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# Editorial challenges and responses in Asia and Africa - The Journals Online Projects and AuthorAID at INASP



**Julie Walker, Head of Publishing Support,  
INASP**

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# INASP facts and figures...

- Established in 1992 in response to an International Council for Science (ICSU) study on meeting the information needs of scientists in developing and emerging countries
- Registered as a charity in 2004
- 16 full-time staff
- International Board of Trustees
- Works in Africa, Asia and Latin America
  - over 100 eligible countries.
- Funded mainly by 22 partner countries and European governments
- Key programme is PERii
  - supporting research communication cycle



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# Why research communication?

“It is calculated that some 90% of all scientists that have ever walked the face of the earth are alive right now.”

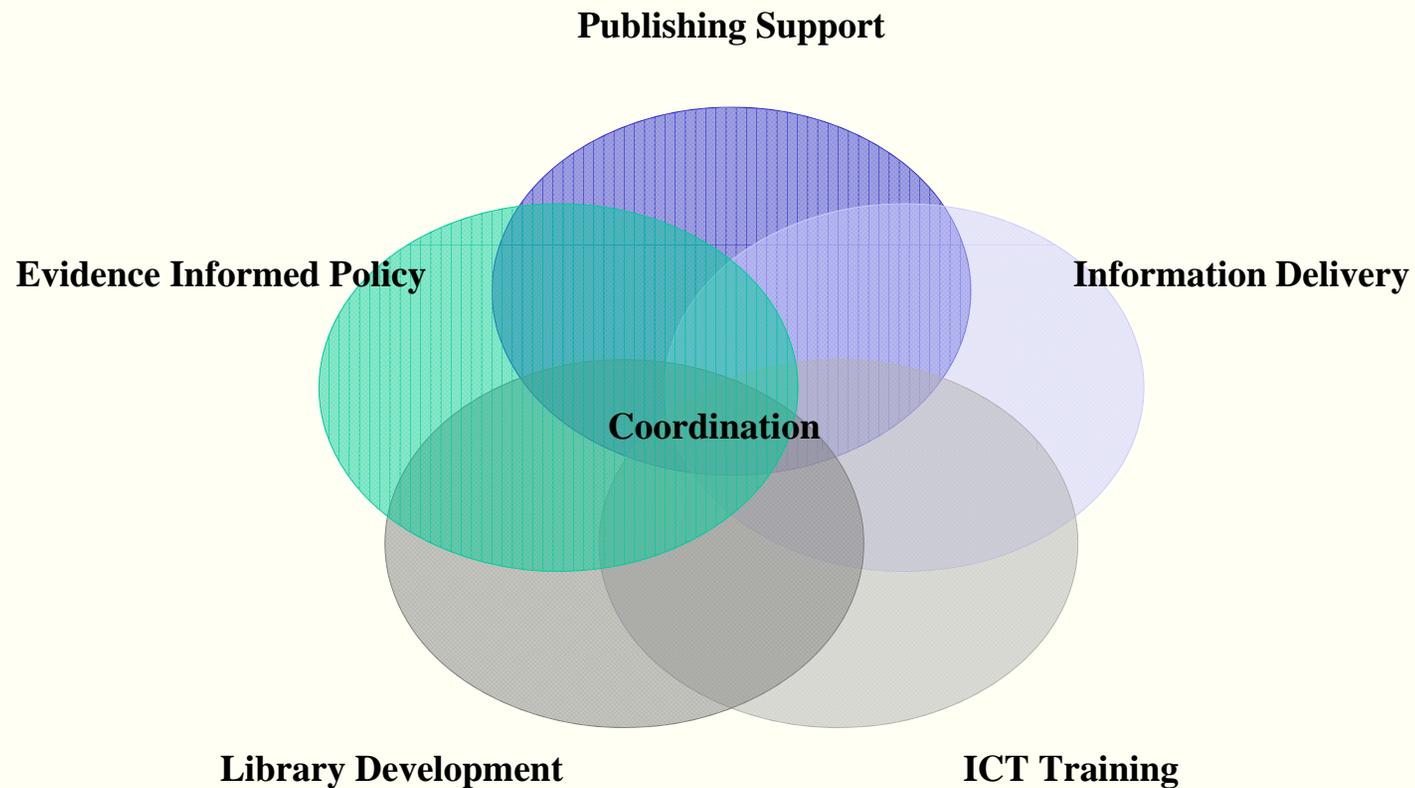
*Funky Business Forever: Jonas Ridderstrale & Kjell Nordstrom*

