

Report on Grouped Peer Review of Scholarly Journals in Other Disciplines

Committee on Scholarly Publishing in South Africa



science & innovation

Department:
Science and Innovation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





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ISBN 978-1-928496-49-6
DOI <http://dx.doi.org/10.17159/assaf.2023/0087>

June 2023

Published by:
Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf)
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The Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) was inaugurated in May 1996. It was established in response to the need for an academy of science consonant with the dawn of democracy in South Africa: activist in its mission of using science and scholarship for the benefit of society, with a mandate encompassing all scholarly disciplines that use an open-minded and evidence-based approach to build knowledge. ASSAf thus adopted in its name the term 'science' in the singular as reflecting a common way of enquiring rather than an aggregation of different disciplines. Its members are elected based on a combination of two principal criteria, namely academic excellence, and significant contributions to society.

The Parliament of South Africa passed the Academy of Science of South Africa Act (*Act 67 of 2001*), which came into force on 15 May 2002. This made ASSAf the only academy of science in South Africa that is officially recognised by government and represents the country in the international community of science academies and elsewhere.



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Acronyms/Abbreviations

AAR	African Association of Rhetoric
ADRY	African Disability Rights Yearbook
AEJ	African Evaluation Journal
AfrEA	African Evaluation Association
AHMR	African Human Mobility Review
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
AIM	Abridged Index Medicus
AJDG	African Journal of Democracy and Governance
AJHTL	African Journal of Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure
AJLM	African Journal of Laboratory Medicine
AJOL	African Journals OnLine
AJR	African Journal of Rhetoric
AOSIS	African Online Scientific Information Systems
APA	American Psychological Association
APC	Article-processing charge
ASAA	Anthropology Southern Africa Association
ASASWEI	Association of South African Social Work Education Institutions
ASDE	Africa Scholarship Development Enterprize
ASLM	African Society for Laboratory Medicine
ASnA	Anthropology Southern Africa
ASSAf	Academy of Science of South Africa
AYIHL	African Yearbook of International Humanitarian Law
BASE	Bielefeld Academic Search Engine
CC BY	Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International licence
CC BY-NC-ND	Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives International licence
CHE	Council on Higher Education
CIHE	Center for International Higher Education
CNKI	China National Knowledge Infrastructure
COPE	Committee on Publication Ethics
COVID-19	Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2)
CPD	Continuing Professional Development
CRIMSA	Criminological Society of Africa
CriStAL	Critical Studies in Teaching and Learning
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CSA	Cambridge Scientific Abstracts
CSIR	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
CSPiSA	Committee on Scholarly Publishing in South Africa
CV	Curriculum Vitae
DALRO	Dramatic, Artistic and Literary Rights Organisation
DBSA	Development Bank of Southern Africa
DHET	Department of Higher Education and Training
DOAJ	Directory of Open Access Journals
DOI	Digital Object Identifier
DSA	Development Southern Africa
DSI	Department of Science and Innovation
EBSCO	Elton B. Stephens Company
ERIC	Educational Database
ERSC	Educational Research for Social Change

ESA	Ergonomics SA
ESCI	Emerging Sources Citation Index
ESSA	Ergonomics Society of South Africa
GIS	Geographic Information System
GTAC	Government Technical Advisory Centre
HEARD	Working to Advance Health Equity in Africa
HEQC	Higher Education Quality Committee
HESA	Higher Education South Africa
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HTML	HyperText Markup Language
IAB	International Advisory Board
IBSS	International Bibliography of the Social Sciences
IDGPA	Institute for Democracy, Governance, Peace, and Development in Africa
IFAA	Institute for African Alternatives
IGCS	International Gynaecologic Cancer Society
IJAHE	International Journal of African Higher Education
IKS	Indigenous Knowledge Systems
INASP	International Network for Advancing Science and Policy
IP	Intellectual Property
IPLJ	South African Intellectual Property Law Journal
ISI	Institute for Scientific Information
JAMA	Journal of the American Medical Association
JCAS	Journal of Contemporary African Studies
JCR	Journal Citation Reports
JCS	Journal of Consumer Sciences
JLSD	Journal of Law, Society and Development
Journal TOC	Journal Table of Content
JPA	Journal of Psychology in Africa
JSAA	Journal of Student Affairs in Africa
JSASA	Journal of the South African Society of Archivists
JSTOR	Journal Storage
LMIC	Low- and Middle-Income Countries
MIT	Multidisciplinary, Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary
MMed	Master of Medicine
MOI	Memorandum of Incorporation
NACA	National Association for Clean Air
NC	Non-Commercial
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NISC	National Inquiry Services Centre
NMJoH	Natal Museum Journal of Humanities
NQF	National Qualifications Framework
NRF	National Research Foundation
NSEF	National Scholarly Editors' Forum
OCLC	Online Computer Library Center
OJS	Open Journal Systems
ORCID	Open Researcher and Contributor ID
OSISA	Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa
PAIS	Public Affairs Information Service
PASA	Population Association of Southern Africa
PDF	Portable Document Format
PhD	Doctor of Philosophy

PKP	Public Knowledge Project
PPSA	Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy in South Africa
PRP	Peer-Review Panel
PSSA	Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa
RoMEO	Rights Metadata for Open Archiving
SA	South Africa
Sabinet	South African Bibliographic and Information Network
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SAGES	South African Gastroenterology Society
SAGJ	South African Geographical Journal
SAHR	South African Health Review
SAJBL	South African Journal of Bioethics and Law
SAJCH	South African Journal of Child Health
SAJCH	South African Journal of Cultural History
SAJD	Southern African Journal of Demography
SAJGO	Southern African Journal of Gynaecological Oncology
SAPA	South African Paediatric Association
SAPC	South African Psychoanalytic Confederation
SAPJ	South African Pharmaceutical Journal
SARCHI	South African Research Chairs Initiative
SASDiR	Southern Africa Society for Disaster Reduction
SASGO	South African Society of Gynaecologic Oncology
SASOG	South African Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
SciELO SA	Scientific Electronic Library Online South Africa
SHERPA	Securing a Hybrid Environment for Research Preservation and Access
SIHMA	Scalabrini Institute for Human Mobility in Africa
SPU	Scholarly Publishing Unit
SSCI	Social Sciences Citation Index
STAR	Special Terms for Authors and Researchers
UK	United Kingdom
UKZN	University of KwaZulu-Natal
Unisa	University of South Africa
URL	Uniform Resource Locator
US	United States
USA	United States of America
USAf	Universities South Africa
USD	United States Dollar
UWC	University of the Western Cape
VAT	Value-Added Tax
WHO	World Health Organization
WoS	Web of Science
XML	Extensible Markup Language
ZAR	South African Rand



Preface

Committee on Scholarly Publishing in South Africa

Discipline-grouped peer-review reports on South African scholarly journals

This is the 14th in the series of discipline-grouped evaluations of South African scholarly journals. Eventually, it is hoped that all scholarly journals published in South Africa will have been subjected to independent, multiple peer review as part of a quality-assurance process initiated by the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf). The quality-assurance process is a precursor to the identification of journal titles to be loaded on to the open-access platform, Scientific Electronic Library Online South Africa (SciELO SA). Only open-access journals of sufficiently high quality will be included in this fully indexed, free-online, multinational platform, now also directly featured on the Clarivate Analytics Web of Science (WoS) portal.

The traditional focus of peer review is on a single journal article, book chapter or book. It is less common to subject scholarly journals to independent, multiple peer review, as these are usually evaluated in qualitative reputational terms, or bibliometrically by means of impact factors.

The peer review of South African scholarly journal titles required the development of a new methodology that was piloted successfully with the first two discipline-grouped peer-review reports, published in 2010, on the *Social Sciences and Related Fields* and the *Agricultural and Related Basic Life Sciences*. This work was not achieved without difficulty, as the process was unfamiliar to reviewers accustomed to reviewing single articles.

ASSAf has confidence in this ambitious programme, which is aimed at ensuring that the bulk of South African scholarly journals are of good quality. The process goes beyond the familiar journal assessment approaches by providing concrete recommendations to enable the editor(s) of journals, especially those not deemed to be of sufficient standard, to take corrective action. The process also provides an opportunity for editors to reapply for evaluation.

The process was centred on multi-perspective, discipline-based evaluation panels appointed by the ASSAf Council on the recommendation of ASSAf's Committee on Scholarly Publishing in South Africa (CSPiSA); journal editors were requested to complete specially designed questionnaires, and peer reviewers were selected from a spectrum of scholars in relevant fields. Each editor was asked to provide answers to a set of questions, which were used to address the scope and focus of the journals under review, the scope of the authorship, and the presence or absence of enrichment features such as editorials, topical reviews, book reviews, and news and views articles. (The editors' questionnaire and peer reviewers' questions are appended to this report as Appendices A and B.)

Each discipline-based evaluation panel met to discuss the individual peer reviews and questionnaires, and consolidated them into a consensus review for each journal. Final formulations and recommendations were prepared, including suggestions for improvement from both the peer reviewers and the panel. The responsible editors were given an opportunity to check the accuracy of the information in each individual journal report, and the final version of the report was submitted for approval to CSPiSA and the ASSAf Council.

In this report, the latest in the series of reports on the review of discipline groups of journals, it is evident that much has been learned from the review of previous discipline groups, and that in future the process will become more streamlined, such that subsequent reports will follow in rapid succession.

I would like to thank the chair of the panel, Prof Peter Nyasulu, and members of the evaluation panel, and to particularly acknowledge Prof Robin Crewe and Prof Keyan Tomaselli, who were responsible for overseeing ASSAf's peer review panel activities, for their leadership in this quality-assurance process. I acknowledge the important role played by ASSAf staff in supporting the process, in particular Mrs Susan Veldsman, director of the Scholarly Publishing Unit, and the project officer who worked under her direction, Mrs Mmaphuthi Rametse. Finally, I acknowledge the contribution of the many individual peer reviewers who have each contributed towards strengthening the quality of South African scholarly journals.

Prof Himla Soodyall

Executive Officer: Academy of Science of South Africa



Foreword

The Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) welcomes yet another scholarly journals peer-review report by the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf). These reviews augur well for the health and integrity of South Africa's science system, especially the higher education sector, which communicates its scholarly knowledge largely through the medium of journals. We wish ASSAf strength and the very best as they continue to improve the quality of journals in the South African higher education system, thereby influencing the standard of research conducted in the various scientific disciplines. Certainly, these reviews enhance the reliability and integrity not only of scholarly publications but of the science system at large, as ASSAf's processes and methodology are rigorous. The process is also developmental, iterative and interactive with the editor-in-chief of each journal under review.

DHET supports the work of ASSAf in ensuring the quality of scholarly work published and utilised within the higher education system and among practitioners at large. DHET views the work of ensuring quality publications as a collective effort by everyone involved in the knowledge production value chain, from researchers to publishers, practitioners and users of knowledge. This effort is supported by the statement on ethical research and scholarly publishing practices, issued jointly by ASSAf, the Council on Higher Education (CHE), DHET, the National Research Foundation (NRF) and Universities South Africa (USAf), which states that the key role players in ensuring professional behaviour and sound practices in the publishing of research outputs are the editors, peer reviewers, editorial boards, authors and higher education institutions.

In addition to the technical criteria in DHET's Research Outputs Policy 2015 to determine if a journal qualifies for inclusion on the DHET list of South African journals, ASSAf contributes immensely to the provision of a professionally managed process that mobilises expertise for further assessment of the scholarly quality of each new journal addition. Moreover, these periodic reviews help to maintain the high standards of the DHET-listed journals. The government subsidy for research relies heavily on this valuable contribution by ASSAf, which ensures that DHET continues to successfully deliver on its stated mission of supporting only publications of high quality, leading to the successful implementation of the Research Outputs Policy.

Over the past few years, the open-access and open-science movement has intensified. DHET has heeded the call and supports open access to quality knowledge. As such, in addition to the Scientific Electronic Library Online South Africa (SciELO SA) which is managed by ASSAf, DHET has recently included the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) as one of the indexes approved for the purposes of qualifying for the research subsidy for articles published by academics at South African universities. Over and above the effort to broaden the scope of journals for South African academics, DHET hopes also to take a stance with respect to the unjustifiably high costs of publishing and accessing knowledge meant to uplift South African society, and to send the message that open-access knowledge can be simultaneously both freely accessible and of high quality.

As we continue to explore various means to support the improvement of the quality of publications, and as the Research Outputs Policy indicates, DHET, together with representatives from the sector, is working on other improvements in the quality of research outputs from the South African higher education system. As already mentioned, this effort requires the active vigilance of everyone involved to maintain the high quality of knowledge produced by academics in the South African higher education system. We hope that everyone involved in knowledge production will find this ASSAf review report valuable and make use of its recommendations for the betterment of the national higher education system.

Congratulations to ASSAf on yet another achievement.







Mr Mahlubi Mabizela

Higher Education Policy and Research Development
Department of Higher Education and Training

Synopsis of findings

The process of reviewing a journal comprises a thorough evaluation by peers of questionnaires completed by the respective editors, as well as three independent reviews based on a defined subset of published issues of the journal. The peer reviewers' reports are reviewed by the panel and then synthesised into an appraisal of the journal accompanied by recommendations. In concluding the peer-review process, the panel makes recommendations regarding recognition by DHET for inclusion in the 'List of approved South African journals', as well as recognition by ASSAf for inclusion on the SciELO SA platform.

The recommendations with respect to each of the journals reviewed in this discipline group are summarised in the following table.

#	Journal title	Indexed in	Recommended for DHET accreditation	Recommended for SciELO SA	Summary of recommendations
4.1	Geography and Population				
4.1.1	<i>African Population Studies</i>	DHET, DOAJ and IBSS			The journal is not based in South Africa and can thus not be considered as a South African journal. With one exception, the associate editors are all based in the African continent in multiple countries. The journal is owned and published by the Union for African Population Studies, based in Accra, Ghana.
4.1.2	<i>Jàmbá: Journal of Disaster Risk Studies</i>	DHET, DOAJ, SciELO SA and Scopus		Already on the SciELO SA platform	The journal should consider fixed-term appointments for the position of editor, perhaps for a maximum of two five-year terms.
4.1.3	<i>South African Geographical Journal</i>	IBSS and WoS		Recommended for SciELO SA platform should it become open access	A more active editorial advisory board with greater regional balance is recommended. The journal should publish more review articles and book reviews and aim to involve more scholars with a high academic reputation who have contributed significantly to the growth of the discipline.
4.1.4	<i>Southern African Journal of Demography</i>	DHET			The focus of the journal should not only be on local material. This will create opportunities for international students to engage in topical issues pertaining to their country of origin.

#	Journal title	Indexed in	Recommended for DHET accreditation	Recommended for SciELO SA	Summary of recommendations
4.1.5	<i>Clean Air Journal</i>	DOAJ, SciELO SA and Scopus	Yes	Already on the SciELO SA platform	There is a need to put more effort into attracting international authorship as well as book reviews on locally produced material within the discipline. This could be achieved by encouraging co-authorship with renowned international scholars in the discipline.
4.1.6	<i>Urban Forum</i>	Scopus	Yes	Recommended for SciELO SA platform should it become open access	The journal should perhaps consider adding an editor with prominent international standing and journal editing experience. More tourism-related papers should be introduced, and reflections not only on cities but also on small urban centres should be permitted.
4.2	Gender				
4.2.1	<i>Agenda: Empowering Women for Gender Equality</i>	IBSS and Scopus	Yes	Yes	The journal should consider diversifying authorship and editorship beyond southern Africa to include other African countries and regions. The involvement of male scholars could be considered. This would increase men's exposure to feminist ideas and deepen the conversations, although the panel was ambivalent about this recommendation and left the matter for the editors to consider.
4.2.2	<i>Gender Questions</i>	DHET	Yes	Yes	The editor should consider adding other forms of scholarly engagement pieces such as 'in-conversation' or shorter topical interventions. The journal should be more critical at the first step of reviewing. In other words, editors should exercise the prerogative of rejecting articles that do not meet the standard or scope of the journal without going through the whole peer-review process.
4.3	Health				
4.3.1	<i>African Journal of Disability</i>	DHET, DOAJ, SciELO SA and Scopus	Yes	Already on the SciELO SA platform	The editor should consider marketing the journal to multidisciplinary professionals to increase the diversity of approaches and improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities. The editorial team should consider increasing regional participation in the editorial and review processes. This should be a particular area of focus in moving forward.
4.3.2	<i>African Journal of Laboratory Medicine</i>	DHET, DOAJ, SciELO SA and Scopus	Yes	Already on the SciELO SA platform	The journal should increase the number and diversity of articles to improve visibility, standing, readership and publication rates. The journal should make more use of guest editors and recruit experienced editors.











#	Journal title	Indexed in	Recommended for DHET accreditation	Recommended for SciELO SA	Summary of recommendations
4.3.3	<i>Ergonomics SA</i>	DHET	Yes	Recommended for SciELO SA platform should it become open access	Potential authors should be invited to contribute papers related to Fourth Industrial Revolution themes in a local or regional context. The journal might consider collaborating with <i>Occupational Health Southern Africa</i> on a special issue focused on ergonomics, or even merging with <i>Occupational Health Southern Africa</i> .
4.3.4	<i>South African Gastroenterology Review</i>	Scopus	No	No	Original research (clinical and laboratory based) should be published, while the feedback on conferences and fellowships could be decreased. The editors should not publish such a significant number of articles in their own journal, but rather try to involve more different authors. More critical external peer reviews might increase the rejection rate.
4.3.5	<i>South African Health Review</i>	DHET	Yes	No	The scope of the editions may be quite narrow compared to bigger scientific journals, but efforts should be made to make the publications more accessible to local and international scholars and academics. The number of articles published annually could be increased from one to at least two per year to provide an opportunity for wider contributions. The journal appears to publish predominantly review articles, but original research in other categories could be increased.
4.3.6	<i>South African Journal of Child Health</i>	DHET, DOAJ, SciELO SA and Scopus	Yes	Already on the SciELO SA platform	The editor-in-chief and editorial board should serve a fixed term to allow for younger researchers to fill the vacant posts, and the editorial board should be more diverse. The journal should consider a more stringent screening process before sending manuscripts out for review. This would reduce the workload of potential reviewers.
4.3.7	<i>South African Pharmaceutical Journal</i>	Scopus	No	No	The journal should continue to publish review papers on clinically relevant topics for continuous education of practising pharmacists, but these should be formal scoping or systematic reviews. Peer-reviewed original material should form approximately 90% of the scientific content. The panel recognises the important contribution of the <i>SAPJ</i> to provide updated information to practising pharmacists in South Africa.

#	Journal title	Indexed in	Recommended for DHET accreditation	Recommended for SciELO SA	Summary of recommendations
4.3.8	<i>Southern African Journal of Gynaecological Oncology</i>	DHET and DOAJ	Yes	No	The editor should seriously consider a more diversified approach to various categories of authors, and expand on the listed features by inviting articles from the greater South African and African landscape. The journal should publish additional issues per annum and attract more international contributions.
4.4	Humanities				
4.4.1	<i>African Human Mobility Review</i>	DHET	Yes	Yes	The composition of the editorial board should be diversified by appointing black South African scholars who may have an interest in migration as well as issues of citizenship and belonging. This would help in widening scholarly dialogue not just among scholars who specialise in migration but also those that constitute host-country experts on topics that might further enhance an understanding of migration issues.
4.4.2	<i>African Journal of Democracy and Governance</i>	DHET	Yes	Recommended for SciELO SA platform should it become open access	The journal should develop a clear succession plan for the editor-in-chief to ensure a seamless publication stream after the retirement of the current editor-in-chief, who has been in office since the inception of the journal. Assistant editors could be appointed to understudy the editor-in-chief.
4.4.3	<i>African Journal of Rhetoric</i>	DHET	Yes	Recommended for SciELO SA platform should it become open access	The journal should aim for equitable distribution of authors from South Africa, other African countries and the rest of the world. The journal's website should be improved, including listing the editorial board members. The editor should market the journal at conferences of some of the disciplines in which rhetoric studies are practised, including linguistics, literary studies, journalism, media studies and drama.
4.4.4	<i>Anthropology Southern Africa</i>	IBSS, Scopus and WoS	Yes	Recommended for SciELO SA platform should it become open access	The journal is encouraged to consider exploring the possibility of attracting more scholars from East, West and Central Africa to the editorial board to increase the scholarly base of research published in the journal.

#	Journal title	Indexed in	Recommended for DHET accreditation	Recommended for SciELO SA	Summary of recommendations
4.4.5	<i>Imbizo: International Journal of African Literary and Comparative Studies</i>	DHET	Yes	Recommended for SciELO SA platform should it become open access	The journal is encouraged to consider publishing material from other parts of the world to meet its international endeavour and expand its readership. Special issues based on a particular area of interest or country might help to enhance the journal's 'international' and 'comparative' character.
4.4.6	<i>Journal of Contemporary African Studies</i>	IBSS and Scopus	Yes	Recommended for SciELO SA platform should it become open access	The journal is encouraged to consider diversifying the editorial board by including academics from institutions other than Rhodes University as well as from other African countries, and striving for gender balance on the board. African studies conferences and seminars should be considered where regular contributors to the journal may present their work.
4.4.7	<i>Journal of the South African Society of Archivists</i>	DHET	Yes	No	The journal should consider attracting contributions from authors at other South African universities as well as other countries on the continent and internationally, and soliciting articles that examine broader and cutting-edge issues in archiving and records management in South Africa and beyond.
4.4.8	<i>LitNet Akademies – Geesteswetenskappe</i>	DHET	Yes	Yes	The uneven coverage of the social sciences (unlike literature, linguistics, arts and music) should be addressed. The journal could consider inviting 'guest editors' who are specialists in specific fields to create more focus. An effort could also be made to publish more articles by international scholars whose contributions could be translated into Afrikaans. The quality of the journal should be tested by striving to be included in international citation indexes.
4.4.9	<i>Safundi: Journal of South African and American Studies</i>	DHET, IBSS and Scopus	Yes	Recommended for SciELO SA platform should it become open access	The journal should consider diversifying its editorial board, especially to include further and wider representation of the Global South. <i>Safundi</i> should attract more diverse, and perhaps peripheral, scholarship within the journal's scope to align more with contemporary global decolonial imperatives and alleviate the paucity of African readership.

#	Journal title	Indexed in	Recommended for DHET accreditation	Recommended for SciELO SA	Summary of recommendations
4.4.10	<i>South African Journal of Cultural History</i>	DHET	Yes (on condition that the suggested improvements are implemented by the end of 2024)	No	The journal is encouraged to consider rethinking the concept of 'cultural history', particularly in South Africa, southern Africa and generally on the African continent considering theoretical debates that look at cultural history of the past and the 'new' cultural history. The scope and objectives of the journal should be expanded by pronouncing unambiguously that the journal welcomes articles and scholarly reflections that encompass a cross-section of the broader South African society.
4.4.11	<i>Southern African Humanities</i>	DHET, Scopus and WoS	Yes	No	The journal is encouraged to consider improving the limited coverage in southern Africa and further afield on the African continent. The responsive scholarly perspectives are in line with the disciplinary strides that are being made in archaeology, anthropology, and other disciplines that the journal seeks to cover. The journal is encouraged to diversify the editorial team, editorial board and scholars publishing in the journal and to attract contributions from early-career researchers and more scholars from the SADC region.
4.5	Law				
4.5.1	<i>Acta Criminologica: African Journal of Criminology and Victimology</i>	DHET	Yes	No	The editor should seriously consider attracting more international publications and might consider appointing international associate editors. More could be done to assist younger scholars to publish in the journal, although this is a minor issue.
4.5.2	<i>African Disability Rights Yearbook</i>	DHET	Yes	No	The journal fulfils a niche market in the field of legal publications. The editor should encourage more scholars beyond South Africa to publish in the journal by issuing calls for special issues.

#	Journal title	Indexed in	Recommended for DHET accreditation	Recommended for SciELO SA	Summary of recommendations
4.5.3	<i>African Yearbook on International Humanitarian Law</i>	DHET	Yes	No	The editors and editorial board should be commended for the high quality of the journal. All reviewers wrote lengthy praise of the excellent quality of the articles in the journal, described as cutting edge, vibrant and full of new ideas. The journal should do more to indicate and contribute to the way in which regional issues pertaining to Africa as a continent are given global relevance. The journal should become a point of reference not only for African authors but as a global journal.
4.5.4	<i>Constitutional Court Review</i>	DHET	Yes	No	The editors should consider including more scholars from more universities in South Africa. The invitation to publish should be clearly spelled out on the website, or the policy should be revisited to broaden the pool of potential contributions nationally and internationally. An open call for abstracts and papers is recommended from time to time so that the journal is not limited to invitees only. The visibility of the journal should be increased.
4.5.5	<i>Journal of Law, Society and Development</i>	DHET	Yes	No	An editorial team that remains consistent for several years should be considered. It should be clarified and stated clearly whether this is a legal journal or whether it is transdisciplinary, and the integrity of focus should be maintained.
4.5.6	<i>LitNet Akademies - Regte</i>	DHET	Yes	Yes	The journal is a useful platform for research. The editors should invite international Afrikaans or Dutch-speaking authors to contribute to the journal.
4.5.7	<i>South African Intellectual Property Law Journal</i>	DHET	Yes	No	The editors should consider publishing more issues per year, including special editions. Esteemed scholars should be invited to write guest editorials or on a specific topic.
4.5.8	<i>South African Journal of Bioethics and Law</i>	DHET, DOAJ and Scopus	Yes	Yes	The journal should try to attract more regional contributions and work on increasing its impact factor. More regional or provincial representations and the inclusion of book reviews and special issues should be considered to increase visibility.

#	Journal title	Indexed in	Recommended for DHET accreditation	Recommended for SciELO SA	Summary of recommendations
4.6	Other Fields				
4.6.1	<i>African Evaluation Journal</i>	DHET, DOAJ and Scopus			The journal should publish additional issues per annum and engage more with international issues, while being commended for providing an invaluable forum for debate and capacity development in Africa.
4.6.2	<i>African Journal of Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure</i>	DHET, DOAJ and Scopus			The editor should consider reducing the number of articles to a maximum of 60 a year (ten per issue, six issues per year). The publication cost is too high, especially if the aim of the journal is to develop capacity among young local researchers. The peer-review process needs an overhaul. The appointment process of the editor-in-chief and the editorial board should be transparent and competitive.
4.6.3	<i>Journal of Construction Project Management and Innovation</i>	DHET			The journal should consider improving the profile of the editorial board by approaching some of the leading international experts in the disciplines and move beyond the African continent by improving its international appeal.
4.6.4	<i>LitNet Akademies – Godsdienswetenskappe</i>	DHET			The journal might consider adding two to three articles per quarter in languages other than Afrikaans. This would contribute to the development of other languages as scientific languages. The journal should try to increase the number of non-South African reviewers, although the challenges are noted in relation to the articles being in Afrikaans. A wider variety of authors should be encouraged to contribute, and thematic issues might be considered to stimulate contributions. Reviewers recommend specialisation in one discipline, although it is acknowledged that the interdisciplinary character of the journal draws audiences from across disciplines and provides this unique platform for high-quality accredited articles in Afrikaans.
4.6.5	<i>LitNet Akademies – Natuurwetenskappe</i>	DHET			The natural sciences are underrepresented and not many papers are published. The position of the editor needs to be filled. The journal must actively advertise and market the <i>Voertaal (Vir)Taal</i> platform among postgraduate students, link it with scientific societies, and target science faculties. Special editions or themes in the subfields of biology, chemistry or physics might also stimulate interest.

#	Journal title	Indexed in	Recommended for DHET accreditation	Recommended for SciELO SA	Summary of recommendations
4.7	Social Sciences				
4.7.1	<i>Critical Studies in Teaching and Learning</i>	DHET, DOAJ and Scopus	Yes	Yes	The editor should try to attract more articles from a wider range of universities in South Africa.
4.7.2	<i>Development Southern Africa</i>	IBSS, Scopus and WoS	Yes	Recommended for SciELO SA platform should it become open access	The journal could expand to include more health and population dynamics associated with issues in development. While there are journals dedicated to health economics, human development and population studies, the ways in which health is mediated by poverty, inequality and unemployment should not be ignored. The editorial team could perhaps also actively recruit manuscripts on health, policy and development.
4.7.3	<i>Educational Research for Social Change</i>	DHET, DOAJ, IBSS, SciELO SA and Scopus	Yes	Already on the SciELO SA platform	The journal should provide strategic direction concerning its focus. On the one hand, the scope is indicated as educational research and social change, and on the other as multi- and transdisciplinary in nature, with the result that the journal lacks disciplinary focus. A stringent review process should be adopted that takes into consideration both academic and methodological rigour.
4.7.4	<i>Indilinga: African Journal of Indigenous Knowledge System</i>	DHET	No	No	The journal should seriously consider updating its website and reviewing the editorial board list to update the content. Although the journal appears to want to offer freedom with respect to style, some standards must be set. Referencing should be standardised for the journal, which would provide relief to authors who may be seeking to adapt themselves to the writing style of the journal. The journal should also provide a general guide to the article format. The journal should broaden its scope to include IKS within the broader field of African studies and African history. The journal needs to be based on acknowledgement of existing literature on African culture and indigenous practices.

#	Journal title	Indexed in	Recommended for DHET accreditation	Recommended for SciELO SA	Summary of recommendations
4.7.5	<i>International Journal of African Higher Education</i>	DHET	Yes	Yes	This is a useful journal that covers important topics in African higher education. The journal should consider increasing the number of issues per annum, including editorials as well as invited state-of-science and field reviews to improve citations. Book reviews, letters, and response papers should also be included.
4.7.6	<i>Journal of Consumer Sciences</i>	DHET	Yes	Yes	The journal should consider broadening its scope to capture the diversity of the field and attract contributions from outside South Africa. Additional scholarly features such as editorials, topical reviews, book reviews, scholarly correspondence and conference abstracts are encouraged.
4.7.7	<i>Journal of Psychology in Africa</i>	DHET, IBSS and Scopus	No	No	The editorial team considers this publication to be an international journal and not a South African journal. The biggest challenge to advancing this journal is the prohibitive developmental author support levy. Whilst the developmental model is innovative, with the aim of supporting scholarship, it has the opposite effect of placing the journal beyond the reach of most scholars in low- and middle-income countries, and discouraging submissions. The levy is compulsory on all manuscripts. This cost should be optional for authors or be entirely recalibrated if the journal is to remain true to its mission.
4.7.8	<i>Journal of Student Affairs in Africa</i>	DHET and DOAJ	Yes	Yes	It is recommended that the journal encourage and mentor novice researchers from all public universities in South Africa to write research articles and publish in the JSAA as a home-based journal. This approach could promote a good submission rate of research papers and encourage research publication by novice researchers. The journal should include more research articles and papers on reflective practices from other countries in Africa.
4.7.9	<i>LitNet Akademies - Ekonomiese en Bestuurswetenskappe</i>	DHET	Yes	Yes	It is recommended that the journal should improve on internationalisation and invite experts to oversee a specific discipline. The editors could explore possible bibliometric indicators that could be used to measure the status of the journal and attract more international Afrikaans-speaking authors.

#	Journal title	Indexed in	Recommended for DHET accreditation	Recommended for SciELO SA	Summary of recommendations
4.7.10	<i>LitNet Akademies - Opvoedkunde</i>	DHET	Yes	Yes	It is recommended that the names of the editorial board and advisory board should be clearly accessible on the website. More international peer reviewers should be invited. The journal should create some form of impact factor and run special editions with guest editors. This could address the suggestion to feature work from rural and geographical areas that are often disregarded and overlooked.
4.7.11	<i>New Agenda: South African Journal of Social and Economic Policy</i>	DHET	Yes (on condition that the suggested improvements are implemented by the end of 2024)	No	The journal does not currently meet the standard for research-led academic publishing, and needs to clarify its standing in respect of academic publishing. The journal should retain its current position as a home for contemporary policy debates led by practitioners in South Africa, or transform into a proper academic journal. The journal should make a much clearer distinction between academic research and public commentary in its current format. The appointment of a new editor is an opportune time to review and strengthen peer-review policies for articles that aim for recognition as full research articles. Should the journal continue as is, it would still be a worthwhile endeavour to employ different metrics for quality assessment and to determine the impact of the content. Further guidelines around article submission should reflect the different formats more clearly.
4.7.12	<i>Psychoanalytic Practice</i>	DHET	Yes (on condition that the proposed restructuring occurs)	No	The editor should actively solicit contributions on South African themes (e.g. the psychoanalysis of racism, transformation, gender-based violence or corruption) from leading authors, subject to blind peer review, and invite open peer commentaries on these papers and online discussion. The editorial team could consider widening the scope of the journal.
4.7.13	<i>Southern African Journal of Social Work and Social Development</i>	DHET and Scopus	Yes	Recommended for SciELO SA platform should it become open access	Internal organisational development practices around the editorial team could be strengthened. More scholars from beyond South Africa and outside of social work should be recruited, and more articles should be attracted from young scholars and practitioners.

Overall summary

The reviewers generally considered the quality, structure and operation of the publication of the journals to be satisfactory, but some areas of concern and need for improvement were highlighted. In most cases, the editors were respected scholars in their field and the journals reflected a moderate to high quality of articles published. Technical features were of a high standard. Some criticisms were expressed about the composition of editorial boards, where processes for the appointment and turnover of editorial board members were not competitively implemented. While the difficulties associated with competing with international journals were noted, the need to attract a wider authorship base, from across the African continent and beyond, was a frequent recommendation. The identification of a few instances of absence of a rigorous peer review system was a cause for concern.

The panel noted the many instances of positive feedback from editors in response to comments and recommendations from reviewers. Across the journals, there was feedback to include more scholarly features such as editorials, topical reviews, book reviews and scholarly correspondence, to diversify editorial boards and consider options to become fully open access.

Of the 53 journals evaluated, 43 were recommended for accreditation, seven were recommended for removal from the DHET list and three were 'conditionally' accepted to be retained on the DHET list. Fifteen journals were recommended to be invited to join SciELO SA, and 21 were not endorsed for inclusion on the SciELO SA platform. Eleven journals were recommended for inclusion on the SciELO SA platform should the journal implement an open-access model. Six journals were already listed on the SciELO SA platform. It is of interest to note that the reason for journals not being recommended for inclusion on the SciELO SA platform was mostly due to delays in publication time frames. These journals were encouraged to increase their frequency of publication as a condition to be considered for inclusion in SciELO SA.



1. Periodic peer review of South African scholarly journals: approved process guidelines and criteria

1.1 Background

During the launch meeting of the ASSAf-led National Scholarly Editors' Forum (NSEF) held on 25 July 2007, the 112 participants supported ASSAf and its CSPiSA in taking the lead in implementing Recommendation No. 5 of the 2006 ASSAf *Report on a Strategic Approach to Research Publishing in South Africa*. This recommendation dealt specifically with the need for a system of quality assurance for the more than 260 of the country's journals that are accredited by DHET (<http://research.assaf.org.za/handle/20.500.11911/49>):

Recommendation No. 5: that ASSAf be mandated jointly by the departments of Education, and Science and Technology to carry out external peer review and associated quality audit of all South African research journals in five-year cycles, probably best done in relation to groups of titles sharing a particular broad disciplinary focus, to make recommendations for improved functioning of each journal in the national and international system.

1.2 ASSAf peer-review panels

The quality-assurance system for journals is conducted primarily through discipline-grouped peer reviews carried out by a series of purpose-appointed peer-review panels (PRPs) drawn from the ranks of researchers and other experienced scholars in and around the fields concerned in each case, as well as persons with practical (technical) publishing experience. The proposed PRPs are appointed by the ASSAf Council and overseen by the CSPiSA. Their draft reports are sent to relevant stakeholders for comment and input before finalisation by the PRP concerned, and ultimate consideration by the CSPiSA and then the ASSAf Council.

The following quotation from the ASSAf report clarifies the approach to be followed in the review of the journals, and some aspects of the proposed approach:

*The periodic, grouped **quality assurance-directed peer review of South African research periodicals** would function analogously to the quality audits of the Council on Higher Education (CHE) and Higher Education Quality Committee (HEQC), would be developed as an outcome of the Editors' Forum, and would focus on: the quality of editorial and review process; fitness of, and for purpose; positioning in the global cycle of new and old journals listed and indexed in databases; financial sustainability; and scope and size issues. The **ASSAf panels** carrying out the reviews would each comprise 6–8 experts, some of whom would not be directly drawn from the areas concerned, and would require data-gathering, interviews, and international comparisons, before reports with recommendations are prepared, approved, and released to stakeholders such as national associations, the departments of Science and Technology and of Education, the CHE/HEQC, the National Research Foundation and Higher Education South Africa (HESA), now Universities South Africa (USAf).*

It must be emphasised that the main purpose of the ASSAf review process for journals is to improve the quality of scholarly publication in the country in a manner that is consonant with traditional scholarly practices – primarily voluntary peer review. It is not an attempt to control these publications in any way. ASSAf respects the independence and freedom of researchers, and of the research process itself, as important preconditions for the critical and innovative production of new knowledge. At the same time, the work of South African researchers must be assessed, both qualitatively and quantitatively, as

part of the global community of scholars and scientists, and in this respect ASSAf has an obligation to contribute to improving the quality of such work where possible.

1.3 Initial criteria

Several criteria were explored in Chapter 4 of the ASSAf report, which dealt with the survey of the over 200 then-current editors of accredited South African scholarly journals. Other possible criteria were proposed in other sections of the report, or have since been suggested by members of the CSPISA or the NSEF. These are grouped and listed in the following subsections, and are consolidated in the questionnaire presented in Appendix A.

1.3.1 Editorial process-related criteria, generally based on ASSAf's Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review

- Longevity of the journal (continuous or discontinuous), in years.
- Number of original peer-reviewed papers published per year during the last five years, plus number of manuscripts submitted, plus number rejected out of hand or after peer review; average length of published papers; and 'author demography' of papers submitted and published.
- Number and nature of peer reviewers used per manuscript, and the overall number per year, including institutional and national or international spread, plus quality, according to ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review* (previously the *National Code of Best Practice in Editorial Discretion and Peer Review*), and average length of peer-review reports.
- Average delay before publication of submitted manuscripts, and frequency of publication.
- Professional stature and experience of the editor; how the editor is selected; how long the editor has been in service; and the success or otherwise in addressing the major issues in the field through commissioning of reviews or articles, editorial comment, etc.
- Number and professional stature/experience of editorial board members, plus selection processes, turnover and nature of involvement in the handling of manuscripts or other functions. If international members serve on the board (which is desirable), whether they are a mix from developed and developing countries.
- Existence and nature of editorial policy or guidelines, plus how often these are revised or updated; conflict-of-interest policy (e.g. how manuscripts are assessed when submitted by an editor or board member as author or co-author).
- Whether errata are published, and how many per year.
- Value-added features, such as editorials, news and views pieces, correspondence on papers, reviews, policy or topical forums, etc. – how many, and how they are generated. What proportion they constitute of the total pages in journal issues.
- Any peer-review process of the journal already in place (e.g. by a professional association).

1.3.2 Business-related criteria

- Frequency and regularity ('on time') of publication.
- Print runs (redundant stock, direct versus indirect distribution to readers).
- Production model and service provider(s).
- Paid and unpaid advertising.
- Sponsorship and any *quid pro quo* arrangements.
- Paid and unpaid subscription base, and how this is marketed. Cost level of print and (if applicable) e-subscriptions.
- E-publication. If this is done, the website or portal, and access possibilities for users. Whether any evaluation is done, especially in respect of tagging and searchability.
- Whether there are HTML/XML and PDF versions, or only PDF, and whether multimedia is used.
- The portals for open access, if provided. If not e-published, whether this is being considered, and how.
- Total income and expenditure each year.
- Distribution to international destinations.
- Whether indexed in the Web of Science (WoS), the International Bibliography of the Social Sciences (IBSS), or any other international database. If indexed, for how long and how continuously.
- Offers to purchase from multinational publishers.
- Copyright arrangements.

1.3.3 Bibliometric assessments

- Citation practice, including how many authors are listed.
- If applicable, the WoS-type impact factors (and various derivatives) over the last five years.
- Whether reviews are a regular or increasing feature.
- If articles are not in English, whether English abstracts are mandatory.

1.4 Process guidelines for setting up panels, peer reviewers, panel meetings and reports for the subject peer review of journals

1.4.1 Background to ASSAf peer-review panels

The quality-assurance system for journals is implemented primarily through discipline-grouped peer reviews carried out by a series of purpose-appointed PRPs drawn from the ranks of researchers and other experienced scholars in and around the fields concerned in each case, as well as persons with practical (technical) publishing experience. The proposed ASSAf PRPs are overseen by the CSPiSA but appointed by the ASSAf Council. Their draft reports are sent to relevant stakeholders for comment and input before finalisation by the PRP concerned, and final consideration by the CSPiSA and then the ASSAf Council.

1.4.2 Role of the Scholarly Publishing Unit

A project officer of the ASSAf Scholarly Publishing Unit is assigned to support each panel chair, but reports to the director of the Scholarly Publishing Unit in terms of the logistics of the review and the production of the draft and final review reports. The project officer is responsible for the following issues and activities:

- selecting and appointing panel members;
- obtaining completed questionnaires from editors;
- organising panel activities, including meetings;
- selecting independent peer reviewers for each journal or groups of titles;
- drafting consolidated version 1 reports; and
- obtaining CSPiSA and ASSAf Council approval for the final, publishable panel reports.

1.4.3 Constitution of panels

The proposed PRPs are chaired by an ASSAf member and appointed by the Council, which assumes accountability for the work of the PRP in helping to develop a credible quality-assurance mechanism for South African scholarly journals.

1.4.4 Selection of panel members

- The process of appointing PRP members is managed by the chair of the CSPiSA until the panel and its chair have been appointed.
- CSPiSA members are asked to assist in preparing a list of at least 12 or 13 names, four or five of whom shall be alternates.
- A typical PRP consists of six to eight members.
- Each nomination must be accompanied by critical personal and career details, as well as a brief motivation, to enable the CSPiSA, and later the ASSAf Council, to give due consideration to the constitution of the best possible and most competent PRP.
- The draft list of potential members is published on the ASSAf website and is also circulated for comment to members of the NSEF at least two weeks before the Council meeting at which the appointments are to be made.
- All comments received are noted in making the final decision.
- All provisionally listed persons are required to complete and submit conflict-of-interest forms prior to the Council's consideration of the list of names.

1.4.5 Criteria for membership

- The individuals selected to serve on a PRP should have experience and credibility in the disciplines under review, or in related disciplines, or be senior scholars who may be from a completely different discipline. Generally, the composition of a panel, in an approximate ratio of 3:3:2, should be a mix of disciplinary specialists, specialists in areas cognate to the broad disciplinary area concerned, and senior scholars who are knowledgeable in scholarly practices and drawn from any broad disciplinary area.
- The panel members should have demonstrable expertise and experience in both the editing and peer-review aspects of research journals.
- It is not necessary for all PRP members to be experts in both editing and peer-review aspects – a mix of senior academics and a few active editors (of journals not under review) is appropriate – but all should have some appreciation of both journal editing and peer review.
- At least one member should have direct practical (technical) experience of publishing.

Persons selected as panel participants will typically be drawn from among ASSAf's membership, academic institutions, science councils and consultants.

1.4.6 Conflicts of interest

- It will be necessary to take care to avoid real or perceived conflicts of interest.
- Committee expertise, balance and conflicts of interest are discussed at the first meeting of the PRP (and may be discussed again at any subsequent meeting), and recommendations to resolve problematic issues can be presented to the ASSAf Council through the Scholarly Publishing Unit (ASSAf Secretariat) for possible amendment of the composition of the PRP.
- Panel members are requested to submit written conflict-of-interest statements and are bound to report any new potential sources of conflict of interest during the quality-review process.

1.4.7 Organisation of the panels

The organisation of the panel is conducted by its chair and supported by the assigned project officer. The activities related to the organisation of the panel typically include:

- planning and costing the review and panel activities;
- obtaining completed questionnaires from each editor or equivalent (concerning publishing logistics);
- identifying suitable peer reviewers for each journal or group of titles (concerning content quality);
- assembling hard copies of journals, or providing access to the journal online;
- setting dates for panel meetings, assigning tasks and collating materials;
- preparing and distributing pre-meeting and post-meeting materials (e.g. draft version 1 reports, assembled peer reviews and editors' questionnaires in template form);
- taking responsibility for post-meeting activities, including draft version 2 report preparation, circulation for comment to panel members and editors, and preparation and processing of final reports; and
- evaluating panel processes.

1.4.8 Selection of peer reviewers

- At least two, but preferably three, independent peer reviewers, as well as alternative reviewers, must be agreed upon by the panel for each title or group of similar titles.
- Members of the CSPiSA and ASSAf's membership in general will be given an opportunity to volunteer to serve as panel reviewers through a specific written call.
- Other candidates will be sought from reviewer lists of the NRF and from among active science council research staff.
- The process of selection is overseen by the panel chair. The final agreed appointments of willing volunteer reviewers are made by the panel itself.
- Conflicts of interest must be avoided – thus current or former editors cannot become peer reviewers of the journals concerned; this also applies to current members of editorial boards.
- The project officer must arrange access for the peer reviewers to hard copies or e-copies of the journals under review.
- The core questions to be addressed in respect of each journal must be provided to peer reviewers, who should be asked to ensure that all these questions are covered in their reviews.

1.4.9 Panel meetings and procedures

1.4.9.1 Preparations

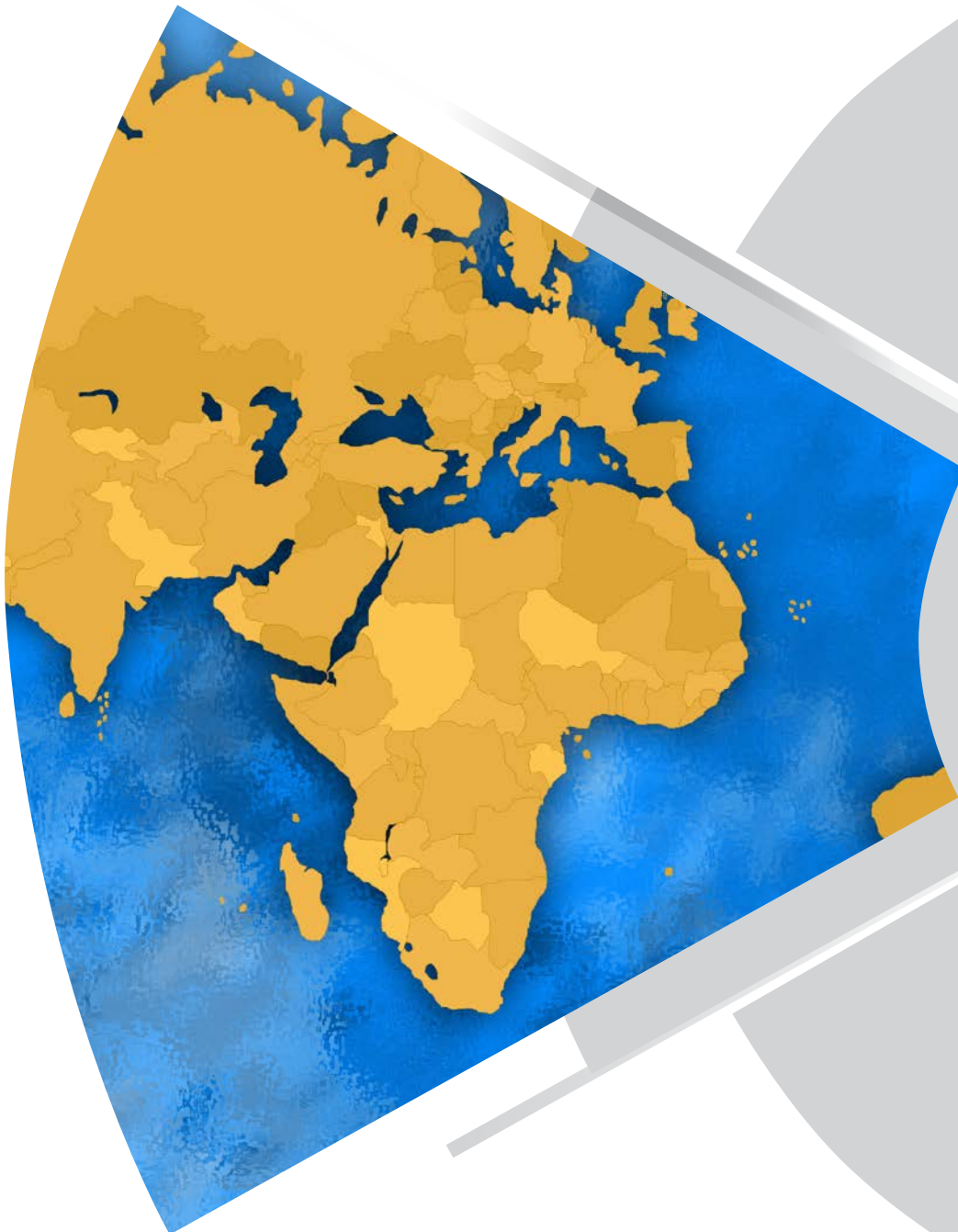
- The ASSAf project officer is responsible for drawing up the version 1 report on each journal. Each reviewer's answers should be consolidated under the standard headings of the draft, with each input as a separate paragraph. The editor's questionnaire should also be inserted as a single item under 'questionnaire' and 'business aspects'.
- The documentation (editors' questionnaires and peer-review reports) should be sent by email to all panel members at least two weeks before the panel meeting. If the peer reviews are not all available by that stage, they should be made available by the date of the meeting, for tabling on the day.
- Panel members should be informed that hard copies of all documentation will be available at the meeting in bundles containing the completed editor's questionnaire and reviewers' reports for each journal title.
- Conveners of subsets of journals should be alerted to their role at the forthcoming panel meeting: to present the journals in the set, and to make recommendations for discussion and elaboration. Any panel member who is unable to attend should be asked to submit written notes for presentation to the panel by the convener.
- Ideally, hard copies of issues of journals to be considered should be available at the meeting, but this can be dispensed with if it is not logistically possible.
- A quorum of at least two-thirds of the members of the PRP must be guaranteed at any meeting, otherwise a new date must be sought.

1.4.9.2 Meetings

- Journal titles should be considered in subsets.
- Consensus on each of the criteria should be agreed *seriatim*, as per a convener's spoken summary, and noted by the project officer in attendance.
- Particular attention should be paid to reaching agreement on recommendations in respect of:
 - (a) An invitation to the publisher or editor to join the SciELO SA platform (if the journal is open access and meets the special criteria with respect to frequency of publication and annual number of peer-reviewed original articles).
 - (b) A recommendation to DHET with respect to accreditation on its list of South African journals in which any article is considered as a valid research output.
 - (c) Suggestions for improvement that would facilitate an invitation or recommendation under (a) or (b), if not yet recommended.
 - (d) Suggestions for improvement or general enhancement of functions.

1.4.10 Post-meeting procedures and panel reports

- When producing a version 2 report, the three paragraphs in each item must be consolidated to produce a consensus version.
- A detailed and motivated draft version 2 report of each peer-review panel's findings and recommendations is prepared by the assigned project officer, working closely with the panel chair.
- The project officer and convener should reach agreement on the record of the meeting in respect of all outcomes within no more than two weeks.
- The meeting record should be sent to all panel members for comment and ratification (including those who were not able to attend the meeting), and responses should be received within one week.
- The convener should prepare a final version of the meeting record and submit a copy of each journal-specific item as a privileged communication to the editor concerned for written comment within no more than two weeks.
- The convener should identify any comments by the editor that might materially change the recommendations in the record and submit these to the panel for consideration and decision.
- The record, as it is finally agreed upon, should be submitted to the CSPiSA for approval before submission to the ASSAf Council and public release.



2. Special considerations concerning South African Other Disciplines journals

The ASSAf PRP for Other Disciplines evaluated 53 journals in the sub-groups of Geography and Population, Gender, Health, Humanities, Law, Social Sciences and Other Fields (the *African Evaluation Journal* and the *African Journal of Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure*). The panel consisted of 20 scholars from different disciplines. The panel received and evaluated 170 reviews produced by national and international experts in the relevant fields. The period under review was from 2017 to 2019, with some information updated by journal editors for 2020 and 2021. In assessing the reviewers' comments for the completion of the final consensus review outcome, panel members were sensitive to the many structural and managerial challenges that journal editors face.

The *Other Disciplines* group will finalise and close the cycle of evaluation of all 322 accredited South African published journals. The ASSAf peer review of journals has been motivated by a commitment to assess scholarly standards at a time when academic publishing faces numerous challenges, such as the maintenance of intellectual integrity; commercial viability in the age of open access; and predatory journal publishing. The constantly evolving indicators determining what constitutes academic excellence and rigour in diverse social and political contexts are also important considerations.

As stipulated by the ASSAf journal review guidelines, the reviewers were asked to comment on the configuration of the editorial boards and the reputation of their members in the academic community. In most cases, the expertise of the editors was acknowledged, and it was recommended that editorial boards could potentially benefit from making the appointments of editors on a competitive basis to safeguard the quality and standing of the journals. It was apparent that many editorial boards are still grappling with the problem of a lack of diversity, not only in racial terms but also in relation to gender equality. It was clear from the reviews that the creation of genuine representivity is still a common challenge experienced by many South African journals.

Specific sub-group reviews

The *Geography and Population* sub-group comprised six journals in the fields of population studies, disaster management, geography and demography. Some critical ideas were expressed about the composition of the editorial boards where processes for the appointment and turnover of editorial board members were either absent or not reliably implemented.

The two journals that were reviewed in the *Gender* sub-group seem to publish high-quality outputs that are well aligned with international scholarly standards and have increasing international recognition. The editorial collectives bring a range of diverse disciplinary and professional expertise that reinforces the editorial functions of the journals. Both journals publish work by emerging as well as established scholars. This approach, which enhances the growth and development of emerging scholars, was highly praised by the reviewers.

The *Health* sub-group included eight journals in the fields of disability, ergonomics, laboratory medicine, pharmaceuticals, child health, gastroenterology, gynaecologic oncology and health review. The objectives of the journals in this sub-group varied widely. Some were established primarily as vehicles to disseminate the research outputs of a single organisation, while others aimed to include themes in an interdisciplinary context. Reviewers recommended that more papers should focus on Fourth Industrial Revolution themes within the local and regional context.

Eleven journals were reviewed in the *Humanities* sub-group. Some of the journals, such as *Anthropology Southern Africa* and the *Journal of the South African Society of Archivists*, focus on specific disciplines within the humanities, while others such as the *Journal of Contemporary African Studies* are located more broadly in the humanities disciplines. The journals are currently at various stages of development. The quality of the contributions in this sub-group was assessed as generally of outstanding quality, with a

few articles of mid-range quality. This placed most of the journals in an acceptable position relative to international journals within similar or cognate fields.

The journals in the *Law* sub-group included a variety of journals in terms of scope, nature and discipline. Eight journals were part of this sub-group, which included yearbooks, journals with an African and South African focus, and interdisciplinary journals such as the *African Journal of Criminology and Victimology*, the *Journal of Law, Society and Development* and the *South African Journal of Bioethics and Law*. Overall, the law journals were shown to have published articles of high quality and received positive feedback. Most editors expressed their appreciation for the comprehensive feedback and suggestions for improvement that they received.

Thirteen journals were reviewed in the *Social Sciences* sub-group which spanned the breadth of the social sciences, with five journals located broadly in education, three journals in psychology and one journal each in political studies, social work, development studies, economics and management sciences and consumer sciences. The journals vary in origin, with some having been established by a society or research organisation and others by a university department. The stated purpose of the journals was primarily to disseminate research outputs within the field locally and/or regionally, often bringing together diverse themes within the discipline to service the African scholarly community. The complexities of the review process were compounded by the fact that the journals that were reviewed covered such a diverse range of disciplines. For this reason, the panel in this group of journals was composed of a range of experts within the fields of psychology, education, social work, development, and political studies. This was done to ensure that appropriate reviewers were sourced for each of the journals and that contextual oversight was ascertained over the final journal review reports from an expert within the relevant discipline. The only exception was the journal in the field of consumer sciences, for which reviewers were sourced from within the discipline, as discipline-specific expertise was lacking in the review panel.

The five journals were reviewed in the *Other Fields* category. Some are niche journals with specific areas of focus. The panel expressed concern about the delayed publication of one of these journals in 2021 and questioned the academic quality and business model of the other journal.

General recommendations

Overall, the journals that were assessed received fairly good reviews. The quality of the journals mostly varied from low to medium quality, with high and internationally equivalent quality being exceptional. The quality of the published articles was judged to be good to excellent, and technical aspects, such as data presentation and the quality of figures, were mostly of an acceptable standard. It was noted by reviewers that the number of articles published in the various journals varied widely, often due to field-specific factors and the size of the local research community in some fields. For journals with a very narrow focus and low submission rate, the panel recommended that such journals should consider collaborating with associations within a related field or merging the journal with another journal in a related field. Furthermore, the panel encouraged the inclusion of additional scholarly features; the attraction of more international publications including contributors from beyond South Africa, as well as the deliberate inclusion of some special issues.

Many editors provided feedback in response to the final consensus reviews and welcomed the constructive critical reviews that they received. In some cases, such critical issues were anticipated, and the editors responded with the assurance that positive measures were already being undertaken to strengthen the quality of their journal.

Among the critical appraisal comments expressed by reviewers, four areas were highlighted, and the recommendations related to these areas were sent to the editorial boards of the journals. These included journal management and editorial board structures that had not changed for long periods; journals that published infrequently or intermittently; members of the editorial boards publishing or co-publishing too often in their own journal; and a less critical external peer-review process. In all these instances, the responses received from editors suggest that the journals aim to positively work towards implementing the recommendations.

The panel was provided with a table indicating which of the journals reviewed were indexed by the major international reference platforms, namely Scopus and WoS. Among the 53 journals, 21 were indexed by Scopus and four by WoS. The panel believed that, where possible, successful applications

to the said platforms would have a significant positive effect on the international exposure and impact of the journals.

Of the 53 journals evaluated, 43 were recommended for accreditation, seven were recommended for removal from the DHET list and three were 'conditionally' accepted to be retained on the DHET list. Fifteen journals were invited to join SciELO SA, and 21 were not endorsed for inclusion on the SciELO SA platform. Eleven journals were recommended for inclusion on the SciELO SA platform on condition that the journal implements an open-access model. Six journals were already listed on the SciELO SA platform. It is of interest to note that the reasons for journals not being recommended for inclusion on the SciELO SA platform were mostly due to delays in publication time frames. These journals were encouraged to increase their frequency of publications as a condition for being considered for inclusion in SciELO SA.

Generally, the panel experienced the review exercise as a constructive and productive process. It is inevitable in such evaluations that certain critical questions raised will not always be met with agreement from editors. It is the view of the panel, however, that the reviews were conducted in the spirit of academic collegiality to support journal editors in meeting the demands posed by a changing publishing environment during the most challenging period of the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

Note: Panel members who indicated a conflict of interest, in that they were directly involved with any of the journals under review, did not contribute to the reporting or the recommendations for that journal.

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4. Consensus reviews of journals in the group

4.1 Geography and Population

4.1.1 *African Population Studies*

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

The focus and scope of the journal is original research on African population, development, and health-related fields. The journal provides an opportunity for resident population scientists to publish their work and disseminate their research findings relevant to audiences both in Africa and globally.

