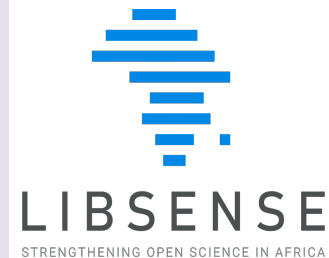




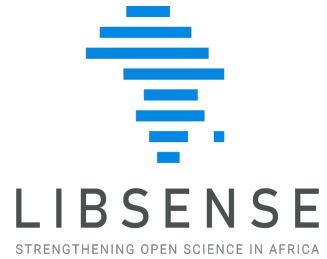
Open Access publication of Public Health research in African journals



- A collaborative project between [PublicHealth.Africa](https://publichealth.africa) and [LIBSENSE](https://libsense.org)
- Presented by
- **Dominic Agyei Dankwah**



What we Know:



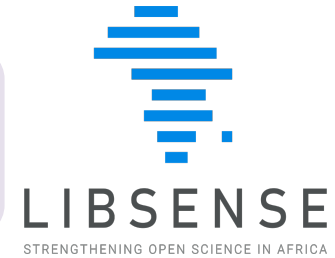
Relative lack of research capacity in the Global South

Lack of research with local relevance to populations in the South

Difficulty in publishing high-quality research in an open access format so that it is readily available and the results can be applied where they are needed



Some recent data

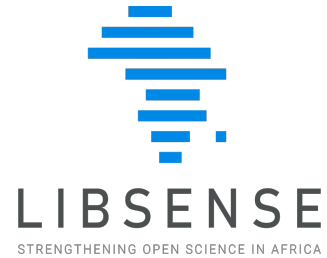


Open Access papers have drastically fewer lead authors from low-income regions

Article Processing Charges are a barrier to Open Access publication for scientists from the Global South



Some recent data

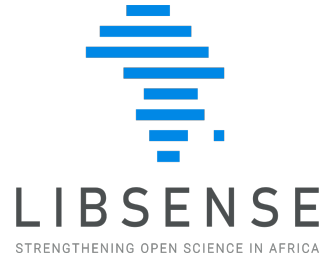


PublicHealth.Africa has been established to leverage the strengths of African alumni from international and local online and face-to-face Master of Public Health courses

In a survey of African public health graduates, more than a half of the respondents reported barriers to research and writing



Some recent data



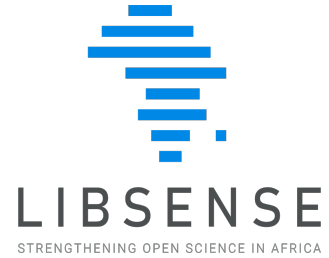
Survey participants were asked if they would like to publish their research as open access

More than 70% said yes, if the journal waived or did not levy publication fees

Only a half said yes if their institution had to pay and only a quarter if they had to pay the fees themselves



Research question

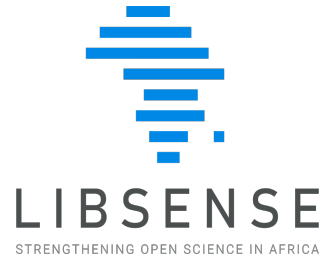


Research study established in partnership between PublicHealth.Africa and LIBSENSE

What proportion of African journals, in the broad field of Public Health, publish articles in various categories of open access?



Methods

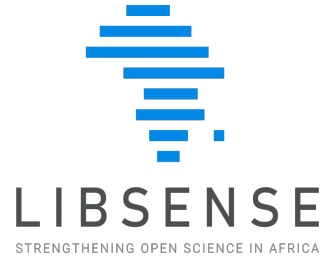


Identifying the journals expected to publish articles in the area of Public Health:

Search for journals published in each country using AJOL (African Journals Online), AIM (African Index Medicus), local knowledge



Methods



Country journals investigated:

Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe



Methods



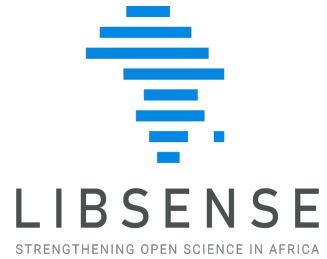
Data collection sheet developed and piloted.