“Scientific skills and knowledge enable countries to find their own solutions to their own problems...and, critically, they unlock the potential of innovation and technology to accelerate economic growth, and enter the global economy.”

*Commission for Africa report*

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# Support areas at INASP



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# General Challenges

- Brain drain/ prestige of publishing in prestigious international journals
- Connectivity/ Power problems
- Lack of networking/support/conferences etc
- Lack of journal visibility
- Poor quality of journals and submissions
- Language issues
- Few publishing training centres
- Political instability

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# Responses

- Set-up of JOLs
- Support for regional networks
- AuthorAID
- Training

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# JOLs

- INASP has been collaborating with PKP and using their open source software to set up journal websites for hosting multiple journals. This aims to:
- to increase visibility of research from regional journals in developing countries
- to increase capacity of the editors to
  - improve the quality of their journals
  - manage their journals online
- Started with AJOL (1998) , now under SA management but with continued funding from INASP
- Now focusing on Asia JOLS

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# Journals Online Project

## Aims:

- to increase visibility of research from regional journals in developing countries
- to increase capacity of the editors to
  - improve the quality of their journals
  - manage their journals online

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# JOLS General Challenges

- Lack of resources/time
- Getting new content
- Keeping the sites low bandwidth
- In Africa attitudes to open access but not in Asia (97% of articles on SLJOL full text)
- Finding in-country hosting within a four year time period

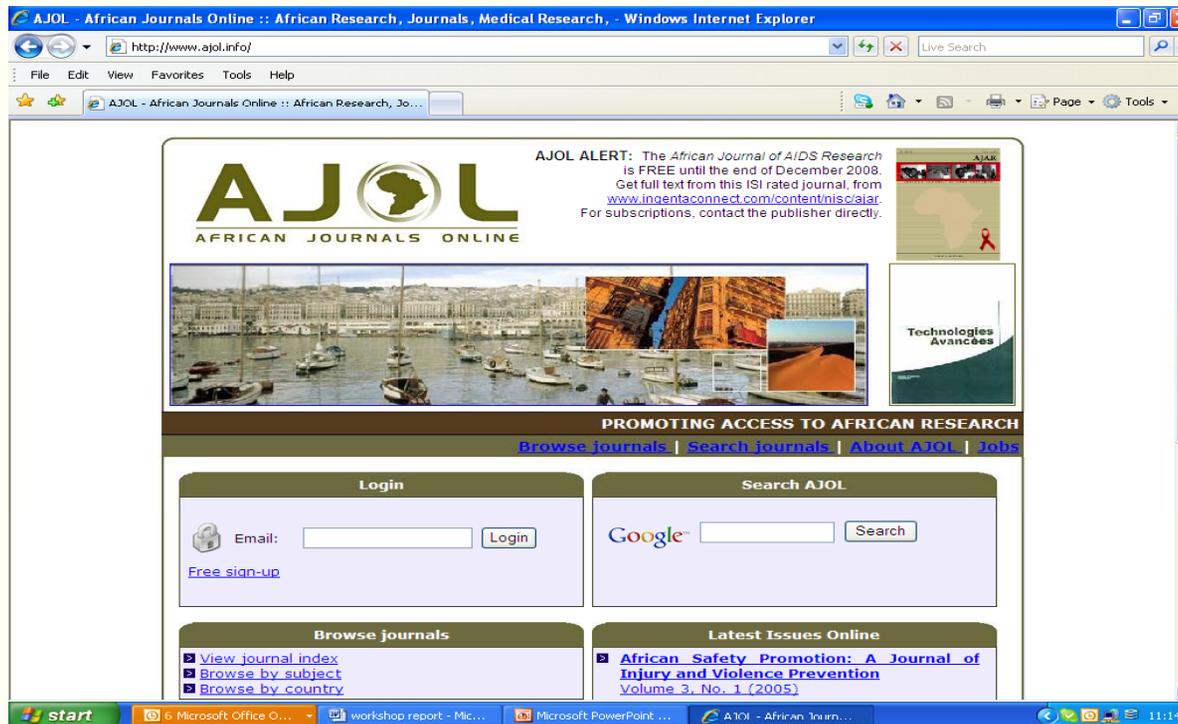
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# Training and Support for the JOLs