The primary target audiences are local and international scholars in the fields of demography, population studies, public health, statistics, sociology, and economics, as well as development practitioners and policymakers. It is an open-access journal and includes individual readers across various institutions within Africa and beyond. There are 1 064 registered users (nine of which are new) and 919 registered readers (seven of which are new).

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The editor-in-chief is a highly experienced and reputable academic and researcher working in South Africa. The editorial board is also comprised of highly reputable scholars. The editorial advisory board is global in scope, with a strong emphasis on Africanists working both within and outside the continent. Many of them have a strong international reputation. The associate editors are established scholars, and with one exception are all based on the African continent, in multiple countries. The journal is not based in South Africa and can thus not be considered as a South African journal.

Questionnaire

(Editorial process-related criteria)

African Population Studies was established in 1984. It is published twice a year with special supplement issues. It is available online at <http://aps.journals.ac.za>. The journal received a record 2 679 downloads during the three-year review period. It is read all over the world, including in about 54 African countries. Issues are pre-scheduled to appear in April and October, but manuscripts are published once they are ready. There have been no significant interruptions in publication.

During the three-year review period, 112 full articles were published. About 760 manuscripts were submitted in the same period. No manuscripts were rejected without peer review, and 648 were rejected after peer review. The proportion of peer-reviewed papers that had at least one author with a non-South African address was 75%.

Three peer reviewers are selected for each submitted manuscript, but decisions are based on the first two reviewers. If there is any doubt about the quality of the first two reviews, the third review is included. Peer reviewers are selected based on their areas of specialty, drawn from the journal's database of population scientists. Peer review is conducted in a 'blind way'. Valid reviewer critique and article improvement are rigorously implemented. Peer reviewers receive follow-up information depending on their recommendations. If they have requested second attention, they receive follow-up information. Reviewer performance is assessed, and information is captured in a database. A total of 102 peer reviewers were used in one year of the three-year review period. The proportion of those who had a non-South African address was 75%. The peer-review reports were accessibly retained in the journal's records. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication online was three to four months.

The editor-in-chief has been in office for 12 years. The appointment was competitive. The members of the editorial board and editorial advisory board handle peer review and provide advice on editorial

policies and practices. Members have been in office for a period of four years and were selected based on their specialty and expertise. Most of the members are from outside South Africa.

African Population Studies has editorial guidelines that are aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. There is no policy on conflict of interest. Errata are published when necessary. The journal publishes value-added features such as analytical book reviews and correspondence on published articles. The percentage of pages in each issue that represented peer-reviewed original material was 100%.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The journal publishes articles from across Africa on topical issues of concern to the continent. However, few of the articles published during the three-year review period directly addressed issues from the southern African region in general or South Africa in particular. Few of the articles emanate from South Africa; for example, during the three years under review, only ten articles were published by South African-based scholars. Given the journal's continental scope, it is difficult to determine whether it is attracting the best scholars in the field from each country. The journal, therefore, provides an important repository of empirical papers, but they are not leading papers in the field. Special issues appear to be of much poorer quality.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: The journal complies with good citation and referencing practice and uses the APA referencing system. Articles are presented according to acceptable design, layout, and style. Published articles are written in English language of good quality, indicating that they are thoroughly edited. The articles are well cited, although many refer to a few classics and often quite dated literature and are limited in their interdisciplinary scope. There was no evidence of any published errata.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability

Consensus review: The journal publishes high-quality articles that are useful for training graduates and young academics. The journal is suitable and offers opportunities for graduate students and young scholars to publish their work and grow professionally. This journal is perhaps best suited to academics conducting highly localised studies across the continent, emerging and junior scholars, and those working on topics that may struggle to find an outlet elsewhere. The journal is known by many as a place to find good empirical and descriptive analysis. It does not provide articles that are theory-driven contributions. This journal is not a contender to sit alongside the leading international demography journals.

Business aspects

(Business-related criteria; Bibliometric assessments)

The owner and publisher of the journal is the Union for African Population Studies, based in Accra, Ghana. The commercial publisher is the Demography and Population Studies Programme at the University of the Witwatersrand. There is no regular print run, as the journal is not printed and is available only online. The journal does not carry advertising and does not receive financial sponsorship.

The journal levies an article-processing charge (APC) of USD250. Online management systems are used to manage the editorial workflow. This is an open-access journal. There have been offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal, but such offers have been declined. Authors relinquish copyright to the journal. The work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution International License.

African Population Studies is indexed by Bioline International; CiteFactor; DOAJ; Google Scholar; IBSS; and WHO Medicus. The journal has an impact factor, and altmetric indicators are administered. The 'front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal has not been independently reviewed.

Suggested improvements

Consensus review: Although the initial focus of the journal has been African studies, manuscripts from other continents that are relevant to African population and health issues should be encouraged and increased.

The journal charges exorbitant publication fees and should consider reducing the manuscript-processing fee, at least to a manageable range of less than USD100. The policy should clearly state what the fees are used for.

Contributions to the journal are predominantly from West African countries. The editorial board and editorial advisory board should as far as possible ensure more equitable inclusivity of material and authorship from other regions of African population studies.

The rejection rate is very low. The journal should create an option for rejecting papers before review to ease the editorial and reviewer time spent on papers.

Readership of the journal could be increased, along with strengthening indicators such as impact factors, number of citations and number of downloads. Such indicators should be frequently assessed and published on the journal website.

The editor has been in office for over 12 years. Significant diversification of the editorial committee is recommended to allow the journal to grow and develop in new directions.

The journal website needs to be improved. The papers sometimes load within the browser and other times not. The Portable Document Format (PDF) files are not all properly formatted. It is not possible for readers to highlight text or click on reference hyperlinks, and there are no bookmarks to help navigation. The font is very small and should be enlarged.

Panel's consensus view:

- i. **The journal should not continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list, irrespective of its inclusion in the DOAJ and IBSS indexes.**
- ii. **The journal should not be invited to join the SciELO SA platform.**
- iii. **The journal is not based in South Africa and can thus not be considered as a South African journal. The associate editors are all based on the African continent, in multiple countries, with one exception. The journal is owned and published by the Union for African Population Studies, based in Accra, Ghana.**

4.1.2 *Jàmbá: Journal of Disaster Risk Studies*

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

Jàmbá: Journal of Disaster Risk Studies is a transdisciplinary journal in the field of disaster risk reduction, aimed at serving as a platform for discussion and debate in this relatively new study field. *Jàmbá* aims to engage, inform, and catalyse scholarly discourse within research and real-world practices that work towards the minimisation of vulnerabilities and disaster risks throughout developing communities, with special emphasis on Africa. The intended focus of *Jàmbá* (meaning 'disaster' in Yoruba) is the African continent, but the journal also welcomes related articles from other regions. The journal crosses and affects disciplinary boundaries to promote communication, collaboration and teamwork between professions and disciplines to avoid the adverse impacts of hazards through prevention, or limit their effects through mitigation and preparedness, within the broad context of sustainable development. The journal attempts to decrease the risk of disasters and build societal resilience within the context of sustainable development and planetary boundaries.

Jàmbá covers all areas of disaster risk reduction, including but not limited to risk awareness and assessment (including hazard analysis and vulnerability/capacity analysis); knowledge development (including education, training, research, and information); and public commitment and institutional frameworks (including organisational, policy, legislation, and community action). The journal is vital to the South African research community as it stimulates discourse on disaster risk management that can inform policymakers and legislative stakeholders in developing more-effective policies, programmes, and applied planning to reduce the vulnerability of communities to natural and anthropogenic hazards. The primary target audiences are South African and African scholars. It is an open-access journal, published by AOSIS since 2012. The journal has a worldwide audience.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The editorial team and editorial board comprise a pool of members drawn from different countries. It is not clear whether the journal has a policy in place that stipulates the length of

time that members would serve in their respective positions. For instance, the editor-in-chief has been in this position since 2009. Given the geographical spread of the authors' contributions, the journal and its editor have a high international disciplinary reputation. Judging by the information provided or obtained from some research-related websites, the editor-in-chief is a well-known professor, and his publications within and outside South Africa are well cited.

Questionnaire

(Editorial process-related criteria)

Jàmbá was established in 2006 and publishes one issue each year. Articles are published online when they are ready for publication and then printed in an end-of-year compilation. Additional issues may be published for special events (e.g. conferences) and when special themes are addressed. The journal is available online through the AOSIS platform at <https://jamba.org.za>. For the period May 2012–31 July 2020, the journal reflects 389 427 visits and 884 264 downloads. It was read in 220 countries worldwide, 56 of which are African countries. Issues are not pre-scheduled to appear on specific dates. There was a significant interruption to publication in 2007–2008 when the journal was unable to secure funding and was therefore not published. Funding was obtained from the South African National Disaster Management Centre in 2009. The journal has always been open access, without any publication fees.

A total of 26 full articles were published in 2017, 33 in 2018 and 78 in 2019. The number of manuscripts received were 138 in 2017, 175 in 2018 and 85 in 2019. The number of manuscripts rejected without peer review were 52 in 2017, 74 in 2018 and 44 in 2019; and the number of manuscripts rejected after peer review were 21 in 2017, 27 in 2018 and 21 in 2019. The proportion of peer-reviewed papers that had at least one author with a non-South African address was 61% in 2017, 55% in 2018 and 49% in 2019.

Two peer reviewers are selected for each submitted manuscript. Reviewer selection is critical to the publication process, and the editors base their choices on many factors, including expertise, reputation, specific recommendations, and their own previous experience of a reviewer's characteristics. Peer review is conducted in a 'blind way'. Valid reviewer critique and article improvement are rigorously implemented. Not only does peer review provide an independent assessment of the importance and technical accuracy of the results described, but the feedback from referees, which is conveyed to authors together with the editors' advice, frequently also results in manuscripts being refined so that their structure and logic are more readily apparent to readers. All manuscripts submitted to the journal are screened for scientific overlap with previously published work (plagiarism), and any such instances need to be addressed by the author during revision. The peer-review process aims to ensure that all published articles present the results of primary scientific research; report results that have not been published elsewhere; are scientifically sound; provide new scientific knowledge where experiments, statistics and other analyses are performed to a high technical standard and are described in sufficient detail so that another researcher will be able to reproduce the experiments described; provide conclusions that are presented in an appropriate manner and are supported by the data; are presented in an intelligible and logical manner, and are written in clear and unambiguous English; meet all applicable research standards with regard to the ethics of experimentation and research integrity; and adhere to appropriate reporting guidelines and community standards for data availability. Once the author submits the revised manuscript, reviewers may be asked to reappraise the manuscript that was referred to the authors after a first-round review.

The editor keeps reviewers informed of the final decision on the manuscript and is committed to providing reviewers with the review reports of reviewers who participated in the review and giving feedback on the outcome of the manuscript. Reviewers' performance is assessed through a rating given by the editor after each completed review. This information is captured in a database. A total of 111 reviewers were used in 2019, 58% of whom had a non-South African address. The peer-review reports were accessibly retained in the journal's records. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication online was 213 days in 2019. The printed edition of the journal is compiled annually at the end of a volume.

The editor-in-chief has been in office since 2009 and was not appointed competitively. The period of appointment was not specified. Members of the editorial board deal with peer review and provide advice on editorial policies and practices. A new board was established in 2015 for a period of five years. Their appointment was not through a competitive process. They were appointed from inside and outside the country to provide specific topical expertise.

The journal has made the editorial guidelines available online at <https://jamba.org.za/index.php/jamba/pages/view/policies>. The publisher's guidelines are also available online at <https://aosis.co.za/legal-centre/publication-policies/>. Any relevant competing interests of authors must be disclosed to the editors during the review process and must be declared by authors in the published work. Authors must declare all sources of research funding, including direct and indirect financial support, the supply of equipment or materials, or other forms of conflict of interest that may have prevented them from executing and publishing unbiased research; the role of the research funder(s) or sponsor(s) (if any) in the research design, execution, analysis, interpretation and reporting; and any other relevant financial and non-financial interests and relationships that might be considered likely to affect the interpretation of the findings, or which editors, reviewers or readers might reasonably wish to know. This includes any relationship to the journal (for example, if editors wish to publish their own research in the journal). The journal guidelines are aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. The journal has a policy on errata, which is available online at <https://aosis.co.za/legal-centre/publication-policies/#Correcting-the-record>.

The journal publishes value-added features such as critical editorials, critical topical reviews, analytical book reviews and opinion papers. Approximately 99% of the pages in each issue represent peer-reviewed original material.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The quality of the articles is generally good. The articles are limited to the key focus areas and scope of the journal, which facilitates growing the readership. The number of articles published per annum is good, and represents an adequate sample of the best work in the discipline done in the country. The published papers are based on specific case studies related to disaster risk management, disaster risks and broad consequences of 'development'. In that respect, the papers reflect a fair amount of localised lived experience of specific groups of people and communities across different regions and countries.

There is an adequate number of articles from authors within and outside the country. The authors were also from different continents, indicating the extent of the coverage of the journal. The journal is not only well received but is also growing at an increasing rate. Most of the papers focus predominantly on South Africa and to some extent the southern African region (especially Zimbabwe). The additional features, as mentioned, are shown on the journal website but remain very limited. This is an area that needs to be revamped.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: The journal has very well laid-out abstracts of sufficient word count that outline for the reader the key message of the paper, the methodology used, and the overarching conclusion or recommendation. No language problems were found in the abstracts of any of the articles. Errata are reported and corrected. Citations are consistently aligned with the stylesheet in the author guidelines. Where images or figures are used, they are appropriately referenced. Sources are provided for all the images used, which complies with international best practices.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability

Consensus review: The discipline of disaster management is of interest to graduate students as well as staff, especially the younger ones. The journal's focus, scope and readership compare favourably with internationally renowned journals in this field such as the *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction* and the *International Journal of Disaster Risk Science*, which are also peer reviewed and provide online open access. A major feature of this journal is its strong links with the Global Risk Forum. The journal is well established and globally well connected, and hence has worldwide impact.

Business aspects

(Business-related criteria; Bibliometric assessments)

The title owner is the Southern Africa Society for Disaster Reduction (SASDiR), and the publisher is AOSIS. There is no print run. The journal carries unpaid advertising. The journal receives financial sponsorship from SASDiR, the African Centre for Disaster Studies and the South African National Disaster Management Centre. The APC for this journal is ZAR1 171 (excluding value-added tax) per page. The editorial

workflow is managed through an online management system. The journal is open access and is part of a commercial e-publication service through the South African Bibliographic and Information Network (Sabinet), and part of a non-commercial e-publication mechanism through DOAJ.

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Jàmbá is indexed by AOSIS Library Index; DOAJ; EBSCOhost; Gale, Cengage Learning; Google Scholar; Norwegian Register for Scientific Journals, Series and Publishers, Level 1; ProQuest; PubMed Central; Sabinet; SciELO SA; and Scopus. The journal had an h5-index of 12 on Google Scholar and a Scopus CiteScore of 1.1. Altmetric indicators are administered. 'Front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal has been reviewed by Scopus and DOAJ.

Suggested improvements

Consensus review: The journal should consider a fixed-term appointment for the position of editor, perhaps for a maximum of two five-year terms.

There is a need to register the journal with well-known international publishers. This will improve the visibility and credibility of the journal and the published articles.

An effort should be made to reduce the article turnaround time, which was an average of 213 days to publication in 2019. The editorial board should consider reducing this period to between 90 and 120 days.

Panel's consensus view

- i. **The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.**
- ii. **The journal is already on the SciELO SA platform.**

4.1.3 South African Geographical Journal

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

The *South African Geographical Journal* (SAGJ) was founded in 1917 and is the flagship journal of the Society of South African Geographers. The journal aims at using southern Africa as a region from and through which to communicate geographic knowledge, and to engage with issues and themes relevant to the discipline. The journal is a forum for papers of a high academic quality and welcomes papers dealing with philosophical and methodological issues and topics of international scope that are significant for the region and the African continent, including climate change; environmental studies; development; governance and policy; physical and human geography; sustainability; tourism; and geographic information systems (GIS) and remote sensing.

Although the SAGJ is described as geographical in extent, geography is one of those subjects that is very multi- and transdisciplinary in nature. The SAGJ is therefore subject specific, but the nature of geographical study means that the journal also has a broader focus, which poses certain limitations but also offers advantages.

Both local and international geographers are the target audiences for the SAGJ. The journal also has a large subscription base within the Society of South African Geographers, as all members receive the journal. Being partnered with Taylor & Francis, as an international publisher, has improved the journal's reach abroad and in other African countries. The SAGJ is available to readers both in print and online and through various subsidiaries. Approximately 85 international institutions subscribe directly to the SAGJ, although subscriptions by international individuals represent a negligible number. A further 350 institutions and libraries in South Africa and Africa, as well as 1 800 international institutions and libraries,

have access to the journal as part of Taylor & Francis sales deals. In addition, in 2019 the SAGJ had approximately 711 subscribers via EBSCOhost.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The journal enjoys an international reputation as an academic geographical journal. The editor-in-chief and associate editors are highly respected scholars who have contributed enormously to the growth of the discipline in South Africa. The editorial board comprises accomplished academics and practitioners with vast experience and high standing in the discipline of geography at both national and international levels. All the members of the editorial advisory board are outstanding scholars/practitioners chosen from within South Africa, across Africa and other regions of the world.

Questionnaire

(Editorial process-related criteria)

The SAGJ was founded in 1917. Until 2014, two issues were published per year, and since 2015 three issues have been published per year (with one issue per year 'booked' as a special issue). The journal is available online at http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/rsag20#.VaaorBcw_IU. The SAGJ received almost 70 000 page views and over 17 000 full-text downloads in 2019. The journal was read in over 100 countries in 2019, including countries in Africa, Asia, Australasia, Eastern Europe, Latin America, the Middle East, North America, Northern and Central Europe, as well as South Asia and Southern Europe. It was also read in 19 different African countries including South Africa, Kenya, Botswana, Zimbabwe, and Tanzania. Issues are pre-scheduled to appear in March, June, and September. There have been no significant interruptions in publication.

During the three-year review period, 68 full articles and one editorial were published. According to ScholarOne records, the SAGJ received a total of 280 original article submissions during the same period. Of the 167 full-article manuscripts submitted, 47% were rejected without peer review and 60% were rejected after peer review. Many contributors are non-South African, often from other southern African countries.

More than two peer reviewers are approached for each submitted manuscript. Peer reviewers are selected according to their expertise in the subject area of a particular manuscript. They are also selected from the ScholarOne database of existing reviewers using the reviewer locator tool or sourced from reputable sources such as Google Scholar. The SAGJ makes use of double-blind peer review. Rigorous peer review is of the utmost importance for the journal. Peer reviewers receive follow-up information. ScholarOne gives editors the opportunity to rate peer reviewers on the quality of their reviews and their adherence to deadlines. The reviewer's information and rating are stored in ScholarOne. In 2018, over 350 reviewers were approached, 60–70% of whom had a non-South African address. ScholarOne stores peer-review reports and related data. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication in print is quite long, but slightly shorter for online publication because articles are published online as soon as they are ready without waiting for the entire issue to be finalised.

There has been a change in the editorial board since 2018. The term of the previous editor-in-chief ended in 2020, and a new editorial team has been appointed. The appointment was through application to the council of the Society of South African Geographers. The position of editor-in-chief is shared by two individuals, one in human geography and the other in physical geography. The current human geography editor was appointed in 2019 and worked with the previous editor to ensure skills transfer. The physical geography editor was appointed in 2021. Members of the editorial board handle peer review and provide advice on editorial policies and practices, although not very regularly. The new editorial and advisory board members have been in office since April 2018. Historically, board members were mostly appointed voluntarily, but the current appointments are by invitation. Members are appointed for four years, renewable once. They are selected from among both local and international scholars, and from southern, eastern, and western Africa, to provide specific topical expertise. The existing board is too broad, and there is a need to nominate more experts in specific sub-disciplines.

The journal has instructions for authors and guidelines on style, available at https://www.tandfonline.com/action/authorSubmission?journalCode=rsag20&page=instructions#.VdWh0_mqzA. Conflict of interest is dealt with on a case-by-case basis, and in consultation with Taylor & Francis where necessary. All authors are required to sign a publishing agreement with Taylor & Francis, as are guest editors. It is also generally accepted that the editor cannot publish in the journal. The guidelines are not formally aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. It is the publisher's policy to publish errata, as per the guidelines.

The journal includes value-added features such as critical topical reviews, analytical book reviews and obituaries. Approximately 99% of the pages in each issue represent peer-reviewed original material.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The quality is quite high. The evaluation results of the three sample published articles in the period under review generally indicate articles ranging in quality from very good to excellent. A good number of articles are published each year. The focus is mostly on South Africa, and to a lesser extent southern Africa. Quality articles from other parts of Africa should be encouraged to make the journal a truly international journal. The authors mostly come from across South Africa, and rarely from outside southern Africa. There are no reviews or scholarly correspondence.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: The quality of abstracts is good. Proper English language is used in all articles. During the years under review, errata were not published. The journal has excellent citation resources in place and a direct link to the Taylor & Francis *Journals Standard Reference Style Guide: American Psychological Association (APA)* (7th edition). This and other online referencing resources, such as a guide for authors using EndNote software, are easily accessible to prospective contributors. The three sample articles reviewed all show evidence of good citation practice. It is evident that presentation, design, layout, style, copy-editing interventions, and images in the *SAGJ* are comparable with leading international journals. Figures and images are used in an ethical manner.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability

Consensus review: To a large extent, the journal strongly demonstrates the best scholarly output in geographic knowledge in the South African and southern Africa contexts. As a result, it attracts the attention and high esteem of graduate students and aspiring academics, mostly from South Africa and southern Africa. The journal is comparable, in terms of quality and level of engagement, with some international journals that cover geographical topics and themes.

Business aspects

(Business-related criteria; Bibliometric assessments)

The *SAGJ* is the official publication of the Society of South African Geographers, and copyright is vested in the society. Taylor & Francis holds the rights to publish the journal. Information on the regular print run was unavailable at the time of the review. The production of the journal is done by Taylor & Francis (UK). Hard copy distribution in Africa is managed by the National Inquiry Services Centre (NISC), while electronic distribution is done by Taylor & Francis, which also uses subscription agencies such as EBSCOhost. Libel checks and legal services are offered by Taylor & Francis. The journal does not carry any advertising and does not receive financial sponsorship.

APCs are not levied. The journal uses ScholarOne, hosted by Taylor & Francis, as an online management system, which records, tracks and manages all submissions throughout the peer review process. Articles are also loaded on to the website. The journal occasionally receives manuscripts by email. The journal is not open access and is part of a commercial e-publication service. Taylor & Francis does, however, provide free and low-cost access to the research community in developing countries through initiatives such as STAR (Special Terms for Authors and Researchers), INASP and Research4Life.

The journal has had a publishing partnership with Taylor & Francis since 2010, but the Society of South African Geographers retains ownership and copyright on the journal. Taylor & Francis is licensed to publish the journal. Through the copyright agreement form that all authors are required to sign upon publication, authors transfer to the society the rights of copyright in the articles they contribute. This enables Taylor & Francis, on behalf of the society, to ensure protection against infringement.

The *SAGJ* is indexed by Journal Citation Reports (JCR), IBSS and WoS. The current impact factor of the journal is 1.8. Altmetric indicators are administered by Taylor & Francis. The 'front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal has not been independently peer reviewed before.

Suggested improvements

Consensus review: A more active editorial advisory board with greater regional balance is recommended. The journal should publish more review articles and book reviews and aim to involve more scholars with a high academic reputation who have contributed significantly to the growth of the discipline.

For inclusion on the SciELO SA platform, the journal would need to move to a fully open-access publishing model.

Panel's consensus view:

- i. The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.
- ii. The journal should be invited to join the SciELO SA platform should it become open access.

4.1.4 Southern African Journal of Demography

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

The *Southern African Journal of Demography* (SAJD) is an interdisciplinary peer-reviewed forum for disseminating original, theoretical, and applied research articles in demography, and broadly defined interactions between demography and population issues that are of relevance to southern Africa.

The SAJD has a regional focus and therefore primarily serves scholars from within SADC. Scholars from further afield are also accommodated if their research is of relevance to SADC. The SAJD has a wide reach both locally and internationally, and is accessible to a broad audience of researchers, policymakers, and students. Some volumes of the journal are hosted on international research databases such as JSTOR. Articles that are published in the journal are also available for download on Google Scholar.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The editor-in-chief and members of the editorial board are internationally highly regarded within the discipline. The majority are from academia. This is commendable and is likely to contribute to the high quality of the published articles.

Questionnaire

(Editorial process-related criteria)

The journal was established in the 1980s and is published annually. It is available online at <http://sds.ukzn.ac.za/southern-african-journal-of-demography.aspx> and <https://www.jstor.org/journal/soutafrijourdemo>. The visit and download records are not monitored. The journal is available online and accessible worldwide. Issues are not pre-scheduled to appear on specific dates. There was no publication released in 2017 as the editor had vacated his position and the new editor was appointed on 1 September 2017.

A total of 12 full articles were published during the three-year review period, and 35 manuscripts were received over the same period. Five manuscripts were rejected without peer review, and 13 were rejected after peer review. Approximately 42% of the authors of the papers published had a non-South African address. Two peer reviewers are selected for each submitted manuscript. The selection of peer reviewers is based on subject-matter expertise. Peer review is conducted in a 'blind way'. The journal instructs authors to submit a blind copy of the manuscript and a separate title page with the details and affiliation of the author(s). The chief editor ensures that valid reviewer critiques are thoroughly implemented. Authors are instructed to provide a point-by-point explanation of how they have addressed all the necessary suggestions and improved the manuscript. Peer reviewers receive follow-up information. Reviewer performance is assessed, based on their ability to provide coherent and comprehensive feedback to authors, but this information is not necessarily captured in a database. If the chief editor considers a reviewer's comments to be misplaced, another reviewer is appointed. Unsatisfactory reviewers are not considered for future reviews. Approximately 20 reviewers were used in one year of the review period, 60% of whom had a non-South African address. The reviewer reports are retained for all manuscripts that were subject to peer review, as well as successive versions of the manuscript to document the improvements made from the initial submission to the finalised article. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication in print is ten months.

The editor has been in office since September 2017. The position was not advertised. The editor was appointed by the council of the Population Association of Southern Africa at its 2017 annual conference after being nominated by members. The period of appointment is indefinite. The chief editor assigns manuscripts to members of the editorial board (and other experts) for peer review based on their subject-matter expertise. Members of the board are actively involved in the editorial policies and practices. They have been in office for approximately ten years and were appointed based on their expertise in

the field of demography and population studies. Members continue to serve for as long as they are still actively participating in the peer-review processes of the journal. The editorial board comprises both local and international experts in the field.

The journal has editorial guidelines that are aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. The journal has a conflict-of-interest policy. Errata are published when necessary. The journal does not publish any value-added features. The percentage of pages in each issue that represented peer-reviewed original material was 100%.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The articles are of average quality. With its focus on southern Africa, the journal responds ably to local and regional problems, but the regional African outlook needs to be enhanced. International coverage is limited and needs to be improved. Most of the articles on South Africa do not reflect a southern African perspective. In the three-year review period, the only international articles to have been published are from Nigeria. The journal publishes only four articles annually, which is considered too few. The reviews that are included are very limited, and there are no useful additional scholarly features such as editorials, topical reviews, book reviews or scholarly correspondence.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: The abstracts are written in clear and coherent English. No errata were reported. Referencing and citations follow the accepted standards of journal referencing. The articles are professionally presented. The abstracts are concise and factual, offering a clear first impression of the paper with respect to the research conducted, how it was done, the outcome of the study, why its contributions are relevant to the discipline and the implications for future research. The papers published during the three years under review did not contain any images.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability

Consensus review: The journal is suitable as an ongoing stimulus for local graduate students and young staff in the discipline concerned, and their interest in the journal should be encouraged. The journal is comparable with other journals in the field. The published articles underwent rigorous peer review by a community of experts in the field of demography and population studies, as well as an intensive editorial process. Authors are provided with guidelines to follow to maintain high scholarly standards.

Business aspects

(Business-related criteria; Bibliometric assessments)

The title owner and publisher is the Population Association of Southern Africa (PASA). Information on the regular print run was not provided. Production and distribution of the journal is done by various associations including PASA, Statistics South Africa, the South African Department of Social Development as well as the chief editors. The institutions provide funding and take responsibility for printing and distribution of the journal. The journal does not carry advertisements.

The journal does not charge an APC. The chief editor ensures that the editorial workflow is managed through email, which is used to receive manuscripts, appoint reviewers and provide feedback. The journal is open access.

There have been no offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal. Authors relinquish the copyright on their papers to the *Southern African Journal of Demography* published by PASA. Before publication, authors of accepted manuscripts are required to sign a statement that the publication of the article in the journal would not contravene any copyrights.

The journal is indexed by DHET, Google Scholar and JSTOR. The journal does not have an impact factor or altmetric indicators. The 'front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal has previously been reviewed by DHET.

Suggested improvements

Consensus review: The appointment of the editor and the editorial board members should be advertised, and the term of office of members serving on the editorial board should not be indefinite.

The focus of the journal should not be only on local material. This will create opportunities for international students to engage on topical issues pertaining to their country of origin.

The journal should consider the inclusion of scholarly features such as editorials, topical reviews, book reviews and scholarly correspondence.

The journal should consider increasing the number of articles published per annum to be considered for inclusion on the SciELO SA platform and should introduce global best-practice features such as the allocation of DOIs to articles.

Panel's consensus view

- i. The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.
- ii. The journal should not be invited to join the SciELO SA platform.

4.1.5 Clean Air Journal

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

The *Clean Air Journal* publishes articles of importance to Africa in various disciplines related to air quality, air pollution and its impacts on the environment, and the management thereof. The focus of the journal includes, but is not limited to, the impacts of human activities and natural processes on ambient air quality; air quality and climate change linkages; air pollution mitigation technologies and applications; matters of public policy regarding air quality management; measurement and analysis of ambient and indoor air pollution; atmospheric modelling application and development; atmospheric emissions; and other topics on atmospheric physics or chemistry with particular relevance to Africa.

The focus of the journal is limited to studies related to air quality, but the published papers cover several disciplines (for example, atmospheric chemistry, atmospheric physics, air quality management, air quality policy, environmental health, public health, biogeochemistry, engineering, meteorology and atmospheric science). The journal offers the South African research community a platform to publish their research, research briefs on related research published in international journals, commentaries and news on developments and interesting events in the field. The journal also accepts technical papers that describe methods, procedures and management processes related to air quality that are novel or have a novel application for Africa, as well as review papers. The latter types of papers are also peer reviewed.

The target audiences are scholars and practitioners that are interested in air quality in Africa. The journal is published online and circulated through the mailing list and the journal website. The journal moved to OJS and Khulisa Journals in October 2019, with the final transfer being concluded on 13 November 2019. The mailing list contains 931 email addresses. Before moving to OJS, readers subscribed to the mailing list via the website. Information on the institutional affiliation of subscribers was not collected. With OJS, the journal is establishing a mailing list of those who register on the site.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The journal is guided by a high-level editorial team and members of the editorial board with reputable experience in relevant fields. These individuals are people of high calibre with strong local and international reputations in their research focus or niche areas. All these scholars make important contributions to air quality research in South Africa, and increasingly in Africa. The editorial advisory board seems to include people with a diversity of interests and networks, but could perhaps be expanded to include some additional regional academics.

Questionnaire

(Editorial process-related criteria)

The *Clean Air Journal* was established in 1971 and is published twice per year in May/June and November/December. It is accessible online at <https://www.cleanairjournal.org.za/>. The journal has 9 063 downloads retrieved from the old website between 2017 and 2018. According to Google Analytics, 8 089 page views were recorded for the new website between January and July 2020. For the period 2016–2108, the journal website had hits from 180 countries, some of which were African countries including South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria, Algeria, Morocco, Botswana, Egypt, Rwanda, Tunisia and Namibia. Issues are pre-scheduled to appear on specific dates. In the 48-year history of the journal, there have been two years in which a published volume of the journal did not appear, namely 1979 and 2008. There were also 11 years in which only one issue was produced, namely 1971, 1972, 1974, 1976,

1978, 2000, 2005, 2006, 2009, 2010 and 2013. Since 2014, all expected volumes and issues of the journal have been published on time.

During the three-year review period, 24 research articles and one technical article were published. About 40 research articles and one technical article were submitted during the same period. Nine manuscripts were rejected without peer review and seven after peer review. The proportion of peer-reviewed papers that had at least one author with a non-South African address was 42%.

Between two and four reviewers are approached for each submitted manuscript to ensure at least two peer reviewers per manuscript. The managing editor continues to approach potential reviewers until two are secured. Authors are asked to suggest the names of potential reviewers in their submissions. The managing editor may use the proposed names but is not obliged to. The managing editor will also use their knowledge of the field to select appropriate reviewers. The managing editor can also consult with other co-editors for suggestions of reviewers, and to ensure the same people are not approached to review articles too regularly. A single-blind process is applied. The reviewer's identity is not known to the authors, but the author and their institution are known to the reviewers. The implementation of valid reviewer critique for article improvement is rigorously applied. Peer reviewers receive follow-up information. The reviewers are asked if they would like to see the article again after the suggested amendments have been made. For major revisions and changes, the managing editor will generally send the review back to the reviewers to ensure that their comments have been incorporated or addressed. Reviewer performance is assessed, and information is captured in a database. A total of 26 separate reviewers were used in 2018, seven of whom (26.9%) were from outside South Africa. Peer-review reports were accessibly retained in the journal's records. The turnaround time between submission and acceptance was 17 weeks on average. For the last two issues published, the average period for publication was 18 weeks. Since moving to OJS, the average turnaround between submission and acceptance has been 16 weeks.

Three editors were appointed with the approval of the editorial board in mid-2013 at the time that the journal was transitioning from a more informal publication to the current academic journal. There were no policies in place at that time with respect to how an editor should be selected. Since then, policies have been developed and were applied in 2018 when a replacement editor was needed. A fourth editor was appointed in 2018 after a competitive process in which an advert was circulated by email and Twitter. The applicants were assessed by the three editors, and the decision was sent to the editorial board for input. The terms of the appointment have not yet been set. The members of the editorial board are selected from a variety of institutions (both academic and government) and countries. The expertise on the board is multidisciplinary to reflect the nature of the air quality field. Members of the board handle peer review and advise and provide input on editorial policies and practices. The editorial board was already in place in 2013 when the first three editors were appointed. Since then, the editors have appointed three non-South African members to the board. They were not appointed in a competitive process, and their period of appointment was not stipulated. They are appointed from inside and outside the country to provide specific topical expertise.

The journal has made the editorial guidelines and the conflict-of-interest policy available on the website. The journal guidelines are aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. The journal policies have been developed based on best practice published by the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE). The journal has a policy on errata, which is available online at <http://www.cleanairjournal.org.za/policies/articles.php>. Errata are published for errors introduced or not corrected during editing or production, and a corrigendum is published to correct any error that affects the validity or reproducibility of the findings.

The journal publishes value-added features such as critical editorials, critical topical reviews, analytical book reviews, correspondence on published articles and research briefs. The proportion of peer-reviewed material was 68%.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The journal publishes work of high quality. The context is adequately covered in line with the editorial objectives. The general quality of the articles published is above average in the specific delineated research focus areas. In most of the articles that have South Africa as their study

setting, the focus is primarily on local and regional problems in terms of the origin of the parameters of interest addressed.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: There are proper English-language abstracts for all articles. The citation practice of the journal is well within the norms. In-text citations and reference lists in all the articles conform to the Harvard referencing style. The presentation, design, layout, style and copy-editing interventions are of good quality. All errata are suitably publicised. The general presentation, layout, style and design of all the research outputs presented in the journal are excellent. The use of images is appropriate and comprises mostly original content from authors.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability

Consensus review: The journal has been growing from strength to strength, stimulating local graduates and young staff to develop their publication abilities within the discipline, as evident in the quality of published articles. This journal is to some extent comparable to leading journals, although the focus on local relevance detracts from its appeal to a wide variety of international researchers to cite work published in this journal, especially researchers from the Global North. The journal does provide an important platform for the dissemination of locally relevant research.

Business aspects

(Business-related criteria; Bibliometric assessments)

The title owner is the National Association for Clean Air (NACA). The journal is published only online and not printed. Production is outsourced to Studio Vene Design. Distribution is through the journal website. Financial sponsorship is received from NACA, which pays for the running of the journal. Advertising is used to offset publication costs to NACA. The journal does not operate under a paid subscription model and does not charge an APC. The editorial workflow is managed through an online management system. The journal is open access under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) licence. There have been no offers to purchase from multinational publishers.

The *Clean Air Journal* is indexed by DOAJ; Electronic Journals Library; Google Scholar; Norwegian Register for Scientific Journals, Series and Publishers; Sabinet; SciELO SA; Scopus; SHERPA RoMEO; and Ulrich's ProQuest. The journal does not have an impact factor. The Scopus CiteScore tracker was 0.7 for 2019, 0.3 for 2018 and 0.1 for 2017. The journal has a Google Scholar profile, with an h-index of 11 and an i10 index of 14. The editors report on the performance of the journal at the NACA annual general meeting, including statistics on visits to the journal website, downloads, audience and trends. The editors also report annually to the editorial board on performance and plans for the journal. The 'front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal has previously been reviewed by DHET in 2016 and by Scopus.

Suggested improvements

Consensus review: There is a need to put more effort into attracting international authorship as well as book reviews on locally produced material within the discipline. This could be achieved by encouraging co-authorship with renowned international scholars in the discipline.

The number of articles published in each annual volume should be increased through better marketing of the journal to tertiary institutions, research councils and commissions. This will increase the visibility of the journal and further build and establish its reputation in the scientific community in this discipline and research niche area.

More active involvement of early-career and postgraduate student reviewers should be encouraged, together with more experienced academics.

The review process should be open and available online.

Panel's consensus view

- i. The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.
- ii. The journal is already on the SciELO SA platform.

4.1.6 Urban Forum

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

Urban Forum publishes papers that engage broadly with urban processes, developments, challenges, politics and people, providing a distinctive African focus on these themes. The topics covered variously engage with the dynamics of governance, everyday urban life, economies and environments. The journal uses empirical data to reinforce and refine theoretical developments in urban studies, draws on the specificities of the African context, and initiates geographically diverse conversations on African cities. *Urban Forum* welcomes papers that provide rich evidence from African cities and, in doing so, generates debate and builds theory that often remain peripheral to urban scholarship. The journal is open to research based on a range of methodologies, but prioritises qualitative analysis and interpretation. With this mix, the research published in *Urban Forum* demonstrates the ordinary and the exceptional nature of urbanisation in African cities.

The journal offers a niche for contemporary urban studies research, framed in continental and global debates. The primary target audiences are African-based scholars and scholars engaged in questions of African urbanism beyond the continent. The journal's reach is determined by institutional subscriptions, online deals and compact deals.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The reviewers concur that both editors-in-chief are world-recognised geographers. The editorial board comprises experts in their fields and representatives in the fields of geography and urban studies. One reviewer was quite sceptical regarding the strength of the international and even national profile of the editors-in-chief and anticipated that the editorial board would need to work hard to maintain the quality of the journal.

Questionnaire

(Editorial process-related criteria)

Urban Forum was established in 1990 and is published quarterly. It is available online at <https://link.springer.com/journal/12132>. The journal received 65 711 downloads in 2019. It is read in America, Asia Pacific, Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Submissions have been received from South Africa, Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, Egypt, Zambia, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Algeria, Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia and Cameroon. This provides an indication of the African countries where *Urban Forum* is read. The journal is accessible in a broad array of countries. Issues are scheduled for publication in March, June, September and December. There have been no significant interruptions in publication.

During the three-year review period, 79 original full articles and one book review were published. The manuscripts received over the same period were 95 in 2017, 106 in 2018 and 135 in 2019. The journal did not have disaggregated rejection information; however, in total, 50 manuscripts were rejected in 2017, 70 in 2018 and 98 in 2019. The information on the proportion of peer-reviewed papers that had at least one author with a non-South African address was unknown at the time of the review.

Two reviews are required for a decision on whether a paper is considered for publication, but more than two reviewers are approached if a reviewer declines the review request, or if a review was insufficient or at odds with the other reviewer's comments. The editors take the final decision regarding publication. The selection of peer reviewers is based on their expertise in the field in question, and sometimes on their knowledge of the geographical context. Peer review is conducted in a 'blind way'. Valid reviewer critique and article improvement are rigorously implemented. Peer reviewers receive follow-up information if requested. Reviewer performance is not assessed, and information is not captured in a database. In 2019, 69 reviewers were approached, of whom 37% had a non-South African address. The peer-review reports were accessibly retained in the journal's records. The average period between submission and the first decision was 42 days for 2019.

One of the editors was appointed in 2016 and the other in 2017, and both were headhunted for the position. The period of appointment for each editor is five years. Members of the editorial board handle peer reviews as experts in the topic of the paper submitted and advise on editorial policies and practices. The board members were appointed in September 2019 and will serve for five years. They were selected based on their expertise and geographical coverage from inside and outside the country to provide specific topical expertise.

Urban Forum has editorial guidelines and a policy on conflict of interest. The journal guidelines are not aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. The journal is in the Springer stable, and the codes are determined by Springer. The journal has an errata policy in place.

The journal does not publish any value-added features. The percentage of pages in each issue that represented peer-reviewed original material was 100%.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: Reviewers concur that the articles published reflect a broad range of topics. The articles are of good quality and depth as far as new knowledge creation is concerned. The range of country case studies is wide with a strong representation of African countries, particularly South Africa. One reviewer believes that the journal has continued to attract the submission of articles by good scholars, and that the submissions are overwhelmingly of decent quality although the quality of articles has gradually declined over time.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: The reviewers concur that the quality of English is very good. The abstracting of articles is done. Suitable publication of errata is done. There is an appropriate citation practice in place. The presentation, design, layout, style and copy-editing interventions are very neat and professional.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability

Consensus review: The reviewers concur on the relevance and usefulness of the journal for researchers working in the field of urban studies. *Urban Forum* is a desirable publication outlet for urban scholars writing about Africa from across the world. This is a leading and solid international journal in its field.

Business aspects

(Business-related criteria; Bibliometric assessments)

The title owner and publisher is Springer. The journal is sold through online deals, providing access to thousands of universities. Distribution is mainly done electronically, and if there is interest in a printed copy, these will be printed on demand. Production and distribution are managed by Springer. The journal does not carry any advertising and does not receive financial sponsorship.

Page charges or APCs are levied only for the small percentage of articles that are published in open access. The journal uses an online management system for the editorial workflow. The journal is not open access (apart from a small percentage of the papers being published in open access), and is part of a commercial e-publication service. There have not been any offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal. Information on copyright arrangements and licensing agreements with authors was not provided at the time of the review.

Urban Forum is covered by the following abstracting and indexing services: CNKI; EBSCO Academic Search; EBSCO Discovery Service; EBSCO Energy & Power Source; EBSCO Urban Studies Abstracts; Gale; Gale Academic OneFile; Geobase; Google Scholar; Institute of Scientific and Technical Information of China; Japanese Science and Technology Agency (JST); Naver; OCLC WorldCat Discovery Service; ProQuest Agricultural & Environmental Science Database; ProQuest Central; ProQuest Engineering; ProQuest Environmental Science; ProQuest Materials Science and Engineering Database; ProQuest Natural Science Collection; ProQuest PAIS International (Module); ProQuest Politics Collection; ProQuest SciTech Premium Collection; ProQuest Social Science Collection; ProQuest Technology Collection; ProQuest-ExLibris Primo; ProQuest-ExLibris Summon; SCImago; and Scopus. The journal had an impact factor of 1.54 on CiteScore and a Google Scholar h5-index of 19 in 2018. Altmetric indicators are administered. The 'front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal has not been independently peer reviewed before.

Suggested improvements

Consensus review: The journal should consider the inclusion of book reviews, letters and commentaries, and consider a mentoring programme for emerging researchers.

The journal should consider applying for Web of Science (Clarivate) accreditation.

The journal should perhaps consider adding an editor with prominent international standing and journal editing experience. More tourism-related papers should be introduced, and reflections not only on cities but also on small urban centres should be permitted.

There was concern that the journal tends to be internationally focused and should consider focusing more on southern Africa.

A small percentage of the articles are open access. The journal should change its business model to being fully open access to be considered for inclusion on the SciELO SA platform.

Panel's consensus view

- i. **The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.**
- ii. **The journal should be invited to join the SciELO SA platform should it become open access.**
- iii. **The panel recommends that the journal should engage in international collaboration.**
- iv. **In addition, the panel believes that the journal should focus on South Africa and southern Africa, should introduce more tourism-related papers, and should allow for reflection not only on cities but also on small urban centres.**

4.2 Gender

4.2.1 *Agenda: Empowering Women for Gender Equality*

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

Agenda has been at the forefront of feminist publishing in sub-Saharan Africa. The journal raises debate around women's rights and gender issues. It is designed to promote critical thinking, debate and the capacity of both men and women to challenge gender discrimination and injustice. The journal aims to focus both on specific disciplines and to have an interdisciplinary interest.

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Agenda strives to achieve a measure of diversity in both its editorial content and in the contributors whose work is published. *Agenda* has endeavoured to address the need to ensure the publication of black writers, and those who have been historically disadvantaged and whose voices were silenced because of apartheid. It strives to combine academic research on women and gender with formats that enable new writers to find their writing voice, as well as interviews, poetry and visual contributions.

The primary target audiences are local scholars as well as those further afield. *Agenda* is accessible to readers through direct subscriptions, online-only sales packages with institutions, and as part of the journal's Social Sciences and Humanities Library.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The editorial collective brings a range of diverse disciplinary and professional expertise to bear on the editorial functions of the journal, and they all have high local and international standing. The South African composition of the editorial collective is noted, but this may be for practical reasons and has not affected the international standing of the journal.

Questionnaire

(Editorial process-related criteria)

Agenda was established in 1987 and is published on a quarterly basis. It is available online through the Taylor & Francis platform at <https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/ragn20>. *Agenda* received 47 574 article downloads in 2018, which was 17% higher than the number of downloads in 2017. By the end of May 2019, there had been 26 494 article downloads, which was 19% higher than for the same period in 2018. The top ten countries for usage over the 2017–2019 period were South Africa, Norway, USA, UK, Australia, Canada, Zimbabwe, India, China and Kenya. Issues are pre-scheduled to appear every three months. There have been no significant interruptions in publication; however, this publication record is becoming difficult to maintain due to lack of funds.

All papers are reviewed internally by the editorial collective. *Agenda* has several formats for publishing, including briefing, focus, perspective, profile, interview and report back. Between 12 and 18 papers were received per issue over the last three years. *Agenda* commissions authors to write entries that do

not need peer review. As the journal publishes invited content, there are hardly ever desk rejects prior to review. The rejection rate after review is about 10%. Initial screening takes place prior to the invitation to submit, which keeps the rejection rate low. *Agenda* first does a call for abstracts. The guest editors, editor and the editorial collective then select the abstracts most suitable to the theme of the journal, and the rest are rejected. The proportion of peer-reviewed papers that had at least one author with a non-South African address was 20%.

Two peer reviewers are selected for each submitted manuscript. Peer reviewers are referred by specialists or are selected from a database of previous reviewers based on working in research, mostly according to their knowledge of the journal theme. Peer review is conducted in a 'blind way'. Valid reviewer critique and article improvement are rigorously implemented. The journal endeavours to ensure that article improvement is done by writers according to the reviewers' suggestions and recommendations. Peer reviewers receive follow-up information. Reviewer performance is assessed, and information is captured in a database. All comments received are filed with the abstract and the piece. In 2019, about 120 peer reviewers were used. The proportion of reviewers who had a non-South African address was about 20%. The peer-review reports were accessibly retained in the journal's records. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication was five months in print and four months online.

Agenda does not have an editor or chief editor due to lack of funds. The journal employs consulting editors who are professionals or specialists in the field or theme. *Agenda* has two or more guest editors who are professionals in the field of the chosen theme, or knowledgeable in the area. *Agenda's* editorial collective are asked to peer review manuscripts and receive each piece for comment and input. The consulting editors are appointed competitively. The consulting editor, guest editors and the editorial collective handle peer review and provide advice on editorial policies and practices. The journal has 15 editorial collective members, most of whom have been in office for over five years. The editorial collective members are headhunted to serve for a period of five to seven years. Members are appointed from inside and outside the country to provide specific topical expertise.

The journal has a conflict-of-interest policy and publishes corrections and retractions where necessary. Taylor & Francis is a member of COPE, and ethical best practice guidelines are strictly applied. The value-added features published in the journal include critical editorials (*Agenda* includes editorials and an introduction written by guest editors), critical topical reviews and analytical book reviews. Interviews, visual essays and poetry are welcomed. The percentage of pages in each issue that represented peer-reviewed original material was 90%.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The standing and quality of the journal are commended. There is a combination of high-quality, good and average articles tailored to the diverse readership of the journal, which includes academic and non-academic readers. *Agenda* is a leader in the field of African gender studies and feminist theory.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: The reviewers commended the professional presentation, design and layout. It was noted that *Agenda's* logo helps to solidify its strong identity as an organisation and a journal. The use of images and visuals was commended, as well as the practice of publishing a photo of authors alongside a brief biography.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability

Consensus review: The journal welcomes not only emerging and early career academics, but also non-academics. This is noted and welcomed, although a more programmatic approach to mentorship is recommended, such as writing workshops.

Business aspects

(Business-related criteria; Bibliometric assessments)

In 2010, *Agenda* partnered with Taylor & Francis/Routledge to publish the journal due to funding constraints. Taylor & Francis is responsible for overall marketing and distribution. The journal does not carry any advertising. The journal is currently sponsored by Gender Links, the University of KwaZulu-Natal and the African Women's Development Fund.

There are no APCs, but *Agenda* is an Open Select title, which means that authors can opt to pay an APC and publish in open access. Most of the content is published on a subscription model. The editorial workflow is managed through an online management system, loading of articles on to the web, manual systems and ScholarOne. The journal is open access for a certain period and is part of a commercial e-publication service.

There have been offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal. Copyright on each paper published in *Agenda* is held by the authors. Authors grant *Agenda Feminist Media* an exclusive licence to publish their articles, which enables the publishers (Taylor & Francis Group and Unisa Press) to ensure protection against licensing infringement. The exclusive licence to publish is clearly granted in writing prior to publication.

The journal is indexed by IBSS and Scopus. The journal does not have an impact factor. Altmetric indicators are administered. The 'front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal has not been independently reviewed.

Suggested improvements

Consensus review: The number and regularity of book reviews should be increased.

The journal should consider diversifying authorship and editorship beyond southern Africa to include other African countries and regions.

The involvement of male scholars could be considered. This would increase men's exposure to feminist ideas and deepen the conversations, although the panel was ambivalent about this recommendation and left the matter for the editors to consider.

Mentorship of early-career academics through research, writing and publication workshops should be formalised.

Panel's consensus view

- i. **The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.**
- ii. **The journal should be invited to join the SciELO SA platform.**

4.2.2 Gender Questions

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

Gender Questions is an interdisciplinary peer-reviewed research journal that publishes high-quality articles on all aspects of gender studies including feminist research, masculinity studies and alternative sexualities. The journal seeks to contribute to South African knowledge production about gender by providing a forum for serious scholarship and rigorous theoretical engagement with gender studies.

The journal is committed to critical thinking and evaluation. It is international in scope and intends to make a significant contribution to the generation and dissemination of gender theory emanating from an African context. Scholarly reviews of current books in the field appear in every issue. The journal has 21 international institutions, one African institution and 65 local institutions as subscribers.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The editor-in-chief is a highly regarded interdisciplinary scholar in the field, even though her publications are not in journals with high impact factors or citations. The co-editors are junior scholars, but capable and competent. The journal is gaining international recognition.

Questionnaire

(Editorial process-related criteria)

Gender Questions was established in 2013. Until recently, one issue has been published per year, but the journal is planning to move to two issues per year, usually one general issue and one themed issue. The journal is available at <https://unisapressjournals.co.za/index.php/GQ/index>. The site has been accessed by 2 694 users on OJS. Subscribers are from South Africa, the USA, Australia and Namibia. Open-access content is read from all over the world. The only subscriber in Africa is an institution in Namibia, but there

have been abstract views and free downloads from across Africa. The issue is published in December on a continuous publishing model. The themed issue will appear by June every year. There have been no significant interruptions in publication.

During the three-year review period, 21 peer-reviewed articles and three book reviews (not peer reviewed) were published. The submissions since 2017 include four published editorials, four published interviews, three published book reviews and one published erratum. The articles include 132 submitted, seven currently in production, 17 currently in review, three still unassigned/new, 74 declined and 31 published. Seven manuscripts were rejected without peer review and 41 after peer review. The proportion of peer-reviewed papers that had at least one author with a non-South African address was 26%.

Two to three peer reviewers are usually approached for each submitted manuscript. Peer reviewers are selected based on their expertise in the field and their NQF level. The journal uses double-blind peer review. Valid reviewer critique and article improvement are rigorously implemented. Every article is sent for correction after the peer reviewers have responded favourably. Peer reviewers receive follow-up information on request. Reviewer performance is assessed, and information is captured in the journal's database. A total of 60 peer reviewers were used in one year over the three-year review period; of these, 25% had a non-South African address. The peer-review reports were accessibly retained in the journal's records. The average time between receipt of a manuscript and its publication in print is six months, and four months online.

The former editor-in-chief was in office for two years (2019–2020) and was appointed competitively for a period of five years. The current editor-in-chief was appointed in September 2021. The members of the editorial board do not handle peer review but provide advice on editorial policies and practices. The board has been in office since 2019 and was appointed competitively. They were appointed from inside and outside the country to provide specific topical expertise.

The journal has made the editorial guidelines available online at <https://unisapressjournals.co.za/index.php/GQ/about/submissions>. The editorial guidelines are aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. The journal has a conflict-of-interest policy. Authors and reviewers are asked to declare any conflict of interest.

The journal publishes critical editorials and analytical book reviews as value-added features. The percentage of pages in each issue that represented peer-reviewed original material was 90%.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The journal publishes high-quality material that aligns with international scholarly standards. The number of articles published per year is acceptable and of good quality.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: The presentation, design and layout of the journal are professional, and the reviewers commented on the 'user-friendly' design of the online content. The language and academic register are appropriate and scholarly.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability

Consensus review: The journal is welcoming to emerging and early-career academics. It compares well with international journals in the field and adheres to international standards of quality, peer review, rigorous editing and attention to detail.

Business aspects

(Business-related criteria; Bibliometric assessments)

The journal is owned by the Institute for Gender Studies at the University of South Africa (Unisa) and is published by Unisa Press. About 10 to 15 copies per issue are printed on request. Production and distribution are outsourced to Unisa Press. The journal carries no advertisements and does not receive financial sponsorship.

There are 87 paying subscribers through Sabinet. The journal does not charge APCs. The editorial workflow is managed through OJS. The journal is not open access and is part of a commercial e-publication service through Sabinet. There have not been any offers from multinational publishers to purchase the

journal. Copyright is retained by the publisher unless the author chooses to publish in open access. There is a copyright notice for subscription content.

The journal is accredited by DHET and does not have an impact factor. There are altmetric indicators. The 'front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal has previously been reviewed by DHET.

Suggested improvements

Consensus review: The editor should consider adding other forms of scholarly engagement pieces such as 'in conversation' or shorter topical interventions.

The journal should be more critical at the first step of reviewing. In other words, editors should exercise the prerogative of rejecting articles that do not meet the standard or scope of the journal without going through the whole peer-review process.

Panel's consensus view

- i. The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.
- ii. The journal should be invited to join the SciELO SA platform.

4.3 Health

4.3.1 African Journal of Disability

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

The *African Journal of Disability* introduces and discusses issues and experiences relating to and supporting the act of better understanding the interfaces between disability, poverty, and practices of exclusion and marginalisation. Its articles yield new insight into established human development practices, evaluate new educational techniques and disability research, examine current cultural and social discrimination, and bring serious critical analysis to bear on problems shared across the African continent. The emphasis is on all aspects of disability, particularity in the developing African context. This includes, among others:

- disability studies as an emerging field of public health enquiry;
- rehabilitation, including vocational and community-based rehabilitation;
- community development and issues related to disability and poverty;
- disability-related stigma and discrimination;
- inclusive education;
- legal, policy, human rights and advocacy issues related to disability;
- the role of arts and media in relation to disability;
- disability as part of the global Sustainable Development Goals transformation agendas;
- disability and postcolonial issues;
- globalisation and cultural change in relation to disability;
- environmental and climate-related issues linked to disability;
- disability, diversity and intersections of identity; and
- disability and the promotion of human development.

The journal content can inform policymakers and legislative stakeholders on how to develop more effective policies, programmes and applied planning to aspects related to disability and rehabilitation. The primary target audiences are South African and African scholars. The journal is also read by disability scholars and practitioners from other countries in the Global South and provides valuable insight to scholars and practitioners in the Global North. It is an open-access journal, published by AOSIS since 2012. The journal has a worldwide audience.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The editor was headhunted for the position in 2018 and appointed for five years, which was not a competitive process. She has an h-index of 4 with Scopus, and thus only a limited number of publications, but she has high clinical and professional standing in South Africa. The editorial team includes accomplished academics and researchers of high national and international standing who may provide additional editorial support. The editor's research field is focused on the societal aspects of persons with intellectual disabilities.

The associate editors, according to their Scopus profiles, seem to be less experienced researchers and publishers than the editor. The editorial board consists of 24 people, eight of whom are from Stellenbosch University, another eight are from other African countries (Ghana, Lesotho, Malawi and Zambia) and two international members are from the USA and India. It seems that the journal has a very strong South African context, reflecting to some extent the African context, while the international standing could be improved in the years to come. The editorial board needs to be diversified, as one-third of its members are from a single university. The board represents a good cross-section of disciplines and interests across the disability sector, and most members have a good track record of publications in peer-reviewed journals. Some members of the editorial committee have an international reputation, whilst all have a national reputation.

Questionnaire

(Editorial process-related criteria)

The *African Journal of Disability* was established in 2012. The journal publishes one volume each year. Articles are published online when ready for publication and then printed in an end-of-year compilation. Additional collections may be published for special events (e.g. conferences) and when special themes are addressed. The journal is available online through the AOSIS platform at <https://ajod.org>. The journal has received 286 902 visits and 2 107 811 downloads. It was read in 216 countries worldwide, including 55 African countries. Issues are not pre-scheduled to appear on specific dates. There have not been any significant interruptions in publication.

Over the three-year review period, 84 full articles, ten review articles, three book reviews, three opinion papers and four case studies were published. A total of 236 manuscripts were received over the same period. The total number of manuscripts rejected without peer review was 100, and 37 were rejected after peer review. The proportion of peer-reviewed papers that had at least one author with a non-South African address was 37% in 2019.