Data collected by country investigators

Data validated by one expert librarian to standardise results



Results



Country journals:

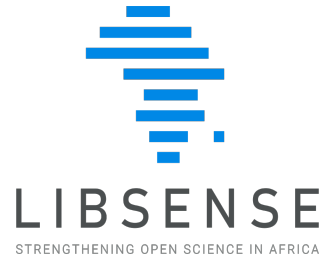
173 journals explored with numbers varying from 1 to 85 in each country.

78 published by universities and 96 by learned societies (some jointly)

89 published twice a year or annually.



Results



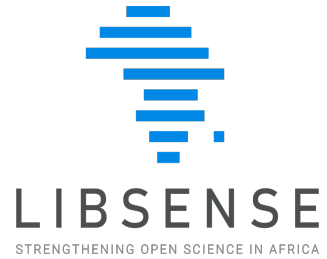
Median per capita GDP of the 13 countries: \$3342

**7 Countries at or below median: GDP 2574; 28 journals
(median of 5 per country)**

**6 Countries above median: GDP 5440; 145 journals
(median of 10 per country)**



Results



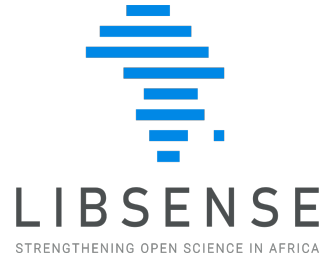
111 of the 173 journals (64%) were open access and available for free download

68 (39%) used a Creative Commons licence

22% were indexed in PubMed, 8% on MEDLINE, 28% on DOAJ, but 67% on AJOL



Results



Article Processing Charges

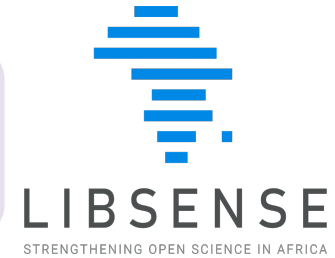
Full APC: 93 (54%)

**Of these, 32 (34%)
fully or partially
waived**

Difference in full APC between journals from countries above median GDP and median GDP or below: 59% vs 29%; Chi square 8.52; $p=0.004$



Results

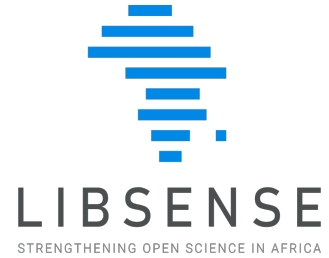


No other statistically significant differences between high and low GDP categories, although

	Above median GDP	At or below median GDP	p value
All journals open access	61%	79%	0.08
Journals indexed DOAJ	31%	14%	0.07



Summary 1



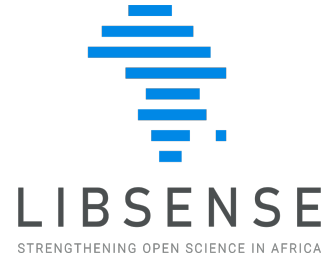
173 journals published in 13 African countries with Public Health content

Numbers of journals vary from 1 to 85 per country

**7 countries low GDP: median 5 journals per country
6 countries higher GDP: median 10 journals per country**



Summary 2



Published by universities and learned societies, mostly twice a year or less

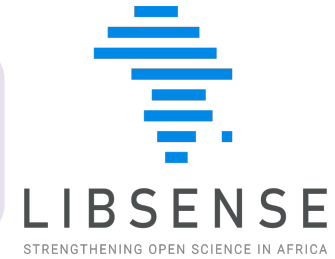
Two thirds as open access, one third had a Creative Commons licence

Very few indexed on PubMed, MEDLINE or DOAJ

A half of journals charge full Article Processing Charges (APC) – significantly more in the journals from countries with higher GDP



Implications



African researchers wishing to publish public health research in local journals have varying opportunities

Many face Article Processing Charges

Research findings will be difficult to be found by others, as very few journals are indexed

There is scope for improvements in open publishing of research in local African journals