Capacity building workshops for editors including:

- Initial workshop on loading articles and online publishing strategy
- Subsequent training workshops on using the full online submission system, general training on the roles of the editor, author and reviewer and training on managing an editorial office
- Online publishing training workshops for countries using AJOL
- Support to find in-country hosting

# AJOL



**350 journals from 26 countries**  
**60,000 visits per month**

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# Asia Journals Online



- Currently five Asian Journals Online databases:
  - VJOL (Vietnam) [www.vjol.info](http://www.vjol.info)
  - NepJOL (Nepal) [www.nepjol.info](http://www.nepjol.info)
  - BanglaJOL (Bangladesh) [www.banglajol.info](http://www.banglajol.info)
  - PhilJOL (The Philippines) [www.philjol.info](http://www.philjol.info)
  - SLJOL (Sri Lanka) [www.sljol.info](http://www.sljol.info)

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# BanglaJOL

- Launched in 2007
- Currently 39 journals across a wide spread of subjects
- Online support community for the editors



Key challenges: Power and human resources

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# NepJOL

- Launched in 2007
- Currently 41 journals across wide spread of subjects
- Online support community for editors



## Key challenges:

- Power
- Political instability
- Staff changes

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# VJOL

- Launched in 2007
- 23 journals
- Bilingual
- Hosting transferred locally in 2009



## Key challenges:

- Language
- Finding new content

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# PhiJOL

- Launched in 2008
- Currently 30 journals across wide spread of subjects
- Online support community for editors



## Key challenges:

- University rivalries
- Finding new content

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# SLJOL

- Launched in 2008
- Currently 16 journals but we hope to have more very soon!
- 97% of articles full-text



## Key challenges:

- Political instability
- Staff changes

# AsiaJOL

The screenshot shows a Windows Internet Explorer browser window displaying the AsiaJOL website. The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://www.asiajol.info/>. The website's header features the text "Asia Journals Online" in a green banner with a stylized plant icon. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for HOME, ABOUT, SEARCH, BROWSE, and HELP. The main content area states that AsiaJOL is a portal to scholarly journals published in Bangladesh, Nepal, The Philippines, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, and Indonesia. It also includes a search facility and a "Harvester Stats" section indicating that Harvester2 currently has 4357 papers from 6 archive(s) indexed. The footer contains copyright information for the years 2005-2007, attributed to Alec Smecher and John Willinsky on behalf of the Public Knowledge Project under a General Public License. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows several open applications, including Microsoft Word, Adobe Acrobat, and Microsoft PowerPoint, along with the system clock showing 16:41.

Asia Journals Online

HOME ABOUT SEARCH BROWSE HELP

Asia Journals Online is a portal to scholarly journals published in:

- Bangladesh
- Nepal
- The Philippines
- Vietnam
- Sri Lanka and
- Indonesia

You can search for information from a single country or from all of them by using the Search facility.