Between two and three peer reviewers are selected for each submitted manuscript. Reviewer selection is critical to the publication process, and the editors base the choice on many factors, including expertise, reputation, specific recommendations, and their own previous experience of a reviewer's characteristics. Peer reviews are conducted in a 'blind way', and valid reviewer critique and article improvement are rigorously implemented. Not only does peer review provide an independent assessment of the importance and technical accuracy of the results described, but the feedback from referees conveyed to authors with the editors' advice frequently also results in manuscripts being refined so that their structure and logic are more readily apparent to readers. All manuscripts submitted to the journal are screened for scientific overlap on previously published work (plagiarism), which also needs to be addressed by the author during revision. The peer-review process aims to ensure that all published articles present the results of primary scientific research; report results that have not been published elsewhere; are scientifically sound; provide new scientific knowledge where experiments, statistics and other analyses are performed to a high technical standard and are described in sufficient detail so that another researcher will be able to reproduce the experiments described; provide conclusions that are presented in an appropriate manner and are supported by the data; are presented in an intelligible and logical manner and are written in clear and unambiguous English; meet all applicable research standards with regard to the ethics of experimentation and research integrity; and adhere to appropriate reporting guidelines and community standards for data availability. After the author has submitted the revised manuscript, the reviewers may be asked to reappraise the manuscript that was referred to the author after a first-round review.

Peer reviewers receive follow-up information. The editor keeps reviewers informed of a manuscript's status throughout the peer-review process and the final decision on the manuscript, and is committed to providing reviewers with the review reports of other reviewers who participated in the review and giving feedback on the outcome of the manuscript. Reviewer performance is assessed by a rating given by the editor after each completed review. This information is captured in a database. A total of 115 reviewers were used in 2019, 35% of whom had a non-South African address. The peer-review reports were accessibly retained in the journal's records. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication online was 296 days in 2019. The printed edition of the journal is compiled annually in a volume.

The editor has been in office since 2018 and was headhunted for the position. The period of appointment was five years. Members of the editorial board deal with peer review and provide advice on editorial

policies and practices. The editorial board was established in June 2018. Members were appointed for a period of five years, and their appointments were not competitive. They are appointed from within and outside the country to provide specific topical expertise.

The editorial guidelines for the journal are available at <https://ajod.org/index.php/ajod/pages/view/policies>, and guidelines from the publisher are available at <https://aosis.co.za/legal-centre/publication-policies/>. The guidelines are aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. The conflict-of-interest policy is available at https://ajod.org/index.php/ajod/pages/view/policies#part_5. There is an errata policy accessible at <https://aosis.co.za/legal-centre/publication-policies/#Correcting-the-record>.

The value-added features published in the journal include critical editorials, critical topical reviews, analytical book reviews, opinion papers, case studies, conference reports, proceedings and abstracts, community papers, education material, interactive communications and scientific letters. The percentage of pages in each issue that represented peer-reviewed original material was 97% in 2019.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The published articles are generally of good quality, in particular articles from internationally renowned authors. The published papers reflect the aim of the journal to foster the understanding of the interfaces between disability, poverty and practices of exclusion and marginalisation. The journal carries a near-equal spread of systematic/scoping reviews and original research. The journal published an adequate number of between 30 and 40 articles per annum for the period 2017–2019. The journal presents a good sample of the best work done in South Africa in the field and covers a broad range of topics relevant to the African context.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: All articles are in English, with English abstracts of good quality. Errata are published by the journal. The citation practices are good and consistent; the layout of the journal is very good; and copy-editing and ethical use of images are in order. The instructions for authors are not easily accessible on the journal website.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability

Consensus review: The journal is a very good stimulus for students and young staff, and offers the opportunity for postgraduate students to publish their work. The journal focuses on South Africa and African-related topics within the field of disability. The journal is included in WoS, Scopus and SciELO SA, which ensures similar international exposure to other comparable journals. The higher-quality articles are comparable to those in international disability journals.

Business aspects

(Business-related criteria; Bibliometric assessments)

The journal is published by AOSIS. There is no regular print run. The journal carries unpaid advertising, and there is no financial sponsorship. The journal charges an APC of ZAR1 415 per page (excluding VAT). The journal uses an online management system for the editorial workflow. This is an open-access journal and is part of a commercial e-publication service (Sabinet) and a non-commercial e-publication mechanism.

Authors retain the copyright for work published by AOSIS unless otherwise specified. Authors of published work are required to grant AOSIS unlimited rights to publish the definitive work in any format, language or medium, for any lawful purpose. AOSIS requires journal authors to publish their work in open access under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) licence. The authors retain the non-exclusive right to use the published article if attribution is given to the applicable journal, with details of the original publication as set out in the official citation of the article published in the journal. Authors specifically have the right to post the article on their own website or that of their institution, or in institutional or other repositories.

The journal is accredited by DHET and indexed by African Index Medicus; AOSIS Library Index; DOAJ; EBSCOhost; Elsevier Products, EMCare; Gale, Cengage Learning; Google Scholar; Hinari; Norwegian Register for Scientific Journals, Series and Publishers, Level 1; ProQuest; PubMed Central; Sabinet; SciELO SA; Scopus; and Web of Science other coverage, Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI). The journal

had an h5-index of 12 on Google Scholar and Scopus CiteScore of 0.4 in 2019. Altmetric indicators are administered. The 'front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal has been previously peer reviewed by Scopus.

Suggested improvements

Consensus review: Expanding the editorial board might be considered to include a greater diversity of experts from more African countries. Appointments to positions on the editorial board, especially that of editor-in-chief, should be through a competitive process of fair and representative recruitment, allowing greater regional and more diverse participation in the role of the journal as the African journal in the field.

Too many of the articles were from Stellenbosch University and may be linked to the editorial board based at this institution. The editorial board should encourage more publications from across South Africa and Africa and market the journal to attract more international papers.

Author instructions for the preferred styles are not easily accessible on the journal website. The journal website should provide hyperlinks to relevant pages, such as the referencing and citation information and formatting requirements.

Letters to the editor and scholarly correspondence would be a useful addition to the journal. Authors should be encouraged to share their published work on social media platforms to increase the readability of the journal.

Panel's consensus view

- i. **The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.**
- ii. **The journal is already on the SciELO SA platform.**
- iii. **The panel recommends that the editor consider marketing the journal to multidisciplinary professionals to increase the diversity of approaches and improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities.**
- iv. **In addition, the panel believes that the editorial team should consider increasing regional participation in the editorial and review processes. This should be a particular area of focus in moving forward.**

4.3.2 African Journal of Laboratory Medicine

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

The *African Journal of Laboratory Medicine (AJLM)* is the official journal of the African Society for Laboratory Medicine. Its focus is on the role of the laboratory and its professionals in the clinical and public healthcare sectors, specifically based on an African frame of reference. The emphasis is on all aspects that promote and contribute to laboratory medicine practices in Africa. This includes, among others: laboratories; biomedical scientists and clinicians; medical community, public health officials and policymakers; laboratory systems and policies (translation of laboratory knowledge, practices and technologies in clinical care); interfaces of the laboratory with medical science; laboratory-based epidemiology; laboratory investigations; and evidence-based effectiveness in real-world (actual) settings.

The journal encourages scholarly exchange among biomedical scientists and clinicians, public health officials, the medical community and policymakers across Africa, and casts a deserving spotlight on African medical laboratory researchers. The journal strives to bridge the communication gap between physicians and laboratory personnel by fostering communication, laboratory capacity, quality standards, education and infrastructure.

The primary target audiences of the journal are scholars of biomedical sciences, clinical medicine, development science, and science and technology studies, as well as laboratory scientists, particularly those with an interest in laboratory science in the African context. It is an open-access journal, published by AOSIS since 2012. The journal has a worldwide audience.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The editor-in-chief is an internationally respected scholar, but some of the members of the editorial board do not enjoy the same level of recognition. Notwithstanding this, the editorial

board does have significant international representation from outside Africa, including the USA, France, China, Japan and the Netherlands.

Questionnaire

(Editorial process-related criteria)

The AJLM was established in 2012. The journal publishes at least one issue each year. Articles are published online when ready for publication and then printed in an end-of-year compilation. Additional issues may be published for special events (e.g. conferences) and when special themes are addressed. It is available online at <https://ajlmonline.org>. The journal received 207 055 visits and 712 977 downloads as reported on 31 July 2020. It is read in 222 countries worldwide, 57 of which are African countries. Issues are not pre-scheduled to appear on given dates. There have been no significant interruptions in publication.

During the three-year review period, 36 full articles, one letter and six review articles were published. A total of 408 manuscripts were received over the same period. About 184 manuscripts were rejected without peer review, and 79 were rejected after peer review. The percentage of peer-reviewed papers that had at least one author with a non-South African address was 80%.

At least two, but typically up to eight, peer reviewers are selected for each submitted manuscript. Reviewer selection is critical to the publication process, and the editors base their choices on many factors, including expertise, reputation, specific recommendations and their own previous experience of a reviewer's characteristics. Reviewers may not be from the same department as the authors or have co-authored with them during the three-year review period. All peer reviews are conducted in a 'blind way'. Valid reviewer critique and article improvement are rigorously implemented. Not only does peer review provide an independent assessment of the importance and technical accuracy of the results described, but the feedback from referees conveyed to authors with the editors' advice frequently also results in manuscripts being refined so that their structure and logic are more readily apparent to readers. All manuscripts submitted to the journal are screened for scientific and textural overlap on previously published work (plagiarism), which also needs to be addressed by the author during revision. The peer-review process aims to ensure that all published articles present the results of primary scientific research; report results that have not been published elsewhere; are scientifically sound; provide new scientific knowledge where experiments, statistics and other analyses are performed to a high technical standard and are described in sufficient detail so that another researcher will be able to reproduce the experiments described; provide conclusions that are presented in an appropriate manner and are supported by the data; are presented in an intelligible and logical manner and are written in clear and unambiguous English; meet all applicable research standards with regard to the ethics of experimentation and research integrity; and adhere to appropriate reporting guidelines and community standards for data availability. Once the author submits the revised manuscript, reviewers may be asked to reappraise the manuscript that was referred to the authors after a first-round review.

Peer reviewers receive follow-up information. Reviewers are routinely notified of the fate of all submissions at the time of the final decision to accept or reject the manuscript. Reviewers are only provided with the comments of the editors and other reviewers if a manuscript undergoes major revision and is thus sent back to the original reviewers for reassessment. For manuscripts that undergo minor revision, reviewers are only provided with the editors' and other reviewers' comments upon request. Reviewer performance is assessed by a rating given by the editor after each completed review. This information is captured in a database. In 2019, 141 reviewers were used, about 95% of whom had a non-South African address. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication online was 336 days in 2019. The printed edition of the journal is compiled annually in a volume.

The editor has been in office since 2017 and was headhunted for the position. The period of appointment was three years in the first instance, which was renewed for another term in 2020.

The members of the editorial board deal with peer review and advise on editorial policies and practices. Members of the board have been in office for three years with the option of renewal. Their appointments were competitive, following a selection process. They were appointed from within and outside the country to provide specific topical expertise.

The editorial guidelines for the journal are available at <https://ajlmonline.org/index.php/ajlm/pages/view/policies>, and guidelines from the publisher are available at <https://aosis.co.za/legal-centre/publication-policies/>. The guidelines are aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing, and Peer Review*. The conflict-of-interest policy is available at <https://ajlmonline.org/>

index.php/ajlm/pages/view/policies#part_5. There is an errata policy accessible at <https://aosis.co.za/legal-centre/publication-policies/#Correcting-the-record>.

The journal publishes value-added features such as critical editorials, critical topical reviews, correspondence on published articles, reviewer acknowledgement, lessons from the field, opinion papers, case studies, commentaries and brief reports. Approximately 98% of the pages in each issue represented peer-reviewed original material.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The journal publishes a good range of high-quality articles in laboratory medicine from Africa and beyond. The citation rate is relatively low, but this may reflect the relatively young age of the journal and the fact that the journal is not widely known. The articles focus on laboratory medicine issues in Africa and developing countries and therefore have a regional focus. Case studies, commentaries, brief reports, original papers and review articles are published. The journal is useful to public health professionals, medical laboratory practitioners and primary care practitioners in Africa.

The number of articles published per annum is appropriate. Specific material problems that affect communities across numerous African countries are a particular focus of this journal, such as drug-resistant tuberculosis in various contexts. The 'Lessons from the Field' section is useful for sharing best practice related to issues across the continent, such as topical articles on COVID-19 testing.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: The English usage was of a high standard. Each paper has an abstract. Only two errata were published in 2017 and 2019 reflecting the misspelling of authors' names and corrections of affiliations. The citations and journal layout are of high standard. References or acknowledgements were added with the use of figures where appropriate.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability

Consensus review: The journal provides a good opportunity for local students, junior trainees and junior academics to publish studies with local context and relevance, which may not be attractive to overseas journals. The journal has great future potential to develop and is currently comparable to some international journals. The journal is indexed in several catalogues, including WoS and PubMed, which emphasises its comparability to leading international journals.

Business aspects

(Business-related criteria; Bibliometric assessments)

The AJLM is owned by the African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM) (in Ethiopia) and published by AOSIS. There is no regular print run. The journal carries paid and unpaid advertising. The ASLM provides financial sponsorship to the journal.

There are no page charges or APCs. The journal uses an online management system for the editorial workflow. This is an open-access journal and is part of a commercial e-publication service and non-commercial e-publication mechanism.

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The journal is indexed by African Index Medicus; AOSIS Library Index; Chemical Abstract Services; DOAJ; EBSCOhost; Elsevier-related products; Gale, Cengage Learning; Google Scholar; Hinari; ProQuest; PubMed Central; Sabinet; SciELO SA; Scopus; and WoS Emerging Sources Citation Index. The journal had an h5-index of 11 on Google Scholar, and the Scopus impact factor was 1.7 in 2019. Altmetric indicators are administered. 'Front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal has been reviewed by DOAJ and Elsevier.

Suggested improvements

Consensus review: The journal could increase the number and diversity of articles to improve visibility, standing, readership and publication rates. The number of issues varied from one to three issues annually, reflecting the submission rate as well as the time to publication.

The journal should make more use of guest editors and recruit experienced editors. The range of articles should be increased by publishing more original research, case studies and lessons in the field.

The journal should increase its visibility through a publicity campaign. The funding structure is impressive: all articles are fully open access and indexed in all the appropriate repositories and indexes. APCs are not charged to authors, but rather to the ASLM, which covers all publishing costs.

The journal should try to improve its time to publication. The long lag time might be due to rigorous revisions requested from authors (which could be a sign of improving the journal quality).

Panel's consensus view

- i. **The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.**
- ii. **The journal is already on the SciELO SA platform.**
- iii. **The panel recommends that the journal publish additional issues per annum and attract more international contributions.**

4.3.3 Ergonomics SA

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

Ergonomics SA (ESA) provides a medium for publication of material relevant to occupational conditions and needs in southern Africa. More specifically, *ESA* is a multidisciplinary refereed journal, concerned with capturing the constraints and enabling factors that influence the safety, well-being and performance of people at work.

In South Africa and other low- and middle-income countries of the Global South, many aspects of work systems are designed poorly or without taking into consideration the needs and limitations of the humans who must operate within the system. To this end, *ESA* captures research and perspectives that highlight and explore ways of trying to improve conditions of work for people, principally through the discipline of ergonomics, which, along with other cognate disciplines, can provide important insights into how to improve work systems and make them more human centred.

The journal is linked to the Ergonomics Society of South Africa (ESSA) and its membership, who are predominantly local researchers and practitioners. However, submissions are received from other parts of Africa, Asia and other low- and middle-income countries, which increases the scope of readership.

Articles are disseminated to the membership of the ESSA. The society is relatively small, so this number does not usually exceed 100 researchers and practitioners locally and to some extent regionally. Some institutions (two local universities), working through Worldwide Information Services, also subscribe to the journal. Additionally, the journal is hosted by Sabinet, which ensures that there is an online presence and that the journal is accessible to a much wider audience.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The editor is an emerging academic researcher in the field of ergonomics, with several publications but a low citation rate. He completed his PhD in 2017 and needs assistance from a functioning editorial board to ensure the quality of the journal. The editor has been serving since 2018 (for an undisclosed term), having been an associate editor in 2017. He was elected as the editor without a competitive selection process. *Ergonomics SA* has a small footprint, with an estimated 100 researchers and practitioners in South Africa as subscribers, and 46 institutional subscribers. There is no information on the journal website about the composition of the editorial board or guiding policies.

Questionnaire

(Editorial process-related criteria)

Ergonomics SA was established in January 1989 and aims to publish two editions per year, but more recently only one annual edition has been published. The journal is accessible online at <https://journals.>

co.za/content/journal/ergosa. On average, there have been 17 downloads per month since the beginning of 2018. There have been a total of 555 downloads since January 2018 according to the Sabinet platform. The latest summary for the last three years shows that the most reads are from South African readers, but there have been readers from Zimbabwe, Afghanistan, Namibia, the USA, Canada, Italy and Brazil. Issues are not pre-scheduled to appear on given dates. The submission and peer-review processes take time. Given the low submission rate, editions are usually only published at the end of the year. There have been no significant interruptions in publication.

During the three-year review period, five research papers and one review article were published, while six research papers and one review article were under consideration. A total of 22 manuscripts were received over the same period. Three manuscripts were rejected without peer review, and three were rejected after peer review. Lack of follow through by authors presents a challenge. At least six manuscripts, received during the last three years and peer reviewed, have not been resubmitted for further consideration. Two authors of the manuscripts published since 2018 are non-South African, but there are two additional manuscripts under consideration from international authors.

At least two reviewers are selected to review a submission and, in some cases, three are invited to review the manuscript given the often-poor response from potential reviewers. Reviewers are selected by the editor and are usually experts or knowledgeable on the topic presented in the manuscript. Usually, one local reviewer (from South Africa) and one international reviewer (from elsewhere in Africa or further afield) are invited to assess submissions. Peer review is conducted in a 'blind way'. Reviewers have no knowledge of who the authors are or what their affiliations are. Valid reviewer critique and article improvement are rigorously implemented. Authors receive the reviewers' comments and are requested to submit a document in which they provide a response to each comment, linked to changes made in the manuscript. The editor assesses whether the changes have been performed satisfactorily before sending the revisions to reviewers. Peer reviewers receive follow-up information. The performance of reviewers is not assessed in any formal way. However, the editor keeps an informal record of reviewers used and the quality of their reviews to guide decisions around future review requests, as some submit poor-quality reviews, take too long, or do not respond to requests to review. In 2019, there were 11 reviewers involved in the review of manuscripts, five of whom were international reviewers from various parts of the world. The peer-review reports were accessibly retained in the journal's records. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication online is six to 12 months.

The editor-in-chief has been in office since the beginning of 2018 and was invited to serve as an associate editor in 2017. No competitive or selection process was involved. The period of appointment was not specified. The editorial board was constituted when the journal was established and has not since been updated. The members are not involved in the peer-review processes or the editorial policies and practices. The information on their appointment period was not available at the time of the review. The current board is inactive and was appointed from both local and international countries.

The current policy is captured in the guidelines for authors and guidelines for reviewers. The journal has a conflict-of-interest policy. The guidelines of the journal are aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. The journal does not have a policy on errata. Authors are invited to submit research papers, review articles, methodological reports, case studies and observational records, research notes and updates, and news and views. Most of the submissions are research articles. All material in the journal is peer reviewed, including the editorial.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The journal generally publishes articles and material of acceptable to good quality, but some articles are of questionable quality and are not aligned with the scope of the journal. The number of articles and issues per year is very limited, with one issue per year and three articles per issue. Of concern is the decline from two issues containing four articles each published in 2017, to one issue containing three articles published in 2018 and 2019. There is no evidence of any articles being accepted or published in 2020. Ergonomics is a very small and specialised field, with a limited number of participants and experts in South Africa. The journal publishes articles by authors from across the country, as well as a limited number of articles from international sources. Studies involving human participants or questionnaire responses were small to medium-sized, addressing local or regional issues in the field. Of the 14 research articles published during the three-year review period, 71% were authored by researchers from South African universities and focused on local or regional issues. Other articles originated from

Brazil, and two from India and the Philippines, and addressed issues relevant to the specific countries of origin. The published work was a good example of work that is locally relevant to the reality of challenges in the South African workplace.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: All articles had appropriate abstracts in English and were written in acceptable English language with respect to spelling and grammar. No errata were noted in the issues evaluated. Referencing and layout are generally consistent and easy to follow. Some images are of poor quality. There is a standardised citation format, but notable inconsistencies are evident in the style of referencing in citations and reference lists. Author guidelines for preparing manuscripts for submission are only available on request, and it is not clear what instructions are provided to authors. Figures and schematics were not standardised due to the different software packages used by the authors. Images (photographs) were used in an ethical manner.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability

Consensus review: The journal is suitable as a general ongoing stimulus for local graduate students and young staff in the discipline, but the quality of the publication could be improved. *ESA* is the only specialised journal in the field of human kinetics and ergonomics in South Africa and serves as a national platform through which local and regional subject-specific research findings can be disseminated. This journal is a suitable medium for emerging writers to start publishing research from their thesis or dissertation. The journal also facilitates collaborative work, as shown in examples from among the published articles. The frequency of issues published (approximately one per year) may not provide local graduate students or staff with enough stimulation through frequent provision of new articles to read. It may also deter local authors from submitting manuscripts, as publication in an annual issue may take a long time to appear. It is evident that there are no shortcomings with respect to the purpose of the journal and there are resemblances in the research topics published. There are opportunities for themes related to the Fourth Industrial Revolution to come to the fore in future articles published in the journal. In terms of comparability, *ESA* publishes far fewer papers than international ergonomics journals with impact factors and has a much smaller editorial board.

Business aspects

(Business-related criteria; Bibliometric assessments)

The journal is owned by the Ergonomics Society of South Africa. There is no regular print run. Production and distribution are performed in-house by the editor supported by an administrative assistant from the Department of Human Kinetics and Ergonomics at Rhodes University. The distribution of the published material is outsourced to Sabinet. The journal carries no advertising, and there is no financial sponsorship.

Members of ESSA subscribe to the journal and receive it as part of their membership fees to the society. Currently, there are no more than 100 members. There are also 46 institutional subscribers.

There are no page charges or article-processing charges. The editorial workflow is managed manually through email correspondence. The journal is not open access and is part of a commercial e-publication service through Sabinet. There have been offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal, but such offers have been declined. All copyright belongs to the Ergonomics Society of South Africa. There are currently no licensing agreements in place with the authors.

The journal is accredited by DHET. The journal does not have an impact factor or altmetric indicators. 'Front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal has not been independently peer reviewed before.

Suggested improvements

Consensus review: The editorial board seems to include eminent researchers. The editor should discuss the role of the editorial board and the reasons why they are not actively involved. The question of what *ESA* is doing to attract high-quality research articles should be discussed with the board.

The journal should consider drafting a policy regarding the period of appointment of the editorial board to ensure that it remains relevant and productive. The composition of the editorial board should be stated on the *ESA* website.

The submission guidelines should be available on the Sabinet website. The present arrangement is that a potential author must contact the journal to request the guidelines, which could influence the number of manuscript submissions received. The journal might consider moving to open access to resolve the difficulty of accessing clear submission guidelines. An online management system should be considered, such as Scholastica, which is available at a low cost to the journal.

Social media should be used to grow the interest in the journal and reach out to members of related associations who also have an interest in ergonomics (e.g. occupational hygienists, occupational medical practitioners, and occupational nurses and practitioners).

Leaders in the field of ergonomics should be invited to submit manuscripts to increase the number of submissions (e.g. a review could be invited on the software available to evaluate ergonomics in the workplace). Authors could be asked to suggest potential reviewers to help the editor to select appropriate reviewers for a manuscript. A minimum of two reviews should be used to determine if the manuscript is acceptable. A very positive practice is that the editor works with authors to address reviewer comments, especially for inexperienced researchers. The editor can thus ensure that the revised manuscript is of a good standard and addresses all the concerns of the reviewers. The editor should put in place mechanisms to encourage authors to resubmit reviewed manuscripts.

The six- to 12-month period between submission and publication could be a factor that limits the number of manuscript submissions to the journal. A shorter turnaround time should be considered to try and improve the number of manuscripts received. The long lag time for publication of an issue could be addressed by publishing accepted articles ahead of the press. The journal's publication policies strive for rapid publication upon acceptance.

The website states: 'All contributions are peer-reviewed by a panel of experienced Ergonomists serving on the editorial board.' It should be clarified whether the editorial board handles the peer review of manuscripts. The process for peer-review should be standardised and published on the website. A policy on publishing errata should be published.

The journal might consider collaborating with *Occupational Health Southern Africa* on a special issue focused on ergonomics, or even merging with *Occupational Health Southern Africa*.

Panel's consensus view

- i. **The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.**
- ii. **The journal should be invited to join the SciELO SA platform should it become open access.**
- iii. **The panel recommends that potential authors should be invited to contribute papers related to Fourth Industrial Revolution themes in a local or regional context.**

4.3.4 South African Gastroenterology Review

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

The scope of the *South African Gastroenterology Review* is to provide original articles, reviews and information on the activities of the gastroenterological community. The journal aims to focus on gastroenterology and hepatology. The articles are subject to editorial review, and most deal with clinical material relevant to the practice of gastroenterology.

The primary target audiences are medical and surgical gastroenterologists, as well as surgeons with an interest in gastroenterology. The journal is geared toward South African and sub-Saharan gastroenterologists and trainees. The journal does not have a circulation outside the continent.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The editors are nationally well-known South African gastroenterologists. The reviewers commented on the international standing of one editor who is a researcher with an h-index of 34, which indicates a high number of publications and an excellent citation rate. During the last two to three years, the journal consistently maintained a high-profile internationally recognised editor-in-chief, associate editors and members of the editorial board for standard and quality scientific and clinical reports.

Questionnaire

(Editorial process-related criteria)

The *South African Gastroenterology Review* was established in August 2003 and publishes three issues per year. The journal is available online at <https://journals.co.za/content/journal/medgas> and <http://ihpublishing.co.za/>. Information on visits and downloads was not provided at the time of the review. The journal is read in the USA, UK, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Ghana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Namibia and Egypt. Issues are pre-scheduled to appear on specific dates. There have been no significant interruptions in publication.

Information on the submission and publication of peer-reviewed original papers and the rejection rate was not provided at the time of the review. The number of manuscripts received was about 50% more than the number of published papers. Only one peer reviewer is selected for each submitted manuscript. The editor selects reviewers if the manuscript is outside his expertise. Peer review is not conducted in a 'blind way'. Valid reviewer critique and article improvement are not rigorously implemented. Peer reviewers do not receive follow-up information. Reviewer performance is not assessed, and information is not captured in a database. About five to seven peer reviewers were used in one of the last three years, two of whom had a non-South African address. The peer-review reports are not retained in the journal's records. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication online and in print is two months.

The editor and members of the editorial board have been in office for ten years. They were appointed indefinitely by the South African Gastroenterology Society (SAGES) council, and their appointments were not competitive. The members of the editorial board deal with peer review and advise on editorial policies and practices. All members of the board are based in South Africa and were appointed to provide specific topical expertise.

The journal has editorial guidelines for authors. There is no conflict-of-interest policy. The editorial guidelines are not aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. The journal has an errata policy in place. The value-added features published include critical editorials, 'news and views' analyses of articles being published and critical topical reviews. None of the pages in each issue represented peer-reviewed original material.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The journal provides revision of relevant medical and surgical gastroenterology topics, as well as interesting case studies in relatively short and easily readable manuscripts. The topics are relevant; however, many are not comprehensively dealt with and therefore not equivalent to the standard of ranked international journals. The articles are of good quality and provide originality and findings with useful information. The published articles are not of original research, and the reviews are not systematic. Interestingly, studies on the gut microbiome and the use of bioinformatics in the treatment of colorectal cancer are ground-breaking in the field. The issues reflect both local and regional kinds of materials and problems. Almost 50% (31 out of 65) of the articles are reports from congresses or training fellowships. The articles are well written and provide relevant clinical information. For the purposes and audience of this journal, these are sufficient; however, the feedback on conferences and fellowships could be decreased, and the number of articles increased.

The journal does not reflect the best original research findings in the field of gastroenterology in South Africa. Published articles are from South Africa and other countries in Africa and abroad. The submission rate seems to be low, and there also appears to be a publication bias as the journal editors have authorship on 16 out of 65 articles, and the universities of the Witwatersrand and Cape Town are the sources of more than 85% of the manuscripts. More than 95% of the published manuscripts originate from within South Africa. There are useful scholarly features such as editorial reviews and correspondence. The editorials are interesting to read but not rich in academic content or thought-provoking.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: The abstracts are single-paragraph summaries of the articles and are not structured with subheadings, which is the usual practice in scientific journals. The journal reflects proper English language, and there seem to be minimal errata. Citations are adequate, and manuscripts are neatly presented with consistent use of the Vancouver referencing style. The journal layout is modern and eye-

catching. Images and pictures are used in an ethical manner. A few of the scientific figures have no legends (labels).

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability

Consensus review: The target audience is limited to gastroenterologists, both young and experienced. The reviewed issues seemed suitable as a general ongoing stimulus for local graduate students and young staff in the field of gastroenterology. The journal is a limited source of complete academic information on the presented topics. The articles are very good for revision as they highlight practical clinical issues that gastroenterologists might encounter in practice.

This journal is not comparable to leading international gastroenterology journals that publish original research in the field. The journal publishes expert opinion along with scarce original research articles.

Business aspects

(Business-related criteria; Bibliometric assessments)

The owner and publisher is In House Publications. The regular print run was between 500 and 800 copies per issue. The journal is distributed by mail through pharmaceutical companies. The journal carries paid advertising and does not receive any sponsorship. There are no paying subscribers, and there are no page charges or APCs. The information on the management of editorial workflow was not provided at the time of the review. The journal is not open access, and articles are password protected. Only SAGES members have full access.

There have been no offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal. There are no copyright arrangements or licensing agreements with authors. The journal is indexed by Scopus. Information on impact factors and altmetric indicators was provided. The 'front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. This is the journal's first independent peer review.

Suggested improvements

Consensus review: Original research (clinical and laboratory based) should be published, while the feedback on conferences and fellowships could be decreased.

The editors should not publish such a significant number of articles in their own journal, but rather try to involve more different authors.

The addition of reviews of online learning resources should be considered, rather than descriptive congress reports. The feedback should be formalised to report in detail on controversial or topical aspects of congresses.

The editorial board should be expanded, and international scholars should be recruited as members of the board.

More of the subject reviews should take the form of systematic reviews. Scientific figures should always contain legends.

To supplement the revenue of the journal, article-processing fees may be levied.

Panel's consensus view

- i. **The journal should not continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list, regardless of its inclusion in Scopus.**
- ii. **The journal should not be invited to join the SciELO SA platform.**
- iii. **The panel believes that more critical external peer reviews might increase the rejection rate.**

4.3.5 South African Health Review

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

The *South African Health Review* (SAHR) aims to advance the sharing of knowledge, feature critical commentary on policy implementation and offer empirical studies for improving South Africa's health system. It is an interdisciplinary journal within the field of public health.

The journal is widely recognised as one of the most authoritative sources of commentary on the South African health system. It is widely used in teaching at various levels of the education system and is a valuable resource to policymakers and decision-makers, donors, journalists, public health specialists, healthcare workers and academics. Perhaps most significantly, the recommendations of the SAHR have had an acknowledged influence on policy, as policymakers use its findings as evidence for positive change. One of the intentions of the SAHR is to inspire further frank debate, analysis, research and innovation to guide the country on its journey towards universal access to a quality health system.

The primary target audience is predominantly local healthcare professionals at all levels and in all sectors of the health system, policymakers and decision-makers, public health specialists, academics and students, donors, the media, and local and international health and development NGOs.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The publications reviewed for the period 2017–2019 showed that three layers of human capital contributed to the scientific rigour. There are at least two editors, one of whom is a guest editor, accompanying the main editor based on their expertise in the field. It appears that there is an annual rotation of editors. The editors have high national and international standing and contribute to the content covered and the focus of the journal. Information about the journal's editorial structure and policy, including the details of the editor-in-chief or the editorial board, is not clearly presented on the journal webpage. The journal constitutes a separate team of two to four guest editors and an editorial advisory committee for every journal issue. Most of the editors for the recent issues are well-established and renowned academics from South African academic institutions. Their areas of expertise appeared to cover areas in the disciplines of health policy development and implementation. There is little international representation on the editorial teams because the journal only publishes articles related to the South African health system. The editorial advisories are appointed each year per issue, according to subject and discipline expertise. A list of peer reviewers is provided per issue, and they appear to be experts with reputable national or international standing within the topic areas of the issue.

Questionnaire

(Editorial process-related criteria)

The SAHR was established in 1995. The journal publishes one issue per year. It is accessible online at <https://www.hst.org.za/publications/Pages/SouthAfricanHealthReview.aspx>. Information on visits, downloads and the number of countries in which the journal is read was not provided at the time of the review. Issues are not pre-scheduled to appear on specific dates. There have been no significant interruptions in publication.

During the three-year review period, one full article, 53 review articles and two case studies were published. The number of manuscripts received over the same period was not provided. About 50% of the manuscripts received were rejected without peer review, and 5–10% were rejected after peer review. The information on peer-reviewed papers that had at least one author with a non-South African address was unknown at the time of the review, but most authors are South African residents.

Four to five peer reviewers are selected for each submitted manuscript. Several potential peer reviewers are recommended for each manuscript by members of the editorial advisory committee. The reviewers are then selected based on a combination of their availability and best match. Peer review is conducted in a 'double-blind way'. Valid reviewer critique and article improvement are rigorously implemented. All manuscripts undergo internal review by the editorial committee to ensure that the criteria to be sent for external peer review are met. If accepted, each manuscript is reviewed by two to three reviewers. These reviews are then critiqued by the editors, and final advice is offered before the feedback is sent to the authors for revision. The authors are then required to provide feedback to the reviewers along with the revised manuscript. Peer reviewers receive follow-up information unless they have specified otherwise. All reviewers receive the authors' responses to their reviews as well as the opportunity to comment on the revised manuscript. A database is kept of all reviewers approached each year and whether they accept or decline the invitation to review, and some record is kept of whether they submit their review within the agreed time frame. A total of 36 reviewers were used in 2020, of whom 1–5% had a non-South African address. The peer-review reports were accessibly retained in the journal's records. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication online and in print was six months.

The editor-in-chief was appointed competitively over ten years ago for an indefinite period. The editorial board members sometimes deal with peer review and advise in part on editorial policies and practices. Some board members have been in office for periods of more than two to five years, while others are

appointed annually depending on the focus of the journal. The board members were appointed from inside the country, and their appointments were not competitive. They were appointed to provide specific topical expertise; some are long-standing members and others are brought in to advise on topics.

The journal has author and peer reviewer guidelines that are not formally aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. There is no conflict-of-interest policy. If errors occur, they are corrected in the electronic version of the journal.

The journal publishes 'news and views' analyses of articles being published and critical topical reviews as value-added features. The percentage of pages in each issue that represented peer-reviewed original material was about 90%.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The articles published are of high quality, based on the rejection rate of the journal, the robust double-blind peer-review process, and the national standing of the peer reviewers. A total of 56 relevant, robust and peer-reviewed articles were published over the period of review. The articles are contextually relevant, fit for the focus of the journal, and address pertinent issues within the South African landscape. The journal has an interdisciplinary focus on the field of public health. The articles address national issues in South Africa and provide recommendations for policymakers and decision-makers, public health specialists, academics and healthcare professionals at all levels of the healthcare system.

The publications represent the diverse spectrum of the field of public health and reflect some of the best empirical work in the field done in the country. The issues are of regional and global relevance in similar settings. Within the South African landscape, a diverse list of authors from academia (higher education institutions) and from different disciplines published in the three publications under review. The publications are diversified by contributions from healthcare establishments such as the Health Systems Trust and the National Department of Health. During the review period, there were only three international institutions represented in co-authorship with South African authors, namely authors from Columbia University Medical Centre (USA) and the Institute for Global Health and Development (Edinburgh, UK). Almost all the papers published in the journal are commentaries in which the authors give their opinions on a certain topic. The articles appear to be of good quality and professionally prepared. Each annual issue has 20 articles (presented in the form of chapters) published once a year.

It is difficult to make a fair comparison with other journals that publish findings from primary research studies. The articles published in the journal contribute significantly to the dissemination of existing data and knowledge on health systems and health policy in South Africa. Each issue has a particular main theme with which the articles were aligned. It is unlikely that the journal article selection processes are biased by geographical location or by the influence of certain academic institutions or bodies.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: The abstracts in the three publications were linguistically and grammatically correct. Errata are not published in the journal, but errors are corrected in the online version. The citation details for the journal are easily accessible, and the citations and reference lists for each publication chapter are correct and follow the journal guidelines. The journal is well set out, consistent and professional in terms of the design, infographics, layout and presentation of data in the review publications. All images were presented ethically, with adequate (and accurate) acknowledgement of the primary sources. Concise summaries of each chapter briefly are provided to show a consolidated view of the chapter discussion points, aims, methodologies, findings, lessons learned, conclusion and recommendations. The journal demonstrated good presentation, design and layout.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability

Consensus review: The journal covers a wide range of topics that are relevant to students, novice researchers and young academics, and useful in the discipline concerned. The applicability, reader-friendliness and relevance to the South African context promote the dissemination and uptake of the findings among healthcare professionals, policymakers and decision-makers, and in particular the target group of local graduates and staff. There are sufficiently diverse public health articles, appropriate as authentic resources for graduate and early-career professionals in the field. The journal also publishes recent health-related indicators aligned with the theme.

Due to the specific contextualisation to South African circumstances, the absence of bibliometric assessments for the journal and the content-specific focus, it is difficult to compare the journal with other international journals. However, in terms of the procedural and regulatory framework used for the peer-review process and the composition of the editorial board, the journal adheres to the basic criteria for scholarly publishing. It is difficult to make a fair comparison of this journal with other leading local and international scientific journals, given the differences in areas of focus and the uniqueness of the scope of the SAHR.

Business aspects

(Business-related criteria; Bibliometric assessments)

The SAHR is owned and published by the Health Systems Trust. The regular print run is between 1 500 and 2 000 copies per issue. Production and distribution are not outsourced. The journal does not carry advertising. The South African National Department of Health provides financial sponsorship to the journal.

There are no paying subscribers, and there are no page charges or APCs. The journal uses a manual system to manage the editorial workflow. This is an open-access journal and is not password protected. There have been no offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal. In terms of copyright arrangements, open access is permitted provided that the SAHR is listed as the source. There is no licensing agreement with the authors.

The SAHR is accredited by DHET. There are no impact factors or altmetric indicators. The 'front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal was evaluated by Public Health Agency in August 2017.

Suggested improvements

Consensus review: It is not clear if this publication is a journal or a book series. The number of articles published annually could be increased from one to at least two per year to provide an opportunity for wider contributions. The journal appears to publish predominantly review articles, but original research in other categories could be increased.

The editorial guidelines should be formally aligned with ASSAF's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review* if this publication should be considered as a journal.

Value-added features could include review articles, critical editorials and more case studies. Bibliometric assessment should be considered as part of the monitoring, evaluation and quality assurance of the journal. The readership should be segmented to be able to ascertain the performance, reach and readership of the audience and the countries in which the journal is received. The number of visits to the journal website, article downloads and citations should be tracked.

Although the issues focus on a South African context, the expansion and inclusion of international and African country authors could enhance the scope. Comparative studies and findings across the continent might be meaningful. More special issues should be considered to attract other regional contributors.

The visibility of the journal needs to be improved. It is difficult to get key information on the webpage. More information should be added to the journal website, especially more information for the target audiences about the editorial team, policies and review processes. Information on the structure of the editorial team should be more accessible on the journal webpage, including details of how the guest editors and editorial advisory committees are constituted.

Panel's consensus view

- i. **The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.**
- ii. **The journal should not be invited to join the SciELO SA platform.**
- iii. **The panel believes that the scope of the editions might be quite narrow compared to bigger scientific journals, but efforts should be made to make the publications more accessible to local and international scholars and academics. If this publication is a journal, it should strive to be indexed by leading journal indexing databases. This would help to increase the reach to potential authors and users of the published information. This process is overdue, given that the journal has been in existence for more than two decades.**

4.3.6 South African Journal of Child Health

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

The *South African Journal of Child Health (SAJCH)* is a quarterly peer-reviewed medical journal covering all aspects of child health. The journal carries original research articles, editorials, clinical practice, opinions, South Africa health-related news, obituaries, and general correspondence. The focus of the journal is on the broad discipline of child health; thus it covers all the paediatric sub-disciplines, including the allied medical disciplines and public health related to child health paediatric practice at the three levels of primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare. The journal serves the South African research community by providing a vehicle through which locally relevant South African (and African) research can be communicated to other child health professionals, especially paediatricians. The journal actively encourages paediatric registrars to publish their MMed research in the journal, which serves a springboard for developing their research interest.

The target readership is child health specialists working in South Africa or in other low- or middle-income countries, especially in Africa. There are over 1 400 registered readers on the journal website, although this is an underestimation because users are not required to register to view. Most registered readers are local. The journal is now the official journal of the South African Paediatric Association (SAPA), and its content is sent to all members.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The editor-in-chief is an A-rated NRF researcher with good global and local standing in paediatric bone health. The editorial board is made up of clinicians with good standing in research; they represent various South African universities and are well established in their fields. The editorial board also includes an emeritus professor of paediatric surgery at the University of London who is an internationally renowned leader in the field of paediatric surgery. Although there is representation from the major universities in the country, inclusion in the editorial board of representative academics from historically disadvantaged institutions would increase the representation of the South African paediatric academic and research community.

Questionnaire

(Editorial process-related criteria)

The *SAJCH* was established in 2007 and publishes four issues of approximately 40 pages each per year, allowing for the publication of ten articles per issue. It is available online at www.sajch.org.za. Based on data for the last five years, the visit and download record is article dependent, but the abstract visit ranged between 24 and 6 306 with an average of 1 458 views, while the download range was between 15 and 2 193 with an average of 584 downloads. According to Google Analytics data, the reach is quite broad across continents and in as many as 75 countries worldwide, including 23 African countries. Issues are pre-scheduled to appear in March, June, September and December. There have been no significant interruptions in publication.

Over the three-year review period, 97 research articles, ten editorials, four short reports, 15 case reports, two hot topics/opinions and 11 continuing professional development (CPD) questions were published. A total of 330 manuscripts were received over the same period. The total number of manuscripts rejected without peer review was 14, and 117 manuscripts were rejected after peer review. Approximately 50–60% of all accepted articles, short reports and case reports are from South Africa, and the remainder come mainly from the African continent or the Indian subcontinent.

Usually two peer reviewers are selected for each submitted manuscript. Peer reviewers are selected based on interest and expertise in the content area, sometimes recommended by other reviewers. Peer review is conducted in a 'blind way'. The authors and their affiliations are removed from the article sent to the reviewer. Valid reviewer critique and article improvement are rigorously implemented. The reviewers either complete a freeform review of the manuscript, or make comments and suggested editorial changes on the manuscript using track changes. The edited manuscript with track changes is sent back to the authors for consideration. The journal encourages reviewers to assist authors in improving the writing and grammar of the manuscript. This is particularly true for authors for whom English is not their first language, as their English often needs considerable editing. Peer reviewers receive follow-up information. The response from the editor to the authors together with the reviewers' comments are sent to reviewers for information. Reviewer performance is assessed, and information is captured in

a database. In 2019, 220 reviewers were approached, but only 123 completed a review. Most of the reviewers are resident in South Africa, and less than 20% are non-South African. All correspondence between the authors and editor is retained, as are the review reports from the reviewers. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication online is three to six months in the review process, and six months from acceptance to publication as it is a quarterly journal.

The editor has been in office since July 2014 and was approached by the outgoing editor. The appointment was then endorsed by all heads of paediatric and child health departments at South African medical schools. The appointment was indefinite. The members of the editorial board have been in office since the inception of the journal. Members are not involved in the peer-review processes or editorial policies and practices. Their appointments are indefinite, and the appointment processes were not competitive. They were appointed from inside and outside the country to provide generalist and sub-specialist expertise.

The editorial guidelines of the journal are available at <http://www.sajch.org.za/index.php/sajch/about>. There is a conflict-of-interest policy. Any conflict of interest must be declared by the authors, and these are published with the manuscript. Conflicts of interest can derive from any kind of relationship or association that may influence authors' or reviewers' opinions about the subject matter of a paper. The existence of a conflict of interest – whether actual, perceived or potential – does not preclude the publication of an article. However, the journal aims to ensure that, in such cases, readers have all the information they need to enable them to make an informed assessment of a publication's message and conclusions. The journal requires that both authors and reviewers declare all sources of support for their research, any personal or financial relationships (including honoraria, speaking fees or gifts received) with relevant individuals or organisations connected to the topic of the paper, and any association with a product or subject that may constitute a real, perceived or potential conflict of interest.

The journal guidelines are aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. The journal has a policy on errata. The journal publishes critical editorials, 'news and views' analyses of articles being published, critical topical reviews (occasionally), analytical book reviews (occasionally), and hot topics and opinion pieces as value-added features. Apart from the editorial, the SAPA news page and the CPD page, all pages are peer reviewed. There are no adverts in the online journal.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The published articles are relevant to the journal and of good quality. Various topics related to child health are covered, with an emphasis on research in child health from South Africa and African countries. These range from national nutrition school programmes to primary healthcare facilities, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), malaria and the family environment, which are crucial and relevant topics for developing and undeveloped countries.

There is a good representation of authors from South African institutions, although predominantly from the universities of the Witwatersrand and KwaZulu-Natal. There are also authors from other countries including Nigeria, Mozambique and Ghana, as well as some co-authors from India and Canada. The journal publishes four issues per year, with six to seven original research articles per issue. The number of issues and articles per year could be increased. The strict review process that the editorial team applies leads to the publication of good-quality papers. The journal accepts papers that report qualitative research, as this gives a voice to people, helps in understanding complex health behaviours and provides important context for local health issues.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: The structure, layout, language and general quality of the journal are very good. The guidelines for authors are available for use on the website, leading to consistency in the citation and layout of the papers. There were no errata notices in any of the reviewed issues; however, a guideline is available to deal with errata should they arise.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability

Consensus review: The articles are current and relevant to the local and regional context. It is difficult to compare the *SAJCH* with international journals that publish many more issues and articles per year. However, the *SAJCH* is uniquely placed in that it addresses research issues relevant to South Africa and

African countries that could become lost in big international journals. Two of the leading international journals in the field are *JAMA Pediatrics* and *The Lancet Child and Adolescent Health*. Both journals have very high impact factors (4.466 and 3.231 respectively) and are published more frequently (12 issues per year), and thus have a shorter processing procedure than the *SAJCH*. However, both these journals take a very international view and often neglect developing and undeveloped countries.

Business aspects

(Business-related criteria; Bibliometric assessments)

The *SAJCH* is owned and published by the South African Medical Association. The journal is not printed, and production and distribution are not outsourced. The journal does not carry any advertising. SAPA sponsors the cost of the journal. There are no paying subscribers. The article-processing charge of ZAR3 000 (excluding VAT) has been implemented since the start of 2019 for authors who receive a subsidy. The editorial workflow is managed through an online management system. This is an open-access journal and is part of a non-commercial e-publication mechanism.

There have been offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal, but such offers have been declined. Copyright is retained by the author. The work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Non-commercial Works licence. Authors are required to complete and sign an author agreement form that outlines author and publisher rights and terms of publication. Material submitted for publication in the *SAJCH* is accepted provided it has not been published elsewhere. The *SAJCH* does not take responsibility for statements made by the authors.

The journal is indexed by DOAJ; AIM; AJOL; Sabinet, SciELO SA; EBSCOhost; and Embase. The impact factor of the journal was 0.522 in 2016. Altmetric indicators are administered. The 'front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal has been peer reviewed by DOAJ and PubMed.

Suggested improvements

Consensus review: The editor-in-chief and editorial board should serve a fixed-term appointment to allow for younger researchers to fill the vacant posts. The editorial board should be more diverse.

The editor should consider increasing the number of issues published per year and send invitations to university research departments to publish in the journal.

The journal should consider a more stringent screening process before sending manuscripts out for review. This would reduce the workload of potential reviewers.

The publication fees could be reduced, and the journal should remain open source. If possible, the editorial board should have more special issues to increase the number of articles published per year. A 'letters to the editor' section might be considered as an addition to the journal.

Panel's consensus view

- i. **The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.**
- ii. **The journal is already listed on the SciELO SA platform.**
- iii. **The panel believes that the journal is relevant and important in South Africa and the African continent with respect to child health-related issues.**

4.3.7 South African Pharmaceutical Journal

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

The *South African Pharmaceutical Journal (SAPJ)* is aimed at the continuing professional development of South African pharmacists as clinical pharmaceutical care practitioners in a community or hospital pharmacy environment or in a regulatory position in the pharmaceutical industry. The journal provides specific clinical reviews on self-medication topics (symptomatic therapy), information on prescription medication (therapy in clinical context) and essential information for pharmacists to refer customers for early medical attention should it be required.

The primary target audiences are local scholars and researchers in the field. The journal is distributed to more than 6 800 readers, including members of the Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa (PSSA) and a small number of international subscribers in the UK. It is distributed to institutional libraries and is available online on the Sabinet platform.

Editing functions:**(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)**

Consensus review: The editor-in-chief is held in extremely high esteem by fellow pharmacists in South Africa, but she is not a researcher, does not have a standing in the academic sector, and has not published research articles. The editor is a knowledgeable pharmacist who is well known in the pharmacy profession, with a focus on supporting practising pharmacists, encouraging them in their practice, and inspiring them to view their position from a different perspective or expand their roles. She has co-authored a handbook on pharmacy law in South Africa, which is an essential tool for every pharmacist in the country. She is not regarded as a typical editor of a research-based journal. The associate editor is widely published and enjoys high national and international standing in the pharmaceutical sciences, and more broadly in health, as a member of the World Health Organization's Expert Panel on Drug Policies and Management. He serves on the editorial advisory boards of international journals, as a reviewer for international and local journals, and on the editorial advisory committee of the *South African Health Review*. There is no information on who serves on the editorial board, and there is only an editorial manager.

Questionnaire**(Editorial process-related criteria)**

The *SAPJ* was established in 1933 and it is published six times per year. The journal is available online at <http://www.sapj.co.za/> and received 715 unique visits in 2019, and 319 articles were downloaded in the same year. It was read in 17 countries, six of which are African countries. Issues are pre-scheduled to appear on specific dates. There have been no significant interruptions in publication.

During the 2017–2019 review period, 15 manuscripts were received and four articles were published (one was an independently submitted article and three were commissioned articles). Seven manuscripts were rejected without peer review, and seven were rejected after peer review. Commissioned articles are not peer reviewed. None of the authors had a non-South African address.

Three peer reviewers are selected for each submitted manuscript. Peer reviewers are selected by the editor and the editorial board based on their knowledge and expertise in the field. Authors can also suggest reviewers upon submission. Peer review is conducted in a 'blind way'. Valid reviewer critique and article improvement are rigorously implemented. Peer reviewers do not receive follow-up information, and reviewer performance is not assessed and captured in a database. A total of five peer reviewers were used in one year of the review period, and none of the reviewers had a non-South African address. The peer-review reports were accessibly retained in the journal's records. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication online and in print is six months.

The editor-in-chief has been in office for 23 years and was not appointed competitively. The period of appointment was indefinite. Members of the editorial board do not handle peer review, and they do not provide advice on editorial policies and practices. Information on the terms of office of the board members and the process of their appointment was not provided at the time of the review. Members of the board are currently appointed only from South Africa to provide specific topical expertise.

The journal had editorial guidelines and a conflict-of-interest policy in place applicable to journals published by Medpharm Publications. It was not indicated whether the guidelines are aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. There is an errata policy, and errors are dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

The journal publishes value-added features such as critical editorials, 'news and views' analyses of articles being published, critical topical reviews, and correspondence on published articles. The percentage of pages in each issue that represented peer-reviewed original material was 15%.

Content:**(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)**

Consensus review: The published articles vary between average and good quality. The articles are focused on South African pharmacy and health issues and reflect local and regional disease burdens and health-service issues. The selection of research-based articles in the *SAPJ* over three years is limited. Most articles are reviews of clinical conditions of interest to pharmacists, or medicine-based treatment of conditions, but many of the articles are written by the same authors. Only four original research articles have been published in the journal during the last three years, which is inadequate to fulfil the

mandate of being a 'research-focused journal'. The reviews are not written in a scientific review format (e.g. systematic or scoping review), but are narrative overviews of relevant topics with an abstract and a short reference list, and they are not peer reviewed. This is a serious weakness. The journal does not reflect a sample of the best work done in the country or the discipline. The articles are informative, but do not add to the scholarly and scientific literature in the field of pharmacy. They are useful to pharmacists in presenting updates on issues related to medicines safety and pharmacovigilance, and they relate to a variety of health conditions and their management. The focus of the journal is on the continuous education of pharmacists rather than providing scholarly academic articles. The editorial section is popular, informative and interesting; letters to the editor cover many topics; and the forum is the mouthpiece of the South African Association of Hospital and Institutional Pharmacists, with papers of the best podium presentations at the annual conference.

The authors are from South African academic institutions and sectors of pharmacy, but there are no international contributors. Various authors have been contributing to the journal, but some author names from a single South African school of pharmacy appear in every edition. This practice is not indicative of a high-level scientific journal and may be commissioned writing. A message by the PSSA president appears regularly. Reviews are published on new products or treatments. Professional correspondence and obituaries are also published, as well as advertisements and information on activities in the pharmacy sector and of relevance to students.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: All review articles and research papers contain an English abstract, in-text citations and reference lists that comply with general requirements. The design, layout and style are all good, easily readable and navigable. In the online submission section, the *SAPJ* requires proof of permission to publish any licensed material such as images, figures and graphs. Errata are published on a case-by-case basis. The language usage is of suitable standard, and the journal appears neat and professional. A relatively low number of references are used per article when compared with comprehensive review papers in other scientific journals.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability

Consensus review: This journal is unlikely to be a major source of inspiration based on the research that it publishes. Some of the articles describe a variety of pharmacy initiatives around the country, services delivered by pharmacists, health promotion and health education initiatives, or other innovative interventions that could act as a trigger for research. The journal is a useful source of basic information for pharmacists, interns and pharmacy students. The *SAPJ* is aimed at the continuing professional development of South African pharmacists as clinical pharmaceutical care practitioners in a community or hospital pharmacy environment. The journal is focused on continuous education and serves as a mouthpiece for the PSSA. It cannot be used for scientific research purposes in the pharmaceutical sciences.

The *SAPJ* cannot be compared with international scientific journals. In its current format, the *SAPJ* is a valuable journal for pharmacists with the potential to be developed into a leading regional journal, because pharmacy in South Africa needs a journal in which local and regional academic articles can be published. ASSAf norms stipulate that the percentage of pages in each issue that represents peer-reviewed original material is approximately 90%. However, the percentage of pages in the *SAPJ* that represented peer-reviewed original material was only 15%, and the journal is therefore not comparable to international journals in the field.

Business aspects

(Business-related criteria; Bibliometric assessments)

The PSSA owns the title, and it is published by Medpharm Publications. The regular print run is 6 800 copies per issue. The journal is printed by Novus Print, and the distribution is done through their mailing house. The PSSA manages the database of addresses. The journal carries both paid and unpaid advertising. The journal does not receive any financial sponsorship. There are six paying subscribers, five of which are organisations. APCs are not levied. The editorial workflow is managed through an online management system and the loading of articles on to the web. This is an open-access journal.

There have been offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal, but such offers have been declined. The copyright of articles resides with the authors, while the copyright on commissioned work is held by the publisher.

The journal is indexed by EBSCOhost; Google Scholar; Sabinet; and Scopus. The journal does not have impact factors, and altmetric indicators are occasionally administered. 'Front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal has not been independently peer reviewed before.

Suggested improvements

Consensus review: The *SAPJ* currently does not qualify for accreditation. DHET defines an accredited journal as one that is devoted to disseminating original research within specific disciplines or fields of study, including original articles and review articles. The current content comprises only 15% peer-reviewed original material, compared with the 90% ASSAf norm. If accreditation is the desired endpoint, the journal needs to develop a strategy to facilitate moving towards a research-focused publication. The following can be recommended:

- Appointment of an editorial board and a scientific advisory board consisting of experienced academics to oversee the blind peer-review process for all articles, including the articles by the core group of contributors.
- Publication of articles based on scientific research (basic and applied research) after comprehensive peer review.
- Building a reputation by attracting recognised scientists from both national and international academic institutions to submit scientific papers.
- Advertising the journal to the scientific community to generate subscriptions and raise awareness among academic institutions.

An important potential role for the *SAPJ* is to showcase research being done in South Africa. Without accreditation, researchers will not submit their good quality papers to the *SAPJ*. For this reason, the *SAPJ* needs to become accredited. Much of the research is contextualised within the unique local South African healthcare setting.

An appeal should be sent to established researchers to actively encourage them to support the *SAPJ* by submitting their papers on the understanding that this is part of a strategic initiative for the *SAPJ* to become accredited.

The 'front details' (including editors, the aim of the journal, a guide to authors, online submission and article sections) should be aligned with the information currently presented under the *SAPJ* website 'submissions' tab.

Opinion pieces could be upgraded, expanded and grounded in the research literature to reflect good commentary that would be appropriate in an accredited journal. The case report section and commentaries have the potential for expansion for pharmacists pursuing clinical pharmacy.

The contents of the journal could be divided to include editorials, letters, book reviews, product launches, obituaries, pharmacy news and peer-reviewed scientific articles.

A formal editorial board should be appointed comprising members of the profession in South Africa with a publication record.

The journal could be developed to publish peer-reviewed articles with a South African and African focus.

Panel's consensus view

- The journal should not continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list, regardless of its inclusion in Scopus.**
- The journal should not be invited to join the SciELO SA platform.**
- The panel believes that the journal should continue to publish review papers on clinically relevant topics for continuous education of practising pharmacists, but these should be formal scoping or systematic reviews. Peer-reviewed original material should form approximately 90% of the scientific content. The panel recognises the important contribution of the *SAPJ* to provide updated information to practising pharmacists in South Africa.**

4.3.8 Southern African Journal of Gynaecological Oncology

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

The *Southern African Journal of Gynaecological Oncology* (SAJGO) is the official journal of the South African Society of Gynaecologic Oncology (SASGO), which is affiliated to the South African Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (SASOG) and to the International Gynaecologic Cancer Society (IGCS). The journal is based in South Africa but also serves as a regional journal for southern Africa and the African continent. The journal seeks to act as a forum for the discussion of issues of local importance and of particular interest to the developing world. It aims to be the prime journal on women's cancer for local healthcare workers and gynaecologists, focusing on all aspects of cancer prevention, detection, diagnosis and treatment. The SAJGO is also a specialist journal catering for sub-specialist gynaecologic oncologists and for other specialists with a particular interest in breast and gynaecologic cancer, including medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, surgeons, radiologists, pathologists, geneticists, specialised nurses and research scientists.

The SAJGO aims to serve a broad readership and should thus be of interest to the clinical, scientific and academic community, policymakers, government, non-government stakeholders and industry. It supports the vision of SASGO to promote excellence in gynaecologic cancer care, and aims to promote excellence in breast cancer care. The journal supports the mission of SASGO and assists the society with all aspects of communication, training and advocacy, and by supporting and stimulating local research.

