and risks
- ▶ Publish-Review-Curate (PRC) model and overlay journals



2025 Outputs of the No-Fee OA Publishing in Africa Community of Practice

Community Discussions and Knowledge Exchange

- ▶ Available training materials for editors and reviewers
- ▶ Use of AI tools in journal editing and their limitations
- ▶ Recognition of editors' and peer reviewers' work
- ▶ Assessing peer review quality
- ▶ Use of Persistent Identifiers (PIDs)
- ▶ Sustainability of Diamond OA publishing models
- ▶ Editorial workflows



2025 Outputs of the No-Fee OA Publishing in Africa Community of Practice

Resources Released

Quality in Diamond Open Access Publishing: Guidelines, Policies, and Templates

- Enhancing quality, credibility, and transparency
- Aligning journals with recognised publishing good practices

Generative AI in Diamond Open Access Publishing

- Curated resources to support Diamond OA journals in addressing AI-related challenges



New Resources to Be Released

• Diamond Open Access Publishing Policy Brief

- Aimed at African institutional leadership
- Evidence-based overview of funding, governance, and operational models

• How African Diamond OA Journals Are Sustained

- Practical overview of sustainability models in use across Africa

• Editorial Management Workflows

- End-to-end editorial processes, roles, quality checks, and risk mitigation



2025 Outputs of the No-Fee OA Publishing in Africa Community of Practice

Resources in Development

- ▶ The PRC Model, Overlay Journals, and Diamond Open Access
- ▶ Addressing common mistakes in Diamond OA publishing



Strengthening Diamond OA Across Africa

Grant call: Strengthening no-fee open access publishing in Africa

- ▶ Part of the Collaboration for Sustainable Open Access Publishing in Africa (implemented by EIFL, AJOL, and WACREN).
- ▶ Two open calls for proposals were launched in 2024 and 2025 to strengthen the quality and sustainability of no-fee (Diamond) OA publishing across Africa.
- ▶ Through the CoP, members receive first-hand information on grant calls, guidance on how to apply, and other opportunities to strengthen the quality and sustainability of their journals.



Strengthening Diamond OA Journals Across Africa

First Call: 17 projects funded across 9 African countries



JOURNAL OF SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT LAW AND
POLICY



Nigeria



EDUARDO MONDLANE
UNIVERSITY SCIENTIFIC
JOURNALS PLATFORM



Mozambique



JOURNAL OF THE KENYA
ASSOCIATION OF
PHYSICIANS



Kenya



ETHIOPIAN JOURNALS
ONLINE PLATFORM



Ethiopia



UNIVERSITY OF DAR ES
SALAAM LIBRARY JOURNAL



Tanzania



STRENGTHENING NO-FEE
OA JOURNALS AT
UNIVERSITY OF ZAMBIA



Zambia



AFRICAN JOURNAL OF
INFORMATION AND
COMMUNICATION



South Africa



GROWING THE IMPACT OF
CLEAN AIR JOURNAL



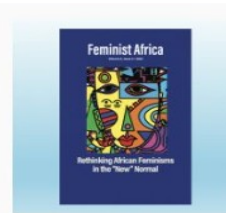
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RWANDA JOURNAL OF
MEDICINE AND HEALTH
SCIENCES



Rwanda



FEMINIST AFRICA JOURNAL



Ghana



OPTIMIZING IMAGE & TEXT
JOURNAL



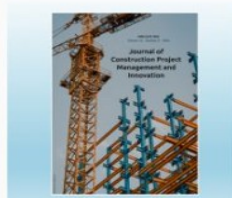
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ENHANCING JOURNAL
MANAGEMENT AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF GHANA



Ghana



JOURNAL OF
CONSTRUCTION PROJECT
MANAGEMENT AND
INNOVATION



Multiple



REGIONAL JOURNAL OF
INFORMATION AND
KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT



Kenya



BAHIR DAR JOURNAL OF
EDUCATION



Ethiopia



SOUTH AFRICAN JOURNAL
OF SCIENCE



South Africa



JOURNAL OF STUDENT
AFFAIRS IN AFRICA



South Africa



SEE PROJECTS

Strengthening Diamond OA Across Africa

First Call (2024)