AsiaJOL is supported by [INASP](#)

© 2005-2007 Alec Smecher and John Willinsky on behalf of the [Public Knowledge Project](#) under a [General Public License](#).

HARVESTER STATS ?  
Harvester2 currently has 4357 papers from 6 archive(s) indexed.

CONTENT  
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# AJOL Challenges

- Open Access
- Getting the site up-to-date
- Getting content loaded on to the site
- Relationship and funding

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# AJOL responses

- Training workshops working closely with AJOL
- Working with PKP to get the site up and running
- Training in the full peer review system

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# Networking and communication

- JOLs newsletters
- D-group discussion lists
- Support for editorial networks – i.e FAME and JEAN

# PhiJOL Newsletter



No 2 January 2009

## New journals added to PhiJOL

4 journals have joined PhiJOL since July 2008 giving a total of 26 journals. The new journals are:

*Emilio Aguinaldo College Research Bulletin*  
*Happy: A Journal of Interdisciplinary Theological Research*  
*Kobler: An Online Journal of Philosophy*  
*The Philippine Scientist*

Please do tell your colleagues about the website, and let us know if you have any recommendations for new journals to be added.

## Visitors to PhiJOL

Google Analytics shows that from 1 July—31 December 2008, there were 93,715 visits from 180 countries. The top three sources for visitors were: Philippines (68,553 visits from 56 cities), USA (7,909 visits from 2,063 cities) and Canada (1,859 visits from 145 cities). This shows excellent usage from the Philippines itself.

The graph on the next page shows visits each month since May 2008 when PhiJOL began. It indicates that there has been good usage of the site, but the drop in visits toward the end of the year highlights the need to keep loading new content so that visitors will return to the site.



Global distribution visitors to PhiJOL 1 July—31 Dec 2008



Location of visitors from the Philippines—68,553 from 56 cities



# VJOL Newsletter



No 3 January 2009

## New Journals on VJOL

There are still 23 journals on the VJOL website. No new journals were added between July and December 2008. Management of VJOL will be transferred to Vietnam in April 2009 and will be based at NACESTI.

Don't forget to let us know if you have any recommendations for new journals to be added to the site.

## Visitors to VJOL

Google Analytics shows that from 1 July to 31 December 2008, there were 64,216 visitors to the VJOL website.



Global distribution visitors to VJOL 1 July—31 Dec 2008



Location of visitors from Vietnam (48,038)



# BanglaJOL Newsletter



No 3 January 2009

## New journals on BanglaJOL

Eight journals have joined BanglaJOL since July giving a total of 24 journals. The new journals are:  
*Bangladesh Journal of Botany*  
*Bangladesh Medical Research Council Bulletin*  
*Chemical Engineering Research Bulletin*  
*Journal of Medicine*  
*Journal of Scientific Research*  
*Plant Tissue Culture and Biotechnology*  
*Stanford Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences*

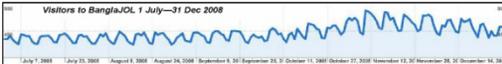
Don't forget to let us know if you have any recommendations for new journals to be added to the site.

## Visitors to BanglaJOL

Google Analytics shows that from 1 July—31 December 2008, there have been 78,882 visitors from 185 countries. The graph below shows visitors on a daily basis and indicates that usage began to increase during October and November.

Visitors to BanglaJOL came from 185 countries; the top three sources for visitors were: India (18,048 from 111 cities), USA (11,148 from 2,781 cities) and Bangladesh (8,861 from 5 cities).

Visitors to BanglaJOL on a monthly basis for the whole year are shown overleaf.



Global distribution visitors to BanglaJOL 1 July—31 December 2008



Location of visitors from Bangladesh—8,861 from 5 cities



Location of visitors from the USA—11,148 from 2,781 cities



Location of visitors from India—18,048 from 111 cities



# SLJOL Newsletter



No 1 January 2009

## Creation of SLJOL

6 journals have joined SLJOL since it was created in September 2008. The journals on the site are:  
*Ceylon Journal of Medical Sciences*  
*Ceylon Medical Journal*  
*Journal of the National Science Foundation of Sri Lanka*  
*Sri Lanka Journal of Child Health*  
*Sri Lanka Journal of Critical Care*  
*Sri Lankan Journal of Physics*

Don't forget to let us know if you have any recommendations for new journals to be added to the site.