The journal focuses on the discipline of gynaecologic oncology and associated subjects. The journal serves as a platform to showcase research relevant to Africa and southern African, as well as lower-resource settings. The primary target audiences are southern African readers with an interest in gynaecological malignancies, and international readers with an interest in southern African outputs.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The editor-in-chief and the editorial board members are recognised for their high international standing, but the lack of diversity of the board is of concern, with limited representation from outside South Africa. The international members from Belgium, Australia and the USA reflect a narrow distribution of expertise in the field of gynaecologic oncology, although they contribute significant and valuable clinical and academic expertise. The board includes an anatomical pathologist and a radio oncologist, which adds credible evaluation of oncological topics. Several board members are also involved in the IGCS.

Questionnaire

(Editorial process-related criteria)

The SAJGO was established in 2009. It publishes two issues per year. It is available online at <http://www.sajgo.co.za/index.php/sajgo/about> and <https://medpharm.tandfonline.com/ojgo>. The downloads received for the period 2016–2018 reflect 10 780 from North America, 5 830 from Africa, 6 232 from Europe, 8 480 from Asia and 1 310 from Australasia. According to the usage report from Taylor & Francis, the journal is read throughout the world. The top ten readership countries in Africa were South Africa, Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Egypt, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Uganda and Zambia. Issues are pre-scheduled to appear on specific dates. There have been no significant interruptions in publication.

During the three-year review period, 18 full articles, two review articles, 13 conference papers and seven case reports were published. A total of 43 manuscripts were received over the same period. No manuscripts were rejected without peer review, and about 41% were rejected after peer review. The proportion of peer-reviewed papers that had at least one author with a non-South African address was 15%.

Two peer reviewers are selected for each submitted manuscript. The journal has an extensive list of all associated specialists for the selection of reviewers, including southern African and international scholars. Peer review is conducted in a 'blind way'. Reviewer critique and article improvement are rigorously implemented. Reviewers' comments are sent to the authors, and they are required to revise and resubmit with a covering letter. If there are major revisions, the revised manuscript is sent to the original reviewer for a second review. For minor revisions, the editor will review and confirm whether all the changes were adequately made. Peer reviewers receive follow-up information. Reviewer performance is assessed, and information is captured in a database. A total of 12 peer reviewers were used in one of

the last three years, and about 15% of the reviewers had a non-South African address. The peer-review reports were accessibly retained in the journal's records. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication online was 204 days.

The editor has been in office for three years and was appointed competitively. The period of appointment was three years. Members of the editorial board deal with peer review but do not provide advice on editorial policies and practices. They have been in office for three years, and were selected from academic sites, private practice and associated specialties both inside and outside the country to provide specific topical expertise.

The editorial guidelines of the journal are aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. The conflict-of-interest policy is available at <http://authorservices.taylorandfrancis.com/what-is-a-conflict-of-interest/>. Errata are published when necessary.

The journal publishes value-added features such as critical editorials, critical topical reviews, letters from the society chair and society photos from the annual congress. The percentage of pages in each issue that represented peer-reviewed original material was more than 65%.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The quality of articles is good and appropriate for the niche sub-specialty group, but the papers are currently limited in scope and not representative of the diversity of southern Africa. The methodology for the literature reviews associated with case reports could have contributed to understanding the aims of the reviews but was not clear. The discussion and interpretation of the literature were limited. The limited number of publications each year was acknowledged by the editor. There is a predominance of articles emanating from the same two universities to which several members of the editorial board are affiliated, and very few articles emanate from outside South Africa. Topical reviews are limited. Many of the articles published by the SAJGO have been viewed by visitors to the journal website, but few have been cited by CrossRef.

It appears that author contributions to the journal are on the decline. The focus of the journal may be too restricted, with contributions from a particular cohort of South African authors. It is noteworthy that there was no issue published in 2021, reflecting a low submission rate. The citation rate is low, suggesting that the articles may be of interest only to regional authors. The journal needs to encourage more submissions to increase its visibility and reach.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: The high quality of the English usage and style is commendable. The citation practice is good. The publication of errata was not observed. The citation usage adheres to international standards. Little to no self-citation was noted, and citations are from accredited journals and articles that can be traced through DOIs. Abstracts of high quality are included. Ethical principles, such as de-identification and ethical use of images, are ethically applied. It is not always clear whether ethical approval was obtained for studies, and whether permission was obtained from patients for case studies.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability

Consensus review: The journal is suitable as a general ongoing stimulus for local sub-specialty fellows and specialists, graduate students and young staff in the discipline, and has significant potential for greater impact. The journal could expand its scope to include topical issues and continuing/accrediting medical education for graduate and postgraduate students and professionals in the field. It compares reasonably well with international journals, but the content is relevant mainly to low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). The journal should consider greater reference or comparison to international guidelines, the inclusion of more advanced diagnostics such as genetics, and relevance not only to LMICs but more broadly.

Business aspects

(Business-related criteria; Bibliometric assessments)

The SAJGO is owned by SASOG and published by Medpharm Publications. The regular print run is 1 500 copies per issue. The SAJGO is printed by Novus Print and distributed through their mailing house. The journal is considering discontinuing the print edition. The journal carries paid advertising and does not have financial sponsorship.

There are 19 paying subscribers, all of which are institutions. The journal charges APCs to individuals who are not members of the society. The editorial workflow is managed by the editorial manager together with a title coordinator through an online management system, and loading of articles on to the Web through Taylor & Francis. The journal is freely accessible online. There have been offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal, but such offers have been declined. Copyright belongs to the authors.

The SAJGO is indexed by DHET; DOAJ; EBSCOhost; ESCI; Google Scholar; and Sabinet. The journal has an impact factor and altmetric indicators. The 'front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal has previously been reviewed by DHET for accreditation.

Suggested improvements

Consensus review: The number of editions should be increased, or the journal should be published quarterly. Thematic issues should be published, with invited guest editors. The content on adolescents, young adults, molecular testing and genetics could be increased. Work done in southern Africa beyond South Africa is not represented in submissions to the journal.

It is recommended that the diversity of representation on the editorial board needs to be expanded to include the wider southern African region or the greater African continent.

The editorial board should invite articles from other countries in Africa, and book reviews should be considered.

The journal could consider publishing special editions every six months (between the current issues) as online editions to limit the costs, following the example of the *American Society of Clinical Oncology Journal*.

Guest editors (assisted by a current board member) from universities in South Africa or southern Africa should be invited to compile an edition on the status in their respective country or research topics, or to publish an edition on a contemporary regional topic that looks at the current status, reviews relevant literature and translates it for the LMIC context.

International experts should be invited to comment on case reports as an addendum to the experience of LMICs and explore future options.

Young researchers should be invited to submit reviews on issues of advocacy, community gynaecologic oncology, awareness and ethics.

Panel's consensus view

- i. **The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.**
- ii. **The journal should not be invited to join the SciELO SA platform.**
- iii. **The editor should seriously consider a more diversified approach to various categories of authors, and expand on the listed features by inviting articles from the greater South African and African landscape.**
- iv. **In addition, the panel recommends that the journal should publish additional issues per annum and attract more international contributions.**

4.4 Humanities

4.4.1 African Human Mobility Review

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

The focus and scope of the *African Human Mobility Review* (AHMR) is disseminating research that fosters an understanding of human mobility in Africa. Through the publication of original research, policy discussions and evidence research papers, the AHMR provides a comprehensive forum devoted exclusively to the analysis of contemporary trends, migration patterns and some of the most important migration-related issues. AHMR is an interdisciplinary peer-reviewed online journal created to encourage and facilitate the study of all aspects (socioeconomic, political, legislative and developmental) of human mobility in Africa. It covers a variety of continental-level issues and topics in the field of human mobility.

The journal services the South African research community by affording the opportunity to publish and disseminate their work on the socio-demographic, economic, political, psychological, historical, legislative and religious aspects of human migration and refugee movements from and within sub-Saharan Africa. The *AHMR* played a crucial role in identifying best practice and suggesting guidelines for effective implementation of migration policies in Africa. *AHMR* articles have been cited in decisions by the South African Supreme Court and dispute panels. The *AHMR* also publishes student work and pieces on recent developments in migration policy in sub-Saharan Africa. It also leads discussion and debate at the Institute for Social Development at the University of the Western Cape by hosting speakers for postgraduate courses in migration and development.

The target audience is usually discipline-focused or specialised and includes local and international scholars in the field, practitioners as well as the general public. In terms of subscribers and users, the *AHMR* has international coverage.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The editor is an internationally respected scholar. The board comprises highly reputable academics and practitioners working in the field of migration and cognate disciplines, including but not limited to African studies, political science, urban development, rural development, geography and population studies, history, ethnic relations and social policy, among others, that are aligned with the central research field of the journal, namely migration on the African continent and the multidisciplinary direction of the publication. Not only are these board members diversified in terms of academic disciplines, but they are also either based at or come from several regions of the world encompassing West, East and southern Africa, Europe and North America. The editor and the editorial board are representative of research and intellectual depth within the field of migration studies.

Questionnaire

(Editorial process-related criteria)

The *AHMR* was established in 2014 and publishes three issues per year. It is available online at <http://www.sihma.org.za/journal>. The journal received a total of 2 074 page views in 2019. It was read in 74 countries, 24 of which are African countries. Issues are pre-scheduled to appear in April, August and December. All issues have been regularly published since 2014 without interruption.

A total of 43 full articles and one book review were published during the review period 2017–2019 (15 articles in 2019, 13 articles in 2018 and 16 articles in 2017). A total of 73 full article manuscripts were received during the same period (24 articles in 2019, 28 articles in 2018 and 21 articles in 2017). Twenty manuscripts were rejected without peer review (three in 2019, 11 in 2018 and six in 2017), and ten were rejected after peer review (six in 2019, four in 2018 and none in 2017). The proportion of peer-reviewed papers that had at least one author with a non-South African address was 80% in 2019, 62% in 2018 and 94% in 2017.

Usually, two reviewers are appointed, but in a few cases due to the unavailability of field-specific reviewers, only one reviewer was used. Reviewers are approached and selected based on their experience and knowledge of the specific aspects of migration studies. Manuscripts are first reviewed by the editorial office to check that they are in line with the scope of the journal and meet all its specific requirements. Once a manuscript has successfully completed the editorial office review process, it is sent to two anonymous reviewers, with expertise and specialist knowledge in the subject area of the manuscript, for blind peer review. The peer review system is double blind so that both the authors' and the reviewers' identities are concealed. Valid reviewer critique and article improvement are rigorously implemented. The reviewers' reports (positive or negative comments and recommendations) are provided directly to the author(s) for further improvement. The editorial office closely monitors the way in which the authors consider the corrections. Depending on the type of comments, the outcome and follow-up information are provided to the reviewers. Reviewer performance is assessed, and information is captured in a database. In 2019, about 24 peer reviewers were used, approximately 42% of whom had a non-South African address. The peer-review reports were accessibly retained in the journal's records. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication in print is nine months, and online is three to six months.

The editor-in-chief has been in office since 2015. The appointment was done through a competitive and stringent selection process. The first term of appointment was from January 2015 to December 2019, and the second and final term is January 2020 to December 2024. The members of the editorial board are requested to participate in the peer review of individual manuscripts when the need arises.

Members of the board provide advice on editorial policy and practices. They have been in office since the establishment of the journal; however, regular review and substitution have been made. Members are selected by the Scalabrini Institute for Human Mobility in Africa (SIHMA), the University of the Western Cape (UWC) and the editors, with input from scholars in the field. The board generally undergoes complete revision every three years, with members joining, stepping down or continuing for another term. The editorial board members are based in Africa, Europe, North America and South America. All the board members are scholars and prominent figures in the field of human mobility and migration studies.

The editorial policy guidelines are aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. Conflict of interest is dealt with in the journal's editorial policy. Corrections of articles are published both online and in the print version as errata or corrigenda when necessary. The journal exclusively publishes original articles. With the exception of the introductory editorial, all content is peer-reviewed original material.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The AHMR publishes valuable original research on migration in West and southern Africa, addressing local, regional and international problems and shedding light on Western policies that impact on African migrants. The geographic and thematic relevance of the journal is sufficiently broad, although contributions that address children, women and 'class' as separate categories, themes or analytical tools of inquiry would be encouraged to make the journal more competitive internationally and provide interventions to counter the normative representation of African migrants as only refugees and asylum seekers.

Apart from articles by authors from several South African universities, the journal also publishes articles by authors from across the African continent, as well as Europe and the Americas. Methodologically, the journal reflects a healthy mix of quantitative and qualitative techniques in innovative ways that permit deep analytic engagement with migration issues, and most of the published articles therefore constitute excellent work in the field of migration studies. A notable concern is that during the period under review, the journal published only one book review and there is a lack of other features such as discussions between researchers and policy implementers, which could be cultivated as a niche for the journal to become even more internationally competitive.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: There are clear guidelines for authors regarding overall formatting, referencing and submission of manuscripts. All articles have properly edited English abstracts. Although the journal provides for the publication of errata, none were observed in the issues under review.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability

Consensus review: The articles published in the journal reflect a balanced mix of research by emerging local scholars (postgraduate students, sometimes in collaboration with their supervisors) and experienced local and international scholars. The journal has a good reputation, and its international comparability with other journals in the field is good, as evidenced by a relatively high impact factor of 0.836 for a journal that is less than a decade old.

Business aspects

(Business-related criteria; Bibliometric assessments)

Since 2019, the AHMR has been jointly owned by SIHMA and UWC. A total of 100 copies per issue are printed. Production and distributions are done by SIHMA and UWC. The journal does not carry any advertising. The journal receives financial support from SIHMA and UWC. The AHMR is an open-access journal and has 253 individual subscribers. APCs are not levied. The editorial workflow is managed through an online submission and review system.

There have been no offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal. Articles and reviews in the journal reflect the opinions of the contributors. All rights are reserved by the journal. No part of the publication may be reproduced without written permission from the publisher. There are no licensing agreements with authors.

The journal is accredited by DHET and has an impact factor value of 0.836 (ISI). Altmetric indicators are administered. The 'front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal has not been independently peer reviewed.

Suggested improvements

Consensus review: The publication of useful additional scholarly features such as editorials, topical reviews, book reviews, review essays, scholarly correspondences and policy briefs on migration-related issues is encouraged and should be considered.

The journal should consider ways of increasing the special issues, especially by turning conference proceedings into peer-reviewed articles with guest editors.

The composition of the editorial board should be diversified by appointing black South African scholars who may have an interest in migration as well as issues of citizenship and belonging. This would help in widening scholarly dialogue not just among scholars who specialise in migration but also those that constitute host-country experts on topics that might further enhance an understanding of migration issues.

The representation of practitioner academics in the field of migration should be increased as they could help shape calls for papers that tackle policy-relevant topics.

For the journal's inclusion on the SciELO SA platform, each article would need to be allocated a DOI.

Panel's consensus view

- i. **The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.**
- ii. **The journal should be invited to join the SciELO SA platform.**
- iii. **The panel recommends that the journal publish additional issues per annum and attract more international contributions.**
- iv. **In addition, the panel believes that the journal should approach other journals in this broad field with a view to cooperation or possible mergers.**

4.4.2 African Journal of Democracy and Governance

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

The *African Journal of Democracy and Governance* (AJDG) is a fully peer-reviewed quarterly multi-, inter- and transdisciplinary journal that publishes editorials, articles and book reviews on democracy, governance, development and peace in Africa. Its main objective is to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and to constitute a repository of scholarly work of high academic standard that influences policies and contributes to sustaining democracy, governance, development and peace, which are critical for an African renaissance.

The aim of the AJDG is not to focus on a specific discipline or field. It is a journal of humanities and social sciences and includes an interdisciplinary focus. The journal serves the South African and African research community by publishing scholarly work by South African and other African researchers and academics on democracy, governance, peace and development in Africa. The journal's primary target audiences are predominantly South African scholars and African scholars from the rest of the continent and the diaspora. These are established and emerging scholars, African postgraduate students and foreign scholars interested in democracy and good governance in Africa form part of these audiences.

The reach of the AJDG consists of local and international (mostly African) readers. This is clear from Sabinet's record of subscribers or individuals and institutions that have paid for the journal online. The numerous readers of the journal are individuals or are affiliated with academic, research and other institutions based predominantly in South Africa as well as other parts of the African continent and abroad. The readership is composed of local/national, African and pan-Africanist as well as foreign academics, researchers, postgraduate students, and political and civil society leaders.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The editor of the journal has a credible reputation as an established scholar of international standing in the field of politics and law. He has published widely in local and international journals. The editorial board is composed of individuals of high academic standing, but it could be more balanced with respect to anglophone and francophone representation.

Questionnaire

(Editorial process-related criteria)

The journal was established in 2014 and is published quarterly. It is available online at <https://journals.co.za/content/journal/ajdg>. Thousands of viewers visited the journal website. The journal has 82 subscribers, including 61 local and 21 international. The overwhelming majority of international subscribers are from the USA, Europe and Australia. According to Sabinet's records, the journal is read in several African countries including South Africa, Benin, Botswana, the Central African Republic, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Rwanda, and Zimbabwe. It is also read in overseas countries including Afghanistan, Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden and the USA. It is published online in English and French. This has contributed to increasing its readership. Issues are not pre-scheduled to appear on specific dates. There has been no significant interruption in publication since the journal's inception.

During the three-year review period, 85 peer-reviewed articles, 19 book reviews and 12 editorials were published. About 150 manuscripts were received during the same period. Approximately 10% of manuscripts in each category were rejected without peer review for non-compliance with the guidelines for contributors. After peer review, 30% of articles and 10% of book reviews were rejected. Around 40% of authors of peer-reviewed papers published had a non-South African address.

At least three peer reviewers are approached for each submitted manuscript. A manuscript is accepted for publication when all three recommend it for publication. Peer reviewers are approached based on their expertise. For many years, the editor-in-chief has been an active member of several societies including the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) and the African Network of Constitutional Lawyers (ANCL). This has helped the journal to establish a broad database of African experts in the areas of democracy, governance, peace and development from which peer reviewers are selected. Peer review is conducted in a 'blind way'. Once a manuscript that meets the minimum requirements of the guidelines for contributors has been received, the names, academic or professional affiliation, title, country of origin, and any other information that could identify the author are deleted before the manuscript is sent out for peer review. Authors are not permitted to know who the peer reviewers of their manuscript are, and peer reviewers receive anonymous manuscripts.

Valid reviewer critique and article improvement are rigorously implemented. Peer reviewers decide on the rejection or acceptance of a manuscript, or acceptance subject to improvement, as indicated in their reports. Their decisions are motivated, and they should provide reasons where a manuscript has been rejected, accepted without change or accepted subject to improvement. In the last case, they should indicate how the manuscript could be improved. Peer reviewers do not need to reach a consensus decision. In 99% of cases, the peer reviewers suggest areas of improvement when they recommend that a manuscript be accepted for publication in the journal. When they recommend a manuscript for publication, peer reviewers always make comments on how it should be improved. The editor-in-chief or the secretariat forwards the peer reviewers' comments to the authors of manuscripts. The authors are requested to revise the manuscript in line with comments made by the peer reviewers. Revised papers are sent back to the editor-in-chief or the secretariat within a specified period, and forwarded to the reviewers to confirm whether they are satisfied that the recommended revisions have been implemented. If so, the revised manuscript will then be published. Prior to publication, the editor-in-chief writes to the authors of selected manuscripts informing them of the outcome of the peer review of their manuscript and the issue in which their manuscripts will be published, and congratulating them on their selection. When the peer reviewers are not satisfied with the revised manuscripts, they inform the editor-in-chief or the secretariat, who will contact the authors with the request to further address the comments by the peer reviewers. A revised manuscripts will be published only after acceptance by the peer reviewers.

Peer reviewers receive follow-up information. Reviewer performance is assessed, but information about reviewer performance is not captured in a specific database. About 32 peer reviewers were used in one year of the review period, and between 50% and 60% of peer reviewers had a non-South African address. The journal does not keep peer-review reports on a manuscript for more than two months after publication of the article. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication online and in print varies between three and six months depending on the availability of the peer reviewers, the time they take to assess the manuscripts and report back to the editor-in-chief or the secretariat, and the ability of the authors to address the peer reviewers' comments and revise the manuscript.

The editor-in-chief has been in office since 2014. There was consensus among the members of the editorial board and the Institute for Democracy, Governance, Peace and Development in Africa (IDGPA) that the journal should retain one of the founders of the institute as the editor-in-chief. The period of appointment was not specified. The members of the editorial board deal with peer review and advise on editorial policy and practices. Members have been in office for between five and six years. Inactive members were removed. Members of the editorial board also act as an advisory board. Their appointments did not follow a competitive process, and they were appointed for a six-year renewable term. Members were appointed from inside and outside the country to provide specific topical expertise.

The journal has guidelines for contributors and book reviewers accessible at <https://journals.co.za/content/journal/ajdg?page=submit-a-paper>. There is no formal conflict-of-interest policy in place. Guidelines are aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. The journal does not publish errata. Where errors have become apparent, corrected papers are sent to Sabinet to be uploaded to replace those that contained errors.

The only value-added feature that the journal publishes is analytical book reviews. All the pages of each issue represent peer-reviewed original material, except for journal policy. Articles and book reviews are peer reviewed.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The contributions in this journal have a transdisciplinary focus that engages broadly with contemporary issues of democracy and governance in Africa straddling various themes, from development, governance and human rights to conflict debates. The knowledge advancement endeavour of the journal in relation to African issues is evidenced by the publication of papers that focus on the continent without being skewed towards South Africa or the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where the institute that owns the journal is located. Some of the contributors are senior scholars across the continent and in the diaspora. This makes the journal quite international in line with its focus even though it has a readership outside Africa. The published articles are generally of relatively good quality. Apart from research articles, book reviews are a standard feature of the journal. However, given its focus, the value of the journal could be increased by introducing additional scholarly features such as policy reviews, dialogues, and arguments about democracy.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: The journal has a style guide for authors that addresses all aspects of formatting and referencing. Each article is prefaced by an abstract written in good English. Design standards are of reputable standard, as with most journals. There is consistency in the general layout and the appearance of the first page of each article. Images are rare in the journal. The journal does not publish errata.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability

Consensus review: The journal publishes scholarly work from budding academics and graduate students in the field of political science, thereby offering them a suitable introduction to publishing. It also attracts the research of scholars across Africa, and the readership draws from leading countries outside the continent where some good research in political science and international relations is conducted. The journal thus compares relatively well with local and international publications that focus on contemporary African affairs such as *Africa Insight* and the *Journal of Contemporary African Studies*.

Business aspects

(Business-related criteria; Bibliometric assessments)

The journal is owned and published by the IDGPA, a registered non-governmental organisation. About 150 copies are printed for each issue of the journal. The journal is published mainly online. Production and distribution are not outsourced and constitute the biggest challenges for the journal. The journal does not carry any advertising and does not receive any financial sponsorship. The only financial support received thus far was from the African Union for the publication of a special issue on the 30th anniversary of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance.

No page or article-processing charges are levied. The editorial workflow is managed through a manual system. The journal is not open access and is part of a commercial e-publication service (Sabinet).

There have been no offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal. The journal remains the property of IDGPA in Africa. Copyright arrangements and licensing agreements are vested with Sabinet and EBSCOhost. The citation of articles is allowed by acknowledging the source through references.

The journal is accredited by DHET and does not have an impact factor. Altmetric indicators are administered. The 'front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. This is the journal's first independent peer review.

Suggested improvements

Consensus review: The journal is encouraged to consider including value-adding and scholarly features such as critical editorials, debates and topical reviews.

The number of issues should be reduced to three per year to reduce the strain of keeping up with four issues, enable consistency in publication timelines and improve the overall quality of the publication. The editor could then consider introducing a special issue each year, which could be the fourth issue under the sole responsibility of a guest editor or an assistant editor. The special issue could provide an opportunity for expanding the journal's contributors base, being inclusive of emerging scholars, more representative of the continent, and reflective of its political and development issues.

The journal should develop a clear succession plan for the editor-in-chief to ensure a seamless publication stream after the retirement of the current editor-in-chief, who has been in office since the inception of the journal. Assistant editors could be appointed to understudy the editor-in-chief.

For inclusion on the SciELO SA platform, the journal would need to change to openly accessible full text, and each article would need to be allocated a DOI.

Panel's consensus view

- i. **The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.**
- ii. **The journal should be invited to join the SciELO SA platform should it become open access.**

4.4.3 African Journal of Rhetoric

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

The scope of the *African Journal of Rhetoric* (AJR) is broadly African rhetoric. Rhetoric by its constitution is a plural concept. Rhetoric is multidisciplinary and occurs in every aspect of life, including law (forensic rhetoric), deliberative (political rhetoric, presidential rhetoric, public policy, transformational leadership rhetoric), epideictic rhetoric (performance, demonstrative, literary rhetoric, religious rhetoric), medical rhetoric, and now there is the emerging field of visual and digital rhetoric (computer-related and social media rhetoric). Given that Africa is heavily immersed in development politics, development rhetoric has featured significantly in some of the editions published. The journal aims to focus on the interdisciplinary study of rhetoric on the continent. The AJR continues to maintain its aim of publishing papers that are products of interdisciplinary collaborations.

Since its inception at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) in 2009, at a time when the university was vigorously promoting African scholarship, the journal has succeeded in serving as a catalyst for the study of rhetoric and speech communication not only in South Africa but for the global African community. The AJR is the premier journal on the African continent focusing on African rhetoric and has remained faithful to the production of content that is mostly Africa-focused. Topics treated in the journal have ranged from the deliberative rhetoric of the African Union General Assembly, to African presidential rhetoric, electioneering campaign and political rhetoric, corporate and management rhetoric, HIV/AIDS rhetoric, gender, language use and policy discourse. The journal has also served as a mentoring platform for graduate students and early-career academics. In 2018, the African Association for Rhetoric (AAR) inaugurated a summer writing academy at the Durban University of Technology (DUT) to train young academics in writing and publishing and to provide guidance for academics to develop their writing and publishing skills and scholars who might be interested in submitting their papers to the AJR for editorial consideration.

The primary target audiences of the journal are rhetorical scholars who consider Africa and African conditions as subjects of investigation. This includes a range of disciplines, from the humanities to business

and management studies, health sciences and law. Scholars may come from any part of the world. The primary condition is that the papers must have strong rhetorical or public discourse relevance. The AJR has served mostly South African scholars given that the journal is based in Cape Town, and the project started at UKZN, South Africa. Most of the members of the journal's editorial advisory board and editorial consultants are based in South Africa. In essence, South Africa is the leading contributor to the journal. The journal has a global African reach, and a growing diverse global African contributor base. Young academics and graduate students are also encouraged to submit papers for consideration for publication.

The journal is mainly distributed by Sabinet on the African continent. Altogether, there are 94 institutional subscribers (as at February 2020). Members of the AAR subscribe individually. Since the association is still growing, there are about 50 individuals who receive printed copies either through subscription, as complimentary copies for having published in the journal, or as promotional gift items given to prospective contributors and subscribers. EBSCOhost is also helping to promote the journal in North America. EBSCOhost focuses on individual hits and readership, and according to the February 2020 report generated, 166 institutions were represented from different countries in Europe and North America.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The journal's editor-in-chief is a reputable academic who founded the African Association of Rhetoric (AAR), the organisation that owns the journal, and teaches at Howard University in the USA. He is supported by an editorial board that constitutes highly respected scholars from South Africa, Africa, Australasia, Europe and North America.

Questionnaire

(Editorial process-related criteria)

The AJR was established in 2009 and is published annually. Special editions are sometimes published. Each edition is themed, based on the association's interests in that particular season. The journal is available online at https://journals.co.za/content/journal/aar_rhetoric. It is also accessible on the association's website at www.afrhet.org. According to Sabinet records, the journal received 2307 page views between March 2018 and February 2020. EBSCOhost also recorded 166 hits in Europe and North America over the same period. The journal is read in most anglophone African countries, including Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Kenya, South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Swaziland, Tanzania, Malawi, as well as most Western countries, including the USA, France, Canada, Sweden and Brazil, since these are the traditional domains of rhetorical scholarship. India and Russia have also recently been included on the list. Recently, Sabinet has forged a collaboration whereby the journal would be accessible in Turkey. Gradually, the journal is commanding a global presence through Sabinet, EBSCOhost and other online and traditional platforms for knowledge dissemination. The membership of the association is expanding in Africa, with increasing representation in most anglophone countries on the continent. Issues are pre-scheduled to appear in October. There have been no interruptions in publication; the regularity and frequency have been maintained with strict discipline.

The journal generally encourages the submission of original papers based on the particular theme. During the period 2017–2019, 23 full articles, four book reviews, one oration, one obituary and two practitioner's notes were published. A total of 30 full articles, one review article, four book reviews, three orations and four practitioner's notes were submitted over the same period. Information on the rejection rate was not provided at the time of the review. The proportion of peer-reviewed papers that had at least one author with a non-South African address was 50%.

Two peer reviewers are selected for each submitted manuscript. A third reviewer is sourced in case of disputes around the reviewers' comments. The selection of peer reviewers is based on their areas of specialisation. Peer review is conducted in a 'blind way'. Failure to adhere to reviewer critique could lead to rejection of the paper. Authors are encouraged to account for all the corrections they have made, and in some cases, the editor refers the corrections to a member of the editorial board to double-check and ensure that what they claim to have addressed is true. In some cases, the editor follows up with further corrections, which the authors themselves usually acknowledge to have been necessary for their work to be deemed finalised for publication. Peer reviewers receive follow-up information. Reviewer performance is not formally assessed and captured in a database. About 20 peer reviewers were used in one year of the three years under review, 65% of whom had a non-South African address. The peer-review reports were accessibly retained in the journal's records. The average period between receipt of

a manuscript and its publication in print and online is between one year and 18 months, but sometimes longer depending on the backlog and the amount of work required to finalise individual articles. Papers are often deferred to subsequent editions if there is a delay in response from the author or reviewers, or the paper does not match the theme of the edition. Extraordinary circumstances such as COVID-19 might also impact on the editorial process. The print version might appear a month late depending on the logistical issues encountered during the year.

The editor has been in office since the journal's inception in 2009 and was not appointed competitively. After official approval by the then Dean of Human Sciences at UKZN in 2007 for the establishment of the African Rhetoric and Democracy Project, the editor along with other colleagues founded both the AAR and the AJR. This is part of a larger African rhetoric initiative under the editor's leadership. The associate editors handle the editorial process or aspects of it. They may be delegated to oversee half the number of papers to be reviewed for publication. Rarely, such as when the editor wants his paper to be considered for publication in a guest edition, the guest editors will handle the editorial process. The editorial board advises on editorial policies, best practice and accreditation matters. Some members of the board were invited to join at inception, while others have been added more recently based on their expertise and consent to serve on the board. New members were added after the 2019 review, and the editors are considering other candidates who are eminently suitable to serve on the board. Those who have not been very forthcoming and involved have been replaced with more active advisors. Members are sourced mostly through identification, solicitation or invitation, and their availability. The initial appointment period is five years, which is renewable for as long as they are actively involved in the journal's activities. The board has an international spread including Nigeria, South Africa, Namibia, the USA, Canada, the Netherlands, the UK and New Zealand. They are appointed to provide specific topical expertise.

The journal has editorial guidelines, and a policy on conflict of interest is included in the guidelines. The journal, in practice, is in full compliance with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. Errata are published when necessary.

The journal publishes value-added features such as critical editorials, critical topical reviews, analytical book reviews, orations and practitioner's notes. The percentage of pages in each issue that represented peer-reviewed original material was 100%.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The contributions in the AJR are judged to be of generally formidable quality, treating topical contemporary issues, such as the environment, democracy, HIV/AIDS, land reform, black consciousness and health delivery in South Africa and other African countries using interdisciplinary methodological approaches. Apart from research articles, the AJR also features editorial briefs giving highlights of issue content, book reviews and obituaries of African scholars.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: Contributions in the AJR are preceded by English abstracts and exhibit generally good citation practice, except for a few under-referenced articles and others that rely heavily on unscholarly sources such as Wikipedia; however, some inconsistencies were noted in the citation style between articles.

Articles are professionally designed and the layout is good. The articles read very well, showing signs of adequate copy-editing. No errata were noted in the sampled issues.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability

Consensus review: The AJR is suitable for graduate students and budding academics with an interest in rhetoric. They can benefit from the material and data in the articles, which can serve as examples as well as a basis for further discussion and research, thus deepening their understanding of the subjects as well as strengthening their discourse. The journal, which has a distinct form in terms of its design and format, has a well-defined scope and publishes articles on a wide range of topics within the general area of rhetoric. The AJR thus ought to appeal to readers with a shared understanding of a multidisciplinary field. The articles also provide a forum for further academic investigation, policy formulation and action. Together with the *African Yearbook of Rhetoric*, which also focuses on Africa, the AJR has the potential

to become the African counterpart to journals such as *Rhetoric Society Quarterly*, the journal of the Rhetoric Society of America.

Business aspects

(Business-related criteria; Bibliometric assessments)

The AAR is the corporate title owner and publisher. Because of the global migration toward cyber/digital publishing, the journal has reduced the print run except when large numbers of copies are distributed at big conferences. The *AJR* started by printing 250 copies in 2009, then 1000 copies in 2011, funded by Working to Advance Health Equity in Africa (HEARD) at UKZN. Since 2014 when the journal was listed on Sabinet, the print run has been reduced to 50–100 copies per issue. The editorial process is partly in-house and partly outsourced. The editorial process is done with the expertise of members or the committed editorial advisory board, associate editors and anonymous editorial consultants according to their fields of specialisation. Editing and printing are done by the Martinson Institute Press and CTP Publishers. Mousehand Publishers (renamed Electric Book Works) was the original publishing company contracted in 2009. Partnership with an established publishing company is also being considered for the immediate future. The journal is purely academic and does not advertise any products or logos. The journal has in the past received financial sponsorship from the Corporate Affairs Unit at UKZN in 2009, HEARD at UKZN in 2009–2011 and the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences in 2017. Since then, and at other times, the association has been responsible for all its publications.

APCs are not levied. The journal uses a manual system to manage the editorial workflow. The association has only recently constructed its website with the potential to allow authors to submit their manuscripts via the website. The journal is not open access and is part of a commercial e-publication service through Sabinet and EBSCOhost.

There have not been any offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal. Copyright is vested with the authors, but they must seek permission from the editor if they wish to publish their articles elsewhere. To publish visual or archival material in the journal, the editors ask the authors to provide permission from the agency in possession of the right to the material, or full compliments for the material being published. Authors need to inform the editor if they wish to publish their papers on their social media or personal websites. Formal contractual arrangements will be instituted in the future. If an author wishes to reprint their paper in another journal, the *AJR* requires them to submit a reprint request, which the editors evaluate and respond accordingly. There is no formal agreement entered into between the journal and authors. The authors' contributions are purely voluntary.

The journal is accredited by DHET and does not have an impact factor. Altmetric indicators are administered. The 'front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. This is the journal's first independent peer review.

Suggested improvements

Consensus review: The *AJR* is encouraged to consider including keywords after the abstracts, follow a consistent referencing style and avoid unscholarly sources.

The journal should aim for equitable distribution of authors from South Africa, other African countries and the rest of the world.

The journal's website should be improved, including listing the editorial board members. The editor should market the journal at conferences of some of the disciplines in which rhetoric studies are practised, including linguistics, literary studies, journalism, media studies and drama.

For inclusion on the SciELO SA platform, the journal would need to change to openly accessible full text, and each article would need to be allocated a DOI.

Panel's consensus view

- i. The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.
- ii. The journal should be invited to join the SciELO SA platform should it become open access.

4.4.4 Anthropology Southern Africa

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

The journal aims to promote anthropology in southern Africa, to support ethnographic and theoretical research and to provide voices to public debates. *Anthropology Southern Africa* (ASnA) is committed

to contemporary perspectives in social and cultural anthropology, and in relevant interdisciplinary scholarship. The journal looks at current conditions in southern African, Africa and global societies, taking into consideration varied challenges such as the politics of difference, poverty and dignity. The journal publishes work on and from southern Africa, including Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The journal occasionally publishes material on and from other countries, or on theoretical debates where this is deemed relevant for southern African perspectives.

While the journal focuses on the specific discipline of anthropology, it frequently publishes articles by authors in sister disciplines who use ethnographic fieldwork methodology, including sociology, communication studies, development studies, history, gender studies and geography. Apart from obituaries, reviews and occasional comments, the journal mainly publishes articles based on fieldwork research. In terms of focus and scope, the journal has a regional focus.

ASnA is firmly based within the region while also reaching out and attracting work by a range of regional and international scholars who are committed to southern African scholarship. In terms of target audiences, the journal is read by anyone working on southern Africa and by anthropologists interested in debates from the Global South. It is available to readers both in print and online, and through various subsidiaries. In 2019, approximately 9 184 institutions had access to the journal via Research4Life, while 2 844 institutions had access via Taylor & Francis Online and EBSCOhost. Thus far during 2020, 902 full-text downloads came from approximately 29 African countries, and 5 292 downloads came from South Africa. In addition, approximately ten institutions subscribe directly to the journal and are not included in the Taylor & Francis sales deals.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The editor has good disciplinary standing and was recruited through a competitive process from among the membership of the Anthropology Southern Africa Association (ASAA). The editor is supported by associate editors and an editorial board comprising leading academics from top universities in South Africa, the African continent and further abroad. While maintaining strong international links with the international scholarly community, the journal remains important. The members of the editorial board may need further diversification at national and regional levels.

Questionnaire

(Editorial process-related criteria)

Anthropology Southern Africa (formerly the *Journal of South African Ethnology*) was established in 1994 and changed its name and focus in 2002. The journal publishes two double issues per year and is available online through the Taylor & Francis platform at <http://www.tandfonline.com/rasa>. Issues are pre-scheduled to appear on specific dates. From 2002 onwards, the journal was published by the ASAA. Two issues are published per year, although the issues have often only appeared in the following year. This was because the editors had to build up the journal after the amalgamation of two theoretically quite different associations. Finding a single common theoretical basis for the journal took longer than expected. Yet, during this period, the journal was able to give exposure to some exciting work by postgraduate students, and could thus begin to play a developmental role in the discipline. Since moving to Taylor & Francis in 2014, the journal has been published according to the scheduled publication dates.

During the three-year review period, 57 full articles, 20 book reviews, three obituaries, seven photo essays, five commentaries on photo essays, six editorials, one interview and five introductions to special themed issues were published. The journal received 96 full articles, 22 book reviews, three obituaries; seven photo essays, five commentaries on photo essays, six editorials, one interview and five introductions to special themed issues over the same period. A total of 12 articles and one book review were rejected without peer review, and 20 manuscripts were rejected after peer review. The proportion of peer-reviewed papers that had at least one author with a non-South African address was 60% in 2019.

Three to four peer reviewers are approached for each submitted manuscript. The selection process for peer reviewers is based on the topic, and reviewers are selected from a large network of anthropologists working in the region. Each editorial board member is also expected to do one peer review per year. Peer review is conducted in a 'double-blind way'. Valid reviewer critique and article improvement are rigorously implemented. The editor in charge of a paper makes sure that all valid critiques are

implemented in a resubmitted paper by asking authors to highlight and comment on all changes. In cases where two reviewers differ, the editor will appoint at least one other reviewer. The reviewers are given the outcome of each paper they review. Subject to individual permissions, they also receive any reviews of the article by other reviewers. Reviewer performance is assessed, and information is captured in a database. In 2018, 45 reviewers were used. The proportion of those who had a non-South African address was 50%. The peer-review reports were accessibly retained in the journal's records. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication in print and online was four months.

The editor has been in office for one year. The position was advertised among the whole ASAA membership and to anthropologists more widely. The editor was nominated by the editorial board, and the appointment was then ratified by the journal executive council for a three-year term. Peer reviews are handled by editors. The members of the editorial board provide advice on editorial policies and practices. Members of the board have been in this position for five years. The journal has recently appointed a chair of the editorial board who acts, in consultation with the rest of the board, as an advisor and liaison to the editors. The editorial board is elected from among the ranks of the journal membership and from among anthropologists more widely, based on excellence and geographical considerations. Their appointment period is open-ended and their positions are reviewed regularly. They are appointed from inside and outside the country to provide specific topical expertise.

The journal has a detailed 'instructions for authors' page online which gives information on the journal's editorial policy and guidelines and is available at <https://www.tandfonline.com/action/authorSubmission?show=instructions&journalCode=rasa20>. Furthermore, Taylor & Francis/Routledge is a member of COPE. All Taylor & Francis/Routledge journals, including *ASnA*, abide by the COPE guidelines on publication ethics. The guidelines are aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. It is the publisher's policy to publish errata, according to the guidelines.

The journal publishes value-added features such as critical editorials, analytical book reviews, obituaries, photo essays, commentaries on photo essays, retirement speeches and interviews. The percentage of pages in each issue that represented peer-reviewed original material was 80%.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The journal publishes cutting-edge articles based mostly on empirical research that addresses, to a large extent, regional and local issues. It provides a space to curate and debate both data and theoretical, conceptual and other methodological anthropological questions that relate to or emerge from South Africa or the southern African region. The contributors are mostly top scholars within the discipline, based at top South African, African and international universities. Even where younger and emerging scholars publish, it is evident that there is deep investment in carefully working through their papers to produce excellent quality publications.

Apart from empirical research articles, the journal features editorials, topical reviews, obituaries, tributes, scholarly correspondences, keynotes and even debates in which authors respond to the articles of authors. The journal has successfully established itself as a global space to debate anthropological issues, especially as they relate to southern Africa and South Africa in particular, but it is recommended that the journal also include research that addresses international problems or material and anthropological issues beyond Africa. In the future, the journal might need to consider further diversification of the editorial board and more special issues produced through national and international collaborations to expand the contextual base of the research it publishes.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: All articles published in the journal have abstracts written in good English, while abstracts are also translated into Portuguese for some articles. The journal publishes errata, as evidenced by the 2019 issue. The Chicago referencing style is consistently used in the journal. High-quality images are used in an ethical manner. Overall, the presentation, design, layout and copy-editing of the journal are outstanding.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability

Consensus review: The journal has published research by young graduates, thereby serving as an incubator for early-career academics. Some special issues were co-edited with early-career academics.

Research published in the journal features in the anthropology course outlines of several top universities in the country and other parts of the world. The journal also compares well in many respects with other anthropology journals such as the *American Ethnologist*, *American Anthropologist*, *African Affairs*, *Current Anthropology*, *Journal of African Cultural Studies* and *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory*. The journal complements these global publications of anthropology well by providing a space where local knowledge is placed in rigorous conversation with regional and even global knowledge from diverse anthropological perspectives.

Business aspects

(Business-related criteria; Bibliometric assessments)

The legal owner of the title is the ASAA, a professional association for social anthropologists living and working in southern Africa. The title is published by Taylor & Francis/Routledge, with the co-publishing assistance of NISC. The regular print run was 182 copies per issue at the time of the review. Production and distribution are not outsourced. The journal does not carry any advertising and there is no financial sponsorship.

The association charges authors at South African institutions a page fee of ZAR226 per page. The journal uses an online management system for the editorial workflow. The journal is not open access and is part of a commercial e-publication service. The publisher is multinational but has a South African-based office and works with a local co-publisher, NISC. They have not offered to purchase the journal. The ASSA retains ownership and copyright on the journal.

The journal is indexed in IBSS, Scopus and WoS and has an impact factor of 0.684. Altmetric indicators are administered by Taylor & Francis. The 'front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal was independently peer reviewed by DHET at the time of applying for accreditation.

Suggested improvements

Consensus review: The journal is encouraged to consider exploring the possibility of attracting more scholars from East, West and Central Africa to the editorial board to increase the scholarly base of research published in the journal.

A blog with commissioned short critical pieces and op-eds should be considered which will provide a space for researchers to test ideas and to communicate in a way that allows not only anthropologists but also other audiences to access the specialist material.

The editors should consider reserving 20% of the space in the journal for postgraduate and early-career academics to sustain the discipline and its growth in the region, and publishing special issues to provide space where guest editors could partner with early-career academics and diverse groups to promote sustainable intergenerational knowledge production.

For the journal to be included in the SciELO SA platform, it would need to change to openly accessible full text.

Panel's consensus view

- i. **The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.**
- ii. **The journal should be invited to join the SciELO SA platform should it become open access.**

4.4.5 *Imbizo: International Journal of African Literary and Comparative Studies*

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

Imbizo is a scholarly and peer-reviewed journal, and its purpose is to publish articles that foster critical debates on African literary theory, cultural studies, history and popular culture. Articles that emphasise comparative approaches using disciplines such as African literature, literacy, political theory and the performing arts such as drama, orality and film in Africa are also published. The journal publishes original research articles, book reviews, review articles, interviews and important conference proceedings. The published material comprises theoretical and practical perspectives that expand knowledge on discourses on the Africanisation of the processes of Africa's literary creations. The aim is to deepen dialogue within Africa, and between African scholars and those in Latin America, Europe, North America and Asia.

The journal publishes articles in literary studies and related fields, but also includes articles with an interdisciplinary focus, where such interdisciplinarity enriches the quality of the knowledge being produced. The journal serves not only the South African research community but also the global community of researchers in the field of African literary and comparative studies. It does so by providing original research articles, interviews and book reviews on postcolonial literature, dramatic literature, poetry studies, film studies, fiction studies, feminist literature, autobiographical studies, archival studies and many more subjects.

The journal's primary target audiences are scholars from Africa, from the rest of the world, and from South Africa (in that order). This is because the journal aims to maintain a stronghold in African scholarship while also embracing scholarship from African literature experts in the global community. Subscriptions via Sabinet are all institutional subscribers. There are 69 subscribers, nine of which are outside South Africa.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The editor, associate editors and members of the editorial board have very high national and international scholarly standing. The composition of the editorial board also reflects a diversity of literary genres and theoretical expertise. However, the editorial board members are predominantly from southern African, with no representation of other scholarly contexts apart from South Africa and Zimbabwe at a time when literary productions from other African countries and analysis thereof could broaden the literary and comparative perspectives that the journal seeks to advance.

Questionnaire

(Editorial process-related criteria)

Imbizo was established in 2010 and publishes two issues per year. It is available online at <https://upjournals.co.za/index.php/imbizo>. According to the data extracted from Google Analytics, *Imbizo* received 27 656 page views and 5 451 full text downloads for the period 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2019. It was read in about 101 countries, 33 of which are African countries. Issues are not pre-scheduled to appear on specific dates. There have been no significant interruptions in publication.

During the three-year review period, 32 full articles and three book reviews were published. A total of 71 full articles and six book reviews were submitted over the same period. Sixteen manuscripts were rejected without peer review, and 23 were rejected after peer review. About 80% of the articles and book reviews are by authors with a non-South African address.

Up to four peer reviewers are approached for each submitted manuscript. Peer reviewers are selected based on their subject expertise. Peer review is conducted in a 'blind way'. Valid reviewer critique and article improvement are rigorously implemented. Where extensive revisions are required, the editor checks the revised version carefully for evidence of improvement. If only minor corrections are recommended, the post-revision assessment is less rigorous. If the editor is not satisfied with the revisions, the article is sent back to the author with further comments on what has not been addressed. Peer reviewers do not receive follow-up information. Reviewer performance is assessed, and information is captured in a database. In 2020, 40 peer reviewers were used, 80% of whom had a non-South African address. The peer-review reports were accessibly retained in the journal's records. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication online is six months.

The editor has been in office since 2017. The appointment was not competitive as the present editor was approached by the previous editor to take over the editorship. The appointment was for five years. Members of the editorial board handle peer review and advise on editorial policies and practices. Members have been in office for four years of a five-year period. They were approached to serve on the board based on their research expertise and willingness to serve, as well as their past commitment to the journal. Members are appointed from inside and outside the country to provide specific topical expertise.

The journal has made the editorial guidelines available online at <https://upjournals.co.za/index.php/imbizo/about> and <https://upjournals.co.za/index.php/imbizo/about/submissions>. Contributors and reviewers are asked to declare any conflict of interest. The journal guidelines are aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. Errata may be published as necessary. The journal does not publish any value-added scholarly features. All articles are peer-reviewed original material.

Content:**(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)**

Consensus review: The journal publishes a diverse array of excellent research articles spanning a range of subjects, from Nigerian poetry to Zimbabwean fiction, and from Malawian writing to South African film and prison literature. Most of the articles are authored by senior scholars at South African universities, although most of those scholars are themselves not South African citizens. Furthermore, the aim of the journal, to deepen the dialogue between African scholars and those in Latin America, Europe, North America, and Asia, does not appear to be achievable if the articles remain focused mainly on southern African literature. Although the journal publishes good editorials, there is room for substantial improvement with respect to book reviews and other scholarly features.

Essential technical features:**(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)**

Consensus review: All articles are accompanied by appropriate abstracts written in clear academic English. The journal provides for the publication of errata, but none appeared in the reviewed issues. A clear referencing style is prescribed and consistently adhered to in the journal, and the overall presentation, design, layout and copy-editing of the journal are meticulous.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability

Consensus review: The journal serves as a space for both emerging and established voices in the field. Apart from experienced literary scholars, emerging academics such as postdoctoral fellows have published excellent articles in the journal. The journal compares very well with journals in the field of African literature. However, its limited scholarly scope makes it more regional than international, which undermines its endeavour to provide a platform for international dialogue between African scholars and their European, North American and Latin American counterparts.

Business aspects**(Business-related criteria; Bibliometric assessments)**

The journal is owned and published by Unisa Press and there is no print run. Production and distribution are handled by Unisa Press. The journal does not carry any advertising and does not receive financial sponsorship. APCs are not levied unless an author wishes to publish an article in open access. The journal uses an online management system for the editorial workflow. The journal is not open access and is part of a commercial e-publication service through Sabinet. There have been no offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal. Copyright is vested in Unisa Press.

The journal is accredited by DHET and visible on Google Scholar. The journal does not have an impact factor. Altmetric indicators are administered. The 'front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal has not been independently peer reviewed before.

Suggested improvements

Consensus review: The journal is encouraged to consider publishing material from other parts of the world to meet its international endeavour and expand its readership. Special issues based on a particular area of interest or country might help to enhance the journal's 'international' and 'comparative' character.

The journal should encourage other scholarly features such as editorials, topical reviews and conference proceedings, and incorporate a section of short original poetry in every issue.

The length (number of articles per issue) and the ratio of content (articles to additional scholarly features) should be standardised.

The visibility of the journal should be increased through calls for papers disseminated to different institutions in South Africa and beyond.

For inclusion on the SciELO SA platform, the journal would need to change to openly accessible full text.

Panel's consensus view

- i. The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.**
- ii. The journal should be invited to join the SciELO SA platform should it become open access.**

4.4.6 *Journal of Contemporary African Studies*

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

The *Journal of Contemporary African Studies* (JCAS) is an interdisciplinary journal that seeks to promote an African-centred scholarly understanding of societies on the continent and their location within the global political economy. Its scope extends across a wide range of social science and humanities disciplines, covering topics that include, but are not limited to, culture, development, education, environmental questions, gender, government, labour, land, leadership, political economy politics, social movements, sociology of knowledge and welfare. JCAS welcomes contributions that review general trends in the academic literature with a specific focus on debates and developments in Africa as part of a broader aim of contributing towards the development of viable communities of African scholarship.

The focus of the journal is on the broad interdisciplinary field of African studies. The journal serves a wider community of African and Africanist scholars, and the emphasis is on how South Africa fits in as an integral part of the African continent. The journal serves the South African research community in two main interacting ways. Firstly, it facilitates access to broader African studies scholarship; and secondly, it opens up possibilities for the work of South African scholars to be exposed to a wider readership. The focus of JCAS is primarily continental, and its readership and authors are local as well as from outside Africa. JCAS is accessible to almost 3 000 institutions globally through paid subscriptions or sales deals, and to thousands more institutions free of charge as part of Taylor & Francis development initiatives. Most subscriptions are institutional.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: Historically, JCAS has been ably produced under experienced editors and associate editors. During the review process, a competitive process was under way to recruit a new editor. Having published serious academic articles for several decades, covering over 30 countries in Africa, the journal is considered a premier international journal on African studies.

Questionnaire

(Editorial process-related criteria)

JCAS was established in 1982 and publishes four issues per year. It is available online through the Taylor & Francis platform at <https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/cjca20/current>. Between 2017 and 2019, the journal received more than 171 000 full-text downloads, with downloads steadily increasing annually. Page views were significantly higher than full-text downloads. Downloads came from more than 150 countries, including 27 African countries. Issues are not pre-scheduled to appear on specific dates, and there have been no significant interruptions in publication.

During the three-year review period (2017–2019), 81 full articles, 16 book reviews, three reports, five debates, two commentaries and four editorials were published. The journal received a total of 497 manuscripts over the same period. The number of manuscripts rejected without peer review was not known at the time of the review, and 220 manuscripts were rejected after peer review. The proportion of peer-reviewed papers that had at least one author with a non-South African address was 54%.

About four to six peer reviewers are invited for each submitted manuscript. Information on the process of selecting peer reviewers was not provided. Peer review is conducted in a 'blind way'. Reviewer critique and article improvement are rigorously implemented. For an article to be published, it must have at least two favourable peer-review reports; the co-editor must recommend it for publication, and the editor must approve this recommendation. Peer reviewers receive an automated letter informing them of the decision. Reviewer performance is assessed, and information is captured in a database. A total of 411 reviewers were used over the three-year review period, and about 75% had a non-South African address. The peer-review reports were accessibly retained in the journal's records. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication in print is 218 days, and online is 198 days.

The editor has been in office for nine years and was not appointed competitively. The new editor will be appointed through a competitive process. Members of the editorial board deal with peer review and advise on editorial policies and practices. The board has new members as well as some who have been on the board for a long time. Their appointments were not competitive, and their term of office was not specified. Members are appointed from inside and outside the country to provide specific topical expertise.

The journal has an 'instructions for authors' page online with information on the journal's editorial policy and guidelines. This is available at <https://www.tandfonline.com/action/authorSubmission?show=instructions&journalCode=cjca20>. The guidelines are aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. According to the guidelines, it is the publisher's policy to publish errata.

The journal publishes value-added features such as critical editorials, critical topical reviews, analytical book reviews, correspondence on published articles, debates, research reports, notes from the field and commentaries. The percentage of pages in each issue that represented peer-reviewed original material was 86%.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The journal publishes four issues per year, with an average of eight to ten articles per issue. The quality of the articles is outstanding and represents significant coverage of Africa by South African and African academics. Apart from research articles, each issue includes exciting additional scholarly features that diversify the content of the journal.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: All articles are accompanied by appropriate English abstracts written in accessible academic language. The journal publishes suitable errata where necessary. The citation practice of the journal is good. The presentation, design, layout, style and copy-editing interventions are excellent, with the ethical use of quality-enhancing images where appropriate.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability

Consensus review: The journal serves as a suitable stimulus for local graduate students and emerging academics in the relevant humanities disciplines. It compares favourably with leading international journals such as the *Journal of African Studies*, *Journal of Critical African Studies*, *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History*, *Journal of Southern African Studies*, *Journal of East African Studies*, *African Economic History* and *Journal of African History*.

Business aspects

(Business-related criteria; Bibliometric assessments)

The title owner is the Institute for Social and Economic Research at Rhodes University, and the publisher is Taylor & Francis. The journal has a regular print run of 150 copies per issue. Production and distribution are outsourced to Taylor & Francis and NISC. The journal does not carry any advertising and does not receive financial sponsorship.

The journal does not charge an APC, but it is an Open Select title, which means that authors can opt to pay an APC and publish in open access. Most of the content is published on a subscription model with no charge to the authors. The editorial workflow is managed through an online management system via ScholarOne. The journal is not open access and is part of a commercial e-publication service. There have been offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal, but such offers have been declined. Authors own the copyright to the content they publish with the journal.

JCAS is indexed by African Studies Abstracts Online; CSA Abstracts (Political Science, Sociological and Social Planning categories); Google Scholar; IBSS; International Political Science Abstracts; Scopus; and WoS Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI). The journal had a CiteScore of 1.2 in 2019. Altmetric indicators are administered by Taylor & Francis. 'Front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal has not been independently peer reviewed before.

Suggested improvements

Consensus review: The journal is encouraged to consider diversifying the editorial board by including academics from institutions other than Rhodes University as well as from other African countries, and striving for gender balance on the board.

African studies conferences and seminars should be considered where regular contributors to the journal may present their work.

For inclusion on the SciELO SA platform, the journal would need to change to openly accessible full text.

Panel's consensus view

- i. **The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.**
- ii. **The journal should be invited to join the SciELO SA platform should it become open access.**

4.4.7 Journal of the South African Society of Archivists**Focus and scope:****(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)**

The *Journal of the South African Society of Archivists (JSASA)* publishes original articles and book reviews in English on archival science, records management, information science and oral history. The emphasis is on empirical research, but opinion papers and articles of high quality on theoretical aspects are also considered. The focus of the journal is on research results, case studies and reports of innovative projects. *JSASA* is especially useful to professionals, academics and students in the archives, heritage, museum and records management fields.

The aim of the journal is to focus specifically on archives and records management, although for transformation purposes, articles on oral history and indigenous knowledge related to archives are considered for publication. Archives and records management is a little-known field, even though it is growing in South Africa. As a result, there are very few journals focusing on this niche area, especially on the African continent. *JSASA* thus complements the journal of the Eastern and Southern African Regional Branch (ESARBICA) of the International Council on Archives. *JSASA* serves the South African research community by publishing and disseminating local content on archives and records management globally as it is an open-access journal.

The primary target audiences are scholars and practitioners in archives and records management, as well as oral history. The journal is mostly read in Zimbabwe, Botswana, South Africa, Kenya, Malaysia, the USA, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, the UK, Canada and other countries. The journal reached a total of over 120 countries in 2019 alone.

Editing functions:**(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)**

Consensus review: The editor has a solid disciplinary reputation in archives and records management in southern Africa and internationally. The editorial board consists of internationally reputable academics and practitioners, thus giving the journal an academic and practitioner focus. The members of the editorial board are from several countries in southern Africa, as well as Thailand, Sweden, New Zealand, Qatar and the USA.

Questionnaire**(Editorial process-related criteria)**

The journal was established in 1950 as the *SA Archives Journal* when the South African Society of Archivists was born, but became dormant in 2003. It was re-established in 2011 with issue number 44 and renamed the *Journal of the South African Society of Archivists*, and was accredited by DHET in 2019. The journal publishes one issue per year. It is available online at <http://www.saarchivist.co.za/content/publications>. Information on visits and downloads was not available at the time of the review. Issues are pre-scheduled to appear during or before November each year. Publication of *JSASA* lapsed altogether between 2003 and 2011, but there has been no significant interruption since 2011.

During the three-year review period, a total of 32 manuscripts were received, and only 21 full articles were published. Four manuscripts were rejected without peer review and seven were rejected after peer review. The proportion of peer-reviewed papers that had at least one author with a non-South African address was not provided.

Over the three-year review period, ten out of 21 peer reviewers were selected to review the submitted manuscripts. The journal has a database of peer reviewers and their areas of interests. The reviewers are selected based on their field of interest and their nationality. Peer review is conducted in a 'blind way'. Valid reviewer critique and article improvement are rigorously implemented. Authors must indicate how the reviewers' comments were implemented or give reasons why any of the comments were not addressed. The revised manuscripts are sent to the reviewers to confirm that they are satisfied with the changes. Peer reviewers receive follow-up information. Reviewer performance is not assessed, and information is not captured in a database. About 42 reviewers were used, with five of those being used

twice. Over 50% of the reviewers were non-South Africans. The peer-review reports were accessibly retained in the journal's records. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication online is six to ten months.