- ▶ Grants of up to US\$20,000 each
- ▶ 17 projects funded across 9 African countries
- ▶ Focus: enhancing journal quality, visibility, and sustainability

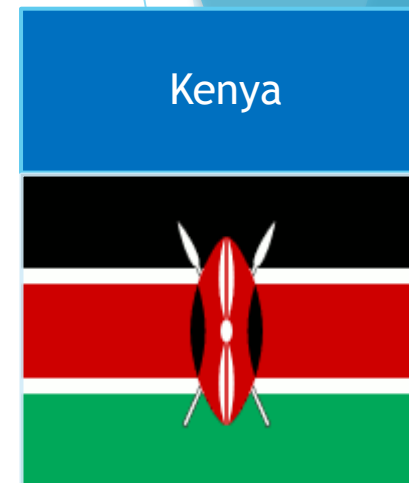
Ethiopia



Ghana



Kenya



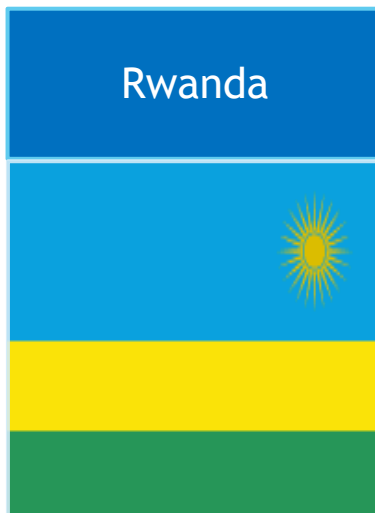
Mozambique



Nigeria



Rwanda



South Africa



Tanzania



Zambia



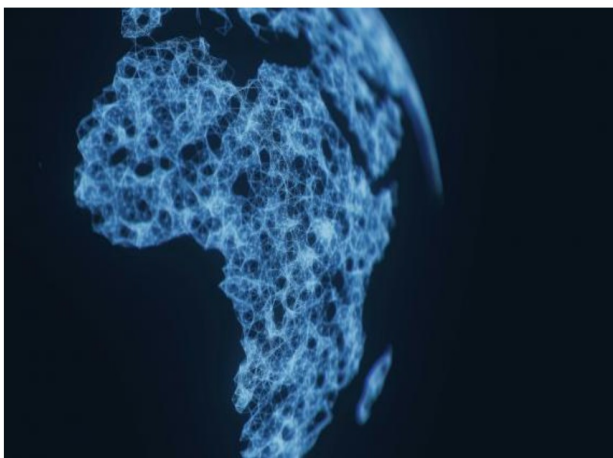
Strengthening Diamond OA Across Africa

Second Call (2025)

16 MORE GRANTS TO STRENGTHEN NO-FEE OA PUBLISHING IN AFRICA

EIFL, AJOL and WACREN announce the award of 16 grants to strengthen quality and sustainability of no-fee OA journals and journal platforms

Home > News > 16 more grants to strengthen no-fee OA publishing in Africa



Posted: December 10, 2025

EIFL, AJOL (African Journals Online) and WACREN (the West and Central African Research and Education Network) take pleasure in announcing the award of 16 more grants that will strengthen the quality and sustainability of no-fee (Diamond) open access journals and journal hosting platforms across Africa.

The grants were awarded to 16 projects aimed at strengthening over a hundred no-fee open access journals and platforms in nine countries (Angola, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo and Tunisia).

- ▶ Aimed to further strengthen Diamond OA diversity and sustainability
- ▶ Up to US\$20,000 for a single journal
- ▶ Up to US\$30,000 for multiple journals or a platform



Capacity Building as a Core Pillar of Diamond OA Sustainability



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- ▶ Capacity building remains a core pillar of Diamond Open Access sustainability, and it is effectively delivered through Communities of Practice
- ▶ Communities of Practice should remain embedded as a core component of Diamond Open Access.
- ▶ Funders should prioritise sustained support for capacity building through Diamond Open Access Communities of Practice, alongside investments in shared platforms and public infrastructure.

Join No-Fee OA CoP