## Visitors to SLJOL

Google Analytics shows that from 23 September—31 December 2008, there were 1,364 visits from 82 countries. The graph below shows visits since SLJOL was launched. It indicates that there has been an overall increase in the number of visits but the site needs to be more actively used by the readers and authors of the journals, and more journals need to be included.

Visitors to SLJOL came from 82 countries; the top three sources for visitors were: Sri Lanka (341 from 4 cities), UK (259 from 51 cities) and USA (217 from 174 cities).



Global distribution visitors to SLJOL 23 Sept—31 Dec 2008



Location of visitors from Sri Lanka—341 from 4 cities



Location of visitors from the UK—259 from 51 cities



Location of visitors from the USA—217 from 174 cities



SLJOL www.sljol.info is supported by INASP www.inasp.info

# NepJOL Newsletter



No 3 January 2009

## New Journals on NepJOL

6 journals have joined NepJOL since 1 July 2008 giving a total of 31 journals. The new journals are:  
*Bulletin of the Department of Geology*  
*Bulletin of the Department of Plant Resources*  
*Himalayan Journal of Sociology and Anthropology*  
*Journal of Nepal Paediatrics Society*  
*Journal of Wetlands Ecology*  
*Nepal Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology*

Don't forget to let us know if you have any recommendations for new journals to be added to the site.

## Visitors to NepJOL

Google Analytics shows that from 1 July—31 December 2008, there were 74,752 visits from 195 countries. The bar graph below shows visits each month since November 2007 when NepJOL began to use Google Analytics. It indicates that there has been an overall increase in the number of visits but the drop in December highlights the need to keep loading new content so that visitors will return to the site.

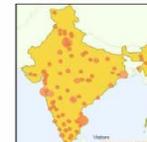
Visitors to NepJOL came from 195 countries; the top three sources for visitors were: India (14,828 from 110 cities), USA (13,000 from 2,789 cities) and Nepal (11,083 from 6 cities).



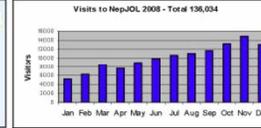
Global distribution visitors to NepJOL 1 July—31 Dec 2008



Location of visitors from India—14,828 from 110 cities



Location of visitors from the USA—13,000 from 2,789 cities



NepJOL www.nepjol.info is supported by INASP www.inasp.info

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# Results

- Increase in submissions
- 22% increase in acceptance in indexes

“I must thank you for your support of our journal through PhilJOL. As soon as we got into PhilJOL, the number of submissions has increased significantly. The increase is so significant, that I am considering suggesting to our publisher that we increase the number of issues per year from 2 to 3. The quality of the submissions has also improved! I know that this improvement is partly due to our visibility in PhilJOL.”

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# Evaluating

<b>2008</b>	<b>% increase in number of journals</b>	<b>% increase in number of articles</b>	<b>% increase in number of FT articles</b>
BanglaJOL	200%	209%	324%
NepJOL	72%	106%	187%
VJOL	50%	206%	202%
<b>Total</b>	<b>164%</b>	<b>166%</b>	<b>230%</b>

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# Future directions

- Development of Central American JOL
- Further development of Asia JOL, including Pakistan JOL
- Search for in-country partners to take over hosting

# AuthorAID [www.authoraid.info](http://www.authoraid.info)

The screenshot shows the AuthorAID website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for "Log in" and "New to AuthorAID? find out more or join now.". Below this is the AuthorAID logo and tagline: "Supporting Developing Country Researchers in Publishing Their Work". A search bar and a "Search" button are located in the top right. A secondary navigation bar contains links for "Home", "About", "News & Updates", "Member Search", "Community Discussion", "Training & Events", and "Resource Library". The main content area features a large introductory text block on the left, a cartoon illustration of a man with a speech bubble on the right, and a "Join now" button. The right sidebar contains sections for "Upcoming Events" (listing IPID 4th Annual Conference 2009 and ISHEID 2010) and "Latest discussions" (listing various peer review and journal-related topics). The bottom of the page shows a Windows taskbar with several open applications and the system clock at 13:56.