The editor has been in office since 2011. The editor volunteered to re-establish the journal and get it reaccredited as it had been removed from the DHET list. The editor was appointed to serve until 2021. The new editorial board was appointed in 2019 to coincide with the editor's term and they were appointed based on their specialties. Members of the board deal with peer review and advise on editorial policies and practices. They were appointed from across the world to provide specific topical expertise.

The journal has editorial guidelines in place, which are accessible at <https://www.ajol.info/index.php/jsasa/about>. There is a conflict-of-interest policy. Guidelines are aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. The journal did not have an errata policy at the time of the review.

The journal does not publish any value-added features. The percentage of pages in each issue that represented peer-reviewed original material was 100%.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: JSASA is an annual journal and published between seven and nine articles per year during the review period. The quality of articles varied within and among the different volumes and issues, ranging from high to average. No additional scholarly features are published in the journal, which is disappointing. The national and international coverage of research on archival work in the journal is not impressive, and this seems to be connected to the observation that contributors are from a few South African institutions and a limited number of African countries. JSASA has yet to achieve truly international reach in becoming a journal of choice to which independent archives researchers in Africa broadly as well as globally reach out as a platform for research dissemination.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: For all articles in the reviewed issues, abstracts are adequately presented in English, with sufficient clarity, length and detail necessary to serve as metadata for the article contents. The publication of errata was not observed, perhaps because there was no occasion that required it. The journal reflects generally good presentation, design, layout, style, copy-editing interventions and ethical use of beautiful images. The latest issues of the journal demonstrate a clear and consistent referencing style. However, the journal needs to guard against excessive self-citation.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability

Consensus review: JSASA is suitable for local young graduates, emerging scholars and practitioners in the discipline. The journal website indicates that reviewers should take a mentoring and developmental approach when reviewing manuscripts submitted to the journal. The articles published over the three-year review period show some evidence of co-authorship among graduate students, emerging academics and established academics. As a developmental journal, JSASA does not attract research beyond the African continent. The unavailability of other types of papers, such as reviews and editorials, is a major weakness. The journal does not compare favourably with other international journals such as the *Journal of the Society of Australian Archivists*, which attracts contributions from many countries including South Africa. The latter journal also publishes special issues and includes scholarly features such as editorials, reflections, book reviews and obituaries.

Business aspects

(Business-related criteria; Bibliometric assessments)

The journal is owned and published by the South African Society of Archivists. There is no regular print run. Production and distribution are outsourced to Opensource. The journal does not carry advertising, and does not receive any financial sponsorship.

The journal had 17 institutional subscribers in 2019 and 125 individual members as paying subscribers. There are no page charges or APCs. The editorial workflow is managed through an online management system and a manual system. The journal is open access. There have been offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal, but such offers have been declined. Copyright resides with the society.

JSASA is accredited by DHET and does not have an impact factor. Altmetric indicators are administered. The 'front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal was independently peer reviewed by DHET at the time of applying for accreditation.

Suggested improvements

Consensus review: The journal should consider attracting contributions from authors at other South African universities as well as other countries on the continent and internationally, and soliciting articles that examine broader and cutting-edge issues in archiving and records management in South Africa and beyond.

Additional scholarly features, including purposefully written editorials by the editor, should be considered. The journal's website contains some outdated information and should be updated. Excessive self-citations in the interest of the integrity of the journal should be avoided. Articles should be published as and when they are ready to improve the turnaround period.

At the time of the review, no 2021 articles had been published, and it would thus not be considered for inclusion on the SciELO SA platform.

Panel's consensus view

- i. The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.
- ii. The journal should not be invited to join the SciELO SA platform.

4.4.8 LitNet Akademies - Geesteswetenskappe

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

LitNet Akademies is a multidisciplinary Afrikaans academic journal for the humanities, economic and management sciences, religious studies, education, natural sciences and law. *LitNet Akademies* has a strong interdisciplinary focus, publishing research across several disciplines, and specifically in Afrikaans. The journal has different sections, enabling it to accommodate a wide range of disciplines, namely: **Geesteswetenskappe (Humanities)**, *Ekonomiese en Bestuurswetenskappe* (Economic and Management Sciences), *Godsdienstwetenskappe* (Religious Studies), *Opvoedkunde* (Education), *Natuurwetenskappe* (Natural Sciences) and *Regte* (Law). Each of the sections has its own discipline-based editor who manages the peer-review process as well as the general editing of articles in her/his area of expertise.

LitNet Akademies serves the South African research community extensively in various ways, including the following:

- *LitNet Akademies* provides an interdisciplinary platform for high-quality accredited articles in Afrikaans, thereby contributing to the development of Afrikaans as an academic language.
- The interdisciplinary character of the journal draws audiences from across disciplines, introducing academics (and interested users) to research in fields other than their own.
- This node for accredited research is embedded in the larger LitNet digital/hypertext environment, and research is thereby introduced to the broader public and not exclusively to a specialised research or academic community.
- The interdisciplinary editorial board members of *LitNet Akademies* are in regular contact, and articles that are not suitable for one section may be sent directly to another editor without first going through a process of rejection and resubmission.
- This unique model explores new possibilities for the delivery of quality accredited academic research.
- Research articles are promoted to the broader public through interviews, essays and online seminars. Traffic is directed from other LitNet pages (e.g. its newsletter, its letters page and blog forum) to *LitNet Akademies* accredited articles in order to draw traffic to academic research. Online seminars are arranged with experts, flowing from subjects touched upon in accredited articles, to integrate academic work with public discussion. Interviews with writers of peer-reviewed articles are conducted and published in the wider LitNet digital space and promoted not only via the destination website but also through social media (e.g. Facebook), which now serves as an index for many Web users, as users tend to rely on peers to call their attention to interesting material. A dedicated YouTube channel has been initiated for interviews with researchers on their work.
- The journal is investigating alternative ways to deliver non-accredited research material (e.g. the Einstein competition for young researchers).
- Concern about education at school and university levels is addressed by means of debates, commissioned opinion pieces (e.g. on disadvantaged schools, technology and the classroom) and the provision of expert learning material such as class notes, examination papers and memoranda.

- *LitNet Akademies* pays a research fee to both researchers/authors and peer reviewers, thus contributing to the costs of their future research.
- *LitNet Akademies* charges no page or production charges and is freely available, thus contributing to the concept of open access.

The primary target audience is Afrikaans-speaking researchers, students and the general public, both locally and abroad. There is also considerable interest in Dutch-speaking countries, as well as a readership of English speakers. With the latter in mind, lengthy English abstracts of the Afrikaans accredited articles are published and available from the home page.

The accredited articles form part of the wider LitNet platform. According to Google Analytics, the website had a record number of 171 811 unique users in May 2018. The average number of unique users per month for the period 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2019 was 119 435. *LitNet Akademies* research articles are also included in the Sabinet database; via Sabinet, material is available on the African Electronic Journals (SA ePublications) database used in university library search engines, as well as Google Scholar.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The editor-in-chief is a prominent scholar, and the associate editors are all academics of note. The editorial board includes academics with national and international recognition.

Questionnaire

(Editorial process-related criteria)

LitNet Akademies went online in January 1999, and until 2007 the unaccredited Seminar Room was used as the basis for initiating a peer-reviewed node for accredited academic publishing. The first accredited issue was published in 2008. Formal PDF issues are published three times per year. Individual HTML articles are published almost weekly throughout the year (and in some weeks four or five articles may appear) and combined into the formal PDF issues. The wider LitNet domain and *LitNet Akademies* home page are accessible at <https://www.litnet.co.za>. The URL to the node for accredited articles is accessible at <https://www.litnet.co.za/category/akademies/litnet-akademies>. Information on visit and download records was not provided at the time of the review. *LitNet Akademies* is an open-access journal available on the internet and accessed across the world. According to Google Analytics, 90% of LitNet readers were from within South Africa in 2019. Apart from the 90% of readers in South Africa, the top ten African countries listed on Google Analytics as part of the LitNet audience in 2019 were Namibia, Kenya, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Zambia, Mozambique, Ghana, Uganda and Eswatini.

Issues are scheduled to appear at regular intervals throughout the year. Specific publishing dates are not given, but the months of publication established for the three PDF issues over the past few years are April/May, August/September and December. The issues carry individual articles published in the periods between issues, resulting in research being published and available throughout the year and not only on the dates when the three formal PDF issues are published. This is a significant advantage, leading to immediacy and willingness to debate and interact, as a sense of engagement and topicality is created. All *LitNet Akademies* issues have been published in the months indicated since 2009, except for 2019, when the second edition of volume 16 was published in October. There have been no significant interruptions in publication.

During the three-year review period, a total of 83 fully peer-reviewed articles were published in the *Geesteswetenskappe* section. Only fully peer-reviewed articles are included in the formal accredited *LitNet Akademies* node, but the wider domain publishes an extensive range and significant amount of material engaging with the accredited articles and other related topics, for example, contributing to the debate on the future of South African universities, access to education and language of teaching. As explained, this material consists of online academic seminars, interviews with researchers, book reviews, conference papers, and competition contributions. Most of these articles are commissioned, and the authors receive payment. A total of 284 manuscripts were received over the same period; 23 manuscripts were rejected without peer review, and 85 after peer review. Three articles had a non-South African address.

A minimum of two peer reviewers are approached for each manuscript accepted for the peer-review process. If the overall review results are not unanimous, a third peer reviewer is approached as an arbitrator. Peer reviewers are selected by the individual section editors and sometimes by the editor-in-

chief for their specific expertise within their field of study. Peer review is conducted in a 'blind way'. *LitNet Akademies* rigorously follows the implementation of valid reviewer critique and article improvement. Each article is returned to the author or authors for adjustments suggested in the peer-review reports, even if the article has been recommended for publication by both reviewers. An equally rigorous process of text editing is undertaken by language practitioners in consultation with the section editor and the author(s). Strict protocols are followed. Peer reviewers receive follow-up information in cases where the outcome of reviews is not straightforward (e.g. when a third reviewer is approached as an arbitrator). In cases where one or both reviewers have specific criticisms and recommendations, the amended article is sent back to the reviewers for approval before finally being accepted for publication. Each of the section editors assesses reviewer performance and uses such information for future reference and decisions. *LitNet Akademies* pays researchers a fee for peer reviewing. In 2019 a total of 217 peer reviewers were thus compensated (30 of which were for reviews of articles rejected after peer review), 2.3% of whom had a non-South African address. All peer-review reports are archived by the section editors and are available on request. Based on a random selection of articles, an average period of 18 weeks between receipt of a manuscript and online publication in HTML was calculated.

The *LitNet Akademies* founder editor-in-chief has been in office since the inception of the peer-review status of the accredited node. He has also been the founder editor of the wider domain since January 1999. The *Geesteswetenskappe* (Humanities) editor has been in office since September 2009. The founder editor initiated the project and was not appointed competitively. The positions of the section editors were not advertised publicly; the appointments were done through initial headhunting followed by a thorough selection process. The editors are of high academic standing, and all of them are also senior academics with considerable and strong research records. The section editors are contracted on a year-to-year basis, and the editor-in-chief of the academic project is appointed by the board of the non-profit company *LitNet Akademies*. The editors do not write official peer reviews of articles submitted to their sections. Members of the editorial advisory board may be asked to do peer reviews of articles within their field of expertise and provide advice on editorial policies and practices. The editorial board consists of the editor-in-chief, the section editors and the editorial manager (who is responsible for the production of the journal). The editor-in-chief and the language practitioner have been involved since the initiation of the project, thereby creating a stable environment. The other members of the editorial board were appointed with the creation of new sections. The journal has a strong editorial advisory board consisting of prominent academics from different disciplines and institutions across South Africa, with 12 board members from outside South Africa. The board comprises a good mix of older and younger, male and female, and white and black academics. The board is, at times, expanded to represent the growth of the journal to new disciplines, but there is no fixed term. Although there is no public advertising, a thorough selection process precedes appointments. The period of appointment is not specified. All members of the editorial board and editorial advisory board are appointed to provide specific topical expertise.

The accredited node *LitNet Akademies* does have published editorial guidelines and is also subject to the policy guidelines of the wider digital domain, available at www.litnet.co.za and <https://www.litnet.co.za/litnet-akademies-geesteswetenskappe-riglyne>. *LitNet Akademies* is subject to the policy guidelines of LitNet, available at <https://www.litnet.co.za/bepalings-en-voorwaardes>. The *LitNet Akademies* editorial/policy guidelines are aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. *LitNet Akademies* has never found it necessary to publish any errata or retractions.

LitNet Akademies does not publish value-added features. Only fully peer-reviewed articles are included in the formally accredited *LitNet Akademies* pages. The percentage of pages in each issue that represented peer-reviewed original material was 100%.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The articles published in the journal are of good to high quality. The authors are mainly South African, based on the use of a local language. The journal focuses on South African issues, which does not detract from the quality of the articles. The journal attracts scholars from various universities across South Africa. The journal was recommended for its editorial practice.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: The reviewers commended the journal on its high technical standard. They also lauded

the inclusion of lengthy English abstracts which make the journal accessible to other language speakers. The citation practice is acceptable. The layout, design and presentation were also commended.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability

Consensus review: There are no similar journals with which to compare this journal. However, the quality and scholarlyness of the articles compare favourably with other South African journals. For scholars in linguistics, this is regarded as one of the journals of choice in which to publish.

Business aspects

(Business-related criteria; Bibliometric assessments)

LitNet Akademies is the title owner, and the publisher is LitNet. There is no regular print run. All production and distribution are handled in-house by LitNet staff. *LitNet Akademies* is embedded in the LitNet mainframe, which in turn carries both paid (very limited) and unpaid advertising. No advertising money flows to *LitNet Akademies*. LitNet often publishes announcements, advertisements and press releases with an academic theme free of charge (e.g. information regarding seminars, academic posts). The Trust vir Afrikaanse Onderwys and Naspers Chairman's Fund provide financial sponsorship to the journal.

LitNet Akademies does not levy any page charges or article-processing charges on authors. The editorial workflow is managed through an online management system, loading of articles on to the web and manual systems. *LitNet Akademies* is an open-access journal, and the node is also listed on Sabinet, a pay-to-subscribe e-publication service to which most scholars have access via their universities. *LitNet Akademies* is included in several university repositories.

There have been no offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal. It is open access, not for sale, and the company's MOI bars the possibility of selling. Authors retain the copyright on articles published. Authors are bound by the licensing agreement of the publisher, LitNet.

LitNet Akademies is accredited by DHET. The journal has no impact factors. Altmetric indicators are administered. 'Front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal formed part of ASSAf's *Report on Grouped Peer Review of Scholarly Journals in Humanities Part 1: Literature Group* and was reviewed by ASSAf in 2016.

Suggested improvements

Consensus review: The uneven coverage of the social sciences (unlike literature, linguistics, arts and music) should be addressed.

The online webinars should be used to select a social science topic to be discussed by a panel of invited academics with a special edition of the LitNet journal in mind. The seminar/webinar could be conducted in both Afrikaans and English, with translations into Afrikaans for certain of the articles selected for publication (e.g. on climate change and the Anthropocene, identity politics, and the role of China in Africa).

The journal could consider inviting 'guest editors' who are specialists in specific fields to create more focus. An effort should also be made to publish more articles by international scholars whose contributions could be translated into Afrikaans. The quality of the journal should be tested by striving to be included in international citation indexes.

The journal should further expand the supplementary popular scientific communication (e.g. online, public discussions of recent publications, a podcast series, more infographics, press statements about interesting articles and findings).

Panel's consensus view

- i. **The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.**
- ii. **The journal should be invited to join the SciELO SA platform.**
- iii. **The panel believes that the journal contributes to contributions in the field of humanities and to Afrikaans as an academic language. The journal could increase its visibility abroad and include or translate articles from international scholars. The journal could consider including articles in other indigenous languages.**

4.4.9 *Safundi: Journal of South African and American Studies*

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

Safundi is a peer-reviewed quarterly academic journal that publishes analyses of the USA and South Africa from a transnational and/or comparative perspective, seeking to understand each country in relation to the other. The title derives from the initial letters of South Africa and America and the word 'fundi', derived from the isiXhosa verb 'funda', which translates as 'to read' or 'to learn'. Although new comparative and transnational research is the journal's principal focus, *Safundi* also publishes articles specifically addressing a single country, provided that the research is of interest to an international audience. The journal considers submissions relating to other countries in southern Africa and the Americas, as well as to other parts of the world if these lead to broader comparative insights. It encourages interdisciplinary perspectives on topics in fields including, but not limited to, anthropology, human and cultural geography, history, languages and literatures, communications, visual cultures and film. *Safundi* publishes academic articles. Intelligent, exploratory essays and suggestions for review articles are also welcomed. The journal occasionally solicits contributions to roundtable discussions.

The focus of *Safundi* is strongly interdisciplinary within the humanities and qualitative social sciences. Its principal areas of focus are literary studies and history, but it also publishes articles in art history, musicology, anthropology, sociology, jurisprudence, religious studies and other disciplines when they fit the journal's comparative mission. *Safundi*'s subtitle encompasses both South African and American studies, but in practice, the journal publishes far more articles that focus just on South Africa than articles that focus just on America. The journal, therefore, publishes scholarship by experts in South African studies from around the world, with a great number of the contributions coming from faculty and postgraduate students at South African universities.

Safundi's editors, editorial board and readership span the globe. The journal is widely read by scholars not only in South Africa but also in North America, Australia, New Zealand, Europe and elsewhere in Africa. In 2019, 2 900 institutions worldwide had access via sales, subject collection or core institutional subscription. A further 9 000 institutions had access to the journal via the Research4Life programme. There is one personal subscriber.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: *Safundi* is a relatively established journal that enjoys international standing and recognition by established and emerging scholars in the applicable disciplines and research fields. The journal's high national and international reputation is due to its comparative, transnational topical interests. The current journal editors, including the current editor-in-chief and reviews editors, have strong international standing based on their own scholarly contributions to transnational, comparative American and South African (predominantly literary and historical) studies. The editorial board's varied research backgrounds and interests reflect the journal's own interdisciplinary perspectives and approaches, with most scholars coming from globally recognised, reputable and established academic institutions. The board does, however, appear more geographically representative of institutions in the Global North (i.e. particularly North American universities), and representation from the Global South appears to be comprised mostly of, if not limited to, predominantly South African institutions and South African-based scholars, but this issue is counterbalanced by a meticulous and judicious selection of academics on the editorial board based on their critically focused US/South African research interests and the quality of their scholarship.

Questionnaire

(Editorial process-related criteria)

Safundi was established in 2000. The journal is accessible through the Taylor & Francis platform at www.tandfonline.com/rsaf. The journal recorded 33 000 downloads in 2019. It is read in 144 countries, including 37 African countries. Issues are pre-scheduled to appear in January, April, July and October. There were no significant delays in publication during the review period.

During the three-year review period, 57 full articles, three review articles, 13 book reviews, eight essays, 16 roundtable contributions, five introductions or preambles to special issues, two book/film notes and one little-known text were published. It was difficult to calculate how many submissions were received during the review period, because the journal transitioned to having an editorial manager in the middle of the

period. An estimated 100 manuscript submissions were received. Twenty manuscripts were rejected without peer review, and 15 were rejected after peer review. The proportion of peer-reviewed papers that had at least one author with a non-South African address was approximately 60%.

Two peer reviewers are selected for each submitted manuscript. Peer reviewers are selected by the co-editors for their appropriate disciplinary area and subject-matter expertise. Peer review is conducted in a 'blind way'. Reviewer comments are implemented quite rigorously. Manuscripts that fail to address reviewers' critiques in a thoughtful and serious manner are referred for further revision or rejected. When the editors are uncertain and the reviewers are willing, revised manuscripts are sent back to the original reviewers for further evaluation. Peer reviewers receive follow-up information. Reviewer performance is assessed, and information is captured in a database. Taylor & Francis has a sophisticated data analysis operation. In 2019, 112 reviewers were used, 68% of whom had a non-South African address. Submissions and peer review records are handled via the editorial manager's online submission system, within which reviewer reports and decisions are retained. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication in print is six to 12 months, and online is six months.

The editor has been in office since 2015 and was invited by the outgoing and existing co-editors. The period of appointment was not specified. Members of the editorial board frequently deal with peer review and provide advice on editorial policies and practices. Members were appointed at various times over the last 20 years and were invited by the journal's editors. Their terms of office were not specified. They were appointed from inside and outside the country to provide specific topical expertise.

The journal has editorial guidelines in place, and its home page links to the Taylor & Francis editorial policies at <https://authorservices.taylorandfrancis.com/editorial-policies/>. The conflict-of-interest policy is available at <https://authorservices.taylorandfrancis.com/what-is-a-conflict-of-interest/>. The guidelines are not consciously aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. The journal publishes errata, and the policy can be accessed at <https://authorservices.taylorandfrancis.com/corrections-to-published-articles/>.

The journal publishes value-added features such as critical topical reviews, analytical book reviews, roundtable discussions, little-known documents, interviews and conversations. The percentage of pages in each issue that represented peer-reviewed original material was 90%.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: *Safundi* is a quarterly publication. The number of articles published varies from issue to issue and seems to depend on the topical focus of each issue, with special issues attracting more contributions than regular ones. The journal's thematic and roundtable areas of focus generally address topical issues that impact American and South African studies, either individually (with a local emphasis) or comparatively (between countries). Such topical issues employ an interdisciplinary approach and are typically influenced by further intersectional interests including, for example, gender, sexualities, race, politics and music. The contributions to the journal are predominantly from US and South African scholars, but international scholars with an interest in the journal's particular transnational and comparative scope also contribute to the journal. *Safundi* regularly publishes other scholarly features including editorials, book reviews and topical discussions, which serve as an additional and useful source of interest and academic resource for scholars interested in a particular area, subject or topic. Overall, the journal publishes some of the best work in its area of focus (South Africa and America) in the country and compares very well with other international journals.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: *Safundi* adheres to a standard US-English format for all articles including abstracts, all of which are subject to copy-editing for clarity and comprehension and in accordance with the stipulated word count. The journal also follows its own in-house style, which includes a clear style guide for citations and other applicable bibliographical references. Where images are used, these are in line with scholarly and publishing ethical practice and in accordance with the journal's own ethics mandates, which are published on its website. Although it is part of the journal's policy to publish errata, none were published during the period under review, probably because the need did not arise. Overall, the presentation, design, layout, style and copy-editing are suitably clear and consistent.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability

Consensus review: *Safundi* is a beneficial stimulus, and an edifying and critical resource suitable for global graduate students as well as young staff and emerging researchers in related disciplines. For instance, the journal recently published articles by young staff at the universities of the Witwatersrand and Johannesburg. *Safundi* is comparable to other leading international journals such as *Interventions: International Journal of Postcolonial Studies*, the *Journal of Southern African Studies* and the *Journal of Cultural Studies*, which are international in scope and interdisciplinary in approach.

Business aspects

(Business-related criteria; Bibliometric assessments)

Safundi is owned and published by Taylor & Francis. The journal prints the exact number of copies required, which differs from issue to issue. In 2017, the print run was 85 copies per issue. Production and distribution are handled by Taylor & Francis. *Safundi* does not currently carry any form of advertising, but the option to include advertising exists from both paid sources (e.g. from university presses) and unpaid sources (e.g. exchange adverts). The journal does not receive any financial sponsorship.

No article-processing or page fees are charged. The journal uses an online management system for the editorial workflow. The journal is not open access, but authors have the option to publish in open access if an APC is paid. *Safundi* is part of a commercial (pay-to-view and/or pay-to-subscribe) e-publication service, where users can either subscribe directly to a journal or subscribe to a subject library collection in which the journal is included. Taylor & Francis does, however, provide free and low-cost access to the research community in developing countries through initiatives such as STAR, INASP and Research4Life.

Safundi is currently owned by a multinational publisher. The journal has a journal author publishing agreement that all authors are required to sign upon publication, through which authors transfer copyright on their articles to the publisher. Those wishing to publish in open access can choose between a CC BY or CC BY-NC-ND licence.

Safundi is indexed by DHET; EBSCOhost; Clarivate Analytics; IBSS; OCLC; ProQuest; and Scopus. The journal does not have an impact factor. Altmetric indicators are administered by Taylor & Francis. The journal has mandatory 'front details' for papers and English abstracts. *Safundi* has not previously been independently peer reviewed.

Suggested improvements

Consensus review: The journal should consider diversifying its editorial board, especially to include further and wider representation of the Global South.

Safundi should attract more diverse, and perhaps peripheral, scholarship within the journal's scope to align more with contemporary global decolonial imperatives and alleviate the paucity of African readership.

The journal should consider commissioning reviews of books published by African scholars outside South Africa, which do not currently receive attention, as well as special issues.

For inclusion on the SciELO SA platform, the journal would need to change to openly accessible full text.

Panel's consensus view

- i. The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.
- ii. The journal should be invited to join the SciELO SA platform should it become open access.

4.4.10 South African Journal of Cultural History

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

The *South African Journal of Cultural History* (SAJCH) is the journal of the South African Society for Cultural History, which was founded in 1982. The SAJCH welcomes articles that relate to cultural heritage research and legacies in tangible or intangible relics of any group or society in South Africa to expose a historical way of life. Tangible culture can include artefacts, works of art, books, culturally significant landscapes, monuments and other buildings or structures. Intangible culture can include customs, practices, local and indigenous knowledge, language, values, traditions and folklore; natural cultural heritage (biodiversity, rural landscapes, coasts and shorelines, and agricultural heritage); indigenous

cultural heritage; and debates, research and knowledge regarding preservation, conservation and related dynamics. To accommodate the broad scope of cultural history studies, the *SAJCH* is inevitably multidisciplinary by nature and complements regionally based legacies.

SAJCH is the only journal of its kind in South Africa that relates to cultural-historical research and practice across a wide variety of sectors and fields for a diverse South African society. It therefore complements the activities of a large body of research academics and professionals nationally and attracts the interest of researchers internationally. The readership of the *SAJCH* is predominantly through affiliation with the South African Society for Cultural History, which had 231 subscribed members from several fields of cultural history as at June 2020. Approximately 53 library-related institutions (including museums) are subscribers and receive the *SAJCH* twice annually.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The editing functions of the journal reflect relative disciplinary strength nationally but not internationally. The editor-in-chief has good national standing, but she does not have equally strong academic visibility on a global level as she has hardly published in well-known historical journals with a high reputation. More worrisome is the composition of the editorial committee of the journal, with most of the 17 members being South Africans and only four being international academics with rather low to moderate international standing. However, the editor's modest academic record, which is still on the rise, holds potentially good prospects for the future of the journal.

Questionnaire

(Editorial process-related criteria)

The *SAJCH* was established in 1984 and publishes two issues per year. It is accessible online through the Sabinet platform at <https://journals.co.za/journal/culture>. The journal recorded 15 987 views and 24 624 downloads between September 2016 and December 2018. It is read in the following countries: Afghanistan, Australia, Germany, Namibia, Netherlands, South Africa, Sweden, the UK, the USA and Zimbabwe. Issues are pre-scheduled to appear on specific dates. There have been no significant interruptions in publication.

During the three-year review period, 39 full articles, 31 book reviews and eight conference papers were published. A total of 61 full articles, 31 book reviews and 13 conference papers were submitted over the same period. Five manuscripts were rejected without peer review, and 17 were rejected after peer review, some of which were extensively corrected and resubmitted for consideration for publication in a future issue. The authors of two peer-reviewed papers had a non-South African address.

Four peer reviewers are selected for each submitted manuscript. The selection process is based on the reviewer's expertise, knowledge, experience and academic standing in the field. Peer review is conducted in a 'blind way'. Valid reviewer critique is rigorously implemented by the editorial advisory board. Authors are requested to respond to the reviewer's comments in writing and indicate how they have approached or addressed the comments to improve the article. Peer reviewers receive follow-up information only when an article has been rejected and is resubmitted. Reviewer performance is assessed, and information is captured in a database. In 2017, 40 reviewers were used, four of whom had a non-South African address. The peer-review reports were accessibly retained in the journal's records. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication in print is eight to 12 months, and online is one month after publication in hard copy.

The editor has been in office for over four years and was appointed competitively. The members of the editorial board handle peer review and advise on editorial policies and practice. The editorial board consists of eight members, some of whom have served for more than four years because they have been renominated. Three editorial board members were recently elected as replacements for those who had resigned. The editorial advisory board consists of 22 members who represent the wide range of expertise required for the *SAJCH*. Members are not appointed competitively; the board discusses and nominates possible scholars in the field who might be approached to add value to the journal's vision and mission. Through a selection process by the board members (after having reviewed a nominee's CV) the potential member, if nominated, is formally approached by the editor. Board members were appointed from inside and outside the country to provide specific topical expertise.

The journal does not have formal editorial policies and guidelines aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. Reviewers and authors are requested

to declare any potential conflict of interest. There is no policy on errata. The journal publishes value-added features such as critical editorials, 'news and views' analyses of articles being published, analytical book reviews and correspondence on published articles. The percentage of pages in each issue that represented peer-reviewed original material was 95%.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The focus of the journal is on South African cultural history, with a preponderance of contributions dealing with Afrikaner culture and far fewer with African culture. This focus takes a regional and global approach only with respect to the expansion of European (Dutch, Afrikaans and English) culture abroad. There were no articles in the sample under review that reflected an international outlook or scholarly focus. The journal is bilingual, publishing contributions in Afrikaans and English, with Afrikaans being predominant. The contributing authors are almost exclusively South African. The contextual adequacy of the journal is thus not satisfactory. Contributions from African scholars or on distinctly African cultural history matters are disturbingly absent, particularly in a country in which decoloniality is of pressing importance in education and history. Much needs to be done in terms of the epistemological transformation of this journal.

Some contributions are of good quality. A few cases notably exhibit the best work done in the country, but the overall quality assessment is not impressive. Editorials are present in the journal, although some of are not balanced or critically reflective of the contributions covered in the specific issues. The inclusion of additional scholarly features such as book reviews, topical reflections and scholarly correspondence needs to be strengthened.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: Contributions are accompanied by Afrikaans and English abstracts. Concerns were raised regarding the quality of English in some of the abstracts. Good citation practices are acknowledged. Authors are provided with clear manuscript guidelines on formatting. The presentation, design, layout, style and copy-editing interventions of the journal are satisfactory. There were no instances of the publication of errata or the need to do so.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability

Consensus review: The journal seems to have offered postgraduate students and early-career academics a platform to publish their work. It is acknowledged that the cumulative archive of the articles could be a useful resource for the current situation where culture as an academic discourse presents a plethora of new vistas and opportunities for learning locally and globally. However, this potential is severely compromised by the journal's notably narrow view of South African cultural history that is overwhelmingly Afrikaans in orientation. The journal lacks a broad perspective and engages narrowly, especially on matters pertaining to the diversity of South African heritage. Accordingly, it compares unfavourably to other journals such as *Cultural and Social History* (the journal of the Social History Society) and the *African Journal of History and Culture*. The journal could emulate approaches to diversity in such journals in terms of the sheer range of topics covered and diverse national, cultural and linguistic backgrounds locally and internationally.

Business aspects

(Business-related criteria; Bibliometric assessments)

The title is owned by the South African Society for Cultural History. The editorial board in conjunction with the society manages the publishing process. The regular print run is 245 copies per issue. The graphic design and layout of the journal are done by Openbook Design, and printing by Bontshi Business Services Pty (Ltd). The electronic distribution is outsourced to EBSCOhost and Sabinet, and distribution to individual members is done by Openbook Design in conjunction with the editor and administrator. The hard-copy distribution is done by the administrator on behalf of the editorial advisory board. The journal does not carry advertising and does not receive any financial sponsorship.

The journal charges an APC of ZAR320 per page, and ZAR380 for colour printing. The journal uses an online management system for the editorial workflow. The journal is not open access, and is part of a commercial e-publication service and non-commercial e-publication mechanism through Academia EDU.

There have been no offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal. Authors are responsible for obtaining copyright and reproduction rights on all figures. Copyright on all material published in the

journal is vested in the South African Society of Cultural History. Material published elsewhere will not be considered for publication. Opinions expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the editor or the society.

The SAJCH is accredited by DHET and indexed by EBSCOhost and Sabinet. The journal does not have an impact factor. Altmetric indicators are administered. The 'front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. This is the journal's first independent peer review.

Suggested improvements

Consensus review: The journal is encouraged to consider rethinking the concept of 'cultural history' specifically in South Africa, southern Africa and generally on the African continent, considering theoretical debates that look at cultural history of the past and the 'new' cultural history.

The scope and objectives of the journal should be expanded by pronouncing unambiguously that the journal welcomes articles and scholarly reflections that encompass a cross-section of the broader South African society.

The editorial board should be expanded to include more international scholars in the field. The journal should also enhance the quality of editorials as balanced and critical reflections of the content of each issue.

Additional scholarly features such as book reviews, topical reflections and scholarly correspondence are encouraged. Abstracts should be thoroughly edited.

Panel's consensus view

- i. **The journal should continue to be listed the DHET accredited list on condition that the suggested improvements are implemented by the end of 2024.**
- ii. **The journal should not be invited to join the SciELO SA platform.**
- iii. **The editor should seriously consider the panel's suggestions, particularly the reconceptualisation of African history, diversification of the editorial board and raising of the international standing of the journal.**

4.4.11 Southern African Humanities

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

Southern African Humanities covers research of an archaeological, anthropological and historical nature in southern Africa, especially where that research concerns material culture. The journal carries articles in a set of related fields, and welcomes interdisciplinary work between and around those fields. It does not necessarily demand an interdisciplinary focus, but will consider any studies that consider the human relationship with material culture.

The journal provides a vehicle for a set of related and intersecting human science disciplines. Archaeology tends to dominate the subject matter because of that discipline's material cultural focus. The coverage of *Southern African Humanities* overlaps with journals such as the *South African Archaeological Bulletin*, *African Studies*, *De Arte* and *Anthropology Southern Africa*. *Southern African Humanities* includes all the disciplines represented in these journals.

The journal has an international reach, with the primary target audience being local and foreign Africanists. The journal is distributed worldwide through various journal platforms such as EBSCOhost, ProQuest and Sabinet. Individual subscribers can also purchase access to the journal online or through an online/print combination.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The editor appears to have vast experience in the discipline and would certainly be of good academic standing in his field of expertise. His position as the editor is linked with his role as chief curator of the KwaZulu-Natal Museum. The senior members of the editorial team enjoy national recognition. All the team members are employees of the museum and are thus bound by their job conditions to perform the editing functions of the journal. Curators are competitively appointed, and one of the criteria in job selection is capability and peer recognition to edit the journal.

Questionnaire

(Editorial process-related criteria)

The journal was established as the *Natal Museum Journal of Humanities* (NMJoH) in 1989. The NMJoH emerged from human science research published in the *Annals of the Natal Museum*, which was established in 1906. The name of the journal was changed to *Southern African Humanities* in 2001. Human science articles incorporated online under this name thus date from 1907. Publication was significantly interrupted during the two World Wars.

The journal publishes one volume per year, except in years in which a special-focus volume is added. It is available online at www.sahumanities.org or <https://journals.co.za/journal/nmsa.sah>. *Southern African Humanities* recorded 12 795 article downloads in 2019 through the journal's website, but the journal is also distributed through third-party websites for which the statistics are not available. Information on the number of countries in which the journal is read was unknown at the time of the review. Each volume (excluding special-focus volumes) is finalised in December each year, but the component articles are published online at intervals during the course of the year. The month of completion of each article is indicated on the front page of the article.

During the three-year review period, 46 manuscripts were submitted and 31 articles were published. The journal typically publishes full articles and 'notes and comments'. Eleven manuscripts were rejected without peer review, and three were rejected after peer review. About 39% of peer-reviewed papers had a non-South African address.

A minimum of two peer reviewers are selected for each submitted manuscript. Peer reviewers are selected based on appropriate expertise and availability. Peer review is conducted in a 'single-blind way'. Valid reviewer critique and article improvement are rigorously implemented. The editorial team expects the authors to take cognisance of the reviews, except in the case of inadequate reviews. The editorial team determines the merits of reviews, sometimes with the help of editorial board members. In the case of conflicting reviews, the editorial board acts as arbiter, sometimes with the assistance of a third review. Peer reviewers do not receive follow-up information. Reviewer performance is assessed, but the information is not captured in a database. In 2019, 18 reviewers were used, 72% of whom had a non-South African address. The peer-review reports were accessibly retained in the journal's records. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication online is two to five months, and a print version appears once a year.

The editor has been in office for over two years, and the editorship role is part of his job as chief curator of the KwaZulu-Natal Museum. The appointment is indefinite. The journal has an editorial committee that manages and does actual editorial work, and an editorial board that provides guidance when necessary. The editorial committee consists of human science research staff at the KwaZulu-Natal Museum. The editorial committee has been in office for over a year, and members of the board for more than five years. Their appointments were not competitive and their period of appointment is indefinite. The members of the editorial board sometimes deal with peer-review advice on editorial policies and practices. Board members were appointed from inside and outside the country to provide specific topical expertise.

The journal has editorial and author's guidelines available on the website. The guidelines are aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. There is a conflict-of-interest and errata policies in place. The only value-added feature that the journal publishes is correspondence on published articles ('notes and comments'). Every article is peer reviewed, except for 'notes and comments' and corrections, but they are subject to approval by the editorial committee.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: There is consensus from the panel that the journal publishes articles that are generally of high quality. There seems to be a small pool of researchers publishing in the journal, most of whom are employed or were previously employed by the museum, or at one time were conducting research for or with museum staff, or have strong connections with the museum. It is mainly the same authors who publish in the journal, and black South African scholars do not seem to feature. Material from outside South Africa is occasionally published, mainly from neighbouring countries such as Lesotho, Namibia and Zimbabwe.

The journal publishes articles that are generally of high quality, given the reputation of the scholars that publish in the journal. The articles published are adequate, with one annual issue carrying an average

of seven to nine articles. The journal reflects a good sample of the best work done in the discipline in the country. The coverage, although focused predominantly on South Africa, also sometimes covers Namibia, Zimbabwe and Lesotho, at least during the three-year review period. It examines a range of interesting studies, and some articles raise debates of international significance. The journal does not publish additional features.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: Contributions in the journal are accompanied by English abstracts. The structure and wording of the abstracts are noted to be of good quality. The journal exhibits good presentation, design, layout, style and copy-editing interventions. There is provision for the publication of errata.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability

Consensus review: The journal publishes work by established scholars in the field and can serve as a good space for publication by emerging and upcoming professionals in the field. The quality of the articles published in the journal has the potential to stimulate students. The journal compares favourably with leading journals in the field. One advantage of its long history and independence is that it is bound to the KwaZulu-Natal Museum. The authors of papers published in the journal are mostly recognised experts nationally and internationally.

Business aspects

(Business-related criteria; Bibliometric assessments)

The journal is owned and published by the KwaZulu-Natal Museum. The journal has a regular print run of 200 copies per issue. Copy-editing, aspects of layout and printing are outsourced; however, the editorial team carries a heavy copy-editing and layout load. The journal carries no advertising. The journal sometimes receives financial sponsorship for special volumes. The Paleontological Scientific Trust and the Institut Français d'Afrique du Sud (IFAS) sponsored the journal in the past.

There are 102 paying subscribers, including the editorial board and institutions with which the journal has an exchange partnership. Of the 102 subscribers, 71 are organisations. The journal does not charge APCs. The editorial workflow is managed through an online management system. The journal is not open access. There have been offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal, but such offers have been declined. The KwaZulu-Natal Museum holds the copyright on the published material. There are no licensing agreements with authors.

Southern African Humanities is listed on Clarivate; DHET; Humanities Index; SCImago; Scopus; and WoS. The journal does not have an impact factor or altmetric indicators. The 'front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal has not been independently peer reviewed before.

Suggested improvements

Consensus review: *Southern African Humanities* is encouraged to consider improving the limited coverage in southern Africa and further afield on the African continent. The responsive scholarly perspectives are in line with the disciplinary strides that are being made in archaeology, anthropology and other disciplines that the journal seeks to cover.

The journal is encouraged to diversify the editorial team, editorial board and scholars publishing in the journal and to attract contributions from early-career researchers and more scholars from the SADC region.

The journal is very inaccessible to readers through the Sabinet website and should consider making all details available in open access.

Panel's consensus view

- i. The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.
- ii. The journal should not be invited to join the SciELO SA platform.

4.5 Law

4.5.1 *Acta Criminologica: African Journal of Criminology and Victimology*

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

Acta Criminologica: African Journal of Criminology and Victimology is a peer-reviewed academic journal that promotes academic and professional discourse and the publishing of research results on subjects including crime and victimisation, conflict, deviance, abuse of power, reaction to crime and other crime-related phenomena in the broad field of the criminological sciences and applied criminal justice. *Acta Criminologica* first appeared in 1988 and is published regularly by the Criminological Society of Africa (CRIMSA).

The editorial policy statement covers a wide range of disciplines broadly described as criminological sciences and applied criminal justice studies that are dealt with by academics and practitioners from several linked or allied disciplines and sub-disciplines, including geography, psychology, sociology, forensic and probationary social work, law, political science, information science and history. The central linkage is a focus on what can generically be described as 'crime, victimisation and justice' with all their ancillary sub-disciplines such as gender studies, crime prevention, loss prevention and security management, conflict and violence studies, restorative justice, child rights and gender-based offences, recidivism, offender profiling, victim-offender mediation and many others. *Acta Criminologica* can thus be termed an interdisciplinary journal within the discipline-specific demarcation.

For many years until the accreditation of *South African Crime Quarterly* in 2012, *Acta Criminologica* was the only accredited South African journal for publishing research articles in the criminological sciences and applied criminal justice studies emanating from the South African research community. Furthermore, the journal has been at the forefront of academic teaching in the disciplines of criminology, penology and corrections management, police science, victimology, security science, and more recently forensic investigation and studies through the input of research information into curricula and qualifications. Many postgraduate studies and research information from dissertations and theses have been published in the journal as research articles and subsequently utilised in teaching various specialist modules in the relevant disciplines. Furthermore, departmental research projects (including research findings and recommendations often published in the journal) have also informed government departments that deal with critical issues in terms of policymaking, capacity-building and addressing national crime priorities.

The research foci of the journal's published articles resonate and interact with similar themes and issues found in criminological journals and practice internationally. International scholars have occasionally published articles with a non-South African focus, but the articles emanate primarily from South African scholars. In the last ten years, a few non-South African scholars have begun to publish articles in the journal.

The target audience is fundamentally academics, students as well as practitioners (largely serving the broader criminal justice system in various capacities including lawyers, social workers, psychologists, victimologists, mediators, criminologists, and police and correctional officers) and those in the teaching and professional disciplines of criminology, penology and corrections management, police science, victimology, security science and forensic investigations. The range of articles also has relevance for policymakers, human rights organisations and non-governmental organisations in the areas of justice, human rights, and security and safety.

Members of CRIMSA are automatically subscribed to *Acta Criminologica* and receive either a hard copy or electronic edition of the journal (depending upon membership-fee options). However, at the annual general meeting of CRIMSA in February 2019, it was proposed and accepted by members that printed copies will be limited to libraries and key government stakeholders to reduce the large printing and mailing costs. During the years under review, there were 150–200 paid-up individual members and 20 institutional members (e.g. libraries subscribed per annum, for instance at the CSIR). The institutional members include the John Jay College of Criminal Justice at the City University of New York (CUNY), USA; Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium; and libraries in the UK, Italy, Germany, Namibia and South Africa). Many more university libraries, both locally and internationally, subscribe to the Sabinet electronic article access subscription system (which allows students and staff members of a subscribing

university to access and download the journal's archived e-articles for academic purposes), while other individuals download articles in this journal from Sabinet on a pay-per-article basis.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: All the reviewers are of the opinion that the editors are recognised scholars. The editorial board comprises members with good national and international standing.

Questionnaire

(Editorial process-related criteria)

Acta Criminologica was first published in 1988. There are three regular editions per year, depending on the number of articles submitted and accepted for publication after going through the review process. There are also up to five additional special theme editions per year). Between eight and 12 articles are published per edition, depending on the length of accepted articles. The number of articles published in any one issue is determined by a print run of approximately 150 pages of text. The journal is available online at <https://journals.co.za/journal/crim>. Individual articles in PDF format are loaded on the CRIMSA website and available for electronic downloading via the Sabinet website. In addition, an electronic version is sent directly to every member and author when an edition is published. According to Sabinet, the journal received 26 076 downloads in 2017, 30 225 in 2018 and 20 940 in 2019. This download record of 77 241 is a marked increase from the previous Sabinet usage report of 49 652 downloads between 2011 and 2015. The number of visits, calculated based on 'views per abstract', were 51 668 in 2017, 65 033 in 2018 and 161 439 in 2019. The estimated readership was reported to extend to 20 countries worldwide in 2019, seven of which are African countries.

The editions are published as each issue is filled with reviewed and accepted articles. There were significant interruptions in publication in mid-2018 when a new editor-in-chief was appointed to ensure the handover of the functions. A consultative process with the CRIMSA executive committee and the editorial board in 2018 also resulted in the restructuring and transformation of the editorial board. The process started in 2018 and continued throughout 2019.

During the period under review (2017–2019), 115 full articles and two book reviews were published. In 2017, most of the manuscripts submitted for special editions in 2016 were rolled over due to unforeseen delays. This involved the rollover of a total of 55 manuscripts. In the same year, a total of 29 new manuscripts were submitted. A total of 84 manuscripts were dealt with in 2017. In 2018, 27 manuscripts were received for regular editions and 27 for special editions, plus 26 rolled over from 2017. A total of 80 manuscripts were dealt with in 2018. In 2019, 20 manuscripts were received for regular editions and there were no special editions. The 2019 special edition was rolled over to 2020. As the journal migrated to an online system in 2019, 50 manuscripts were handled in 2019 (between the manual and the online system). A total of 12 manuscripts were rejected without peer review, and 42 manuscripts were rejected after peer review. A total of 40 peer-reviewed papers had a non-South African address.

Two peer reviewers are approached for each submitted manuscript. A third reviewer is approached if the two reviews differ. If the third review does not resolve whether to proceed with publication, the core editorial team, composed of the editor-in-chief and senior editors, makes the final decision. The journal has a database of reviewers. Each reviewer listed in the database has a list of published articles as well as a list of specialist research interests. The online system has also generated lists of areas of specialisation by the authors. The editor of an edition will try to match an article with a suitable reviewer based on the reviewer's own published work, experience, research interests and areas of specialisation specified in their CV, or in the case of the recent online system, in their ORCID publication record. In other words, a reviewer is often selected based on specialist knowledge of the topic of the article, or in a closely related subject area. Peer review is conducted in a 'blind way'. Valid reviewer critique and article improvement are rigorously implemented. Peer reviewers receive follow-up information. Reviewer performance is assessed, and information is captured in a database. Approximately 35–40 reviewers were used per year for the period under review. Fifteen of the reviewers used were non-South African, but on average over the three years under review, about five reviewers per year had a non-South African address. The peer-review reports were accessibly retained in the journal's records. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication in print was between six and eight months. The new online platform will greatly improve the processing and review of articles and will generate more accurate data on turnaround times through the system's data management function.

The editor-in-chief has been in office since May 2018 and was appointed competitively for a period of five years plus one 'handover' year. In selecting the editor-in-chief, the president of CRIMSA issues a call to members who are interested to submit their CV. These are perused and discussed by the CRIMSA council, and a decision is made to appoint a suitable candidate who is a member of the society. The same process is used for filling the three positions of senior and sub-editors.

Members of the editorial team act as reviewers in a blind-review process for an edition being edited by one of the other editors of the editorial team, while members of the editorial committee are also frequently used for review purposes. The editorial team members and editorial committee members collectively comprise the editorial board and are involved in commenting on all editorial policies and practices. This involvement is also largely due to the fact that the CRIMSA council members (who are elected every three years) are automatically part of the editorial board, and are therefore intimately involved not only in the running of the society but also the management of the journal. Members of the editorial board are appointed for a period of five years. Council members can serve unlimited three-year terms, whereas non-CRIMSA council editorial committee members are appointed for five-year terms and can also serve multiple five-year terms. Members are appointed from both inside and outside of the country to provide specific topical expertise.

The editorial guidelines can be accessed at https://powerreview.aptaracorp.com/crimsa/acta/downloads/ACTA%20CRIMINOLOGICA_EDITORIAL%20POLICY_2020_revised.PDF. The authors' guidelines are available at https://powerreview.aptaracorp.com/crimsa/acta/downloads/ACTA%20CRIMINOLOGICA_GUIDELINES%20FOR%20AUTHORS_2020.PDF. The journal has a conflict-of-interest policy in place. The editorial guidelines are aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. The journal did not have recourse to publish any errata during the three-year review period. If grammatical or language mistakes, or errors in citations or the reference list are picked up, these are corrected and a revised and corrected version of the individual PDF article loaded on the website archives is submitted to Sabinet so that the incorrect version can be replaced.

The journal publishes value-added features such as critical editorials and analytical book reviews. The percentage of pages in each issue that represented peer-reviewed original material was 85–90%.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The quality of the papers published is good to excellent. There is a good spread of articles from various South African scholars. Since the name change, more scholars from Africa and Asia have contributed to the journal, although one reviewer remarked that this represents a low percentage of authors. One reviewer mentioned that the 25% threshold with respect to publications of scholars from a single institution seems to be adhered to, although this could delay the publication of articles from the University of South Africa (Unisa), which has the largest numbers of scholars and students in the field. The reviewers suggested that the journal should try to attract more international scholars, but overall they were satisfied that performance in relation to this criterion was satisfactory.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: Technically, the journal is up to standard. Abstracts are provided in English. The layout is consistent, and the citation and reference style is good.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability

Consensus review: The journal provides for the involvement of younger scholars and publication of their work. One reviewer is of the opinion that more could be done in this regard. The journal was benchmarked against other journals internationally and was found to be of similar standard.

Business aspects

(Business-related criteria; Bibliometric assessments)

CRIMSA is both the legal owner and publisher of the journal. All costs are covered by CRIMSA. The regular print run is 140 copies per issue. The journal is printed by Procopy Print, and hard copies are bulk mailed to recipients by Prosource Technologies. No advertising of any sort is carried in the journal. The journal is funded entirely by CRIMSA from membership fees, article-processing fees and article royalties (sale of articles) received from Sabinet and DALRO.

There are about 136 paying subscribers, including 12 libraries, 14 academic institutions or departments, and 15 other institutions (such as the various departments in the justice sector as well as international

criminology societies). However, there are also libraries that subscribe directly to Sabinet to access journal articles on their website. The following publication fees are charged to authors affiliated to a South African university (i.e. institutions that receive research subsidies for accredited journal articles published): ZAR3 000 for members and ZAR3 500 for non-members. These charges are in line with similar journals and are designed to accommodate to some extent rising costs over the last five years in printing, language editing and managing the journal publications. Authors affiliated to a not-for-profit organisation, or international scholars not affiliated to a South African university are excluded from these charges. The journal uses an online management system and manual systems to manage the editorial workflow.

The journal is not open access. It is part of a commercial e-publication service through Sabinet. There have been offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal, but such offers have been declined. Copyright resides with CRIMSA/*Acta Criminologica*.

Acta Criminologica is indexed by DHET and Sabinet. The journal does not have an impact factor, and altmetric indicators are administered. The 'front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal was independently peer reviewed by DHET in 2010 and by ASSAf in 2013.

Suggested improvements

Consensus review: More international associate editors might assist in attracting more publications from international scholars.

Panel's consensus view

- i. **The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.**
- ii. **The journal should not be invited to join the SciELO SA platform.**
- iii. **The editor should seriously consider attracting more international publications, and might consider appointing international associate editors. More could be done to assist younger scholars to publish in the journal, although this is a minor issue.**

4.5.2 African Disability Rights Yearbook

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

The *African Disability Rights Yearbook (ADRY)* focuses on the rights of persons with disabilities with specific reference to Africa, Africans and scholars of Africa. Multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches are welcomed to facilitate holistic discussion of disability rights in their social context.

South Africa is part of the African Union. The exclusion and marginalisation of persons with disabilities in South Africa is not dissimilar to the experience in other African countries. A rights-based approach to disability has similar resonance for South African discourses on equality, taking into account the South African Constitution and its human rights obligations, especially in light of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) that South Africa has ratified, and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa. South Africa is among the countries that took the lead in supporting the adoption of the CRPD, and has ratified the Optional Protocol to the CRPD. South Africa's own legislation (in particular the Employment Equity Act and the Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act) addresses the promotion of equality of rights for protected social groups, including persons with disabilities. South Africa has thus already made an investment in the discourse around disability rights that the ADRY seeks to promote. The South African research community has an important role to play in realising this investment.

The primary target audiences are scholars, researchers, multidisciplinary practitioners, lawyers, human rights defenders, persons with disabilities and civil society organisations that are invested in disability rights as well as policymakers from across Africa. The ADRY is an open-access journal. It has 7 578 users who are spread across South Africa, the USA, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Zambia, Cameroon, Tanzania, Botswana, Eswatini and the UK.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: One of the editors is a scholar with an international and national reputation, while the other editor enjoys national recognition as an established scholar. The journal also involves emerging

researchers with a growing reputation. The editorial board consists of scholars from Africa and Europe, an official of the World Bank and a Kenyan judge.

Questionnaire

(Editorial process-related criteria)

The ADRY was established in 2013 and is published once a year. It is accessible online at <http://www.adry.up.ac.za/>. Between August 2019 and August 2020, the journal received 15 162 page views. It is read in ten countries, eight of which are African countries. The journal is scheduled to appear at the end of each year. The journal has chosen the publication date to coincide with the annual International Conference on Disability Rights hosted by the Centre for Human Rights, subject to funding. The conference has thus far been convened in November of each year. In 2018 and 2019, the journal was six weeks late in appearing. None of the interruptions have disrupted the year of publication or affected the journal's accreditation status with DHET.

During the review period between 2017 and 2019, the ADRY published 21 full articles, one book review per issue, 12 country reports in Section B of the journal and six commentaries in Section C. A total of 60 full articles, 13 country reports and six commentaries were received over the same period. Four articles and one country report were rejected without peer review, and 35 articles were rejected after peer review. The proportion of peer-reviewed papers that had at least one author with a non-South African address was 80%.

For each submitted manuscript, two peer reviewers are approached for full articles, one for country reports and one for commentaries. For the selection of peer reviewers, the primary consideration is whether the peer reviewer has relevant expertise. The editors also expect members of the international advisory board (IAB) to review articles in their areas of expertise, to a maximum of two articles per year. In practice, the reviewers for a given issue are a combination of members of the IAB and reviewers outside the IAB. Peer review is conducted in a 'blind way'. Valid reviewer critique and article improvement are rigorously implemented. During the review process, the editors expect the reviewer to advise whether the manuscript can be published without amendment, with minor amendments or with substantial amendments, or is rejected outright. For articles that do not require any amendment, or only minor amendments, the editors do not go back to the reviewer. For articles requiring substantial amendment, the editors ask authors to submit a revised article that is referred to the reviewer. Peer reviewers do not currently receive follow-up information, but this might be implemented in future. The editors assess the performance of the review by focusing on the reasons provided for any recommendations. However, they do not conduct a formal assessment or compile a database on the reviewers' performance. Where a review is superficial or appears to miss important aspects, the editors take note that the review was not satisfactory and will consider not using the reviewer in the future. In 2019, 55 reviewers were used, 70% of whom had a non-South African address. The peer-review reports were accessibly retained in the journal's records. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication in print and online is eight months, as the print and online versions are published simultaneously.

The editor has been in office for six years. The appointment did not follow an advertisement or a selection process. The criteria were the possession of relevant expertise and editorial experience within a given institutional setting. The period of appointment was a three-year renewable term. The members of the international advisory board provide peer review to a maximum of two articles per year in their areas of expertise. Much depends on the subject matter of a submitted article. Members of the editorial committee do not provide peer review but instead consider whether to accept the reviewers' recommendations with respect to publishing the article. Both the editorial committee and the international advisory board advise on editorial policies and practices. Members of the editorial committee and advisory board have been in office since 2013. Their positions are not advertised, but candidates with the relevant expertise are appointed. Editorial committee members are appointed from within South Africa, whereas the international advisory board can include persons based outside South Africa. Members of both the committee and the advisory board are appointed based on relevant expertise in disability rights jurisprudence.

The ADRY has editorial guidelines and aspires to substantive alignment with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. There is no conflict-of-interest policy. Errata are published when necessary. In 2015, the journal took a decision to start publishing book reviews related to disability rights, and the first book review appeared later that year. The percentage of pages in each issue that represented peer-reviewed original material was 95% or more, as only the book review is not peer reviewed.

Content:**(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)**

Consensus review: The reviewers are of the opinion that the articles are of good to average quality, and young scholars also publish in the journal. The scope of the journal is specialised, with the focus on Africa. Scholars from other African countries publish in the journal, but more could be done in this regard. The journal should also try to attract other international scholars of repute. The journal includes editorials as well as book reviews.

Essential technical features:**(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)**

Consensus review: The journal contains essential technical features such as abstracts. The citation practice is acceptable. There was no information available on the citation rate of the journal. The journal is well designed and copy-edited.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability

Consensus review: The journal publishes contributions from students and younger academics. The journal compares well with international journals in the field.

Business aspects**(Business-related criteria; Bibliometric assessments)**

The ADRY is owned by the University of Pretoria and published by Pretoria University Law Press. The regular print run for 2018 was 300 copies, and there were no copies printed in 2019 on account of the COVID-19 lockdown. Only the language and style editing, and printing are outsourced. The journal does not carry any advertising. The journal is financed from a grant for disability rights-related projects. The donor is the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA), a philanthropic organisation based in the USA.

The ADRY is freely accessible online and there are no paying subscribers. The journal does not charge APCs and uses a manual system for the management of the editorial workflow. There have been no offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal. Authors maintain copyright on their articles.

The journal is accredited by DHET and does not have an impact factor. Altmetric indicators are administered. The 'front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal has not been independently peer reviewed before.

Suggested improvements

Consensus review: The reviewers made some recommendations to strengthen the bibliometric record and to assist in improving the journal, including the following:

- Strategies should be devised and implemented to attract well-established researchers.
- Although the journal's estimated cost of production per annum is small (less than ZAR90 000), it has only one source of funding, namely a grant from OSISA. This is a potential threat to the long-term sustainability of the journal. The editorial team should explore other sources of funding.
- The editorial team should work towards ensuring that the journal is indexed to improve its profile.
- Citation data should be compiled to help demonstrate the impact of the research published by the journal.
- Late publication of issues must be avoided.
- More editors should be included from outside the University of Pretoria.
- More scholars from beyond South Africa should be encouraged to publish in the journal, for example, by issuing calls for special issues.
- The details of some members of the advisory board are outdated and need to be updated.

Panel's consensus view

- i. The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.
- ii. The journal should not be invited to join the SciELO SA platform.
- iii. The panel believes that the journal fulfils a niche market in the field of legal publications.

