

REGIONAL COLLABORATION FOR OPEN SCIENCE AND DIAMOND OA PUBLISHING

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National
Stakeholder
Summit on
Community-Led
Academic Book
Publishing



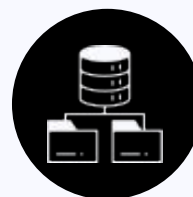


LIBSENSE

**BUILDING AFRICA'S OPEN
SCIENCE FABRIC.**



Developed under
**AfricaConnect2 &
AfricaConnect3.**



**Connecting
Repositories**



**Publishing
Platforms**



**Identifiers
Systems**



Anchored on the UNESCO
Recommendation on **Open Science.**





Regional Momentum

- **WACREN PublishNow**: regional OA publishing infrastructure.
 - **COPPHA** (OA Public Health Research)
- Integration with repositories and PIDs (PIDsLink).
- **BookHub** (OA Books), **JournalHub** (OA Journals),
- LIBSENSE–EIFL–AJOL collaboration with Wellcome Trust:
strengthening Diamond OA publishing across Africa.



From Pilots to Policy – Nigeria's Leadership



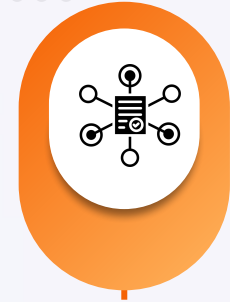
**FUTMinna & UNILAG
pilots: BookHub
collaborative
publishing**



**Supported
by OBC and
Datasphir**



**Linked to
TETFund Book
Project**



**Established the
APC framework
and integrated into
TERAS ecosystem.**



National Collaboration in Practice in NOUN



STRATEGIC PARTNERS



Funding and governance for Diamond OA.



Discoverability and global indexing.



Open metadata management.



Sustaining Diamond OA through grants and CoP.



National anchors for sustainability.



Demonstrating institutional leadership in digital-first OA publishing.



Collaboration for sustainable open access publishing in Africa

Iryna Kuchma, EIFL; Susan Murray, AJOL; Omo Oaiya, WACREN; Milica Ševkušić, EIFL

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.



GLOBAL SUMMIT ON DIAMOND OPEN ACCESS, October 23–27, 2023, Tel Aviv, Mexico

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

Sustaining Open Publishing – WACREN–EIFL–AJOL Collaboration

- **3-year project** (2023–2025) supported by **Wellcome Trust**.
- **22-country** consultation and two open funding calls.
- **17 grants** awarded to OA journals and hosting platforms.
- Established a Diamond OA Community of Practice for editors.





EXPANDING THE COLLABORATIVE MODEL – COPPHA

PARTNERS:



- Tackling APC costs, indexing gaps, and limited capacity.
- Developing home-grown OA infrastructure for health research.





Policy & Community Building

- Responsible Research Assessment (RRA) principles.
- Capacity building for editors, librarians, and authors.
- Embedding OA in institutional policy.
- Shared governance across education, research, and health.





Call to Action

- Embed OA across institutional and national frameworks.
- Strengthen collaboration between APCs and repositories.
- Join the African Diamond OA Community of Practice.
- Join the LIBSENSE Early Career Researcher Network
- Publish locally – be visible globally.



***“REGIONAL COLLABORATION IS NOT
ABOUT SCALE – IT’S ABOUT SHARED
SOVEREIGNTY IN KNOWLEDGE
CREATION.”***

- OMO OAIYA,

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