**AuthorAID** is a global research community that provides *networking, mentoring, resources* and *training* for researchers in developing countries

**Early career researchers:** [Find out how AuthorAID mentoring can benefit your research career](#)

**Experienced researchers:** [Find out how you can share your expertise by becoming a mentor](#)

**Join now** ▶

(It's free and easy to register)

View cartoon strip showing how Rahm benefitted from AuthorAID

FIND OUT HOW I USED AUTHORAID TO FIND A MENTOR...

**Upcoming Events**

[IPID 4th Annual Conference 2009](#)  
London, UK, 11 Sep 2009

[ISHEID 2010](#)  
Parc Chanot, Marseille, France, 24 Mar 2010

[More events...](#)

**Latest discussions**

[Could you please guide me how I can revise my paper?](#)  
in [Writing scientific papers](#)

[Guidance for new peer reviewers](#)  
in [Peer review](#)

[New models of peer review - what do you think?](#)  
in [Peer review](#)

[Publishing in open access journals](#)  
in [Writing scientific papers](#)

[Grant application](#)

**Latest news**

**Guest Post: Bernard Appiah—Your New Servant**  
By [Barbara Gastel](#), 05 Sep 2009  
[Note: I'm delighted to report that the AuthorAID team has a new member: graduate assistant Bernard Appiah.]

**Member Search**

**Search**

Restrict results to find:  Mentors  Mentees  
Need more options? Try our [full member search](#)

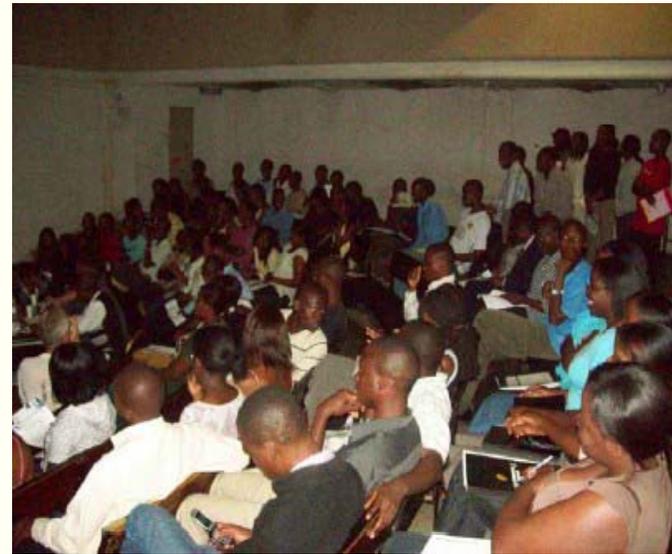
**Recently Active Members**

Windows start | Windows Explorer | Editorial challenges ... | Microsoft Word | Inbox - Microsoft O... | AuthorAID - Windo... | 13:56

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# Publication barriers for developing country researchers

- Limited resources
- Lack of personal mentoring and support
- Language issues
- Lack of writing skills training
- Poor connectivity/bandwidth



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# Publisher and institutional approach

- a sticking plaster approach.
- Directing authors to editing organisations or web based guides but not giving training in writing skills or the mechanics of getting published or offering one-to-one support
- Some exceptions: Emerald, ISEE (international Society for Environmental Epidemiology), HEP
- More institutions recognising the importance of research writing skills training and support but lack resources