4.5.3 African Yearbook on International Humanitarian Law**Focus and scope:****(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)**

The *African Yearbook of International Humanitarian Law* (AYIHL) is an annual legal journal that aims to promote interest and research in international humanitarian law and policy. The AYIHL provides

an attractive and positive forum for publications on all aspects of international humanitarian law of relevance to Africa and African academics. The journal is interdisciplinary to the extent that, in addition to publishing articles on international humanitarian law, it publishes articles on transitional justice and international criminal law, and on the relationship between these disciplines.

The yearbook serves the research community in providing scholars and researchers with articles and information on current developments in international humanitarian law and international criminal law. The primary audience consists of local and international scholars of international law.

Fifty per cent of the readership comprises international subscriber institutions including international organisations and universities and libraries, and the other half comprises local subscribers including local universities and the professional market.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: All the reviewers concurred that the editors are well-established scholars with an international reputation in the field. One reviewer recommended that the editors should consider including active editors from other African countries. The editorial board is impressive.

Questionnaire

(Editorial process-related criteria)

The AYIHL was established in 2006 and appears once a year. It is available online at <http://www.jutajournals.co.za/african-yearbook-on-international-humanitarian-law/>. It has received 166 downloads, 2 136 views of the table of contents and 8 388 views of abstracts. It is read in the Netherlands, Belgium, the UK, the USA, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Israel, Australia and Namibia. Issues are pre-scheduled to appear either on schedule or within a month or two of the scheduled due date. There have been no significant interruptions in publication.

During the three-year review period, 15 full articles, one book review and six current development articles (shorter than full articles) were published. A total of 32 full articles and seven current development articles were received over the same period. Approximately 20% of the manuscripts were rejected without peer review and 50% were rejected after peer review. The proportion of peer-reviewed papers that had at least one author with a non-South African address was about 30%.

Two peer reviewers are selected for each submitted article. Peer reviewers are selected based on their expertise in the field of international humanitarian law and international criminal law. Peer review is conducted in a 'blind way'. Reviewer critique is rigorously implemented. Authors are expected to make all the improvements and changes suggested and required by peer reviewers. Peer reviewers only occasionally receive follow-up information if they agree to review the improved versions of articles. Reviewer performance is assessed but not captured in a formal database. Email records are kept. A total of ten peer reviewers were used in one of the last three years, 30% of whom had a non-South African address. The peer-review reports were accessibly retained in the journal's records. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication in print and online is about five to six months.

The editor has been in office for two years and was not appointed competitively. The period of appointment was not specified. The members of the editorial board handle peer review and advise on editorial policies and practices. The 25 members on the board have all been in office for at least three years. There is a selection process, but the advertisements differ from the approach used for the appointment of the editorial board for international law journals. Their period of appointment was not specified. Members are appointed from inside and outside the country to provide specific topical expertise.

The AYIHL has editorial guidelines and a conflict-of-interest policy in place. Guidelines are aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. The journal has a policy on errata.

Value-added features published in the journal include critical editorials, critical topical reviews, analytical book reviews and current development articles. The percentage of pages in each issue that represented peer-reviewed original material was 75%.

Content:**(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)**

Consensus review: The reviewers lauded the exceptional quality of the articles in the journal. The journal attracts outstanding and leading scholars in the field. The journal published some of the leading articles on the topic in the world. The journal focus not only on anglophone Africa but also invites articles from francophone and lusophone Africa. The editor provides introductory notes on links between the articles. There could be more book reviews.

Essential technical features:**(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)**

Consensus review: The technical quality of the journal is excellent. Abstracts are provided. Errata were not necessary. The citation practice is of a high standard. The journal is excellent in presentation, design, layout, style and copy-editing interventions, and images are used in an ethical manner.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability

Consensus review: The journal is one of the leading journals in the field. It is an important source for scholars around the world.

Business aspects**(Business-related criteria; Bibliometric assessments)**

The *AYIHL* is owned and published jointly by the editorial committee of the journal and the publisher, Juta and Company. The regular print run is 200 copies per issue. Production and distribution are done by Juta. The journal does not carry advertisements and there are no financial sponsorships.

The journal does not charge APCs. The editorial workflow is managed by loading articles on to the Web and manual systems. The *AYIHL* is not open access and is part of a commercial e-publication service. There have been no offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal. Copyright is shared between Juta and the editorial committee of the journal. In terms of licensing agreements with authors, the authors may not make any assignment of, or grant any licence in respect of, any of the rights pertaining to contributions in the journal without the permission of the editorial committee and Juta.

The *AYIHL* is accredited by DHET and does not have an impact factor. Altmetric indicators are administered. 'Front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal has not been independently peer reviewed before.

Suggested improvements

Consensus review: All the reviewers are of the opinion that the journal is one of the best in its field, but nevertheless made some recommendations for the editors to consider.

The journal should do more to indicate and contribute to the way in which regional issues pertaining to the African continent are given global relevance. The journal should become a point of reference not only for African authors but as a global journal.

Online publication of the journal will provide greater access. The publication is available on Sabinet. It may be beneficial for the journal to consider making the contributions available online on a dedicated website after a specified time. The journal should have a website where the instructions for authors and submission criteria are specified. This is available from Juta, but it may be beneficial if this website could, at the very least, indicate when the issue is finalised through the contents page. This will allow for greater participation and exposure.

The journal should publish more articles on theory in international humanitarian law. The editors should commission pieces by authors of different backgrounds, races and gender. This could also be achieved by hosting a conference and inviting scholars from the continent with diverse ideas.

The journal is encouraged to continue publishing pieces that demand an international audience, notwithstanding its focus on the region. The editors might consider the extent to which the content they publish could challenge established thought around the homogeneity of international law.

The journal is indicated as one of the best in the field internationally and would benefit from being listed on the SciELO SA platform. However, the SciELO platform does not consider yearbooks as journals, and discourages the inclusion of publications that publish only once a year.

Panel's consensus view

- i. The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.
- ii. The journal should not be invited to join the SciELO SA platform.
- iii. The panel believes that the editors and editorial board should be commended for the high quality of the journal. All reviewers wrote lengthy praise of the excellent quality of the articles in the journal, described as cutting edge, vibrant and full of new ideas. One reviewer stated: "The breadth of topics covered therein, and the intellectual rigour exuded by contributors in the manuscripts should serve as persuasive guides to emerging scholars and postgraduate students on how to write legal research papers for publication. The journal, from a comparative perspective, is leading in the production of scholarship in international humanitarian law."

4.5.4 Constitutional Court Review**Focus and scope:****(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)**

The *Constitutional Court Review* is an annual double-blind, peer-reviewed international journal of record that tracks the work of the Constitutional Court of South Africa. The journal focuses on constitutional law, which by its very nature engages almost every other legal domain. The contributors are not restricted to constitutional law scholars or even legal academics. Political scientists, sociologists, economists, philosophers, judges and practitioners, as well as scholars across the social sciences and humanities, contribute to each edition. The Constitutional Court is the apex court of one of South Africa's three branches of government. Understanding the Constitutional Court's broader jurisprudential doctrines and particular judgements is essential for comprehending how the South African polity and society function.

Although law can be a parochial discipline, contemporary constitutional law has a strong comparative dimension. The similar provisions and norms found in most foundational documents mean that different constitutional jurisdictions, in different nations, will draw down on the jurisprudence found in other countries. For that reason, the journal attracts comparative constitutional law scholars from around the world.

The journal has been open access and published online from the outset. Hard copies are created and sent to contributors, libraries and interested academics. While the reach of subscribers cannot be measured, the journal has a domestic and international database of over 5 000 readers. Most importantly, with respect to an international readership, the journal has moved from Juta Law to NISC Publishers because the latter publishing house can give the journal the presence it deserves on prominent international electronic platforms and indexes. Moreover, roughly 25% of the authors are international scholars from North America, Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia.

Editing functions:**(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)**

Consensus review: The editor-in-chief and one of the managing editors are internationally recognised scholars. The associate scholars are recruited from among promising and upcoming academics. The editorial board needs to be updated, and the affiliation of the members of the editorial board should be noted.

Questionnaire**(Editorial process-related criteria)**

The *Constitutional Court Review* was established in 2008/2009 and is published annually. The journal is available online at www.constitutionalcourtreview.co.za; www.sabinet.co.za and www.nisc.co.za. The information on visit and download records was not available at the time of the review. The download records are assessed through Google Scholar. The online site was not set up by Juta Law to record downloads of entire volumes or specific articles. The journal is read internationally and aims to attract international and domestic authors. Issues are scheduled to appear annually, usually before the subsequent conference. All articles in a volume must be ready before publication, which is often delayed by the last article to be completed for any given volume. Thus far, production has kept pace with the annual conference. The journal hosts a conference or workshop each year to give authors immediate feedback and to try to ensure that articles appear timeously.

The journal only publishes full articles, and published 46 pieces during the three-year review period.

These pieces are often long and can be standalone mini-monographs. Information on the total number of manuscripts received was not available at the time of the review. Manuscripts are usually rejected at the abstract stage, but rejection could happen at any stage of publication of a volume if the author does not submit revisions timeously or meet the referee and editorial conditions for publication. The *Constitutional Court Review* is an invitation-only journal. Authors are pre-selected to contribute to the journal. Six out of seven abstracts were rejected without peer review, and six of the 20 manuscripts presented at the conference/workshop were deemed unpublishable after a year-long double-blind peer review and editorial process. Many are screened out at the abstract stage. The jurisprudence of the Constitutional Court is geared toward South Africans, and South African authors understand it best, with the result that only 20–25% of the contributors are not South African.

Two to three peer reviewers are usually approached for each submitted manuscript. Peer reviewers are picked so that the authors will benefit most from detailed commentary. Peer review is conducted in a 'double-blind way'. Neither reviewers nor authors know the identity of the authors or the reviewers for any given article. Valid reviewer critique and article improvement suggestions appear in three-to-four-page decision letters. These letters also embrace the assessments of the editors assigned to guide the articles through to publication. Peer reviewers receive follow-up information and may be asked to determine the extent to which their concerns have been met. However, editors will often seek additional referees if questions exist about the nature of the piece once it has been reviewed. Reviewer performance is not assessed, and information is not captured in a database. The editors know who has been called upon as reviewers for previous editions. About 55 to 60 reviewers were used in one year of the three-year review period, almost 30% of whom had a non-South African address. The peer-review reports were accessibly retained in the journal's records. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication in print and online is roughly one year.

The editor-in-chief has been in office since the inception of the journal and was not appointed competitively. The period of appointment was not specified. Each editor and member of the editorial committee handles multiple articles from start to finish. Every editor serves on an oversight committee for the current journal in production or the subsequent volume. Each editor possesses a vote on editorial policies. That vote is subject, on extremely rare occasions, to veto by management, namely the editor-in-chief and managing editor. At least 15 members of the editorial board/committee have left since the inception of the journal, having either resigned due to overwork or having been discharged for non-production. The members of the editorial committee were not appointed competitively and are selected for an open-ended period. Most members are South African citizens or permanent residents, and they were selected to provide specific topical expertise.

The journal has a business plan, an internal line authority structure and a workload model that distributes both responsibilities and deadlines. There is also a timeline/schedule for authors and editors that provides due dates for various drafts and editing responsibilities. The editors and reviewers ensure that any potential conflict of interest can be brought to the attention of management and assessed. The peer-review process is consistent with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review* as well as general academic best practice. The *Constitutional Court Review* goes beyond best practice to ensure oversight of editors and provide authors with optimal support. Errata are published when necessary.

The *Constitutional Court Review* does not publish value-added features. However, the journal has symposia in which authors appear in conversation with one another. The percentage of pages in each issue that represented peer-reviewed original material was 100%.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The journal publishes scholarly articles of good quality, some of which are representative of the best in the field. The journal publications are by invitation only, and the journal is not open for general submissions. It was noted that the journal might exclude younger scholars who are not yet regarded as the best in their field but could make an interesting contribution. There seems to be a preference for submissions from a particular university, and scholars from other universities are not invited. It is recommended that the invitations be broadened or that an open call for papers be issued from time to time. The journal does not have other features such as editorials, topical reviews, book reviews or scholarly correspondence.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: The abstracts are helpful, and the journal is properly presented and appropriate for the discipline. The citation practice is acceptable.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability

Consensus review: The journal publishes informative and stimulating material. However, the contributions are by invitation only, and the involvement of young scholars should be encouraged. The academic standard is comparable with similar journals in other countries such as the USA and Australia.

Business aspects

(Business-related criteria; Bibliometric assessments)

The journal is owned by Academic Edge Publications CC, a wholly-owned close corporation of which the editor-in-chief is the sole owner. The publisher is NISC. The journal usually prints around 200 copies per issue. Production and distribution are handled by the publisher. The journal does not carry any advertising. Financial sponsorship is provided by the World Bank; Konrad Adenauer Foundation; South African Institute for Advanced Constitutional, Public, Human Rights and International Law; Constitutional Law of South Africa (CLOSA); Academic Edge Publications CC; and the universities of Johannesburg and the Witwatersrand. There are no paying subscribers. The journal does not charge APCs, although the contract with NISC allows for APCs where production costs cannot otherwise be raised. The editorial workflow is managed through a manual system. The journal is freely accessible online.

There have been offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal, but such offers have been declined. Copyright resides with the editor-in-chief, but this is subject to change. There are no licensing arrangements with authors. Authors are required to acknowledge the journal as the place of publication should they post their work on the Social Science Research Network (SSRN) or elsewhere.

The journal is indexed by DHET; Google Scholar; Sabinet; and the Southern African Legal Information Institute (SALII). The journal does not have an impact factor or altmetric indicators. The 'front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal was peer reviewed by DHET in 2016.

Suggested improvements

Consensus review: All reviewers agree that the journal makes a valuable contribution to the field. The undecided character of the journal as a publication does not detract from its merits. Building the publication on annual conferences or seminars is simultaneously both its strength and weakness. The editors should consider including more scholars from more universities in South Africa. While the pre-selection of participation can promote focus, the editors should consider addressing possible concerns that may, perhaps unfairly, arouse perceptions of elitism, inbreeding and dogmatic partiality.

The *Constitutional Court Review* is an asset in the field of South African constitutional law, but it can hardly be a 'law journal' in the conventional sense of the word. Given the way material is procured for publication, and its format (which is more in line with an edited volume, although lacking attributes such as an index or conference proceedings), the scholarly constitutional law community of South Africa cannot be expected to 'democratically own' the publication as a journal that attracts unsolicited, independently initiated research in the manner of a conventional law journal.

The journal was not published in 2017 and 2018, and the reasons for non-publication were not clearly explained. The editors should ensure that the journal appears regularly.

The information on editors, the editorial board and editorial policies on the website needs updating, and the affiliation of members of the editorial board should be added.

The invitation to publish should be clearly spelled out on the website, or the policy should be revisited to broaden the pool of potential contributions nationally and internationally. An open call for abstracts and papers is recommended from time to time so that the journal is not limited to invitees only. The visibility of the journal should be increased.

Panel's consensus view

- i. **The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.**
- ii. **The journal should not be invited to join the SciELO SA platform.**
- iii. **The panel believes that the journal makes a valuable contribution to the discussion of Constitutional Court case law. Should the journal appear more regularly, it could be invited to join the SciELO SA platform.**

4.5.5 *Journal of Law, Society and Development*

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

The *Journal of Law, Society and Development (JLSD)*, which is housed in the College of Law of the University of South Africa (Unisa), publishes multi-, inter- and transdisciplinary (MIT) peer-reviewed articles. In particular, the journal supports women, black and young researchers by providing a platform to publish their work with the aim of eventually obtaining an NRF rating. The journal also aims to serve as a facilitator to build a cohort of scholars from among postgraduate master's and doctoral students and postdoctoral fellows through the articles that it publishes. It is hoped that new epistemological ideas will emerge and contribute directly to improving the quality of teaching, research and learning.

The journal adopts an MIT approach, focusing on a variety of subject fields or disciplines. The research community served by the journal includes South African and continental (African) scholars, and to a certain extent the international research community, by publishing peer-reviewed articles by researchers and academics.

The primary target audience is predominantly South African scholars in the humanities and social sciences, including all aspects of law and development studies. These are primarily emerging and established researchers and academics from South Africa and the rest of the African continent. The *JLSD* is, according to its records, accessible to 62 local and 16 international institutions.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The editor-in-chief has a national standing and has received several awards. The editorial board includes distinguished and senior academics.

Questionnaire

(Editorial process-related criteria)

The *JLSD* was established in 2014 and is published once a year. It is available online at <https://unisapressjournals.co.za/index.php/JLSD/index> and <https://unisapressjournals.co.za/index.php/JLSD/about>. Information on visit and download records was not provided at the time of the review. Subscribers are mostly from South Africa and the USA, as well as institutional subscriptions from Namibia and Australia. It is difficult to determine the readership from African countries because the abstract views are from diverse sources. The abstracts are freely accessible, but only subscribers can download full articles. Currently, the only subscriptions from Africa are from Namibia. After four years, articles are made available for free to anyone. In other words, the journal articles would become available to other African countries after the four-year dispensation. Issues are not pre-scheduled to appear on specific dates. There have been no significant interruptions in publication. The submission rate declined in 2016/2017, probably because the journal did not have DHET accreditation at that time. A change of editorship in 2019 caused a publication delay. The journal is therefore somewhat behind schedule.

Over the three-year review period, 21 full articles and three editorials were published. A total of 50 manuscripts were received over the same period. The manuscripts rejected without peer review totalled 23, and only about nine manuscripts were rejected after peer review. Ten of the peer-reviewed papers had a non-South African address.

Two peer reviewers are selected for each submitted manuscript. The selection of peer reviewers is based on expertise in the field of study. Peer review is conducted in a 'double-blind way'. Reviewer critique and article improvement are rigorously implemented. The reviewers' critiques are evaluated by the editors, and the suggestions or areas of concern raised by reviewers are sent to authors to be addressed. Where necessary, the corrected version is sent to the reviewers for verification. The editors apply their minds before making a final decision whether to publish or not. Peer reviewers do not receive follow-up information unless specifically requested. Reviewer performance is assessed, and information is captured in a database. A total of 20 peer reviewers were used in one year of the three-year review period, and only two reviewers had a non-South African address. The peer-review reports were accessibly retained in the journal's records. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication in print was 12 months, and online was ten months.

The editor at the time of the review had been in office since October 2019 and was appointed as an interim editor. The appointment period ended in April 2021. Members of the editorial board deal with

peer review and advice on editorial policies and practices. Members of the board have been in office since the journal was established in 2014. They were appointed based on their expertise, experience and geographical location. The appointment is for a period of three years, which is renewable depending on their availability. Members are appointed from inside and outside the country to provide specific topical expertise.

The journal has made the editorial guidelines available online at <https://unisapressjournals.co.za/index.php/JLSD/about/submissions>. The journal has a conflict-of-interest policy in place. Authors and reviewers are asked to declare any conflict of interest. The journal guidelines are aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. Errata may be published if required, but to date there have been no requests for errata.

The only value-added feature that the journal publishes is the critical editorials. Approximately 95% of the pages in each issue represent peer-reviewed original material.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The journal publishes quality articles. The authors are a mixture of national scholars from various South African universities as well as international scholars. The editorial does not reflect on the articles in the journal but seems to be a separate piece. Volumes 4 and 6 include 'Unrest and violence' for the preceding years, but volume 5 does not, which is unfortunate from the perspective of continuity and consistency. Volumes 5 and 6 do not include additional features such as editorials, reviews and correspondence. One reviewer suggested: "These would be a constructive addition to the journal, and I would urge the editor to ensure a consistent approach for the future." Another reviewer indicated that the volumes 4 and 5 are of a high standard, but that volume 6 was insubstantial. Volume 7 had not yet been published at the time of the review.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: The technical aspects are well executed. There are abstracts, and the journal follows good citation practice.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability

Consensus review: The journal has promising potential to achieve the very important output of capacity building. The journal compares well with other journals in the field.

Business aspects

(Business-related criteria; Bibliometric assessments)

The journal is owned by the Unisa College of Law, and the publisher is Unisa Press. About 20 to 35 copies per issue are printed on demand. Production and distribution are done by Unisa Press. The journal does not carry any advertising and does not receive any financial sponsorship. There are 78 paying institutional subscribers. APCs are charged only if authors choose to publish their articles in open access. The editorial workflow is managed through OJS. Articles are made available for free download on the Unisa Press platform after four years, but this does not affect copyright. The journal is part of a commercial e-publication service through Sabinet,

There have been no offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal. Copyright is vested in Unisa Press. The journal is accredited by DHET. The impact factor has not yet been determined. Altmetric indicators are not administered. The 'front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal was independently peer reviewed by DHET at the time of applying for accreditation.

Suggested improvements

Consensus review: The editor should consider the inclusion of a wide range of articles in each volume, including book reviews, review articles and editorials. In doing so, a consistent format should be followed for each volume. The current format is somewhat disordered, which creates reader and author confusion.

An editorial team that remains consistent for several years should be considered. It should be clarified and clearly stated whether the *JLSD* is a legal journal or whether it is transdisciplinary, and the integrity of focus should be maintained.

The editor should consider the wider marketing of the journal to the academic community, including research groups such as the Law and Development Research Network, to ensure that the journal meets

its worthy objectives, especially in relation to the advancement of emerging African women authors. It may be worth considering using reviewers from outside South Africa. This would ensure better promotion of the journal regionally and possibly globally.

Better editing practices should be considered to eliminate the piecemeal approach to each volume, including checking that the abstracts are aligned with the articles submitted.

Open access should be considered to ensure readability and better citation records of the articles published and increase the number of issues per annum. Special editions should be considered to improve the number of submissions received.

Panel's consensus view

- i. **The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.**
- ii. **The journal should not be invited to join the SciELO SA platform.**
- iii. **The journal has only recently been accredited and listed on the DHET list and should strive for higher recognition by complying with the recommendations of the reviewers.**

4.5.6 LitNet Akademies - Regte

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

LitNet Akademies is a multidisciplinary Afrikaans academic journal for the humanities, economic and management sciences, religious studies, education, natural sciences and law. *LitNet Akademies* has a strong interdisciplinary focus, publishing research across several disciplines, specifically in Afrikaans. The journal has different sections, enabling it to accommodate a wide range of disciplines, namely: *Geesteswetenskappe* (Humanities), *Ekonomiese en Bestuurswetenskappe* (Economic and Management Sciences), *Godsdienstwetenskappe* (Religious Studies), *Opvoedkunde* (Education), *Natuurwetenskappe* (Natural Sciences) and **Regte (Law)**. Each of the sections has its own discipline-based editor who manages the peer-review process as well as the general editing of the articles in her/his area of expertise.

LitNet Akademies serves the South African research community extensively in various ways, including the following:

- *LitNet Akademies* provides an interdisciplinary platform for high-quality accredited articles in Afrikaans, thereby contributing to the development of Afrikaans as an academic language.
- The interdisciplinary character of the journal draws audiences from across disciplines, introducing academics and interested users to research in fields other than their own.
- This node for accredited research is embedded in the larger LitNet digital/hypertext environment, and research is thereby introduced to the broader public and not exclusively to a specialised research or academic community.
- The interdisciplinary editorial board members of *LitNet Akademies* are in regular contact, and articles that are not suitable for one section may be sent directly to another editor without first going through a process of rejection and resubmission.
- This unique model explores new possibilities for the delivery of quality accredited academic research.
- Research articles are promoted to the broader public through interviews, essays and online seminars. Traffic is directed from other LitNet pages (e.g. its newsletter, letters page and blog forum) to *LitNet Akademies* accredited articles in order to draw traffic to academic research. Online seminars are arranged with experts, flowing from subjects touched upon in accredited articles, to integrate academic work with public discussion. Interviews with writers of peer-reviewed articles are conducted and published in the wider LitNet digital space and promoted not only via the destination website but also through social media (e.g. Facebook), which now serves as an index for many Web users, as users tend to rely on peers to call their attention to interesting material. A dedicated YouTube channel has been initiated for interviews with researchers on their work.
- The journal is investigating alternative ways to deliver non-accredited research material (e.g. the Einstein competition for young researchers).
- Concern about education at school and university levels is addressed by means of debates, commissioned opinion pieces (e.g. on disadvantaged schools, technology and the classroom) and the provision of expert learning material such as class notes, examination papers and memoranda.
- *LitNet Akademies* pays a research fee to both researchers/authors and peer reviewers, thus contributing to the costs of their future research.
- *LitNet Akademies* charges no page or production charges and is freely available, thus contributing to the concept of open access.

The primary target audience is Afrikaans-speaking researchers, students and the general public, both locally and abroad. There is also considerable interest in Dutch-speaking countries, as well as a readership of English speakers. With the latter in mind, lengthy English abstracts of Afrikaans accredited articles are published and available from the home page.

The accredited articles form part of the wider LitNet platform. According to Google Analytics, the website had a record number of 171 811 unique users in May 2018. The average number of unique users per month for the period 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2019 was 119 435. *LitNet Akademies* research articles are also included in the Sabinet database, and material is available via Sabinet on the African Electronic Journals (SA ePublications) database used in university library search engines, as well as Google Scholar.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The editor is a highly regarded and respected academic and researcher and maintains an excellent reputation both nationally and internationally. The editorial board of *LitNet Akademies* consists of interdisciplinary experts.

Questionnaire

(Editorial process-related criteria)

LitNet Akademies went online in January 1999, and until 2007 the unaccredited Seminar Room was used as the basis for initiating a peer-reviewed node for accredited academic publishing. The first accredited issue was published in 2008. Formal PDF issues are published three times per year. Individual HTML articles are published almost weekly throughout the year (and in some weeks four or five articles may appear) and combined into the formal PDF issues. The wider LitNet domain and *LitNet Akademies* home page are accessible at <https://www.litnet.co.za>. The URL to the node for accredited articles is accessible at <https://www.litnet.co.za/category/akademies/litnet-akademies>. Information on visit and download records was not provided at the time of the review. *LitNet Akademies* is an open-access journal available on the internet and is accessed all over the world. According to Google Analytics, 90% of LitNet readers were from within South Africa in 2019. Apart from South Africa (90%), the top ten African countries listed on Google Analytics as part of the LitNet audience in 2019 were Namibia, Kenya, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Zambia, Mozambique, Ghana, Uganda and Eswatini.

Issues are scheduled to appear at regular intervals throughout the year. Specific publishing dates are not given, but the months for the three PDF issues established over the past few years are April/May, August/September and December. The issues carry individual articles published in the periods between issues, resulting in research being published and available throughout the year and not only on the dates when the three formal PDF issues are published. This is a great advantage and leads to immediacy and willingness to debate and interact, as a sense of engagement and topicality is created. All *LitNet Akademies* issues have been published in the months indicated since 2009, except for 2019, when the second edition of volume 16 was published in October. There have been no significant interruptions in publication.

During the three-year review period, a total of 40 fully peer-reviewed articles were published in the *Regte* section. Only fully peer-reviewed articles are included in the formal accredited *LitNet Akademies* node, but the wider domain publishes an extensive range and significant amount of material engaging with the accredited articles and other related topics, such as the debate on the future of South African universities, access to education and language of teaching. This material consists of online academic seminars, interviews with researchers, book reviews, conference papers and competition contributions. Most of these articles are commissioned, and the authors receive payment. A total of 284 manuscripts were received over the same period; 23 manuscripts were rejected without peer review, and 85 after peer review. Three articles had a non-South African address.

A minimum of two peer reviewers are approached for each manuscript accepted for the peer-review process. If the overall review results are not unanimous, a third peer reviewer is approached as an arbitrator. Peer reviewers are selected by the individual section editors and sometimes by the editor-in-chief for their specific expertise within their field of study. Peer review is conducted in a 'blind way'. *LitNet Akademies* rigorously follows the implementation of valid reviewer critique and article improvement. Each article is returned to the author or authors for adjustments suggested in the peer-review reports, even if the article has been recommended for publication by both reviewers. An equally rigorous process of text editing is undertaken by language practitioners in consultation with the section editor and the

author(s). Strict protocols are followed. Peer reviewers receive follow-up information in cases where the outcome of reviews is not straightforward (e.g. when a third reviewer is approached as an arbitrator). In cases where one or both reviewers have specific criticisms and recommendations, the amended article is sent back to the reviewers for approval before finally being accepted for publication. Each of the section editors assesses reviewer performance and uses such information for future reference and decisions. *LitNet Akademies* pays a researcher's fee for peer reviewing. In 2019 a total of 217 peer reviewers were thus compensated (30 of which were for reviews of articles rejected after peer review), and 2.3% had a non-South African address. All peer-review reports are archived by the section editors and are available on request. Based on a random selection of articles, an average period of 18 weeks between receipt of a manuscript and online publication in HTML was calculated.

The *LitNet Akademies* founder editor-in-chief has been in office since the inception of the peer-review status of the accredited node. He has also been the founder editor of the wider domain since January 1999. The *Regte* (Law) editor has been in office since October 2011. The founder editor initiated the project and was not appointed competitively. The positions of the section editors were not advertised publicly; the appointments were done through initial headhunting followed by a thorough selection process. The editors are of high academic standing, and all of them are also senior academics with considerable and strong research records. The section editors are contracted on a year-to-year basis, and the editor-in-chief of the academic project is appointed by the board of the non-profit company *LitNet Akademies*. The editors do not write official peer reviews of articles submitted to their sections. Members of the editorial advisory board may be asked to do peer reviews of articles within their field of expertise and provide advice on editorial policies and practices. The editorial board consists of the editor-in-chief, the section editors and the editorial manager (who is responsible for the production of the journal). The editor-in-chief and the language practitioner have been involved since the initiation of the project, thereby creating a stable environment. The other members of the editorial board were appointed with the creation of new sections. The journal has a strong editorial advisory board consisting of prominent academics from different disciplines and institutions across South Africa, with 12 board members from outside South Africa. The board comprises a good mix of older and younger, male and female, and white and black academics. The board is, at times, expanded to represent the growth of the journal to new disciplines, but there is no fixed term. Although there is no public advertising, a thorough selection process precedes appointments. The period of appointment is not specified. All members of the editorial board and editorial advisory board are appointed to provide specific topical expertise.

The accredited node *LitNet Akademies* does have published editorial guidelines and is also subject to the policy guidelines of the wider digital domain, available at www.litnet.co.za and <https://www.litnet.co.za/litnet-akademies-regte-riglyne/>. *LitNet Akademies* is subject to the policy guidelines of LitNet, available at <https://www.litnet.co.za/bepalings-en-voorwaardes>. The *LitNet Akademies* editorial/policy guidelines are aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. *LitNet Akademies* has never found it necessary to publish any errata or retractions.

LitNet Akademies does not publish value-added features. Only fully peer-reviewed articles are included in the formally accredited *LitNet Akademies* pages. The percentage of pages in each issue that represented peer-reviewed original material was 100%.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The publications of the last three years are of high quality from well-known experts in their fields on a variety of topics. The journal publishes an adequate number of articles per year, and articles are published on a continuous basis as a publication. Most articles have a South African focus, with some regional focus, and attract authors from all over South Africa.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: All articles are accompanied by a comprehensive English abstract with keywords in English. Detailed editorial guidelines are available, with a strict citation policy. The presentation, design and layout are visually attractive and professional. There is also a rigorous process of technical and language editing.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability

Consensus review: The journal creates a useful platform for students, academics and practitioners. It is attractive for younger academics since no page or publication fees are charged. The stringent double-blind peer-review process brings the journal in line with quality academic publications and international journals, while at the same time furthering the development of Afrikaans as an academic language and providing a model for other South African languages.

Business aspects

(Business-related criteria; Bibliometric assessments)

LitNet Akademies is the title owner, and the publisher is *LitNet*. There is no regular print run. Production and distribution are handled in-house by *LitNet* staff. *LitNet Akademies* is embedded in the *LitNet* mainframe, which in turn carries both paid (very limited) and unpaid advertising. No advertising money flows to *LitNet Akademies*. *LitNet* often publishes announcements, advertisements and press releases with an academic theme free of charge (e.g. information regarding seminars, academic posts). The Trust vir Afrikaanse Onderwys and Naspers Chairman's Fund provide financial sponsorship to the journal.

LitNet Akademies does not levy any page charges or article-processing fees on authors. The editorial workflow is managed through an online management system, loading of articles on to the web and manual systems. *LitNet Akademies* is an open-access journal, and the node is also listed on Sabinet, a pay-to-subscribe e-publication service to which most scholars have access via their universities. *LitNet Akademies* is included in several university repositories.

There have been no offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal. It is open access, not for sale, and the company's MOI bars the possibility of selling. Authors retain the copyright on articles published. Authors are bound by the licensing agreement of the publisher, *LitNet*.

LitNet Akademies is accredited by DHET. The journal has no impact factors. Altmetric indicators are administered. 'Front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal formed part of ASSAf's *Report on Grouped Peer Review of Scholarly Journals in Humanities Part 1: Literature Group* and was reviewed by ASSAf in 2016.

Suggested improvements

Consensus review: The journal is a useful platform for research. The editors should invite international Afrikaans or Dutch-speaking authors to contribute to the journal.

Panel's consensus view

- i. The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.
- ii. The journal should be invited to join the SciELO SA platform.

4.5.7 South African Intellectual Property Law Journal

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

The *South African Intellectual Property Law Journal (IPLJ)* focuses primarily on intellectual property (IP) law and policy. Its primary scope of coverage is South Africa, although papers on IP law and policy from other jurisdictions are also published, especially those in Africa with relevance to the South African context. The *IPLJ* also publishes papers that adopt an interdisciplinary approach to addressing IP issues.

The *IPLJ*'s primary audience comprises academics, practitioners, the bench and students of IP law in South Africa and the rest of the continent. The journal has 25 subscribers, 23 of which are organisations and institutions such as the Office of the Chief Justice, professional associations, university libraries and several law firms. Of these, at least four are international subscribers or foreign traders. In addition, the journal is available online via Sabinet journals, and the Sabinet access statistics indicate that it has readers from eight different countries. The readership is quite large, as the number of people who have access through organisations is substantial.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The two editors as well as the editorial board are scholars with international stature and reputation.

Questionnaire

(Editorial process-related criteria)

The *IPLJ* was established in 2013 and is published once a year. Since the establishment of the journal, seven volumes have been published. The journal is available online at <http://www.jutajournals.co.za/south-africanintellectual-property-law-journal/>. The analytics for this site are not available, but the journal is also part of the Sabinet Juta Law Collection at https://journals.co.za/content/journal/jlc_saiplj. The journal was downloaded 152 times in 2020. In 2020, the table of contents was read 867 times, and the abstracts were viewed 3 255 times. The Sabinet statistics indicate that the journal is read in eight different countries including South Africa, Mozambique, Kenya and Nigeria. Issues are not pre-scheduled to appear on specific dates, and there have been no significant interruptions in publication.

During the three-year review period, 22 full articles, two book reviews, and three case analyses and notes were published. A total of 46 full articles, two book reviews, and three case analyses and notes were received over the same period. Only one full article was rejected without peer review, and 18 full articles were rejected after peer review. The proportion of peer-reviewed papers that had at least one author with a non-South African address was 13%.

Two peer reviewers are selected for each submitted manuscript. A third reviewer is appointed in cases where the initial two reviewers are not in agreement. Peer reviewers are selected based on the thematic and jurisdictional focus of each manuscript. Peer review is conducted in a 'double-blind way'. The manuscript is anonymised in accordance with the journal's peer-review policy. Valid reviewer critique and article improvement are rigorously implemented. Through a mediated process by the editors, authors are required to address each of the peer reviewers' comments relevant to improving the quality of the manuscript and to revise the manuscript accordingly. Peer reviewers receive follow-up information, especially where the peer reviewers indicated that the revised manuscript should be resubmitted to them. Reviewer performance is assessed, and information is captured in a database: The journal has a tracking sheet for each issue that captures the turn-around time of each reviewer. In 2019, 26 peer reviewers were used, six of whom had a non-South African address. The peer-review reports were accessibly retained in the journal's records. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication in print and online is six months.

The two journal editors have been in office since the inception of the journal. The journal has two editorial assistants; one has been in office since 2015, and the other since January 2019. The editorial assistants are IP experts (with a master's degree or PhD in IP law) who are appointed for a renewable period of one to three years. The members of the editorial advisory board do not deal with peer review but provide advice on editorial policies and practices. Members of the advisory board have been in office since 2013, except for one who was appointed to the board in 2016. The board members were identified by the founding editors as experts in the field of intellectual property law and related areas at the inception of the journal. They are drawn from a variety of institutions in South Africa and internationally and remain the foremost experts in the field. Their term of service on the editorial advisory board is five years and is renewable. Membership is also periodically reviewed, and changes are effected every three years. In accordance with this policy, the initial members' term of office was renewed at the end of 2018, and the membership was increased in 2016 after the first three-year review. Members are selected from inside and outside the country to play a general advisory role. They may be called upon to advise on specific topics that fall within their expertise and occasionally to review articles. They are all eminent IP scholars or practitioners.

The journal has editorial guidelines that are aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. There is a conflict-of-interest policy that is incorporated in the editorial policy, covered in clause 7. The journal also has a policy on errata, although in practice the publication of errata has not yet been required.

Analytical book reviews are the only value-added feature that the journal publishes. The percentage of pages in each issue that represented peer-reviewed original material was 100% in 2019.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The journal publishes a consistent number of articles per year, with an average of good to high-quality papers, and a spread of local, African and international authors. The topics are varied; although the focus is on South African issues, regional as well as some international problems are also addressed.

Essential technical features:**(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)**

Consensus review: The abstracts and citation information is of a suitable standard, including the presentation. One reviewer highlighted the issue of referencing and recommended that some of the articles could be more densely referenced.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability

Consensus review: The reviewers agree on the importance of the *IPLJ* for students and staff as the only journal of its kind in South Africa. The South African focus of the journal makes it difficult to compare, but the quality of the journal is of similar standard to other IP journals.

Business aspects**(Business-related criteria; Bibliometric assessments)**

The *IPLJ* is jointly owned by the editors and the publisher, Juta and Company. The journal has a print run of 70 copies per issue. Production and distribution are dealt with internally by Juta and Company. The journal does not carry any advertising and does not receive financial sponsorship.

The *IPLJ* has 25 direct paying subscribers as well as those who access it through Sabinet journals, and 23 of these are organisations. This means that the readership is quite large, as the number of people who have access through organisations is substantial. The journal does not charge APCs. The editors and editorial assistants handle all workflow, from submission through to peer view and acceptance, in accordance with established practice. Thereafter, Juta uses its internal processes for further proofreading, typesetting and production as well as publication online for subscriber access. These processes include the company's online management system and systems for loading articles on to the web. The journal is not open access and is part of a commercial e-publication service.

There have not been any offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal, although it is licensed to HeinOnline and JSTOR. Copyright is jointly owned by the editors and publisher. Authors sign a contributor's agreement in terms of which they "grant to the publishers the exclusive right and licence to publish and reproduce and further to license the contribution to all media in all languages for the legal term of copyright throughout the world".

The *IPLJ* is accredited by DHET and does not have an impact factor. There are altmetric indicators. The 'front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal has previously been reviewed by DHET.

Suggested improvements

Consensus review: The journal is regarded as being of high quality and the only one of its kind in South Africa.

The editors should consider publishing more issues per year, including special editions. Esteemed scholars should be invited to write guest editorials or on specific topics.

Panel's consensus view

- i. The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.
- ii. The journal should not be invited to join the SciELO SA platform.

4.5.8 South African Journal of Bioethics and Law**Focus and scope:****(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)**

The *South African Journal of Bioethics and Law (SAJBL)* is an online, biannual, peer-reviewed journal that covers matters related to ethics, law, human rights and related matters for the health professions. It is currently the only journal in South Africa that allows for publication of this type of interdisciplinary research.

The primary target audiences are predominantly local scholars, but also from further afield, especially in Africa. The journal's reach is primarily across South African institutions as well as attracting international and African regional readership.

Editing functions:**(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)**

Consensus review: The high level of expertise and standing of the board members at both national and international levels is commended. However, the journal should consider expanding the board to include scholars from foreign origins. The editorial board (including the editor-in-chief and co-editor) are highly qualified experts in the field of ethics and law.

Questionnaire**(Editorial process-related criteria)**

The SAJBL was established in 2008 and publishes two issues per year. It is available online at www.sajbl.org.za. The visit and download record is article-dependent, but the visit range is between 51 and 22 273 with an average of 3 053 views, while the download range is between 57 and 2 746 with an average of 1 009 downloads. Based on the Google Analytics data, the reach is quite broad across continents and in as many as 173 countries worldwide, 33 of which are African countries. Issues are pre-scheduled to appear on specific dates. There have been no significant interruptions in publication.

During the three-year review period, 51 full articles, four letters, six review articles and five forums were published. A total of 75 full articles, six letters, 21 review articles, seven forums, eight short reports and one editorial were submitted over the same period. Four full articles and one short report were rejected without peer review; and 14 full articles, 12 review articles, three reports and one editorial were rejected after peer review. About 3% of the peer-reviewed papers had a non-South African address.

Two peer reviewers are approached for each submitted manuscript. The selection of peer reviewers is based on interest and expertise in the content area. Peer review is conducted in a 'blind way'. Valid reviewer critique and article improvement are rigorously implemented. Reviewers are provided with a guideline form that they follow in conducting their review. Editors review the feedback from reviewers, and in turn request that authors provide letters outlining how they have responded to the reviewers' comments and motivate for instances where they have not revised as per reviewer feedback. Peer reviewers receive follow-up information. Reviewer activity is recorded by the editorial submission system, providing statistics on how many review invitations were received and accepted, and the number of days taken to review. Editors are also able to rate reviewers on the system. In 2018, 31 peer reviewers were used, 3% of whom had a non-South African address. The peer-review reports were accessibly retained in the journal's records. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication online is six months.

The editor-in-chief has been in office since 2008. The appointment was not competitive, and the period of appointment was not stipulated. The members of the editorial board handle peer review and advise on editorial policies and practices. Members of the editorial board have been in office for between one and ten years, while members of the editorial advisory board have been in office since the establishment of the journal. Their appointments were not competitive, and the term of office was not specified. They were appointed from inside and outside the country to provide specific topical expertise.

The editorial guidelines are available online at <http://www.sajbl.org.za/index.php/sajbl/about>. The journal guidelines are aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. The journal has conflict-of-interest and errata policies in place.

The journal publishes value-added features such as critical editorials, critical topical reviews, analytical book reviews and correspondence on published articles. The percentage of pages in each issue that represented peer-reviewed original material was 95%.

Content:**(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)**

Consensus review: The publications are of a high academic and practical quality and cover a range of topics. However, the journal should consider expanding its focus and calling for more regional and international contributions. The rigorous peer review practice is an indication that only good-quality articles are ultimately published in the journal. The annual publishing rate of the journal is more than adequate.

Essential technical features:**(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)**

Consensus review: Abstracts published in the journal are of high quality and are also at a reading level

suited to laypersons and readers for whom English is a second language. The presentation, design and layout of the journal are rated as good to excellent. The technical features of the journal are impressive.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability

Consensus review: The content is relevant for both students and practitioners in the dual fields of bioethics and law. The journal compares favourably with other leading international journals in the field. The *SAJBL* serves as a forum for the discussion of ethics and bioethics relevant to South Africa and Africa, but it appears equally accessible to an international readership.

Business aspects

(Business-related criteria; Bibliometric assessments)

The South African Medical Association is both the owner and publisher of the *SAJBL*. The journal is not printed. Production and distribution are not outsourced. There are no advertisements, and the journal does not receive any financial sponsorship.

The journal charges a publication fee of ZAR5 300 per full-length article. Fee waivers are considered. The journal uses an online management system for the editorial workflow. The *SAJBL* is an open-access journal and is part of a non-commercial e-publication mechanism (issu.com).

There have been no offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal. Copyright is retained by the authors. The work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial licence. Authors are required to complete and sign an author agreement form that outlines author and publisher rights and the terms of publication. The agreement form should be uploaded along with other submission files, and any submission will be considered incomplete without it. Material submitted for publication in the *SAJBL* is accepted if it has not been published or submitted for publication elsewhere.

The *SAJBL* is indexed by AIM; AJOL; Crossref; DOAJ; Sabinet; and Scopus. The journal has an impact factor of 0.3. Altmetric indicators are administered. The 'front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal has been peer reviewed by DOAJ.

Suggested improvements

Consensus review: The journal should try to attract more regional contributions and work on increasing its impact factor.

More regional or provincial representations and the inclusion of book reviews and special issues should be considered to increase visibility.

The high publication fee may deter potential contributors and should be reduced.

The editorial board should revisit its plagiarism statement and work on a policy to vary the composition of the editorial board and provide a list of reviewers.

Panel's consensus view

- i. The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.
- ii. The journal should be invited to join the SciELO SA platform.

4.6 Other Fields

4.6.1 African Evaluation Journal

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

The *African Evaluation Journal* (AEJ) publishes high-quality peer-reviewed articles on any subject related to evaluation, and provides targeted information of professional interest to members of the African Evaluation Association (AfrEA) and its national associations and evaluators across the globe.

The AEJ aims to:

- be a high-quality, peer-reviewed journal that builds evaluation-related knowledge and practice in support of effective developmental policies on the African continent;
- provide a communication platform for scholars and practitioners of evaluation to share and debate ideas about evaluation theory and practice in Africa;

- promote cross-fertilisation of ideas and methodologies between countries and between evaluation scholars and practitioners in the developed and developing world; and
- promote evaluation scholarship and authorship, and a culture of peer-review in the African evaluation community.

The journal encourages and promotes interdisciplinary research, and research related and relevant to South Africa and Africa. The primary target audiences are predominantly African scholars and monitoring and evaluation practitioners. It is an open-access journal, published by AOSIS since 2013, and has a worldwide audience.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The editorial board has high standing nationally and internationally, and the editor-in-chief has excellent academic credentials. The reviewers commented positively on the journal's location in the Global South and the spread of board members, but noted the preponderance of South African representation and suggested more regional involvement.

Questionnaire

(Editorial process-related criteria)

The AEJ was established in 2013 and publishes one issue each year. Articles are published online when ready for publication and then printed in an end-of-year compilation. Additional issues may be published for special events (e.g. conferences) and when special themes are addressed. It is available online at <https://aejonline.org>. The journal received 438 814 downloads and 119 103 page visits between 2017 and 2019. According to Google Analytics, the journal is read in 203 countries worldwide, including 56 African countries. Issues are not pre-scheduled to appear on given dates. There have been no significant interruptions in publication.

Over the three-year review period, 41 full articles (15 in 2017, 14 in 2018 and 12 in 2019) and one review article (in 2018) were published. A total of 194 manuscripts (80 in 2017, 44 in 2018 and 70 in 2019) were received over the same period. The total number of manuscripts rejected without peer review was 117 (51 in 2017, 33 in 2018 and 33 in 2019) and ten manuscripts were rejected after peer review (one in 2017, five in 2018 and four in 2019). The proportion of peer-reviewed papers that had at least one author with a non-South African address was 46% in 2017, 76% in 2018 and 50% in 2019.

Two peer reviewers are selected for each submitted manuscript. Reviewer selection is critical to the publication process, and the editor bases the choice on many factors, including expertise, reputation, specific recommendations and previous experience of a reviewer's characteristics. Peer review is conducted in a 'blind way'. Valid reviewer critique and article improvement are rigorously implemented. Not only does peer review provide an independent assessment of the importance and technical accuracy of the results described, but the feedback from referees conveyed to authors with the editors' advice frequently also results in manuscripts being refined so that their structure and logic are more readily apparent to readers. All manuscripts submitted to the journal are screened for scientific overlap on previously published work (plagiarism), which also needs to be addressed by the author during revision. The peer-review process aims to ensure that all published articles present the results of primary scientific research; report results that have not been published elsewhere; are scientifically sound; provide new scientific knowledge where experiments, statistics and other analyses are performed to a high technical standard and are described in sufficient detail so that another researcher will be able to reproduce the experiments described; provide conclusions that are presented in an appropriate manner and are supported by the data; are presented in an intelligible and logical manner and written in clear and unambiguous English; meet all applicable research standards with regard to the ethics of experimentation and research integrity; and adhere to appropriate reporting guidelines and community standards for data availability. Once the author submits the revised manuscript, the reviewers may be asked to reappraise the manuscript that was referred to the authors after a first-round review. The editor keeps reviewers informed of the final decision on the manuscript and is committed to providing reviewers with the review reports of other reviewers who participated in the review.

The reviewers' performance is assessed through a rating given by the editor after each completed review. This information is captured in a database. In 2019, 27 reviewers were used, 44% of whom had a non-South African address. The peer-review reports were accessibly retained in the journal's records. The average time between receipt of a manuscript and its publication online was 250 days in 2017, 97

days in 2018 and 167 days in 2019. The printed edition of the journal is compiled annually at the end of a volume.

The editor-in-chief has been in office since 2013 and was not appointed competitively. The period of appointment was not specified. The members of the editorial board deal with peer review and provide advice on editorial policies and practices. At the time of the review, members of the editorial board had been in office since May 2017, and the journal was in the process of updating the board for a new term. They were appointed for three years, and their appointment was not competitive. Members are appointed from inside and outside the country to provide specific topical expertise.

The editorial guidelines of the journal are available online at <https://aejonline.org/index.php/aej/pages/view/policies>. The publisher's guidelines are also available online at <https://aosis.co.za/legal-centre/publication-policies>. The guidelines are aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. There is a conflict-of-interest policy. Any relevant competing interests of authors must be disclosed to editors during the review process and must be declared by authors in the published work. Authors must declare all sources of research funding, including direct and indirect financial support, supply of equipment or materials, or other forms of conflict of interest that might have prevented them from executing and publishing unbiased research; the role of the research funder(s) or sponsor (if any) in the research design, execution, analysis, interpretation and reporting; and any other relevant financial and non-financial interests and relationships that might be considered likely to affect the interpretation of their findings or which editors, reviewers or readers might reasonably wish to know. This includes any relationship to the journal (for example, if editors wish to publish their own research in the journals). The policy on errata is available online at <https://aosis.co.za/legal-centre/publication-policies/#Correcting-the-record>.

The journal publishes critical editorials and analytical book reviews as value-added features. The percentage of pages in each issue that represented peer-reviewed original material was 96%.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The reviewers had quite distinct views about the journal. One reviewer was critical of the journal, noting that there are not enough articles and that the quality of articles is variable. Some reviewers focused on the service provided by the journal to the African continent beyond South Africa, noting the spread of contributors, the issues raised and debated, and the importance of the journal as a forum for bringing evaluator practitioners into conversation with academics (noting that these two categories can and do overlap). There was some concern about the number of articles produced annually, but this reservation was eclipsed by the observed merits of the journal.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: The reviewers were unanimous that the citation practices are good, errors are kept to a minimum and the translations (into French), provided where appropriate, are useful. The journal has a neat and clear presentation, design and layout, and consistent style.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability

Consensus review: Despite one reviewer noting that there is no explicit encouragement for emerging researchers or graduate students, there was consensus that the journal is effective in providing space for this category of aspirant researchers and academics.

Business aspects

(Business-related criteria; Bibliometric assessments)

The title owner is AfrEA, and the publisher is AOSIS. There is no print run as the journal is open access. Production and distribution are outsourced to AOSIS as the publisher. The journal carries unpaid advertising, and AfrEA provides financial sponsorship to the journal.

The journal charges an APC of ZAR1 525 per page. An online management system is used to manage the editorial workflow. The journal is open access and is part of a commercial e-publication service through Sabinet and a non-commercial e-publication mechanism through DOAJ.

Authors retain copyright on work published by AOSIS unless specified otherwise. Authors of work published by AOSIS are required to grant AOSIS the unlimited rights to publish the definitive work in any format, language or medium, for any lawful purpose. AOSIS requires journal authors to publish their work in open access under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) licence. The authors retain the non-exclusive right to do anything they wish with the published article(s), provided attribution is given to the applicable journal with details of the original publication, as set out in the official citation of the article published in the journal. Authors specifically have the right to post the article on their own website or that of their institution, or in institutional or other repositories.

The journal is indexed by AOSIS Library Index; DOAJ; EBSCOhost; Gale, Cengage Learning; Norwegian Register for Scientific Journals, Series and Publishers, Level 1; Sabinet; and Scopus. The journal had a Scopus CiteScore of 1.3 in 2019. Altmetric indicators are administered. The 'front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal has been reviewed by DOAJ and Scopus.

Suggested improvements

Consensus review: The journal should include more critical engagement with international debates (e.g. through reviews of books that address or engage with the debates); engagement with current concerns regarding 'decoloniality'; and showcasing of innovation and learning in Africa (especially with an eye on the next generation of evaluators).

The journal should consider rotating the editor-in-chief and advertising this position through open advertisement.

After careful consideration of the figures provided by the editor, which show that there are fewer reviewers than articles accepted, it is recommended that the peer-review process should be overhauled.

The reviewers observed that the journal is negatively affected by the dual aim of being a journal for professionals as well as academics. They argued that it needs to be decided which primary audience the *AEJ* caters for, and the journal should then take measures to serve this audience better. The implication is that currently the academic content is not the major priority, which reduces the impact and academic value of the journal.

Panel's consensus view

- i. **The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.**
- ii. **The journal should be invited to join the SciELO SA platform subject to more numerous and frequent publication of articles.**
- iii. **The panel recommends that the journal publish additional issues per annum and engage more with international issues, while being commended for providing an invaluable forum for debate and capacity development in Africa.**

4.6.2 African Journal of Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

The *African Journal of Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure* (AJHTL) includes empirical and conceptual research on issues relevant to tourism, hospitality, leisure management and general management with an African focus. The journal welcomes the submission of articles that satisfy the general criteria of significance and scientific excellence in the disciplines covered by its scope, and publishes only original articles. The journal includes editorials as well as book reviews from time to time, and the articles are read by scholars, students and industry alike. The journal also accepts articles in related fields linked directly to tourism, hospitality and leisure management (including marketing, strategic management, communication science, business ethics, corporate governance, stakeholder management, operations management, entrepreneurship, nutrition, service quality, sustainability and globalisation) and any area that impacts in some way on hospitality, tourism and leisure in Africa.

The *AJHTL* informs scholars and industry about aspects related both directly and indirectly to their interests through publications accessible online. The journal is a platform for promoting new and young researchers with a view to strengthening and promoting contemporary multidisciplinary hospitality, tourism and leisure, and related research with an international perspective. The journal is thus a forum for critical discussion and encourages the submission of papers from all countries. To date, submissions have been received from 63 countries, and 54 countries have been represented in publications.

The target audience includes local and international readers such as scholars in the sectors of tourism, hospitality and leisure, as well as management entities and state organs engaged with the focus areas. The readership of the journal includes academics, tertiary students and professionals globally. The journal has a global reach. It is listed on Scopus and DOAJ, and has had 285 919 visits to date from across the world. Given the evidence of electronic communications received, the journal is read mainly by individuals and hugely appreciated.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The editor-in-chief is new in his role but has a long track record of publishing and supervision in the field of tourism and hospitality. The members of the editorial board are well known.

Questionnaire

(Editorial process-related criteria)

The journal was established in 2004 and aims to publish six issues per year. It welcomes special issues by guest editors with a particular thematic focus. The journal is accessible online at www.ajhtl.com. The AJHTL received 285 919 visits according to the website counter. It is read in 63 countries, 22 of which are African countries. Issues are scheduled to appear six times per annum at set dates. There have been no significant interruptions in publication since inception.

During the three-year review period, 611 full articles and seven review articles were published. The number of manuscripts received over the same period was 963. A total of 125 manuscripts were rejected without peer review, and 227 were rejected after peer review. The proportion of peer-reviewed papers that had at least one author with a non-South African address was 67%.

Two peer reviewers are selected for each submitted manuscript. Peer reviewers are selected based on their expertise and availability. Peer review is conducted in a 'double-blind way'. Valid reviewer critique and article improvement are rigorously implemented. The review process starts when the final paper is submitted and only after the author has provided a formal declaration of request or consent for the publication by email, requesting the review. Articles are only published if the reviewer reports are positive, and if the authors have made any revisions and corrections that might have been deemed necessary. Once the reviewers confirm that the article fulfils scholarly requirements, it may be published after any revisions requested to the manuscript have been executed to the satisfaction of the reviewers and the managing editor. If a manuscript is rejected, the author is informed. Peer reviewers receive follow-up information. Reviewer performance is assessed, and information is captured in a database: A total of 127 peer reviewers were used during the three-year review period, 72 of whom had a non-South African address. The peer-review reports were retained and are accessible in the journal's records. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication online is six to 18 weeks. On rare occasions, depending on timing and quality of output, this could take as little as three to four weeks. The publication of some articles may take much longer due to slower reviews, author constraints, language editing issues and some sources not being referenced.

The editor-in-chief has been in office for the first year of a three-year term. The appointment was not competitive, and was not advertised. The editor was appointed after discussion with several academic leaders and senior reviewers in the discipline. Members of the editorial board deal with peer review and advise on editorial policies and practices. They have been in office for the first year of a three-year term. Once suitable candidates are identified, they are approached to serve as members of the editorial board. Members of the board are appointed from inside and outside the country to provide specific topical expertise.

The journal has editorial guidelines that are aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. Reviewers are advised to disclose any conflict of interest, and must decline to review any manuscript where there is a conflict of interest. The journal may publish errata to acknowledge and correct any errors. In such cases, it will be stated that a correction was made. An article may be permanently retracted after the discovery of involuntary or intentional inexactitudes. A new manuscript will be submitted in such instances.

The journal does not publish any value-added features. The new editor-in-chief is in the process of introducing new aspects. The percentage of pages in each issue that represented peer-reviewed original material was 100%.

Content:**(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)**

Consensus review: Three of the four reviewers described the published articles as being of low or very poor quality. One reviewer differed, describing the articles as generally of good quality and designed to address gaps in empirical knowledge rather than theoretical innovation. To interpret this discrepancy, the rejection rate, peer-review process, and volume of papers published annually need to be considered. On these matters, there was much more agreement. One reviewer noted that the acceptance rate is far higher than international standards (only 125 papers were rejected of the 963 received). This is borderline predatory publishing behaviour. The number of articles published in the three-year period under review (2017–2019) is extraordinary and is flagged as a cause for concern.

There is agreement that the focus on Africa is useful. The journal serves as a counter to the many journals published in European or American contexts. The journal captures the African context, voice and challenges well.

Essential technical features:**(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)**

Consensus review: The journal's appearance and design need a makeover. The journal's citation practice is very poor. The reviewers were suspicious and critical of the journal's impact factor claims.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability

Consensus review: The journal gives postgraduate students and their supervisors an outlet and opportunity to publish. The empirical orientation of the journal favours emerging researchers. The potential for capacity development is clear in the African focus of the journal and the preference for empirical studies; however, without rigorous peer-review (which the journal appears to lack) this potential may not be realised. The journal is not comparable to leading international journals in the field nationally or globally.

Business aspects**(Business-related criteria; Bibliometric assessments)**

The *AJHTL* is owned and published by Africajournals Publications. There is no regular print run, and the production and distribution are not outsourced. The journal does not carry advertising and does not receive financial sponsorship. There are no paying subscribers.

The journal charges an APC of USD240 per article. The editorial workflow is managed through an online management system, loading of articles on to the website, and manual systems via the administrator. The journal is open access and freely accessible online.

