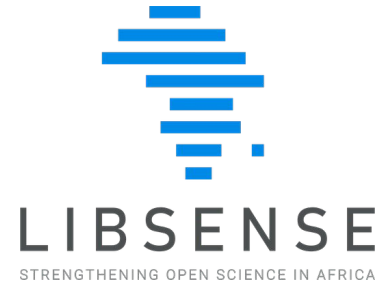


Open Publishing in Africa: Current State and Future Prospects

An online workshop for open publishing of public health in
Africa - April 3, 2024



Omo Oaiya, **WACREN**



Introduction

- Africa faces challenges in producing locally relevant and globally valid research.
- Research output from Africa remains disproportionately low compared to the Global North.
- Lack of access to scientific literature hinders effective communication of research findings.

Why Open Access Matters

- Global Recognition for African Scientists
 - Publishing research in African journals provides better visibility for African scientists.
 - Traditional Western journals often overlook African research, considering it less of a priority or too applied.
- Reducing Barriers:
 - Open Access models eliminate subscription fees and reduce cost-related barriers.
 - African researchers gain equal footing in global publication and research frameworks
- Local Impact and Accessibility
 - Openly accessible scholarly content benefits local communities, institutions, and researchers.
 - It ensures that research outcomes are readily available to those who need them most.

Open Access isn't just about scholarly content—it's about empowering communities and advancing knowledge for all

Some initiatives

1. LIBSENSE - aims to strengthen open science practices in Africa.
 - emphasizes the central role of librarians in National Research and Education Networks (NRENs) to build capacity for supporting open science.
 - Provides infrastructure and fosters communities of practice to build capacity for open access and open science
2. Open Research Africa:
 - An innovative open access publishing platform that offers rapid publication and open peer review.
 - Supports data deposition and sharing.
 - [Covers various subject areas, including natural sciences, engineering, medical and health sciences, social sciences, and humanities](#)
3. African Journals Online (AJOL):
 - A South African online service that provides access to African-published research.
 - Lists 485 open access journals as of March 2024.
 - [Facilitates access to scholarly content from or about Africa](#)
4. African Open Science Platform (AOSP):
 - Focused on promoting open science practices across the continent.
 - [Encourages collaboration, data sharing, and transparency](#)³.
5. AAS Open Research:
 - Based in Kenya.
 - [Builds upon open access peer-reviewing as an alternative to traditional academic content assessment systems](#)⁴.

- EIFL, WACREN and AJOL collaborate on a new **three-year project to support no-fee open access (OA) publishing in Africa** (diamond OA) that launched in November 2023 to **empower African diamond OA community of practice and offer cost-efficient, open, public, shared publishing infrastructures.**
- **Two open grant funding calls for proposals will be co-designed with you** to strengthen quality diamond OA publishing services.
- **Costs and strategies for flipping APC-based journals to diamond OA will also be defined and sustainability models will be discussed** with journals and institutions supporting them.
- Researchers will have **more equitable access to OA publishing services.**
- Governments, funders and institutions will **streamline policy and funding decisions** on the national and continental levels.