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# Project background

- Concept was developed by Tony Robbins and Phyllis Freeman who recognized the need to support developing country researchers with the publication process
- Funded as part of PERii programme at INASP with additional funding from Sida
- Begun in 2007 as a carefully evaluated pilot project – 3 years initially

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# Key Support Areas

- Networking
- Mentoring
- Resources
- Training

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# Networking

- The AuthorAID website ([www.authoraid.info](http://www.authoraid.info)) developed in collaboration with ILRT and Pure Usability Ltd.
- A global research community with 732 members
- Opportunity to communicate with other researchers across the globe
- The intersection of all AuthorAID activities
  - Training and events
  - Online mentoring
  - Resources
  - Blog/news/updates
- Key challenge: connectivity, so a low bandwidth site

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# Mentoring

Either scientific or editorial

South/South North/South North/North

Manual matching and online

Online mentoring system

- Self matching
- Online collaboration space but not compulsory
- Guidelines and learning agreement

Currently 90 mentoring pairs, maybe more

Key challenge – monitoring and finding mentors

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# Resources

164 resources in 5 languages:

- English
- French
- Spanish
- Chinese
- Arabic

Vietnamese is forthcoming.

Key challenge - extending reach

CD for partner institutions, workshop participants  
and for organisations with limited connectivity

Resource Library — AuthorAID - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.authoraid.info/resource-library?type=Presentations&subject=writing\_style&lang=es

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Resource Library — AuthorAID

**Log in** | [New to AuthorAID? find out more or join now.](#)

**AUTHORAID**  
Supporting Developing Country Researchers in Publishing Their Work

[Site Map](#) | [Help](#) | [Accessibility](#) | [Contact](#)

Home About News & Updates Member Search Community Discussion Training & Events **Resource Library**

You are here: [Home](#) > Resource Library

**Resource Library**

List: Presentations on the subject of Writing style written in Spanish

**There are 4 resources listed**

1. [Como Citar Referencias](#) (Microsoft PowerPoint presentation, 37Kb) | 06 Apr 2009  
Del Taller "Scientific Writing". Torreón, México. Marzo de 2009.
2. [Como Redactar en Inglés como Lengua Extranjera](#) (Microsoft PowerPoint presentation, 33Kb) | 06 Apr 2009  
Del Taller "Scientific Writing". Torreón, México. Marzo de 2009.
3. [Escribiendo en Ingles como Lengua Extranjera](#) (Microsoft PowerPoint presentation, 30Kb) | 19 Feb 2009
4. [Como Citar las Referencias](#) (Microsoft PowerPoint presentation, 35Kb) | 19 Feb 2009

start 5 Microsoft Office O... My Documents Microsoft PowerPoint ... Resource Library — A... 10:24

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# Training

- Workshops on research writing
  - Currently three per year
- Key challenge – extending reach
  - Online teaching packs
  - Cascading workshop methodology
  - Train the trainer workshops

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# Challenges

- Extending reach
- Finding mentors
- Sustainability
- Finding a new host
- Monitoring and evaluation of online mentoring relationships

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# Responses

- Stepping up of promotion
- Creating teaching packs
- Creating plug-ins
- Networking

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# Some other initiatives

- SciELO South Africa
- Sabinet
- Ghana OSPC Initiative
- Revitalisation of FAME
- Bioline
- CSE Editor Link programme

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# Future developments

- Social networking widgets
- Instant messaging
- Mobile friendly site
- ‘Publisher’s corner’ for calls for papers etc
- Plug-ins
  
- (Insert social networking icons)

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# Conclusion

- Editors in Africa and Asia face numerous challenges, many also faced by Latin American editors
- Collaborative projects such as the JOLs and AuthorAID can attempt to address these challenges.
- The creation of networking organisations give editors a voice and the power to create their own solutions

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# Questions

- How can African/Asian/Latin American cooperation develop?
- What lessons can be learnt from each other
- Can any technology be shared?