There have been offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal, but such offers have been declined. In terms of copyright arrangements, the work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International licence. Authors retain copyright and are free to disseminate their article, make copies for any type of use and deposit it in any repository or archive, provided they inform the journal.

The journal is indexed by the Academic Keys journal database; Comprehensive List of African Research Journals (Journals Consortium); DOAJ; Directory of Open Access Scholarly Resources; Elektronische Zeitschriftenbibliothek (EZB) electronic journals database; University and Research System Assessment Agency; and Scopus. Application has been made to WoS. The global impact factor for 2019 was 2.224 (www.globalimpactfactor.com). The Journals Consortium journal influence factor for 2018 was 1.93 (<http://ranking.journalsconsortium.org>). The journal was rated among the top 100 journals for tourism and hospitality in the world on SCImago. Altmetric indicators are administered. The 'front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal has been reviewed by Elsevier and Scopus.

Suggested improvements

Consensus review: The articles are not easily accessible, despite being published in open access. While specific articles can easily be downloaded on the journal's website, there is no search function and, critically, the journal's offerings are not findable using Google Scholar. This appears to be a very serious problem, contributing to the low visibility of the journal. The editor should improve the website, and the appearance and layout of the journal.

The editor should consider reducing the number of articles to a maximum of 60 articles a year (ten per issue, with six issues per year). The publication cost is too high, especially if the aim of the journal is to develop capacity among young local researchers.

The peer-review process needs an overhaul. The appointment process for the editor-in-chief and the editorial board should be transparent and competitive.

The journal should stop publishing the same authors in every issue. It is suggested that the number of papers per author be limited to a maximum of two per year.

Panel's consensus view

- i. **The journal should not continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list, regardless of its inclusion in Scopus.**
- ii. **The journal should not be invited to join the SciELO SA platform.**
- iii. **The panel recommends that the journal publish fewer issues per annum and reduce the number of articles per year, advisedly to a maximum of 60, but not more than 100.**

4.6.3 *Journal of Construction Project Management and Innovation*

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

The *Journal of Construction Project Management and Innovation* focuses on publishing scholarly articles in construction project management and associated built environment research. The journal focuses specifically on built environment-related research. It provides an excellent platform for researchers within the built environment to publish their research. Furthermore, it serves as a source and database for free, quality, peer-reviewed articles for researchers seeking information on built environment studies.

The primary target of the journal includes built environment professionals and academics within and outside South Africa. The readership of the journal cuts across industry practitioners and academics within and outside South Africa. More than half (about 57%) of the papers published are from international scholars from diverse academic institutions within and outside Africa.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The editors have high disciplinary reputations both nationally and internationally. The editorial board comprises well-known scholars as well as scholars with a lower reputation. Overall, the editorial board has strong potential to do a good job for the journal.

Questionnaire

(Editorial process-related criteria)

The *Journal of Construction Project Management and Innovation* was established in 2011 and is published twice per year. It is available online at <https://journals.uj.ac.za/index.php/JCPMI>. It is imperative to state that prior to the second issue of volume 9 published in 2019, the journal was operating a manual manuscript system, in which authors would submit their manuscripts to the managing editors by email. The accepted papers were then sent to Sabinet for publication. It is difficult to determine the number of visits and download records with the Sabinet online system. However, from the second issue of 2019, the journal moved to Open Journal Systems (OJS) and was registered with Crossref to enable the generation of digital object identifiers (DOIs) for all published articles and improve the visibility of the journal. So far, the second issue of 2019 and the first issue of 2020 have garnered 89 abstract views and 83 full-paper downloads. The journal received papers from across different continents, which were considered for publication. The coverage of the journal spanned the entire Southern African Development Community (SADC) region, as well as West African, East African and North African countries. Issues are not pre-scheduled to appear on given dates. There have been no recorded interruptions in publication.

During the three-year review period, 72 full articles were published, while a total of 114 manuscripts were received. There were 23 manuscripts rejected without peer review, and 19 were rejected after peer review. The proportion of peer-reviewed papers that had at least one author with a non-South African address was 57.1%.

At least three peer reviewers are approached for each submitted manuscript. Information on the selection of peer reviewers was not provided at the time of the review. Peer review is conducted in a

'blind way'. Reviewers' comments are fully implemented as they are considered experts in the area being reviewed. Peer reviewers do not receive follow-up information. Reviewer performance is not assessed, and information is not captured in a database. A total of 58 peer reviewers were used, of whom 46 (74%) had a non-South African address. The peer-review reports were accessibly retained in the journal's records. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication online is six months.

The editor has been in office for ten years. The appointment was based on the candidate's expertise in the built environment. The editor conceptualised the journal idea and has been running it since its inception. The members of the editorial board deal with peer review, but not very frequently. They also provide advice on editorial policies and practices. Members are appointed based on their expertise. They are selected from a network of top research professionals in the built environment that the editors have created over time. The editorial board members are top distinguished scholars in the field of construction project management research and experts in the construction industry. They are appointed from inside and outside the country to provide expertise on specific topics.

The journal has editorial guidelines that are aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. The editors are allowed to occasionally publish papers in the journal. Such publications must be relevant to the built environment, and the full peer-review process should be followed and managed by one of the deputy editors. Similarly, the deputy editors are allowed to occasionally publish in the journal. Such publications must be relevant to the built environment and the full review process should be followed and managed by one of the editors. The journal has not had any instances of an erratum. All articles published in the journal are subject to an editorial review process. On acceptance, electronic proofs in PDF format are sent to the corresponding author as an email attachment. Page proofs are the final version of the manuscript. Except for typographical or minor clerical errors, no changes are made to the manuscript at the proof stage. After publication, authors who notice any errors must contact the journal manager, who will determine the impact of the change and decide on the necessary course of action to be taken.

The journal does not publish any value-added features. The percentage of pages in each issue that represented peer-reviewed original material was 100%.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The journal tends to publish papers of average quality, although some of the published papers are of high standard. The focus of the journal is on local and regional problems, predominantly from South Africa. Papers from other parts of Africa have also been published. International coverage is lacking in the publications of the journal. The journal presents a good sample of the best work done in this field in the country.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: The English language used is appropriate for abstracts and for all the articles published. No errata were available. The citation practice is good. The manuscripts are properly presented and laid out. Images are used in an ethical manner and properly cited. The format and presentation layout are appropriate, and the articles are well edited.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability

Consensus review: The journal is suitable as a general ongoing stimulus for local graduate students and young staff in the discipline. To some extent, the journal compares relatively well with other international journals in the built environment field. The number of citations remains low. However, this journal has strong potential to compare favourably within the constellation of international journals in the construction management area.

Business aspects

(Business-related criteria; Bibliometric assessments)

The journal is owned and published by the Department of Construction Management and Quantity Surveying at the University of Johannesburg. There is no regular print run. Production and distribution are not outsourced. The journal does not carry any advertising and does not receive financial sponsorship.

There are currently no page charges or APCs. The journal uses an online management system. The journal is open access. There have been no offers to purchase from multinational publishers. Authors hold the copyright and retain publishing rights without restriction.

The journal is accredited by DHET and listed on Google Scholar. The journal has no impact factors. Altmetric indicators are administered. 'Front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal has been reviewed by DHET.

Suggested improvements

Consensus review: The journal should consider improving the profile of the editorial board by approaching some of the leading international experts in the disciplines.

Useful additional scholarly features such as editorials, topical reviews, book reviews and scholarly correspondence should be added to the journal offerings.

The journal could move beyond the African continent by improving its international appeal. The introduction of special issues could be considered, focusing on a topical area that will attract many submissions.

The journal should seek to be indexed in internationally acclaimed databases and pursue the determination of its impact factor through SCImago, Scopus and others.

Scholarly communication of all kinds should be included. Review papers, short communications, book reviews and letters to the editor need to be invited and encouraged.

Panel's consensus view

- i. The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.
- ii. The journal should be invited to join the SciELO SA platform.
- iii. The editor should consider the recommendations suggested in this review to further improve the journal.

4.6.4 LitNet Akademies - Godsdienstwetenskappe

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

LitNet Akademies is a multidisciplinary Afrikaans academic journal for the humanities, economic and management sciences, religious studies, education, natural sciences and law. *LitNet Akademies* has a strong interdisciplinary focus, publishing research across several disciplines, specifically in Afrikaans. The journal has different sections, enabling it to accommodate a wide range of disciplines, namely: *Geesteswetenskappe* (Humanities), *Ekonomiese en Bestuurswetenskappe* (Economic and Management Sciences), ***Godsdienstwetenskappe (Religious Studies)***, *Opvoedkunde* (Education), *Natuurwetenskappe* (Natural Sciences) and *Regte* (Law). Each of the sections has its own discipline-based editor who manages the peer-review process as well as the general editing of the articles in her/his area of expertise.

LitNet Akademies serves the South African research community extensively in various ways, including the following:

- *LitNet Akademies* provides an interdisciplinary platform for high-quality accredited articles in Afrikaans, thereby contributing to the development of Afrikaans as an academic language.
- The interdisciplinary character of the journal draws audiences from across disciplines, introducing academics (and interested users) to research in fields other than their own.
- This node for accredited research is embedded in the larger LitNet digital/hypertext environment, and research is thereby introduced to the broader public and not exclusively to a specialised research or academic community.
- The interdisciplinary editorial board members of *LitNet Akademies* are in regular contact, and articles that are not suitable for one section may be sent directly to another editor without first going through a process of rejection and resubmission.
- This unique model explores new possibilities for the delivery of quality accredited academic research.
- Research articles are promoted to the broader public through interviews, essays and online seminars. Traffic is directed from other LitNet pages (e.g. its newsletter, letters page and blog forum) to *LitNet Akademies* accredited articles in order to draw traffic to academic research. Online seminars are arranged with experts, flowing from subjects touched upon in accredited articles, to integrate

academic work with public discussion. Interviews with writers of peer-reviewed articles are conducted and published in the wider LitNet digital space and promoted not only the destination website but also through social media (e.g. Facebook), which now serves as an index for many Web users, as users tend to rely on peers to call their attention to interesting material. A dedicated YouTube channel has been initiated for interviews with researchers on their work.

- The journal is investigating alternative ways to deliver non-accredited research material (e.g. the Einstein competition for young researchers).
- Concern about education at school and university levels is addressed by means of debates, commissioned opinion pieces (e.g. on disadvantaged schools, technology and the classroom) and the provision of expert learning material such as class notes, examination papers and memoranda.
- *LitNet Akademies* pays a research fee to both researchers/authors and peer reviewers, thus contributing to the costs of their future research.
- *LitNet Akademies* charges no page or production charges and is freely available, thus contributing to the concept of open access.

The primary target audience is Afrikaans-speaking researchers, students and the general public, both locally and abroad. There is also considerable interest in Dutch-speaking countries, as well as a readership of English speakers. With the latter in mind, lengthy English abstracts of the Afrikaans accredited articles are published and available from the home page.

The accredited articles form part of the wider LitNet platform. According to Google Analytics, the website had a record number of 171 811 unique users in May 2018. The average number of unique users per month for the period 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2019 was 119 435. *LitNet Akademies* research articles are also included in the Sabinet database, and material is available via Sabinet on the African Electronic Journals (SA ePublications) database used in university library search engines, as well as Google Scholar.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The editor-in-chief and members of the editorial board are experts in their fields, as are the various discipline-based editors, who organise and manage the different journals in an efficient manner. The differentiation of discipline-specific editors contributes to the high quality of reviews of articles presented in the respective disciplines. The editorial advisory board consists of prominent academics, and the journal is viewed as highly reputable and in line with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Editorial Discretion and Peer Review*.

Questionnaire

(Editorial process-related criteria)

LitNet Akademies went online in January 1999, and until 2007 the unaccredited Seminar Room was used as the basis for initiating a peer-reviewed node for accredited academic publishing. The first accredited issue was published in 2008. Formal PDF issues are published three times per year. Individual HTML articles are published almost weekly throughout the year (and in some weeks four or five articles may appear) and combined into the formal PDF issues. The wider domain LitNet and *LitNet Akademies* home page are accessible at <https://www.litnet.co.za>. The URL to the node for accredited articles is accessible at <https://www.litnet.co.za/category/akademies/litnet-akademies>. Information on visit and download records was not provided at the time of the review. *LitNet Akademies* is an open-access journal available on the internet and is accessed all over the world. According to Google Analytics, 90% of LitNet readers were from within South Africa in 2019. Apart from South Africa (90%), the top ten African countries listed on Google Analytics as part of the LitNet audience in 2019 were Namibia, Kenya, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Zambia, Mozambique, Ghana, Uganda and Eswatini.

Issues are scheduled to appear at regular intervals throughout the year. Specific publishing dates are not given, but the months for the three PDF issues established over the past few years are April/May, August/September and December. The issues carry individual articles published in the periods between issues, resulting in research being published and available throughout the year and not only on the dates when the three formal PDF issues are published. This is a great advantage and leads to immediacy and willingness to debate and interact, as a sense of engagement and topicality is created. All *LitNet Akademies* issues have been published in the months indicated since 2009, except for 2019, when the second edition of volume 16 was published in October. There have been no significant interruptions in publication.

During the three-year review period, a total of 42 fully peer-reviewed articles were published in the *Godsdienswetenskappe* section. Only fully peer-reviewed articles are included in the formal accredited *LitNet Akademies* node, but the wider domain publishes an extensive range and significant amount of material engaging with the accredited articles and other related topics, such as the debate on the future of South African universities, access to education and language of teaching. This material consists of online academic seminars, interviews with researchers, book reviews, conference papers and competition contributions. Most of these articles are commissioned, and the authors receive payment. A total of 284 manuscripts were received over the same period; 23 manuscripts were rejected without peer review, and 85 after peer review. Three articles had a non-South African address.

A minimum of two peer reviewers are approached for each manuscript accepted for the peer-review process. If the overall review results are not unanimous, a third peer reviewer is approached as an arbitrator. Peer reviewers are selected by the individual section editors and sometimes by the editor-in-chief for their specific expertise within their field of study. Peer review is conducted in a 'blind way'. *LitNet Akademies* rigorously follows the implementation of valid reviewer critique and article improvement. Each article is returned to the author or authors for adjustments suggested in the peer-review reports, even if the article has been recommended for publication by both reviewers. An equally rigorous process of text editing is undertaken by language practitioners in consultation with the section editor and author(s). Strict protocols are followed. Peer reviewers receive follow-up information in cases where the outcome of reviews is not straightforward (e.g. when a third reviewer is approached as an arbitrator). In cases where one or both reviewers have specific criticisms and recommendations, the amended article is sent back to the reviewers for approval before finally being accepted for publication. Each of the section editors assesses reviewer performance and uses such information for future reference and decisions. *LitNet Akademies* pays a researcher's fee for peer reviewing. In 2019 a total of 217 peer reviewers were thus compensated (30 of which were for reviews of articles rejected after peer review), and 2.3% had a non-South African address. All peer-review reports are archived by the section editors and are available on request. Based on a random selection of articles, an average period of 18 weeks between receipt of a manuscript and online publication in HTML was calculated.

The *LitNet Akademies* founder editor-in-chief has been in office since the inception of the peer-review status of the accredited node. He has also been the founder editor of the wider domain since January 1999. The *Godsdienswetenskappe* (Religious Studies) editor has been in office since November 2012. The founder editor initiated the project and was not appointed competitively. The positions of the section editors were not advertised publicly; the appointments were done through initial headhunting followed by a thorough selection process. The editors are of high academic standing, and all of them are also senior academics with considerable and strong research records. The section editors are contracted on a year-to-year basis and the editor-in-chief of the academic project is appointed by the board of the non-profit company *LitNet Akademies*. The editors do not write official peer reviews of articles submitted to their sections. Members of the editorial advisory board may be asked to do peer reviews of articles within their field of expertise and provide advice on editorial policies and practices. The editorial board consists of the editor-in-chief, the section editors and the editorial manager (who is responsible for the production of the journal). The editor-in-chief and the language practitioner have been involved since the initiation of the project, thereby creating a stable environment. The other members of the editorial board were appointed with the creation of new sections. The journal has a strong editorial advisory board consisting of prominent academics from different disciplines and institutions across South Africa, with 12 board members from outside South Africa. The board comprises a good mix of older and younger, male and female, and white and black academics. The board is, at times, expanded to represent the growth of the journal to new disciplines, but there is no fixed term. Although there is no public advertising, a thorough selection process precedes appointments. The period of appointment is not specified. All members of the editorial board and editorial advisory board are appointed to provide specific topical expertise.

The accredited node *LitNet Akademies* does have published editorial guidelines and is also subject to the policy guidelines of the wider digital domain, available at www.litnet.co.za and <https://www.litnet.co.za/litnet-akademies-godsdienswetenskappe-stylriglyne/>. *LitNet Akademies* is subject to the policy guidelines of LitNet, available at <https://www.litnet.co.za/bepalings-en-voorwaardes>. The *LitNet Akademies* editorial/policy guidelines are aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. *LitNet Akademies* has never found it necessary to publish any errata or retractions.

LitNet Akademies does not publish value-added features. Only fully peer-reviewed articles are included in the formally accredited *LitNet Akademies* pages. The percentage of pages in each issue that represented peer-reviewed original material was 100%.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The papers are by renowned academics and are of good quality. The rigorous review process contributes to the quality of the publications. The authors are mostly South African and represent a variety of South African tertiary institutions. There are not many contributions by international authors due to the focus on Afrikaans publications. The journal certainly encourages quality over quantity, although the language requirement (Afrikaans) limits the number of scholars who will be able to contribute to the journal. The publications are of a very high standard, representing some of the best work done in the authors' area of specialisation.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: Articles are published with a full and comprehensive English-language abstract (of approximately 1 500 words). The abstracts are of very high standard and make the articles accessible to a much broader readership. The citation and referencing practices are rigorously applied, and authors are provided with clear instructions. The presentation of the journal is highly professional regarding design, layout, images, and style, and it is easy to read. All publications go through a rigorous process of text editing undertaken by language practitioners. The journal sets a very high standard in terms of its citation and referencing practices and has hardly ever had to publish any errata.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability

Consensus review: The journal serves the wider academic community, including researchers, students and the broader public. Publications by younger scholars and graduate students could be encouraged by the editors. The journal is comparable with leading journals in the field. This journal is unique in publishing multiple disciplines, without compromising academic expertise in a variety of fields.

Business aspects

(Business-related criteria; Bibliometric assessments)

LitNet Akademies is the title owner, and the publisher is *LitNet*. There is no regular print run. All production and distribution are handled in-house by *LitNet* staff. *LitNet Akademies* is embedded in the *LitNet* main frame, which in turn carries both paid (very limited) and unpaid advertising. No advertising money flows to *LitNet Akademies*. *LitNet* often publishes announcements, advertisements, and press releases with an academic theme free of charge (e.g., information regarding seminars, academic posts). The Trust vir Afrikaanse Onderwys and Naspers Chairman's Fund provide financial sponsorship to the journal.

LitNet Akademies does not levy any page charges or article-processing charges on authors. The editorial workflow is managed through an online management system, loading of articles on to the web and manual systems. *LitNet Akademies* is an open-access journal, and the node is also listed on Sabinet, a pay-to-subscribe e-publication service to which most scholars have access via their universities. *LitNet Akademies* is included in several university repositories.

There have been no offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal. It is open access, not for sale, and the company's MOI bars the possibility of selling. Authors retain the copyright on articles published. Authors are bound by the licensing agreement of the publisher, *LitNet*.

LitNet Akademies is accredited by DHET. The journal has no impact factors. Altmetric indicators are administered. 'Front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal formed part of ASSAf's *Report on Grouped Peer Review of Scholarly Journals in Humanities Part 1: Literature Group* and was reviewed by ASSAf in 2016.

Suggested improvements

Consensus review: The journal might consider adding two to three articles per quarter in languages other than Afrikaans. This would contribute to the development of other languages as scientific languages. More articles from the natural sciences might be considered, although the emphasis in this review is on religious studies. The journal should try to increase the number of non-South African reviewers, although the challenges are noted in relation to the articles being in Afrikaans. A wider variety of authors should be encouraged to contribute, and thematic issues might be considered to stimulate contributions. Reviewers recommend specialisation in one discipline, although it is acknowledged that

the interdisciplinary character of the journal draws audiences from across disciplines and provides this unique platform for high-quality accredited articles in Afrikaans.

Panel's consensus view

- i. The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.
- ii. The journal should be invited to join the SciELO SA platform.

4.6.5 LitNet Akademies – Natuurwetenskappe

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

LitNet Akademies is a multidisciplinary Afrikaans academic journal for the humanities, economic and management sciences, religious studies, education, natural sciences and law. *LitNet Akademies* has a strong interdisciplinary focus, publishing research across several disciplines, specifically in Afrikaans. The journal has different sections, enabling it to accommodate a wide range of disciplines, namely: *Geesteswetenskappe* (Humanities), *Ekonomiese en Bestuurswetenskappe* (Economic and Management Sciences), *Godsdienstwetenskappe* (Religious Studies), *Opvoedkunde* (Education), ***Natuurwetenskappe* (Natural Sciences)** and *Regte* (Law). Each of the sections has its own discipline-based editor who manages the peer-review process as well as the general editing of the articles in her/his area of expertise.

LitNet Akademies serves the South African research community extensively in various ways, including the following:

- *LitNet Akademies* provides an interdisciplinary platform for high-quality accredited articles in Afrikaans, thereby contributing to the development of Afrikaans as an academic language.
- The interdisciplinary character of the journal draws audiences from across disciplines, introducing academics (and interested users) to research in fields other than their own.
- This node for accredited research is embedded in the larger LitNet digital/hypertext environment and research is thereby introduced to the broader public and not exclusively to a specialised research or academic community.
- The interdisciplinary editorial board members of *LitNet Akademies* are in regular contact, and articles that are not suitable for one section may be sent directly to another editor without first going through a process of rejection and resubmission.
- This unique model explores new possibilities for the delivery of quality accredited academic research.
- Research articles are promoted to the broader public through interviews, essays and online seminars. Traffic is directed from other LitNet pages (e.g., its newsletter, letters page and blog forum) to *LitNet Akademies* accredited articles in order to draw traffic to academic research. Online seminars are arranged with experts, flowing from subjects touched upon in accredited articles, to integrate academic work with public discussion. Interviews with writers of peer-reviewed articles are conducted and published in the wider LitNet digital space and promoted not only via the destination website but also through social media (e.g., Facebook), which now serves as an index for many Web users, as users tend to rely on peers to call their attention to interesting material. A dedicated YouTube channel has been initiated for interviews with researchers on their work.
- The journal is investigating alternative ways to deliver non-accredited research material (e.g., the Einstein competition for young researchers).
- Concern about education at school and university levels is addressed by means of debates, commissioned opinion pieces (e.g., on disadvantaged schools, technology, and the classroom) and the provision of expert learning material such as class notes, examination papers and memoranda.
- *LitNet Akademies* pays a research fee to both researchers/authors and peer reviewers, thus contributing to the costs of their future research.
- *LitNet Akademies* charges no page or production charges and is freely available, thus contributing to the concept of open access.

The primary target audience is Afrikaans-speaking researchers, students and the general public, both locally and abroad. There is also considerable interest in Dutch-speaking countries, as well as a readership of English speakers. With the latter in mind, lengthy English abstracts of Afrikaans accredited articles are published and available from the home page.

The accredited articles form part of the wider LitNet platform. According to Google Analytics, the website had a record number of 171 811 unique users in May 2018. The average number of unique users per month for the period 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2019 was 119 435. *LitNet Akademies*

research articles are also included in the Sabinet database, and material is available via Sabinet on the African Electronic Journals (SA ePublications) database used in university library search engines, as well as Google Scholar.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The position of the editor is vacant. Most of the editorial advisors are from South Africa, and the journal generally has a high national reputation and international standing as well.

Questionnaire

(Editorial process-related criteria)

LitNet Akademies went online in January 1999, and until 2007 the unaccredited Seminar Room was used as the basis for initiating a peer-reviewed node for accredited academic publishing. The first accredited issue was published in 2008. Formal PDF issues are published three times per year. Individual HTML articles are published almost weekly throughout the year (and in some weeks four or five articles may appear) and combined into the formal PDF issues. The wider domain LitNet and *LitNet Akademies* home page is accessible at <https://www.litnet.co.za>. The URL to the node for accredited articles is accessible at <https://www.litnet.co.za/category/akademies/litnet-akademies>. Information on visit and download records was not provided at the time of the review. *LitNet Akademies* is an open-access journal available on the internet and is accessed all over the world. According to Google Analytics, 90% of LitNet readers were from within South Africa in 2019. Apart from South Africa (90%), the top ten African countries listed on Google Analytics as part of the LitNet audience in 2019 were Namibia, Kenya, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Zambia, Mozambique, Ghana, Uganda and Eswatini.

Issues are scheduled to appear at regular intervals throughout the year. Specific publishing dates are not given, but the months for the three PDF issues established over the past few years are April/May, August/September and December. The issues carry individual articles published in the periods between issues, resulting in research being published and available throughout the year and not only on the dates when the three formal PDF issues are published. This is a great advantage and leads to immediacy and willingness to debate and interact, as a sense of engagement and topicality is created. All *LitNet Akademies* issues have been published in the months indicated since 2009, except for 2019, when the second edition of volume 16 was published in October. There have been no significant interruptions in publication.

During the three-year review period, a total of two fully peer-reviewed articles were published in the *Natuurwetenskappe* section. Only fully peer-reviewed articles are included in the formal accredited *LitNet Akademies* node, but the wider domain publishes an extensive range and significant amount of material engaging with the accredited articles and other related topics, such as the debate on the future of South African universities, access to education and language of teaching. This material consists of online academic seminars, interviews with researchers, book reviews, conference papers and competition contributions. Most of these articles are commissioned, and the authors receive payment. A total of 284 manuscripts were received over the same period; 23 manuscripts were rejected without peer review, and 85 after peer review. Three articles had a non-South African address.

A minimum of two peer reviewers are approached for each manuscript accepted for the peer-review process. If the overall review results are not unanimous, a third peer reviewer is approached as an arbitrator. Peer reviewers are selected by the individual section editors and sometimes by the editor-in-chief for their specific expertise within their field of study. Peer review is conducted in a 'blind way'. *LitNet Akademies* rigorously follows the implementation of valid reviewer critique and article improvement. Each article is returned to the author or authors for adjustments suggested in the peer-review reports, even if the article has been recommended for publication by both reviewers. An equally rigorous process of text editing is undertaken by language practitioners in consultation with the section editor and the author(s). Strict protocols are followed. Peer reviewers receive follow-up information in cases where the outcome of reviews is not straightforward (e.g., when a third reviewer is approached as an arbitrator). In cases where one or both reviewers have specific criticisms and recommendations, the amended article is sent back to the reviewers for approval before finally being accepted for publication. Each of the section editors assesses reviewer performance and uses such information for future reference and decisions. *LitNet Akademies* pays a researcher's fee for peer reviewing. In 2019 a total of 217 peer reviewers were thus compensated (30 of which were for reviews of articles rejected after peer review), and 2.3% had a non-South African address. All peer-review reports are archived by the section editors

and are available on request. Based on a random selection of articles, an average period of 18 weeks between receipt of a manuscript and online publication in HTML was calculated.

The *LitNet Akademies* founder editor-in-chief has been in office since the inception of the peer-review status of the accredited node. He has also been the founder editor of the wider domain since January 1999. The *Natuurwetenskappe* (Natural Sciences) editor has been in office since July 2010. The A-rated mathematics professor, who used to be the editor, has unfortunately passed away. Due to a lack of interest in the Natural Sciences node, no appointment had been made yet. However, it remains a possibility. The founder editor initiated the project and was not appointed competitively. The positions of the section editors were not advertised publicly; the appointments were done through initial headhunting followed by a thorough selection process. The editors are of high academic standing, and all of them are also senior academics with considerable and strong research records. The section editors are contracted on a year-to-year basis, and the editor-in-chief of the academic project is appointed by the board of the non-profit company *LitNet Akademies*. The editors do not write official peer reviews of articles submitted to their sections. Members of the editorial advisory board may be asked to do peer reviews of articles within their field of expertise and provide advice on editorial policies and practices. The editorial board consists of the editor-in-chief, the section editors and the editorial manager (who is responsible for the production of the journal). The editor-in-chief and the language practitioner have been involved since the initiation of the project, thereby creating a stable environment. The other members of the editorial board were appointed with the creation of new sections. The journal has a strong editorial advisory board consisting of prominent academics from different disciplines and institutions across South Africa, with 12 board members from outside South Africa. The board comprises a good mix of older and younger, male and female, and white and black academics. The board is, at times, expanded to represent the growth of the journal to new disciplines, but there is no fixed term. Although there is no public advertising, a thorough selection process precedes appointments. The period of appointment is not specified. All members of the editorial board and editorial advisory board are appointed to provide specific topical expertise.

The accredited node *LitNet Akademies* does have published editorial guidelines and is also subject to the policy guidelines of the wider digital domain, available at www.litnet.co.za. *LitNet Akademies* is subject to the policy guidelines of LitNet, available at <https://www.litnet.co.za/bepalings-en-voorwaardes>. The *LitNet Akademies* editorial/policy guidelines are aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. *LitNet Akademies* has never found it necessary to publish any errata or retractions.

LitNet Akademies does not publish value-added features. Only fully peer-reviewed articles are included in the formally accredited *LitNet Akademies* pages. The percentage of pages in each issue that represented peer-reviewed original material was 100%.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: Only two papers were published in the three-year review period. The two articles do not represent the scientific outputs.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: In general, the layout and presentation are good, and the articles are accompanied by comprehensive English abstracts. The journal also follows good citation practices.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability

Consensus review: Since there were no follow-up papers beyond 2019, it is difficult to assess how the journal could stimulate students or compare with international journals in the field.

Business aspects

(Business-related criteria; Bibliometric assessments)

LitNet Akademies is the title owner, and the publisher is *LitNet*. There is no regular print run. All production and distribution are handled in-house by *LitNet* staff. *LitNet Akademies* is embedded in the *LitNet* mainframe, which in turn carries both paid (very limited) and unpaid advertising. No advertising money flows to *LitNet Akademies*. *LitNet* often publishes announcements, advertisements, and press releases with an academic theme free of charge (e.g., information regarding seminars, academic posts). The Trust vir Afrikaanse Onderwys and Naspers Chairman's Fund provide financial sponsorship to the journal.

LitNet Akademies does not levy any page charges or article-processing charges on authors. The editorial workflow is managed through an online management system, loading of articles on to the web and manual systems. *LitNet Akademies* is an open-access journal, and the node is also listed on Sabinet, a pay-to-subscribe e-publication service to which most scholars have access via their universities. *LitNet Akademies* is included in several university repositories.

There have been no offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal. It is open access, not for sale, and the company's MOI bars the possibility of selling. Authors retain the copyright on articles published. Authors are bound by the licensing agreement of the publisher, LitNet.

LitNet Akademies is accredited by DHET. The journal has no impact factors. Altmetric indicators are administered. 'Front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal formed part of ASSAf's *Report on Grouped Peer Review of Scholarly Journals in Humanities Part 1: Literature Group* and was reviewed by ASSAf in 2016.

Suggested improvements

Consensus review: The natural sciences are underrepresented, and not many papers are published. The position of the editor needs to be filled. The journal must actively advertise and market the *Voertaal (Vir) Taal* platform among postgraduate students, link it with scientific societies and target science faculties. Special editions or themes in the subfields of biology, chemistry or physics might also stimulate interest.

Panel's consensus view

- i. **The journal should not continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.**
- ii. **The journal should not be invited to join the SciELO SA platform.**
- iii. **This is currently the only one of the journals that forms part of *LitNet Akademies* to have a very low number of submissions. The position of the discipline-based editor is also vacant, and the editors need to address these issues before accreditation could be considered again.**

4.7 Social Sciences

4.7.1 *Critical Studies in Teaching and Learning*

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

Critical Studies in Teaching and Learning (CriSTaL) is a peer-reviewed journal that publishes critical scholarly articles and essays that make interesting and distinctive contributions to the scholarship of teaching and learning in higher education. Contributions that address challenging problems and issues from theoretical, ethical, practice-based, empirical, strategic or analytical perspectives are welcomed, as well as contributions that focus on innovative and creative approaches to teaching and learning.

The journal aims to provide a stimulating and challenging forum for contributors to theorise, ponder, reconfigure and re-imagine higher education teaching and learning practice. It promotes an understanding of knowledge creation that is situated, which challenges hegemonic thought, and is sensitive to intersecting positionalities, histories and inequalities. The journal has an interdisciplinary focus, but the main field from which submissions are made is higher education studies, particularly regarding the scholarship of teaching and learning. It is a South African journal, and most of the contributions are from South Africa. However, contributions from international authors are also encouraged.

The target audiences are local and international scholars. According to Google Analytics, the journal is currently accessed and read in 157 countries, and the top ten countries are South Africa, the UK, the USA, Australia, Canada, France, India, Indonesia, the Netherlands and Germany. The journal is open access and does not have paying subscribers. The journal had 24 502 users visiting the site, with 33 892 sessions recorded since 2014.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The editor and the editorial board are well-recognised researchers in the field. The editorial board members reflect an excellent selection of outstanding academics from a variety of local institutions including the University of the Western Cape, Stellenbosch University, University of Pretoria, and North-West University, among others. Other editorial board members are from Australia, the USA, Spain and the UK. It was suggested that members of the international board could be expanded to include more representation from Africa and the Global South.

Questionnaire

(Editorial process-related criteria)

CriSTaL was established in 2013 and currently publishes three issues per year (two general and one special issue). It is freely accessible online at www.cristal.ac.za. Issues are pre-scheduled to appear in June and December. The appearance of the special issue varies between March and September. There have been no significant interruptions in publication.

During the three-year review period, 33 full articles, one review article and 15 book reviews were published. A total of 85 full articles, one review article and 15 book reviews were submitted over the same period. Thirty-nine full articles were rejected without peer review, and seven were rejected after peer review. The authors of about 11 peer-reviewed papers had a non-South African address.

Between two to eight peer reviewers are approached for each submitted manuscript. Peer reviewers are usually suggested by the editors. In some cases, reviewers who decline for reasons of scope or unavailability suggest alternative expert reviewers who may be contacted. Peer review is conducted in a 'double-blind way'. Valid reviewer critique and article improvement are rigorously implemented. The editors mediate feedback to authors where necessary (e.g. in the case of potentially conflicting reviewers' advice) and assess revised papers carefully. In cases where further revisions are needed, the authors have a further opportunity to make changes up to a maximum of two rounds of revision after peer review. Peer reviewers do not receive follow-up information. Reviewer performance is assessed, and information is captured in a database. A total of 47 peer reviewers were used in 2019, 15 of whom had a non-South African address. The peer-review reports were accessibly retained in the journal's records. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication online is six to 12 months depending on issue timing and the number of papers in the queue. The editors also take into consideration the institutional representation in each issue to avoid over-representing any one university. The average time to publication between 2017 and 2019 was approximately seven months.

The current editor-in-chief founded the journal in 2013 and was re-elected by the editorial committee in 2018 for a second five-year term. The appointment to specific roles (i.e. reviews editor, production editor) is internal rather than external. The editorial board manages the peer-review process for individual papers submitted to the journal but does not peer review manuscripts apart from assessing their fit with the journal and readiness for external peer review. In the case of desk rejections (before peer review), the editors try to offer constructive feedback to authors to inform or support the decision. Members of the editorial advisory board are approached as external peer reviewers for manuscripts that fall within their areas of expertise; this is part of their service to the journal. The editorial board manages editorial policy and practices. Members of the advisory board may occasionally be asked for comment, but generally, they are not involved in-depth in policy development. Members of the editorial board who have been with the journal since its inception are now in their second five-year term (having served for seven years thus far); several members have retired or resigned, and several new associate editors were appointed in 2020. The members of the editorial advisory board do not have a specific term of office. Most have been part of the journal since 2013, while others have been invited more recently (e.g. editors who have resigned from the internal board may elect to join the wider advisory board). The appointment process is not done competitively, and appointments are by nomination and invitation from the editorial board. Members are appointed from inside and outside the country to provide specific topical expertise.

The journal has editorial guidelines and a conflict-of-interest policy. The journal's policies and processes are aligned with national and international best practice in academic publishing. There is no errata policy, but it is addressed in the publication ethics and malpractice statement available at <http://cristal.ac.za/index.php/cristal/ethics>. The journal publishes value-added features such as critical editorials and analytical book reviews. The bulk of each issue is devoted to original research articles.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The quality of accepted articles is very good, suggesting not only that the journal attracts good articles, but that the quality of peer review and editorial support is high. The kinds of articles published in the journal are aligned with the stated mission of the journal. The journal publishes mainly qualitative research, and the content is mostly South African based. There are a small number of non-South African papers, several of which seem rather anomalous. There is a good mix of papers from across the country, including papers from beyond research-intensive universities. There are additional features. It is of note that the quality of book reviews is very high.

Essential technical features:**(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)**

Consensus review: There are clear editorial guidelines and contact details for the editors. All articles are in English and are introduced by proper English-language abstracts. No errata were observed in the issues under review. The citation practice is sound. The presentation, layout, style and copy-editing are all good. Ethical standards were maintained in the reviewed volume.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability

Consensus review: The journal publishes work by both established and non-established scholars, and as such is an important forum for a local community of practice on teaching and learning in higher education. The articles in *CriStAL* provide a rich set of papers, meeting the journal's own stated objectives, and thus offering an excellent stimulus for graduate students and young staff being inducted into the approach represented through the journal. *CriStAL* is a high-quality journal that compares favourably with similar international journals and is of better quality than some journals that are considered 'leading' but are not as thoughtful as this one. Like all journals, there are some articles of variable quality.

Business aspects**(Business-related criteria; Bibliometric assessments)**

The editorial board owns the journal and publishes it using open-source software. The journal is not printed. Production and distribution are not outsourced. The journal does not carry any advertising and does not receive financial sponsorship. There are no paying subscribers, and readers are not required to subscribe.

The journal charges an APC of ZAR3 200 per original research article. The income enables the journal to pay a copyeditor and graphic designer, upgrade and maintain the website, and pay for a Zoom licence for online editorial meetings. The journal uses an online management system for the editorial workflow. This is an open-access journal, and it is part of a non-commercial e-publication mechanism through Sabinet and AJOL. There have not been any offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal. Authors have full copyright on their articles, book reviews and review essays. The journal uses a CC-BY 4.0 licence.

The journal is indexed by AJOL; DHET; DOAJ; Sabinet; Scopus; SHERPA RoMEO; and WorldCat. Impact factors are not available. Altmetric indicators are administered. The 'front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal was peer reviewed by DHET at the time of applying for accreditation and inclusion in Scopus.

Suggested improvements

Consensus review: Although all articles have abstracts, greater attention should be paid to the quality of the abstract and to ensuring that each includes a statement of what is being investigated, the significance of the study, the theoretical approach and methodology used, and the overall argument.

While there may be merit in publishing special issues based on conferences, the quality of such submissions needs to be carefully monitored. Conference papers are also a good way of providing publication opportunities for doctoral students.

The editor should try to attract more articles from a wider range of universities in South Africa.

Panel's consensus view

- i. **The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.**
- ii. **The journal should be invited to join the SciELO SA platform.**

4.7.2 Development Southern Africa**Focus and scope:****(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)**

Development Southern Africa (DSA) is an internationally accredited, multidisciplinary journal focusing on development policy and practice in the southern African region. Founded in 1984, *DSA* has become an important forum for presenting area-based scholarship in the social sciences and encouraging articles that seek policy solutions to local and regional socioeconomic development challenges. It remains the southern African journal of choice for several disciplines (economics, sociology, agricultural economics,

development studies, political science, among others), and it publishes articles in respect of the key development issues in the region, including poverty, unemployment, tourism, agriculture, business development, infrastructure development and other related development themes.

The primary target audiences include international scholars with an interest in development in southern Africa's as well as local readers and users, who increasingly include public-sector policymakers. *DSA* is available to readers in both print and online and through various subsidiaries. The journal is available to approximately 2 900 libraries and institutions globally via Taylor & Francis sales deals and title-level subscriptions. Many additional institutions worldwide also have access to the journal through development initiatives such as INASP and Research4Life. Individual subscriptions are negligible, with many subscriptions and sales deals purchased by institutions. Readership of the journal is well spread globally, with about half of usage generated from Africa and the rest split between all the other continents, with Northern and Central Europe and North America being the regions that account for most of the readership outside of Africa.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The editor, associate editors and advisory board members are scholars with both national and internal academic and publication reputations. Most members have a doctoral degree in various fields of economics. All seven associate editors are professors in fields such as economics, development economics or finance. Most members of the advisory board not only hold professorial positions but also consultancy and advisory capacities in other national and international organisations dealing with economic development and policy. All members of the editorial team have published at least five research articles in economics, development economics or finance. There is thus evidence of global scholarly reputation among members of the editorial team. The editor, associate editors and advisory board members are of good international standing, with appropriate qualifications and seniority. They are also from a variety of disciplines, as appropriate for this journal.

Questionnaire

(Editorial process-related criteria)

DSA was established in 1984 and publishes six issues per year. It is available online at <http://www.tandfonline.com/cdsa>. The journal received more than 237 000 full-text downloads between 2017 and 2019, and usage continues to rise substantially every year. Page visits are higher than full-text downloads. The journal is regularly read in about 140 countries, including countries in Africa, Asia, Australasia, Eastern Europe, Latin America, the Middle East, North America, Northern and Central Europe, as well as South Asia and Southern Europe. The top three countries by usage are South Africa, the UK and the USA. The journal was read in more than 40 different African countries including South Africa, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Ghana and Egypt. Issues are pre-scheduled to appear in January, March, May, July, September and November. The scheduled dates are decided in consultation with the publisher the previous year. There have been no significant interruptions in publication.

During the three-year review period, 155 full articles and two book reviews were published. A total of 829 submissions were received, the vast majority of which were full articles. About 45% of submissions over the review period were desk rejected, usually because they did not match the scope of the journal or because the language quality or formatting were not of adequate standard. Some of these papers were invited for resubmission provided that the language or formatting issues were attended to. The other 55% of rejections took place after peer review. The proportion of peer-reviewed papers that had at least one author with a non-South African address was 35%.

Four peer reviewers are approached for each submitted manuscript to get at least two reviews. The journal uses several techniques when selecting peer reviewers. For special issues, the guest editor suggests reviewers. The journal's database is also used to search for reviewers. Peer review is conducted in a 'blind way'. Valid reviewer critique and article improvement are rigorously implemented. Peer reviewers only receive follow-up information on request. Reviewer performance is assessed, and information is captured in the ScholarOne database. Almost 400 reviewers are used annually. Between one-third and half of the reviewers had a non-South African address. The peer-review reports were accessibly retained in the journal's records via ScholarOne Manuscripts. The average time from submission to the final decision on all papers is about 80 days. The average time from acceptance to online publication is about 23 days. Hard copies are printed several days after the online issue has been compiled. Articles

are published online once they are ready, before being assigned to an online and print issue at a later date. This is different for each article.

The editor has been in office since 2008. The position of editor was advertised by the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) and only internal candidates were considered. The editor was initially appointed for five years, but the DBSA passed the ownership of the journal to the Government Technical Advisory Centre (GTAC), which asked the editor to continue in that role. The members of the editorial board occasionally deal with peer review and advice on editorial policies and practices. The positions of members of the editorial board are periodically re-evaluated, but individuals generally serve on the board for a four-year term. Their appointments do not follow a competitive process. Members are appointed from inside and outside the country to provide specific topical expertise.

DSA has several guidelines available on the website for special issue editors, authors and peer reviewers, and for the appointment of editorial board members. There is a conflict-of-interest policy in place. Guidelines are aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. According to the guidelines, it is the publisher's policy to publish errata.

The journal publishes value-added features such as critical editorials, analytical book reviews, correspondence on published articles, research notes and debates. The percentage of pages in each issue that represented peer-reviewed original material was 100%. Only editorials and introductions are not peer reviewed.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: DSA is the region's largest internationally accredited academic journal. The journal publishes on policies and practices regarding development in the southern African region, focusing on topics such as poverty, unemployment, urbanisation, tourism, business and infrastructure. The studies are mainly concerned with South Africa but also reach other southern African and African countries. The articles thoroughly review policies and literature and build strong case studies with qualitative perceptions and experiences.

The journal publishes six issues per year with between seven and nine articles per issue. The journal had an impact factor of 0.806 in 2019. The studies published in the journal are clear and well-articulated and provide greater focus on problems endemic to the southern African region. The published articles have wide coverage yet considerable focus on current issues such as rapid urbanisation, poverty and homelessness, inequality, health and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The journal publishes the work of authors of both local and international origin, with various academic backgrounds. The journal also publishes topical reviews, social policy reviews, book reviews and editorials.

All the reviewers agree that DSA is of high quality, and one reviewer believed it was the leading journal in development studies in the southern African region. The journal gives thorough coverage to the spread of issues in the field of development, although the reviewers noted a predominance of articles on South Africa compared to other countries. The journal published at least some of the best work in the field, although this was somewhat diluted by the breadth of topics. Enrichment features published in the journal were noted, including special issues, book reviews, social policy reviews and editorials.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: The journal has abstracts in English with appropriate overview structures. There was only one erratum published during the review term. The journal follows a standardised and consistent citation practice.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability

Consensus review: The journal provides some modest opportunities for capacity development through publishing on a broad scope of issues and involving many postgraduate students on multi-authored articles. The journal compares favourably to other international development journals. Using the SCImago Institute ranking, the journal (which is also recognised by SCImago Institute) is complementary and comparable in content and rigour to leading journals such as *African Development Review*, *American Economic Review*, *Journal of African Economies*, *Journal of Development Economics*, *Journal of International Development* and *Development Studies*.

Business aspects

(Business-related criteria; Bibliometric assessments)

DSA is owned by GTAC and published by Taylor & Francis/Routledge. The regular print run is 150 copies per issue. The production of the journal is managed by Taylor & Francis. Hard copy and electronic distribution is done by Taylor & Francis, which also uses subscription agencies such as EBSCOhost. International print distribution is managed by Taylor & Francis. The journal carries paid and unpaid advertising. The journal does not receive financial sponsorship.

APCs are not levied. The journal uses an online management system (ScholarOne) and loads articles on to the website to manage the editorial workflow. DSA is not open access, although the journal is included in the Open Select programme, which means that following acceptance of an article, the authors can pay an APC to have their article made perpetually open access if they choose or their funders require it. Authors thus have the option to publish in open access. DSA is part of a commercial (pay-to-view and/or pay-to-subscribe) e-publication service, where users can either subscribe directly to a journal or subscribe to a subject library collection in which the journal is included. Taylor & Francis does, however, provide free and low-cost access to the research community in developing countries through initiatives such as STAR, INASP and Research4Life.

The publisher is multinational and has a South African-based office. GTAC holds full copyright on the material published in DSA, and Taylor & Francis has an exclusive licence to publish the journal. Through a copyright agreement form (Journal Author Publication Agreement) that authors are asked to sign upon publication, authors are asked to transfer copyright to GTAC with respect to the articles they contribute. This enables Taylor & Francis, on behalf of GTAC, to ensure protection against infringement.

DSA is accredited by DHET and listed on Google Scholar; IBSS; Scopus; and WoS Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI). The impact factor was 0.647 in 2017. Altmetric indicators are administered by Taylor & Francis. The journal has mandatory 'front details' for papers and English abstracts. The journal was previously reviewed by Scopus and WoS.

Suggested improvements

Consensus review: The journal is regarded as among the best regionally. The reviewers recognise the many contributions made by the journal.

The journal could expand to include more health and population dynamics associated with issues of development. While there are journals dedicated to health economics, human development and population studies, the ways in which health is mediated by poverty, inequality and unemployment should not be ignored. The editorial team could perhaps also actively recruit manuscripts on health, policy and development.

Timely communication and acknowledgement of receipt of submitted paper is a major setback that may have a long-term effect. The journal could work on enhancing communication and response times.

For inclusion on the SciELO SA platform, the journal would need to change to openly accessible full text.

Panel's consensus view

- i. **The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.**
- ii. **The journal should be invited to join the SciELO SA platform should it become open access.**
- iii. **The editor should seriously consider more articles and special issues on health and development, not least in the COVID-19 age.**

4.7.3 Educational Research for Social Change

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

Educational Research for Social Change (ERSC) is an international peer-reviewed journal established in 2012. The idea of educational research having the potential of being transformative, through its work with communities and through various participatory research approaches, is something that is still very new in many educational research circles. ERSC therefore aims to play a critical role in confirming the importance of educational research in relation to social change, and contributing to the associated

theory and the dissemination of current research to a broad, cross-disciplinary audience of scholars and practitioners in the field of education. *ERSC* publishes scientific articles that draw on participatory methodologies such as arts-based research, community-based participatory research, participatory action research, participatory action learning and action research, participatory visual research, self-study research and other empirical forms of research, located in critical and transformative paradigms, which are regarded as key in contributing to the transformation of education research and education itself. Each publication should clearly demonstrate its relevance to social change. *DSA* also publishes book reviews, conference and project reports that are relevant to the scope of the journal. Although the journal aims to focus on 'educational research', it is interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary. *ERSC* has created a publication niche for researchers who draw on methodologies within interpretive, critical and transformative paradigms. *ERSC* is thus helpful in promoting new ways of doing research that produces knowledge and simultaneously enables social change through the research process.

ERSC targets both local and international scholars. It is an open-access journal, published under a Creative Commons licence. As such, the journal does not have subscribers and can be accessed by all.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: It is clear from the reviews that the editor and assistant editors are reputable researchers, but one reviewer raised concern that none of them appears to be an expert in the field within which the journal is located. There was a suggestion that some editorial board members publish together, but this was raised by only one reviewer. The editorial board includes many of South Africa's top education scholars (mostly from historically advantaged universities), as well as reputable international scholars. The focus of the journal is very localised, and it appears to be based at a single institution in South Africa.

Questionnaire

(Editorial process-related criteria)

ERSC was established in 2012 and publishes two issues per year – a special issue and an open issue – and occasionally a third special issue, depending on demand. The journal is available online at <http://ersc.nmmu.ac.za/>. *ERSC* does not track visits and download records for privacy reasons, and information on the number of countries in which the journal is read is therefore unknown. Issues are pre-scheduled to appear on specific dates. The first issue of the year appears at the end of April and the second issue at the end of September. There have been no significant interruptions in publication.

During the three-year review period, 53 full articles, seven book reviews, seven conference reports and seven editorials were published. A total of 180 full articles, seven book reviews, seven conference reports and seven editorials were submitted over the same period. A total of 113 manuscripts were rejected without peer review, and 12 were rejected after peer review. The authors of about 11 peer-reviewed papers had a non-South African address.

Two peer reviewers are selected for each submitted manuscript. The editors select peer reviewers from among the networks of scholars with the relevant expertise, and as well as from the editorial board. Peer review is conducted in a 'blind way'. Valid reviewer critique and article improvement are rigorously implemented. The authors create a checklist in response to the two peer reviews, and the editors meticulously check whether all concerns have been adequately addressed. If not, the manuscript is sent back to the authors again. Once the issue is published, the administrator informs the peer reviewers and thanks them for their reviews. Reviewer performance is not formally assessed, but if the editors believe that a review has not been sufficiently rigorous, they will either send it out to another reviewer or review it themselves. A total of 69 peer reviewers were used in 2018, 32 of whom had a non-South African address. The peer-review reports were accessibly retained in the journal's records. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication online is between six months and one year.

Three editors assumed office in 2010; two of these are continuing, while the third editor retired in 2017. A new editor joined in 2017 in place of the retired editor. The appointment process did not follow a competitive process as the first editor is the founder of the journal, and the second editor was recruited the previous year before to take over. The period of appointment is ongoing but revised every five years. The members of the editorial board deal with peer review and advise on editorial policies and practices. They are invited to serve for a three-year renewable term. Their appointments do not follow a competitive process, and they are appointed from inside and outside the country to provide specific topical expertise.

The journal's editorial guidelines are available online at <http://ersc.nmmu.ac.za/index.php?id=2>. There is a conflict-of-interest policy in place. The guidelines of the journal are aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. Errata are published when necessary.

The journal publishes value-added features such as critical editorials, analytical book reviews and conference reports. The percentage of pages in each issue that represented peer-reviewed original material was 90%. Only editorials, book review and conference reports are not peer reviewed.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The reviewers had distinctly different views about the quality of the journal content. Two of the three reviewers had a positive view that the contributions are 'good'. The third reviewer, who examined the journal content very closely, expressed the view that the quality was moderate to poor and criticised the journal for not addressing its niche directly and for encouraging the weak work of postgraduate students and of staff members from the two universities predominantly represented on the editorial board, namely Nelson Mandela University and the University of KwaZulu-Natal. It is difficult to reconcile the vastly differing reviewers' views, but the majority seem to recognise the modest ambition of the journal and thus excuse lapses of quality, possibly on the grounds of encouraging early-career researchers and postgraduate students. The two positive reviews take a more accommodating view of the approach of most articles and condone the occasional lack of consistency pointed out by the third reviewer.

The editorials of the special editions were disappointing in that they did not point to new knowledge in the area of research or introduce provocative arguments that could serve as a catalyst for national and international debates. There were no additional scholarly features such as academic debates, correspondence or second opinions on published articles.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: The reviewers concur that there are proper English-language abstracts for all articles, although the quality of these abstracts was questioned by one reviewer who suggested that they could be improved by giving a better indication of the argument of the article, and, in this way, making the journal's offerings more useful to readers. There is no policy or practice with respect to the publication of errata. The presentation of the journal is of a high standard. The layout is accessible and readable, the work is well edited, and images seem to be used appropriately. Some of the problems associated with early-career researchers – referencing excessively, for example – were pointed out by one of the reviewers who felt that serious attention should be given to improving the standard to the level evident in more established journals.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability

Consensus review: Considering the reputation of the editors and board members, the journal has local credibility, which may attract local early-career and emerging scholars. It is evident that the journal plays an important role in capacity building, as a fair number of the articles are based on postgraduate theses and authored by novice researchers. However, it should be noted that the inclusion of articles by postgraduate students and novice researchers demands greater development support for academic and methodological rigour in articles. These were areas found lacking in many of the articles in the editions that were reviewed. Since the journal is cross-disciplinary, it has the potential to reach a wide range of audiences and communicate diverse views, but two of the reviewers felt that the journal is not yet comparable with other accredited international journals. The journal offers the real advantage of open-access publication, with page fees significantly more affordable than some other open-access journals. These page fees may, however, be a barrier to publication for scholars from universities that do not have the means or mechanisms to pay such fees. The online publication format enables good use of visuals and offers the potential to explore more multimodal ways of presenting research.

Business aspects

(Business-related criteria; Bibliometric assessments)

ERSC is owned and published by the Faculty of Education at Nelson Mandela University. There is no regular print run. Production and distribution are not outsourced, and the journal does not carry any advertising. The journal receives financial sponsorship from the Faculty of Education, and these funds are used to pay the administrator and language editor. Another way in which an administrative income is earned is through the APC of ZAR4 000 per article. There are no paying subscribers.

ERSC is open access and uses an online management system for the editorial workflow. There have been no offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal. Content is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial licence, which permits unrestricted non-commercial use, distribution and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

The journal is indexed by DOAJ; IBSS; SciELO SA; and Scopus. Impact factors and altmetric indicators have not been determined. The 'front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal has been peer reviewed by DHET and Scopus.

Suggested improvements

Consensus review: ERSC should provide strategic direction concerning its focus. On the one hand, the scope is indicated as educational research and social change, and on the other as multi- and transdisciplinary in nature, with the result that the journal lacks disciplinary focus.

A stringent review process should be adopted that takes into consideration both academic and methodological rigour.

Guidelines for novice researchers and postgraduate students should include information on the specific requirements for a journal article, including a note that the register of a journal article differs from that of a thesis or research report.

Editors should avoid including any of their articles in an edition that they are editing, unless the article makes a significant contribution to knowledge in the specific field. This practice could jeopardise the objectivity of the review process.

Authors should not be published in immediately successive editions of the journal. There should be a time lapse between the inclusion of articles by the same author.

The editorial board could be expanded by opening a competitive call for members, as many journals do. There may be value in considering a core advisory board that sets the agenda for the journal, and an expanded editorial review board. The latter could include both early-career researchers as well as established scholars, and could widen the pool of reviewers available. This approach would address the editor's comments on the difficulty in finding reviewers. Many international boards expect three to four reviews from each board member per year. An expanded board might also widen the geographical range of submissions.

The diversity of the editorial board should be expanded by including top black scholars from other parts of the African continent and across a diversity of institutions. This would increase the visibility of the journal and attract submissions from those institutions.

The journal website carries multimodal features, including interviews with the editor and associate editors, and writing tutorials.

The journal should extend its social media platform. The journal has a Twitter account that has not been used. Many journals use Twitter to publicise the journal and its published articles, and thus offer more visibility to authors.

There are various possibilities for providing opportunities for mentorship and advancement of early-career scholars, particularly those from historically disadvantaged communities as well as women; for example, mentoring for article writing and reviewing, opportunities to serve on the editorial board or inclusion on a panel of guest editors.

Panel's consensus view

- i. The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.
- ii. The journal is already on the SciELO SA platform.

4.7.4 *Indilinga: African Journal of Indigenous Knowledge Systems*

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

Indilinga is devoted to promoting research and scholarship on African indigenous knowledge systems (IKS) to contribute to African and global development. The journal was established as an international

academic platform to exchange theories and practices surrounding IKS, particularly African IKS. Through subscriptions and the peer-review process, *Indilinga* has created a forum for African scholars (mostly South African), analysts and activists in IKS to participate on an equal footing with their contemporaries worldwide in debate, exchange of ideas, and the creation and documentation of knowledge.

Indilinga is a multidisciplinary journal and is used as a resource for research by most South African universities and beyond. It serves as a platform for publication in IKS by academics and researchers in the field. Some members of the advisory board assisted in the development of the Bachelor of Indigenous Knowledge Systems at North-West University. The journal is used as an information resource by various government departments to integrate indigenous knowledge into development programmes, including the departments of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development; Science and Innovation [DSI]; Higher Education and Training; and Health. Some members of the advisory board serve on the DSI advisory board on indigenous knowledge and research. The primary target audiences are predominantly local and international scholars. The readership is 99% institutional, 90% local subscribers and 10% international subscribers.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The three reviewers had quite differing views of the editorial board, possibly because of contradictory information. *Indilinga* has its own webpage which does not appear to have been updated since 2017, while the journal seems to have moved over to Sabinet as the links to issues go to the Sabinet website. The most recent issues appear to be on AJOL. There is different and often contradictory information on the *Indilinga* and AJOL websites. The AJOL website has articles on the home page and issues page that appear to relate to *Indilinga*, but all other pages refer to *Inkanyiso: Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences (JHSS)*, see <https://www.ajol.info/index.php/indilinga/about/submissions> and <http://www.indilinga.org.za/submissions/index.htm>

AJOL claims that the journal is open access, but the articles on the issues page are locked. The editor is listed on AJOL as an editorial board member. While the list of editorial board members is impressive, this has not changed since the journal's inception and neither has the editor. The journal also appears to be privately published, and it is unclear whether page fees are levied or not.

Questionnaire

(Editorial process-related criteria)

Indilinga was established in 2002 and is published biannually. The journal is available online at <https://journals.co.za/content/journal/linga/browse>. The journal recorded 79 015 views and 9 161 downloads in 2018. *Indilinga* is read in 12 countries, six of which are African countries. Issues are pre-scheduled to appear in June and December. There have been no significant interruptions in the publication of the journal since its inception.

During the three-year review period, 207 submissions were received and 78 articles were published. About 101 manuscripts were rejected without peer review, and 28 were rejected after peer review over the same period. One of the authors in each of three co-authored papers had a non-South African address.

Two peer reviewers are selected for each submitted manuscript. Peer reviewers are selected according to their expertise in IKS and their field of specialisation. Peer review is conducted in a 'blind way'. Valid reviewer critique and article improvement are rigorously implemented. Peer reviewers receive follow-up information. Authors are requested to indicate areas of improvement as per the reviewers' recommendations, otherwise the article is not published. Peer reviewers receive follow-up information. Reviewer performance is assessed, and information is captured in a database. In 2018, 38 peer reviewers were used, 10% of whom had a non-South African address. The peer-review reports were accessibly retained in the journal's records. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication online is three to four months, and in print is four months.

The editor has been in office for 17 years. The appointment did not follow a competitive process. The editor started a research project within the broader North–South project on Productive Learning Cultures. The appointment was for a five-year period, which has been renewed three times. Members of the editorial board deal with peer review and provide advice on editorial policies and practices. Thirty per cent of the editorial board members have been in office for 17 years, 10% for ten years and 60% for over a year. Fifty per cent of the editorial advisory board members have been in office for 17 years. Their

appointment process was not competitive. They were appointed from inside and outside the country to provide specific topical expertise.

The editorial guidelines are accessible on the journal's website at www.indilinga.org.za. The editorial guidelines are not aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. The journal does not have conflict-of-interest and errata policies. The journal publishes correspondence on published articles as a value-added feature. The percentage of pages in each issue that represented peer-reviewed original material was 100%.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The reviewers were divided in their views. The journal seems to source articles from scholars from across the African continent, but a matter of concern is that some authors have published in the journal repeatedly. The editor published editorials up until 2019 and then stopped. The journal does not seem to have a book editor or any other type of scholarly content other than journal articles. Since 2015, the journal has managed to publish only one issue per year. It is also evident that the names of experts in the field who were involved in the early days of the journal prior to 2012 no longer seem to be present.

The content of the articles raises the question of how 'indigenous knowledge systems (IKS)' are defined, since many of the authors seem to equate IKS with 'decolonisation', 'Afrocentrism' or 'ethnology'. The focus of the journal is thus unclear, since the authors seem to equate IKS with other trending concepts such as 'decoloniality'. Irrespective of the disciplinary lens, many of the articles simply lack rigour.

The title of each article functions to 'localise' the knowledge, with the unintended consequence that this becomes a weakness since the claimed locality often involves a survey of four or five respondents, which hardly counts as 'local' or 'indigenous' knowledge.

Based on the decreasing ability of the journal to attract a wide variety of content, as well as publishing articles based on research methods that lack rigour (although it needs to be considered that sometimes valuable knowledge is produced in small samples), the recent content of the journal as well as the lack of consistent publication is worrying.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: The journal publishes in English, and all abstracts are in English. Although the journal allows for publication in other African languages, there did not seem to be any articles where the authors chose to do so. Errata do not seem to be published. There is confusion around the citation method for articles between the two websites. The journal itself does not appear to be well cited. The reviewers are generally in agreement that the technical editorial aspects and overall material presentation of the journal are adequate and that the copy-editing is professionally done. There appeared to be no concerns about images that might raise ethical concerns in the sample of articles inspected.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability

Consensus review: The reviewers agree that the journal holds potential for IKS in South Africa and could serve to encourage both students and young academics, but there is room for the journal to develop to a level that competes on the international IKS stage. In the absence of citation data or altmetrics, it is difficult to assess the impact of the journal. The published content is primarily local and often not new or innovative, and the articles fail to cite similar work in the area, thus being suggestive of research that is not rigorously undertaken.

Business aspects

(Business-related criteria; Bibliometric assessments)

Indilinga is an independent journal. A total of 50 copies are printed per issue. Production and distribution are outsourced to Pinetown Publishers. The journal carries paid and unpaid advertising and does not receive any financial sponsorship.

The journal had 644 paying subscribers through Sabinet in 2018, of which 595 were institutions and 49 were individuals. The journal charges a publishing fee of ZAR5 000 for approved articles. *Indilinga* uses an online management system for the editorial workflow. It is not open access and is part of a commercial e-publication service.

There have not been any offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal. Copyright resides with the Indilinga Constitution. Authors are requested to submit a declaration.

Indilinga is accredited by DHET and indexed by Anthropological Index Online; EBSCOhost; Europa World Year Book; Index to South African Periodicals; Index of Information Systems Journals; College of Social Sciences of the University of Birmingham; JournalTOCs; and Linguistics Abstracts Online. The journal had a journal influence factor of 3.18 and a Google Scholar h-index of 4 in 2015. Altmetric indicators are administered by Sabinet. The 'front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal has not been independently peer reviewed before.

Suggested improvements

Consensus review: The journal should seriously consider updating its website and reviewing the editorial board list to update the content.

Although the journal appears to want to offer freedom with respect to style, some standards must be set. Referencing should be standardised for the journal, which would provide relief to authors who may be seeking to adapt themselves to the writing style of the journal. The journal should also provide a general guide to the article format.

Due diligence must be paid to literary issues. Although the standard of language use is good across the journal, there are errors that could have been avoided by proofreading.

At the level of policy, the journal must consider upgrading its publication policies to incorporate elements such as author contributions determination, competing interests declaration and disclaimers.

The journal should cultivate a culture of submissions of additional scholarly features. These could initially be invited from reputable scholars in the field of IKS. The journal should consider having sections for book reviews, 'response papers' or commentaries.

The journal should broaden its scope to include IKS within the broader field of African studies and African history. The journal needs to be based on acknowledgement of existing literature on African culture and indigenous practices.

For inclusion on the SciELO SA platform, the journal should change to openly accessible full text, include DOIs with articles, and commit to maintaining its publishing schedule. By September 2021, the journal had not been published since July 2020, and would hence not qualify to be allowed to join the platform.

Panel's consensus view

- i. **The journal should not continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.**
- ii. **The journal should not be invited to join the SciELO SA platform.**
- iii. **The editor should seriously consider the reviewers' recommendations to strengthen the journal, since it addresses a valuable niche for South African science.**

4.7.5 *International Journal of African Higher Education*

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

The *International Journal of African Higher Education (IJAHE)* focuses on advancing knowledge and promoting research, as well as providing a forum for policy discussion and analysis on diverse higher education issues on the African continent. It is a multidisciplinary journal and publishes research articles, essays and reviews on a multitude of higher education topics in Africa. The journal considers issues not only on the theory and practice of African higher education from scholars around the world, but also strongly encourages higher education practitioners on the African continent and beyond to contribute and share their expertise and experience. It provides an independent, rigorous and unbiased forum that accommodates a wide variety of perspectives, critiques and analyses on higher education discourse, policy and praxis.

The primary target audiences are policymakers, academics, scholars, practitioners and graduate students interested in teaching, learning and research in higher education both at home and internationally. The journal is available fee-free online due to sustained support since its inception from

a US-based foundation, the Carnegie Corporation of New York. It is thus difficult to provide a list of subscribers, either institutional or individual.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The editor-in-chief and editorial board members enjoy high acclaim in the field of higher-education studies.

Questionnaire

(Editorial process-related criteria)

The *IJAHE* was established in 2014 and has been published biannually since 2020. The journal is accessible online at <https://ejournals.bc.edu/ojs/index.php/ijahe/>. The journal recorded 196 000 visits, and according to Boston College which hosts the journal, a total of over 24 000 downloads have been recorded. Information on the number of countries in which the journal is read was not available at the time of the review. Issues are not pre-scheduled to appear on specific dates. There have been no significant interruptions in publication.

During the three-year review period, 18 full articles were published in the standard volumes (from 2016 to 2018) and eight in the special volume. From 2017 to 2019, 19 full articles were published. A total of 68 manuscripts were received in 2019 alone. About 60% of manuscripts were rejected without peer review in 2019, and 15% were rejected after peer review. About 60% of the papers published in 2019 had authors with a non-South African address.

Two peer reviewers are mandatory for each submitted manuscript. The selection of peer reviewers is based on their experience and expertise in relation to the submitted manuscripts. The extensive international advisory board also helps in this regard. Peer review is conducted in a 'double-blind way'. Reviewer critique and article improvement are rigorously implemented. The journal is very particular in ensuring that the reviewers' feedback on manuscripts is taken seriously. Peer reviewers are sent the revised manuscripts to confirm that their feedback and comments have been incorporated. In a few cases, peer reviewers may be sent the revised manuscript twice. Reviewer performance is not assessed in a formal way, and information is not captured in a database, although this is under consideration. About 25 peer reviewers were used in 2018, 70% of whom had had a non-South African address. The peer-review reports were accessibly retained in the journal's records. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication online is about one year, and one and a half years for the print version.

The editor-in-chief is the founder of the journal and has been in office for over four years. The period of appointment was not specified. The members of the editorial board deal with peer review and provide advice on editorial policies and practices. Members have been in office for over three years, and they were appointed through a consultative and nomination process. Their appointments are typically for three years, depending on their contributions and responsiveness. Members of the board are appointed from inside and outside the country to provide specific topical expertise.

The journal has editorial guidelines accessible online at <https://ejournals.bc.edu/ojs/index.php/ijahe/about>. The journal follows general principles that ensure rigour and credibility based on the practice of leading journals in the USA and the UK. Information on the conflict-of-interest policy was not provided at the time of the review. Errata are published when necessary. The journal publishes critical editorials as a value-added feature. The percentage of pages in each issue that represented peer-reviewed original material was 95%.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The journal covers a range of issues including teaching and learning, research productivity and community engagement, among others. Articles are of good quality and cover contemporary and relevant issues in Africa, but the focus tends to be on sub-Saharan Africa, particularly South Africa. A reasonable number of articles is published each year. The journal publishes two regular issues per year, with approximately six to eight articles per issue. A fair mix of national and international scholars publish in the journal. The editorials for special issues are quite substantive and scholarly, and aptly introduce the work that appears in the journal. It would be useful to add more scholarly features such as editorials, topical reviews, book reviews and scholarly correspondence.

Essential technical features:**(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)**

Consensus review: The reviewers agree that the abstracts are well-constructed and consistent. Language and stylistic issues are adequately addressed. The editorial team has a copy-editor, which is a positive aspect. There has not yet been any need to publish errata. There was no evidence of self-citation or in-house journal citations to be concerned about. The journal provides abstracts in both English and French. The presentation of articles is well laid out. Footnotes are mostly used for further clarification of associated issues. The journal performs well in these aspects

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability

Consensus review: This is a young journal that holds potential for both established and novice researchers to publish. It is currently not comparable to established international journals with respect to citations, but will grow with time as the journal becomes more established. However, the journal should track citations and various metrics (such as impact factor) and design strategies to increase citations.

Business aspects**(Business-related criteria; Bibliometric assessments)**

The journal is owned and published by the International Network for Higher Education in Africa. The regular print run is about 200–250 copies per issue. The managing editor is affiliated with the Center for International Higher Education (CIHE) at Boston College, USA; the copy-editor is in South Africa; the typesetter in Switzerland; printing is done in South Africa; and web hosting at CIHE. The journal does not carry any advertising. The journal has been financially supported by the Carnegie Corporation of New York since it was founded. The University of KwaZulu-Natal also provides support.

There are currently no page charges or APCs. The journal uses OJS, loads articles on to the website, and uses manual systems to manage the editorial workflow. The journal is freely accessible online without restriction. There have been offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal, but such offers have been declined. The journal is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International licence.

The journal is accredited by DHET and has been included in AJOL. The journal does not have an impact factor. Altmetric indicators are administered. 'Front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal has not been independently peer reviewed before.

Suggested improvements

Consensus review: This is a useful journal that covers important topics in African higher education. The journal should consider increasing the number of issues per annum, including editorials as well as invited state-of-science and field reviews to improve citations. Book reviews, letters and response papers should also be included.

According to the editor's self-evaluation report, the journal monitors download and impression metrics, but not bibliometric indicators such as citations and impact factors. The editorial team could do more to monitor these and design interventions based on the information.

Some responses to the questionnaire were incomplete, such as the number of countries where the journal is read, and whether there is a policy on conflict of interest. The journal should work to address these and obtain the outstanding information.

For inclusion on the SciELO platform, the journal would need to introduce global best-practice features such as the allocation of DOIs to the articles.

Panel's consensus view

- i. The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.
- ii. The journal should be invited to join the SciELO SA platform.

4.7.6 Journal of Consumer Sciences**Focus and scope:****(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)**

The *Journal of Consumer Sciences (JCS)* publishes articles that focus on consumer experiences in

different places, and from different perspectives and methodological positions. The journal considers research from within the fields of consumer studies, consumer science, home economics, family studies, consumer education, consumer rights and consumer behaviour. The journal also welcomes current consumer-related research that examines the impact of environmental, community and sustainability issues.

During 2020, the *JCS* was downloaded in 177 countries across the globe. The target audiences are consumer scientists and home economists in South Africa and Africa. The journal does not have subscribers to its publications. The largest readership group is from South Africa and comprises individual researchers from academic institutions who follow the journal. The journal has always had a national readership footprint. The *JCS* is an open-access online journal hosted by African Journals OnLine, which has delivered an international readership and raised awareness of the journal among international authors.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The editor and members of the editorial board have good standing in the field. Consumer sciences encompasses several fields, and the journal has done well to reflect this in the composition of the board. The board comprises a good mix of local and international researchers, but the journal could consider including more African representation on the board. The journal is based in South Africa, and it is thus to be expected that most of the publications are from South African authors.

Questionnaire

(Editorial process-related criteria)

The journal was established in 1973 under a different name, the *Journal of Dietetics and Home Economics*, which was subsequently changed to the *Journal of Family Ecology and Consumer Sciences*, and now the *Journal of Consumer Sciences*. The journal is published annually, with a general volume and two special editions, one on food and nutrition challenges in southern Africa and the other on diversifying clothing research in southern Africa. It is accessible online at <https://www.ajol.info/index.php/jfec/s/index>. The journal recorded 7 253 visits and 51 822 downloads in 2019. It is read in 175 countries, 38 of which are African countries. It is an open-access journal and is thus filled throughout the year as manuscripts are completed. There is no schedule, but publication is closed for a new volume to appear from 1 January until 31 December of the following year. There have been no recorded interruptions in publication.

During the three-year review period, 42 full articles and one review article were published. Information on the number of manuscripts received over the same period was not provided at the time of the review. Twelve articles were rejected without peer review and ten were rejected after peer review. None of the peer-reviewed papers had an author with a non-South African address.

Two reviewers are usually approached for each submitted manuscript, and a third reviewer is identified should one of the reviewers not be available to review. Reviewers are selected based on their expertise in the field of the manuscript. A reviewer may be selected to focus on a particular area in the manuscript. The two reviewers will therefore not necessarily always be from the same discipline, but will be selected for different purposes (e.g. one may be an expert in the main field covered in the manuscript, and the other might be an expert in a subfield that is addressed). Peer review is conducted through a double-blind process. This means that the reviewers do not know who the authors are, and the authors do not know who the reviewers are. Valid reviewer critique and article improvement are rigorously implemented. The reviewers complete a review report in which they must indicate any concerns they may have and make suggestions for improving the particular aspect. The authors are requested to submit a table in which they indicate where and how each reviewer's comments have been addressed. Peer reviewers do not receive follow-up information. Reviewer performance is not assessed. In 2019, 46 peer reviewers were used, only one of whom had a non-South African address. A folder is created for each manuscript to store relevant information. The peer-review reports were accessibly retained and saved on the cloud and external hard drive for each manuscript. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication online is eight to 11 months.

The editor has been in office since 2016. The appointment followed a competitive process in which nominations were requested from the different South African academic institutions that present

programmes in consumer science and related disciplines. The period of appointment was not specified. The editorial board members deal with peer review and provide expert opinion in a particular field. They also provide advice on editorial policies and practices. The board members have been in office since 2016. They were appointed according to their expertise nationally and internationally, and were approached with the invitation to act as board members. Their term of office was for five years and ended in 2021. Members are appointed from inside and outside the country to provide specific topical expertise.

The journal's editorial guidelines are accessible on the website at <https://www.ajol.info/public/journals/397/Editorial-and-Publishing-policies-JCS.PDF> and <https://www.ajol.info/public/journals/397/JCS-Publishing-Ethics-and-Malpractice-Statement-1.PDF>. The journal has a conflict-of-interest policy. The journal has editorial guidelines that are aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. The journal also has a corrections and retractions policy.

The journal does not publish any value-added features. The percentage of pages in each issue that represented peer-reviewed original material was 100%.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The journal consistently publishes quality research, and the download statistics show that it is of value to others in the field. The editor has done much to ensure that the journal grows and presents research that engages with contemporary developments in the field. Only South African authors publish in the journal, but the articles are downloaded across Africa and further abroad. The number of articles published per annum is rather low (under 12), but this may be linked to the nature of research and scholarship in the field. More international researchers should be encouraged to publish in the journal. Apart from one editorial, the journal does not have other additional scholarly features such as editorials, topical reviews, book reviews or scholarly correspondence.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: There are clear editorial guidelines and contact details for the editors. All articles are in English and are introduced by proper English-language abstracts. One erratum was observed in the copies under review. The citation practice is sound. The presentation, layout, style and copy-editing are all of good quality. Ethical standards were maintained in the reviewed volume.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability

Consensus review: The journal provides an excellent platform for young and aspiring educational researchers in South Africa to gain experience and have their work published. The journal can be compared to the *International Journal of Consumer Sciences*, with the reviewer likening the growth trajectory of this journal to the international journal, suggesting that this is a much-needed publication of good quality.

Business aspects

(Business-related criteria; Bibliometric assessments)

The title owner is the South African Association of Family Ecology and Consumer Sciences, and the publisher is AJOL. The journal is not printed. Production and distribution are not outsourced. The journal does not carry advertising and does not receive financial sponsorship.

There are no paying subscribers to this journal. Page fees are charged at ZAR80 per page, with a ZAR180 handling fee for the manuscript. The average page fees per article over the period 2017–2019 were ZAR1 066.70. The journal uses manual systems and loads articles on to the website to manage the editorial workflow. The journal is open access and is part of a non-commercial e-publication mechanism through AJOL. There have been no offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal. The copyright is owned by the journal. The journal is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International licence.

The *JCS* is indexed by DHET; EBSCOhost and Sabinet. The journal does not have an impact factor. Altmetric indicators are administered. The 'front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. This is the first independent peer review of the journal.

Suggested improvements

Consensus review: The reviewers saw much value in the journal and acknowledged the efforts of the current editor since 2016. The journal should consider including more African representation on the board.

The journal should consider broadening its scope to capture the diversity of the field and attract contributions from outside South Africa. Additional scholarly features such as editorials, topical reviews, book reviews, scholarly correspondence and conference abstracts are encouraged.

The journal should move towards a fully online management system. Currently, reviews seem to be collected manually. The editor should consider tracking journal citation statistics more closely and monitoring bibliometric indicators.

The editorial board is encouraged to actively participate in the journal, which would assist in alleviating the pressure on the editor and decreasing the turnaround time from submission to final publication.

The reviewer database should be expanded by asking authors to suggest names, on the understanding that the editor or board members will decide whether to use any of the suggested reviewers.

For inclusion on the SciELO SA platform, the journal would need to introduce global best practice features such as the allocation of DOIs to the articles.

Panel's consensus view

- i. **The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.**
- ii. **The journal should be invited to join the SciELO SA platform.**

4.7.7 *Journal of Psychology in Africa*

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

Findings from psychological research in Africa and related regions need an interdisciplinary forum for broad-based dissemination and utilisation in the context of development. The *Journal of Psychology in Africa (JPA)* provides such a forum. Its core mission is to advance psychological research for socio-cultural and health development in Africanist settings, including the African diaspora communities around the globe. While research that addresses African heritage realities and opportunities is particularly encouraged, the journal welcomes submissions from international settings addressing themes with potential for translational research in African cultural settings. The journal publishes original empirical research articles, research reviews, conceptual development articles and thematic issues. Manuscripts can be regular research reports or brief reports, or address topical professional issues, including case analysis reports. Book reviews are accepted for publication as special announcements. This is an international journal targeting primarily an international audience.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The editor is an internationally respected scholar and has been appointed for more than ten years. The associate editors are also highly reputable. Members of the editorial board are well-established scholars from a variety of institutions, most of whom have an international reputation. The editorial board consists mainly of members from South Africa (14) and the USA (14). Other board members are based in non-African countries such as Australia (six), while a few (seven) are based in African countries other than South Africa. The South African board members are mostly affiliated to North-West University. It would be good to see more board members from African countries, considering that the focus of the journal is primarily psychology in Africa as well as topics with the potential for translational research in African settings.

The editorial team considers this publication to be an international journal and not a South African journal.

Questionnaire

(Editorial process-related criteria)

The *JPA* was established in 1989 and publishes six issues per year. It is available online through the Taylor

& Francis platform at <https://www.tandfonline.com/rpia>. Information on the visit and download records was not available at the time of the review. The journal is read in 23 African countries. Issues are pre-scheduled to appear on specific dates. There have been no significant interruptions in publication.

During the three-year review period, 285 full articles, nine review articles (systematic reviews), five book reviews and 21 special issue articles were published. Information on the total number of manuscripts received over the same period was not available at the time of the review. However, 35% of the manuscripts received were rejected without peer review, and 45% were rejected after peer review. The proportion of peer-reviewed papers that had at least one author with a non-South African address was 56%.

Three peer reviewers are selected for each submitted manuscript. Peer reviewers are selected primarily based on their methodological expertise in relation to the submission. Peer review is conducted in a 'blind way'. Valid reviewer critique and article improvement are rigorously implemented. Peer reviewers receive follow-up information. Reviewer performance is assessed, and information is captured in a database.

The peer-review reports were accessibly retained in the journal's records. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication online was 63 days to publication, and in print was 78 days.

The editor has been in office for over ten years and was appointed for a six-year term, renewable subject to performance and availability. The appointment followed a competitive selection process based on visibility and scholarly seniority in the field as well as editorial experience with other leading journals. Members of the editorial board deal with peer review and provide advice on editorial policies and practices. They serve for a five-year term, renewable subject to the quality of their reviews and availability. Members of the editorial advisory board serve for a six-year term based on their availability and quality of advising. They were appointed competitively through a selection process that prioritised having a doctoral degree in the field, a strong research publication track record and regional location (Africa, Caribbean or Latin America, North America, Europe or Australasia).

Regional representation is important for this international journal; hence the editorial board is international. Members of the board each have areas of research emphasis in which they prefer to review. They must be research literate to review across a broad range of areas with an emphasis on method rather than content. The journal uses *ad hoc* reviewers for opportune topics in a boutique area of study.

The editorial guidelines are available on the journal webpage at <https://www.tandfonline.com/action/authorSubmission?journalCode=rpia20&page=instructions>, and the conflict-of-interest policy can be accessed at <https://authorservices.taylorandfrancis.com/what-is-a-conflict-of-interest/>. The journal follows the guidelines provided by COPE, the world-leading publication ethics committee. In addition, the publisher, Taylor & Francis has an in-house publication ethics committee that advises the journal. The journal publishes errata, for which there is a policy in place.

The value-added features published in the journal included critical editorials, critical topical reviews, analytical book reviews and special thematic sections. The percentage of pages in each issue that represented peer-reviewed original material was 98.5%, with the other features accounting for the rest of the space in the journal.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The journal publishes six issues per year, each consisting of a special issue, regular articles, brief reports, book reviews and professional issues. For the period under review, each issue contained between 14 and 19 articles, which represent a good number of articles per annum. Most of the articles do not represent the best work in the country or in Africa. The most cited article in the review period had six citations, which is low to average. A brief perusal of the articles indicates that many are of average quality, as would be expected of a generalist journal in psychology within its bibliometric range of impact. The ISI impact factor of the journal at the time of the review was 0.453, which is lower than that of some other similar journals in the field.

Overall, the articles are adequate, with some strange exceptions that seem neither to align with the aims and scope of the journal nor its geographical targets. There is a sizeable pool of examples of these, but they seem to be clustered around a focus on industrial psychology in China. Many of these articles offer no direct reference to Africa, and any translational opportunities or implications that

the results may present for the African continent are not clear. There are no articles that stand out as reporting on cutting-edge work being undertaken in the region. However, this is probably true of most average generalist journals in many disciplines. The central difference is that the *JPA* charges substantial publishing fees, which could discourage potential authors from seeking publication in the journal. The article developmental cost is of serious concern, especially since the articles are not open access.

The journal has a general focus on Africa, clustered mostly around challenges and phenomena related to South Africa. This could be usefully quantified through a systematic content analysis of the research questions that underpin articles published over the review period. There is a spread of authors from around the world, but the African authors are predominantly South African, and the international authors are mostly from Asia. Several important special issues appeared over the review period and these often attract the most interesting and high-quality articles (e.g. identities in transitional societies). Book reviews are intermittently published. There are a few quantitative articles with sophisticated data analysis.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: There are clear editorial guidelines and contact details for the editors. All articles are in English and are introduced by proper English-language abstracts. One erratum was published during the review period. Conventional citation practice is evident through a brief perusal of the articles under review. Taylor & Francis exercises good quality control over the production output of the journal. Standard formats are used in the design and layout of the articles.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability

Consensus review: The generalist nature of the journal lends itself to providing a useful entry point for publishing in psychology for postgraduates and emerging academics. However, the fees to publish in this journal are prohibitive in this regard. Each manuscript is subject to a mandatory charge of USD1 575 as a developmental author support levy. Although it is possible to apply for a reduction or waiver, the cost is simply unaffordable for authors in low- to middle-income countries that the journal claims to prioritise for publishing. Furthermore, the page fees associated with publishing in the *JPA* were not immediately visible on the home page and could not be readily found through a Google search. The journal might consider enhancing its patronage, especially to African authors, if they have the option of publishing their manuscripts in open access or via subscription without the automatic developmental author support levy of USD1 575.

Citation counts for the journal are very low. Some articles published two to four years ago had no citations at all at the time of the review. The total number of articles published exceeds the total number of citations. Very specific African-wide concerns may be published in the *JPA*, but the publication fees required to do so would prove prohibitive.

Business aspects

(Business-related criteria; Bibliometric assessments)

The title owner is the Africa Scholarship Development Enterprise (ASDE), and the publisher is Taylor & Francis. The regular print run varies by subscriber volume and whether they elect to receive the journal in print or electronic format. Production and distribution are outsourced to NISC. The journal does not carry advertising and does not receive financial sponsorship.

The journal charges a minimum charge of USD1 575 per article as a developmental author support levy. The journal uses an online management system for the editorial workflow and is part of a commercial e-publication service. The publisher is multinational but has a South African-based office and works with a local co-publisher, NISC. Copyright is vested with the ASDE and Taylor & Francis.

The journal is accredited by DHET and listed on IBSS; SSCI; SCImago; and Scopus. According to SCImago Institutions Rankings (SIR), the journal had an h-index of 15 at the time of the review. There are altmetric indicators. The 'front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal has previously been reviewed by Thomson Reuters (USA) and IBSS produced by the London School of Economics.

Suggested improvements

Consensus review: The biggest challenge to advancing this journal is the prohibitive compulsory developmental author support levy that is imposed on all manuscripts. According to the editor's communication, this charge appears to be aimed at supporting scholarship, but it has the reverse

effect of being unaffordable for most scholars in low- and middle-income countries, and discourages submissions to the journal. This cost should be optional for authors, or should be entirely recalibrated if the journal is to remain true to its mission.

A brief perusal of the articles published between 2017 and 2019 indicates that they are of average quality and cover a wide array of topics. Some outliers do not seem to meet the criteria listed under the journal's aims and scope. The editor and editorial board could consider examining article screening procedures to ensure that articles are aligned with the aims and scope of the journal.

One notable trend is that most articles appear substantially shorter than the 7 000-word limit, or at least there is some blurring between briefs, full articles and reports. A more systematic investigation is recommended to establish whether this is a general trend, and if so, what underlies it.

Moreover, it appears that whole articles are not easily identified according to the types outlined in the journal's scope and aims. A more rigorous process to better enforce type classification could be implemented to assist authors and readers to identify the kinds of articles they wish to write or read.

The current editor has served for several years. A succession plan should be put in place. Furthermore, the editor and editorial board should be elected and appointed for shorter periods of tenure, which would provide opportunities for greater capacitation of emerging researchers across Africa. The editorial board is large, with many based in non-African countries. The journal could consider recruiting board members from African countries other than South Africa.

Panel's consensus view

- i. **The journal should not continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list, regardless of its inclusion in the IBSS and Scopus indexes. This is not a South African journal, as highlighted by the editor.**
- ii. **The journal should not be invited to join the SciELO SA platform.**
- iii. **The editor and editorial board should consider the recommendations to increase access to articles and decrease costs. Whilst the developmental model is innovative, the associated costs are prohibitive, placing the journal beyond the capacity of most South African researchers. According to the feedback provided by the editor, the journal is positioned to cater for scholarship beyond South Africa and Africa and is already indexed in international lists.**

4.7.8 *Journal of Student Affairs in Africa*

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

The *Journal of Student Affairs in Africa (JSAA)* considers theoretical, practice-relevant and reflective contributions from across the scholarly field of student development, and the professional domains of student development and student affairs, taking due cognisance that the scope is broad, fluid and context dependent. The key focus area of the journal is the core functions of student affairs and services in Africa.

The JSAA is an interdisciplinary journal, broadly located within the field of higher education studies and the sub-field of student affairs. The scope of the JSAA is indicated by keywords such as student affairs, student career development, student counselling, student development theory and research, student discipline, student engagement, student experience, student finances and financial aid, student housing, disability/disabled students, student leadership and governance, student life cycle, student living and learning, student movement, student organisations, student orientation, student policy, student politics and activism, student sport, student support, academic development (and its intersection with the student affairs co-curriculum), graduate attributes, and teaching and learning support. This list of keywords is not exhaustive.

The JSAA is an independent, peer-reviewed, multidisciplinary, open-access academic journal that publishes scholarly research and reflective discussions on the theory and practice of student affairs in Africa. The journal's wide accessibility via different platforms (AJOL, Stellenbosch University e-Journals, the journal's own PKP-based website, DOAJ and ERIC) ensures that it is accessible to the South African research community interested in higher education studies and student affairs, including researchers, academics as well as practitioners.

The JSAA aims to contribute to the professionalisation of student affairs in African higher education. It strives to be the foremost academic journal dealing with the theory and practice of the student affairs domain in universities on the African continent, and an indispensable resource for the executive leadership of universities and colleges dealing with student affairs, deans of students, and other senior student affairs professionals, as well as institutional researchers, academics and students focused on the field of higher education studies and student affairs.

The journal has no paid subscribers. It is fully open access and predominantly distributed from several online platforms. It is also full text co-hosted on DOAJ and ERIC. Most readers (online users) are from South Africa, followed by the USA, Europe, Africa, and Asia.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: All three reviewers were complimentary of the journal, its scope, editor and editorial board. The editor and editorial board members have an excellent standing in the field and there is a good mix of local, regional and international members, with a slight leaning towards South African researchers. Furthermore, the editorial executive consists of senior research scholars with professional expertise on different topics related to student affairs. There is high international representation among the members in the editorial executive and editorial board, with many international board members and members from Africa (mainly South Africa).

The editorial executive has a clear vision and great passion for the journal and the field of student affairs. The journal addresses a unique and extremely important niche area. It creates a platform for researchers from various disciplines and backgrounds to contribute to research and practice on student development and student affairs. The fact that the scope is broad, fluid and context dependent is a major advantage for scholars working on topics that can potentially contribute to student affairs in South Africa and further afield in Africa, but who find it difficult to publish in other journals with more specific areas of focus. The JSAA fulfils the need for a journal to broaden the scope to a wider context than higher education alone.

Each issue in the journal has a particular theme. Contributions to the journal are varied and include opinion pieces and reflections (some of which are from academics of very high standing, professional esteem and expertise), research and empirical articles, and articles with a very practical approach (which is often lacking in highly academic journals). This creates a good balance for researchers and practitioners to make contributions to the knowledge base. The website is well presented and organised, and it is easy to get access to whole issues and individual articles. The navigation was seamless.

The JSAA is an international journal that encourages research publication for research scholars, academicians and professionals, as well as for students, to engage in their respective fields. The journal also provides an international forum for publicising knowledge. The journal is suitable for local graduate students and novice researchers in the discipline of student affairs. It publishes relevant topics on what has recently been happening in South Africa and the wider African continent.

Questionnaire

(Editorial process-related criteria)

The JSAA was established in 2012 and published its launch issue in December 2013. The journal is published twice a year. The main URL is its host address at Stellenbosch University e-Journals: <http://www.journals.ac.za/index.php/jsaa/index>. The journal also has its own alias URL: <http://www.jsaa.ac.za/index.php/JSAA>. The journal is hosted on African Journals OnLine at <https://www.ajol.info/index.php/jssa>. Between August 2018 and August 2020, Google Analytics indicates 34 238 page views during 10 293 sessions in which the 'bounce rate' (here defined as engagement for less than a minute) was 59.8%. The journal is predominantly accessed by South African-based users (37%), followed by users based in the USA (23%), China (3%), the UK (2.5%), Nigeria (2.2%), Kenya (2.1%), Ethiopia, Canada, France, Ghana and India (all approximately 2%). The journal is therefore very international with a bias towards South African and US users, followed by users from across the African continent as well as Europe and Asia. The journal is read across the African continent, especially in anglophone West, East and southern Africa, as well as in Ethiopia, North Africa (except Libya) and lusophone Africa. It is generally less read in francophone West and Central Africa. The main African countries where the journal website is accessed are South Africa (37%), Nigeria (2.2%), Kenya (2.1%), Ethiopia (2%), Ghana (1.8%), Zimbabwe (1.3%) and Rwanda (1%), as well as Tanzania, Zambia, Botswana and Uganda (all in the top 20 countries). It should be noted that

the JSAA makes a concerted effort to ensure that authors, editors and reviewers from across the African continent are included. Issues are pre-scheduled to appear in July/August and November/December. There have been no significant interruptions in publication.

[Note: The journal moved its university home to a new host in May 2021, from Stellenbosch University to the University of Pretoria. The primary URL changed to <https://upjournals.up.ac.za/index.php/jsaa>].

During the three-year review period, 48 full articles (research articles and reflective practice articles), ten book reviews (non-peer-reviewed) and two reading lists (annotated bibliographies) were published. The journal received 107 research articles and reflective practitioner articles over the same period, of which 35 were rejected without peer review, and seven were rejected after the double-blind peer-review process. The proportion of peer-reviewed papers that had at least one author with a non-South African address was 20% (19 authors or co-authors).

Two peer reviewers are selected for each submitted manuscript. Peer reviewers are selected based on their scholarly or professional expertise in the subject matter of a particular manuscript. Peer review is conducted in a 'double-blind way'. Valid reviewer critique and article improvement are rigorously implemented. All submitted manuscripts undergo an initial careful examination by members of the editorial executive committee to ensure that authors' submissions conform to best practice. It is the responsibility of the editors who appoint the reviewers to provide them with feedback. Typically, there would be no unsolicited feedback to reviewers. The work of the reviewers is acknowledged by annually publishing the list of reviewers who have reviewed articles in the previous year. Reviewer performance is assessed, and information is captured in a database. In 2019, 29 peer reviewers were used, 13 of whom had a non-South African address. The peer-review reports were accessibly retained in the journal's records. The average time from receipt of the manuscript to publication is approximately ten to 12 months.

The editor-in-chief has been in office since the inception of the journal in 2013 and was appointed based on discussions about establishing the journal. The period of appointment was not specified. Members of the editorial executive deal with peer review and advise on editorial policies and practices. The seven members of the current editorial executive have been in office for the following periods: four members since 2013, one member since 2016 and two members since 2018; and three members have left the board. The 19 members of the current international editorial advisory board have been in office for the following periods: ten members since 2013 and one who was on the editorial executive, one member since 2014, six members since 2016 coinciding with a review of the board, and one member since 2018 who was previously on the editorial executive; and three members have left the original board. Members of the advisory board are selected by the editorial executive in a collegial process. The editorial executive and international editorial advisory board are reviewed every three years; this was done for the first time in 2016. Replacements are appointed whenever there is a resignation. The editorial executive is predominantly composed of research scholars and professional experts working in South Africa (four of the seven members). The international editorial advisory board is predominantly composed of research scholars and professional experts working outside of South Africa (14 of the 19 members). Members are appointed to provide specific topical expertise.

The guidelines and policies of the journal are published on the website at <https://www.journals.ac.za/index.php/jsaa/about>. The guidelines of the journal are aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. Since its inception, the JSAA has not needed to publish any errata. The journal has been professionally proofread, typeset, and copy-edited, first by African Minds and now by African Sun Media.

The JSAA publishes value-added features such as critical editorials, 'news and views' analyses of articles being published, critical topical reviews (on occasion) and analytical book reviews. The percentage of pages in each issue that represented peer-reviewed original material was between 70% and 90%.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The JSAA reflects a very good sample of the research done in South Africa and in Africa. The journal has a stronger focus on South Africa, and a more limited focus on research in other parts of Africa. The 2017–2019 editions show a consistent focus on articles from countries other than

South Africa, which is commendable. The journal should continue its efforts to attract more research articles from the rest of the African continent.

The publications between 2017 and 2019 demonstrate high-quality articles, ranging from those with a strong theoretical focus to those that undertake an in-depth analysis of the literature. There is an adequate number of articles per annum (two issues per year), with articles that address various relevant and interesting topics. The citation counts are also a testament to the growing footprint of the journal.

The aspect of the journal representing a sample of the best work varies between issues. In some issues, highly qualified and professional experts and researchers present high-quality work. Other articles cannot necessarily be classified as the 'best work' done in the country but are informative and provide a practical context for a specific country's work. In the different volumes, various issues, challenges and problems are addressed related to the South African context. It is also interesting to read articles on issues reported in countries other than South Africa. In this way, the journal provides a platform to broaden understanding and learn from others, observe overlaps between problems that are common to many countries, and engage in possible solutions and interventions that could assist in research and practice. There are articles from various South African researchers and practitioners, as well as authors from other countries in Africa and abroad. The journal publishes very good useful additional scholarly features.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: The journal is professionally proofread, typeset and copy-edited. There is good citation practice, considering that this is still a young journal. The presentation, design, layout and style are excellent. The copy-editing is of high quality and standard. Images are presented in a clear, colourful and professional manner. All aspects of the technical features are very professional and of an exceptional standard.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability

Consensus review: This is an excellent journal for young and aspiring educational researchers in Africa to gain experience and have their work published. The JSAA is an international journal and encourages research publication from research scholars, academicians and professionals, as well as engagement by students in their respective fields. The journal also provides an international forum for researchers to publicise their knowledge. With time and the necessary exposure and (financial) support, the journal has promising potential to become a leading journal in Africa and attain a respected international standing.

Business aspects

(Business-related criteria; Bibliometric assessments)

The title owner is the editorial executive. The publisher is the editorial executive in collaboration with Stellenbosch University e-Journals. African Sun Media provides paid technical support for copy-editing, proofreading, typesetting and preparing e-journal/PDFs and print copies). The JSAA is predominantly distributed online via open access. A print run of 25–150 copies is printed per issue depending on specific demand. Print copies are not sold or distributed other than to selected university libraries or given away for promotional purposes. Technical production (copy editing, proofreading, typesetting, e-copy production and printing) is outsourced to African Sun Media. The journal carries unpaid advertising. It does not receive any financial sponsorship, but for guest-edited issues, a publishing contribution is required.

APCs are not levied. Since its inception, the JSAA has used a system of manuscript submission and editorial processes through email to the journal manager (as indicated on its open-access platform/ PKP system). It is envisaged that in the course of 2021, the JSAA will start using the online manuscript management system available on its PKP platform and move away from an email-based system. The JSAA is an open-access journal. There have been no offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal. All work published in the journal is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International licence.

The JSAA is indexed by AJOL; BASE; DOAJ; ERIC; Google Scholar; and WorldCat Libraries; and registered in SHERPA RoMEO. No impact factor has been calculated, and there are altmetric indicators. The 'front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal has been reviewed in the process of seeking DHET accreditation in 2016, and by AJOL and Scopus.

Suggested improvements

Consensus review: It is recommended that the journal encourage and mentor novice researchers from all public universities in South Africa to write research articles and publish in the *JSAA* as a home-based journal. This approach could promote a good submission rate of research papers and encourage research publication by novice researchers.

The journal should include more research articles and papers on reflective practices from other countries in Africa. Efforts should be made to reach out to other African universities. Articles that reflect collaborative research between South Africa and other countries in Africa, for example, Zimbabwe and Botswana, should be included in the journal.

The themed approach for each issue has drawbacks in terms of excluding other important contemporary work in the field that is not aligned with the themes. It may be useful to have both a themed and a general section per issue.

The journal should focus on enhancing the number of high-quality empirical articles. Theoretical and reflective articles, as well as practical reflections, are needed and are of great value and very informative. There were too many articles in which the method and results sections were loosely formulated, with very little information on sound methodology; descriptions of instruments or interviews conducted were too brief; very basic statistical analyses were conducted; or there was no mention of how the data were analysed.

It would be good practice to publish metadata with each article (including reception date, acceptance date, published date), which is stated as one of the journal's aims.

The practice of including ORCID information and implementing an online manuscript management system is strongly supported to replace the current email-based system. This is part of the aim of the journal.

Panel's consensus view

- i. The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.
- ii. The journal should be invited to join the SciELO SA platform.

4.7.9 LitNet Akademies - *Ekonomiese en Bestuurswetenskappe*

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

LitNet Akademies is a multidisciplinary Afrikaans academic journal for the humanities, economic and management sciences, religious studies, education, natural sciences and law. *LitNet Akademies* has a strong interdisciplinary focus, publishing research across several disciplines, specifically in Afrikaans. The journal has different sections, enabling it to accommodate a wide range of disciplines, namely: *Geesteswetenskappe* (Humanities), ***Ekonomiese en Bestuurswetenskappe (Economic and Management Sciences)***, *Godsdienstwetenskappe* (Religious Studies), *Opvoedkunde* (Education), *Natuurwetenskappe* (Natural Sciences) and *Regte* (Law). Each of the sections has its own discipline-based editor who manages the peer-review process as well as the general editing of articles in her/his area of expertise.

LitNet Akademies serves the South African research community extensively in various ways, including the following:

- *LitNet Akademies* provides an interdisciplinary platform for high-quality accredited articles in Afrikaans, thereby contributing to the development of Afrikaans as an academic language.
- The interdisciplinary character of the journal draws audiences from across disciplines, introducing academics (and interested users) to research in fields other than their own.
- This node for accredited research is embedded in the larger LitNet digital/hypertext environment, and research is thereby introduced to the broader public and not exclusively to a specialised research or academic community.
- The interdisciplinary editorial board members of *LitNet Akademies* are in regular contact, and articles that are not suitable for one section may be sent directly to another editor without first going through a process of rejection and resubmission.
- This unique model explores new possibilities for the delivery of quality accredited academic research.
- Research articles are promoted to the broader public through interviews, essays and online seminars.

Traffic is directed from other LitNet pages (e.g. its newsletter, letters page and blog forum) to *LitNet Akademies* accredited articles in order to draw traffic to academic research. Online seminars are arranged with experts, flowing from subjects touched upon in accredited articles, to integrate academic work with public discussion. Interviews with writers of peer-reviewed articles are conducted and published in the wider LitNet digital space and promoted not only via the destination website but also through social media (e.g. Facebook), which now serves as an index for many Web users, as users tend to rely on peers to call their attention to interesting material. A dedicated YouTube channel has been initiated for interviews with researchers on their work.

- The journal is investigating alternative ways to deliver non-accredited research material (e.g. the Einstein competition for young researchers).
- Concern about education at school and university levels is addressed by means of debates, commissioned opinion pieces (e.g. on disadvantaged schools, technology and the classroom) and the provision of expert learning material such as class notes, examination papers and memoranda.
- *LitNet Akademies* pays a research fee to both researchers/authors and peer reviewers, thus contributing to the costs of their future research.
- *LitNet Akademies* charges no page or production charges and is freely available, thus contributing to the concept of open access.

The primary target audience is Afrikaans-speaking researchers, students and the general public, both locally and abroad. There is also considerable interest in Dutch-speaking countries, as well as a readership of English speakers. With the latter in mind, lengthy English abstracts of the Afrikaans accredited articles are published and available from the home page.

The accredited articles form part of the wider LitNet platform. According to Google Analytics, the website had a record number of 171 811 unique users in May 2018. The average number of unique users per month for the period 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2019 was 119 435. *LitNet Akademies* research articles are also included in the Sabinet database; via Sabinet, material is available on the African Electronic Journals (SA ePublications) database used in university library search engines, as well as Google Scholar.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The reviewers indicated the ease of accessing the modern website and the resumé of the chief editor and respective associate editors to view their extensive qualifications. The journal has a strong editorial board, and the editors have high academic standing.

Questionnaire

(Editorial process-related criteria)

LitNet Akademies went online in January 1999, and until 2007 the unaccredited Seminar Room was used as the basis for initiating a peer-reviewed node for accredited academic publishing. The first accredited issue was published in 2008. Formal PDF issues are published three times per year. Individual HTML articles are published almost weekly throughout the year (and in some weeks four or five articles may appear) and combined into the formal PDF issues. The wider LitNet domain and *LitNet Akademies* home page are accessible at <https://www.litnet.co.za>. The URL to the node for accredited articles is accessible at <https://www.litnet.co.za/category/akademies/litnet-akademies>. Information on visit and download records was not provided at the time of the review. *LitNet Akademies* is an open-access journal available on the internet and accessed across the world. According to Google Analytics, 90% of LitNet readers were from within South Africa in 2019. Apart from the 90% of readers in South Africa, the top ten African countries listed on Google Analytics as part of the LitNet audience in 2019 were Namibia, Kenya, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Zambia, Mozambique, Ghana, Uganda and Eswatini.

Issues are scheduled to appear at regular intervals throughout the year. Specific publishing dates are not given, but the months of publication established for the three PDF issues over the past few years are April/May, August/September and December. The issues carry individual articles published in the periods between issues, resulting in research being published and available throughout the year and not only on the dates when the three formal PDF issues are published. This is a significant advantage and leads to immediacy and willingness to debate and interact by creating a sense of engagement and topicality. All *LitNet Akademies* issues have been published in the months indicated since 2009, except for 2019 when the second edition of volume 16 was published in October. There have been no significant interruptions in publication.

During the three-year review period, a total of six fully peer-reviewed articles were published in the *Ekonomiese en Bestuurswetenskappe* section. Only fully peer-reviewed articles are included in the formally accredited *LitNet Akademies* node, but the wider domain publishes an extensive range and significant amount of material engaging with the accredited articles and other related topics; for example, contributing to debates on the future of South African universities, access to education and language of teaching. As explained, this material consists of online academic seminars, interviews with researchers, book reviews, conference papers and competition contributions. Most of these articles are commissioned, and the authors receive payment. A total of 284 manuscripts were received over the same period; 23 manuscripts were rejected without peer review, and 85 after peer review. Three articles had a non-South African address.

A minimum of two peer reviewers are approached for each manuscript accepted for the peer-review process. If the overall review results are not unanimous, a third peer reviewer is approached as an arbitrator. Peer reviewers are selected by the individual section editors and sometimes by the editor-in-chief for their specific expertise within their field of study. Peer review is conducted in a 'blind way'. *LitNet Akademies* rigorously follows the implementation of valid reviewer critique and article improvement. Each article is returned to the author or authors for adjustments suggested in the peer-review reports, even if the article has been recommended for publication by both reviewers. An equally rigorous process of text editing is undertaken by language practitioners in consultation with the section editor and the author(s). Strict protocols are followed. Peer reviewers receive follow-up information in cases where the outcome of reviews is not straightforward (e.g. when a third reviewer is approached as an arbitrator). In cases where one or both reviewers have specific criticisms and recommendations, the amended article is sent back to the reviewers for approval before finally being accepted for publication. Each of the section editors assesses reviewer performance and uses such information for future reference and decisions. *LitNet Akademies* pays researchers a fee for peer reviewing. In 2019, a total of 217 peer reviewers were thus compensated (30 of which were for reviews of articles rejected after peer review), 2.3% of whom had a non-South African address. All peer-review reports are archived by the section editors and are available on request. Based on a random selection of articles, an average time of 18 weeks between receipt of a manuscript and online publication in HTML was calculated.

The *LitNet Akademies* founder editor-in-chief has been in office since the inception of the peer-review status of the accredited node. He has also been the founder editor of the wider domain since January 1999. The *Ekonomiese en Bestuurswetenskappe* (Economic and Management Sciences) acting editor has been in office since September 2017. The founder editor initiated the project and was not appointed competitively. The positions of the section editors were not advertised publicly; the appointments were done through initial headhunting followed by a thorough selection process. The editors are all of high academic standing and are also senior academics with considerable and strong research records. The section editors are contracted on a year-to-year basis, and the editor-in-chief of the academic project is appointed by the board of the non-profit company *LitNet Akademies*. The editors do not write official peer reviews of articles submitted to their sections. Members of the editorial advisory board may be asked to do peer reviews of articles within their field of expertise and provide advice on editorial policies and practices. The editorial board consists of the editor-in-chief, the section editors and the editorial manager (who is responsible for the production of the journal). The editor-in-chief and the language practitioner have been involved since the initiation of the project, thereby creating a stable environment. The other members of the editorial board were appointed with the creation of new sections. The journal has a strong editorial advisory board consisting of prominent academics from different disciplines and institutions across South Africa, with 12 board members from outside South Africa. The board comprises a good mix of older and younger, male and female, and white and black academics. The board is, at times, expanded to represent the growth of the journal to new disciplines, but there is no fixed term. Although there is no public advertising, a thorough selection process precedes appointments. The period of appointment is not specified. All members of the editorial board and editorial advisory board are appointed to provide specific topical expertise.

The accredited node *LitNet Akademies* does have published editorial guidelines, and is also subject to the policy guidelines of the wider digital domain, available at www.litnet.co.za and <https://www.litnet.co.za/litnet-akademies-ekonomiese-en-bestuurswetenskappe-stylriglyne/>. *LitNet Akademies* is subject to the policy guidelines of LitNet, available at <https://www.litnet.co.za/bepalings-en-voorwaardes>. The *LitNet Akademies* editorial policy guidelines are aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. *LitNet Akademies* has never found it necessary to publish any errata or retractions.

LitNet Akademies does not publish value-added features. Only fully peer-reviewed articles are included in the formally accredited *LitNet Akademies* pages. The percentage of pages in each issue that represented peer-reviewed original material was 100%.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The papers published during the three-year review period are of high standard and quality. Because the articles are published in Afrikaans, the authors are mainly from South Africa. The journal focuses on current issues that may invoke debate among researchers and the general public. Only fully peer-reviewed articles in the formally accredited *LitNet Akademies* pages are published, but the wider domain serves as a platform for extensive discussion of the accredited articles and other related topics, including online academic seminars, interviews with researchers, interviews with other specialists in the same research fields, analytical book reviews, conference papers, as well as relevant opinion pieces.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: The referencing and citation guidelines are clear and available. The presentation and layout of the academic articles are modern and of exemplary quality. Because the articles are published in Afrikaans, lengthy, comprehensive and accurate English abstracts of the Afrikaans accredited articles are published and available from the home page, and all publications are properly language edited.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability

Consensus review: The journal is an excellent example to showcase that the Afrikaans language can provide a high standard of published research. *LitNet Akademies* provides an interdisciplinary platform for high-quality accredited articles in Afrikaans, thereby contributing to the development of Afrikaans as an academic language.

Business aspects

(Business-related criteria; Bibliometric assessments)

LitNet Akademies is the title owner, and the publisher is LitNet. There is no regular print run. All production and distribution are handled in-house by LitNet staff. *LitNet Akademies* is embedded in the LitNet mainframe, which in turn carries both paid (very limited) and unpaid advertising. No advertising money flows to *LitNet Akademies*. LitNet often publishes announcements, advertisements and press releases with an academic theme free of charge (e.g. information regarding seminars, academic posts). The Trust vir Afrikaanse Onderwys and Naspers Chairman's Fund provide financial sponsorship to the journal.

LitNet Akademies does not levy any page charges or article-processing charges on authors. The editorial workflow is managed through an online management system, loading of articles on to the web and manual systems. *LitNet Akademies* is an open-access journal, and the node is also listed on Sabinet, a pay-to-subscribe e-publication service to which most scholars have access through their universities. *LitNet Akademies* is included in several university repositories.

There have been no offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal. It is open access, not for sale, and the company's memorandum of incorporation (MOI) bars the possibility of selling. Authors retain the copyright on articles published. Authors are bound by the licensing agreement of the publisher, LitNet.

LitNet Akademies is accredited by DHET. The journal has no impact factors. Altmetric indicators are administered. 'Front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal formed part of ASSAf's *Report on Grouped Peer Review of Scholarly Journals in Humanities Part 1: Literature Group* and was reviewed by ASSAf in 2016.

Suggested improvements

Consensus review: The journal could improve on internationalisation and invite experts to oversee a specific discipline.

The editors should consider publishing the list of reviewers.

Because of the multidisciplinary nature of the journal, it currently has no impact factor. The editors should explore possible bibliometric indicators that could be used to measure the status of the journal and attract more international Afrikaans-speaking authors.

Panel's consensus view

- i. The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.
- ii. The journal should be invited to join the SciELO SA platform.
- iii. The editors should take note of the suggestions for strengthening the journal, especially in relation to the LitNet journal for economic and management sciences (*LitNet Akademies - Ekonomiese en Bestuurswetenskap*), and efforts must be made to publish more articles in these disciplines.

4.7.10 LitNet Akademies - Opvoedkunde**Focus and scope:****(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)**

LitNet Akademies is a multidisciplinary Afrikaans academic journal for the humanities, economic and management sciences, religious studies, education, natural sciences and law. *LitNet Akademies* has a strong interdisciplinary focus, publishing research across several disciplines, specifically in Afrikaans. The journal has different sections, enabling it to accommodate a wide range of disciplines, namely: *Geesteswetenskappe* (Humanities), *Ekonomiese en Bestuurswetenskappe* (Economic and Management Sciences), *Godsdienstwetenskappe* (Religious Studies), **Opvoedkunde (Education)**, *Natuurwetenskappe* (Natural Sciences) and *Regte* (Law). Each of the sections has its own discipline-based editor who manages the peer-review process as well as the general editing of the articles in her/his area of expertise.

LitNet Akademies serves the South African research community extensively in various ways, including the following:

- *LitNet Akademies* provides an interdisciplinary platform for high-quality accredited articles in Afrikaans, thereby contributing to the development of Afrikaans as an academic language.
- The interdisciplinary character of the journal draws audiences from across disciplines, introducing academics (and interested users) to research in fields other than their own.
- This node for accredited research is embedded in the larger LitNet digital/hypertext environment, and research is thereby introduced to the broader public and not exclusively to a specialised research or academic community.
- The interdisciplinary editorial board members of *LitNet Akademies* are in regular contact, and articles that are not suitable for one section may be sent directly to another editor without first going through a process of rejection and resubmission.
- This unique model explores new possibilities for the delivery of quality accredited academic research.
- Research articles are promoted to the broader public through interviews, essays and online seminars. Traffic is directed from other LitNet pages (e.g. its newsletter, letters page and blog forum) to *LitNet Akademies* accredited articles in order to draw traffic to academic research. Online seminars are arranged with experts, flowing from subjects touched upon in accredited articles, to integrate academic work with public discussion. Interviews with writers of peer-reviewed articles are conducted and published in the wider LitNet digital space and promoted not only via the destination website but also through social media (e.g. Facebook), which now serves as an index for many Web users, as users tend to rely on peers to call their attention to interesting material. A dedicated YouTube channel has been initiated for interviews with researchers on their work.
- The journal is investigating alternative ways to deliver non-accredited research material (e.g. the Einstein competition for young researchers).
- Concern about education at school and university levels is addressed by means of debates, commissioned opinion pieces (e.g. on disadvantaged schools, technology and the classroom) and the provision of expert learning material such as class notes, examination papers and memoranda.
- *LitNet Akademies* pays a research fee to both researchers/authors and peer reviewers, thus contributing to the costs of their future research.
- *LitNet Akademies* charges no page or production charges and is freely available, thus contributing to the concept of open access.

The primary target audience is Afrikaans-speaking researchers, students and the general public, both locally and abroad. There is also considerable interest in Dutch-speaking countries, as well as a readership of English speakers. With the latter in mind, lengthy English abstracts of the Afrikaans accredited articles are published and available from the home page.

The accredited articles form part of the wider LitNet platform. According to Google Analytics, the website had a record number of 171 811 unique users in May 2018. The average number of unique users per month for the period 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2019 was 119 435. *LitNet Akademies*

research articles are also included in the Sabinet database, and material is available via Sabinet on the African Electronic Journals (SA ePublications) database used in university library search engines, as well as Google Scholar.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The journal has a very good national standing, with prominent academics from different disciplines and institutions across South Africa serving on the advisory board. It was highlighted that a significant number of NRF-rated South African researchers and experts in various disciplines have published in the journal. The international disciplinary reputation of the journal needs some improvement, and international authors should be encouraged to publish in the journal. The names of the advisory board members are not listed. It is recommended that the names of the editorial advisory board be made available on the website.

Questionnaire

(Editorial process-related criteria)

LitNet Akademies went online in January 1999, and until 2007 the unaccredited Seminar Room was used as the basis for initiating a peer-reviewed node for accredited academic publishing. The first accredited issue was published in 2008. Formal PDF issues are published three times per year. Individual HTML articles are published almost weekly throughout the year (and in some weeks four or five articles may appear) and combined into the formal PDF issues. The wider domain *LitNet* and *LitNet Akademies* home page is accessible at <https://www.litnet.co.za>. The URL to the node for accredited articles is accessible at <https://www.litnet.co.za/category/akademies/litnet-akademies>. Information on visit and download records was not provided at the time of the review. *LitNet Akademies* is an open-access journal available on the internet and is accessed all over the world. According to Google Analytics, 90% of *LitNet* readers were from within South Africa in 2019. Apart from South Africa (90%), the top ten African countries listed on Google Analytics as part of the *LitNet* audience in 2019 were Namibia, Kenya, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Zambia, Mozambique, Ghana, Uganda and Eswatini.

Issues are scheduled to appear at regular intervals throughout the year. Specific publishing dates are not given, but the months for the three PDF issues established over the past few years are April/May, August/September and December. The issues carry individual articles published in the periods between issues, resulting in research being published and available throughout the year and not only on the dates when the three formal PDF issues are published. This is a great advantage and leads to immediacy and willingness to debate and interact, as a sense of engagement and topicality is created. All *LitNet Akademies* issues have been published in the months indicated since 2009, except for 2019, when the second edition of volume 16 was published in October. There have been no significant interruptions in publication.

During the three-year review period, a total of 65 fully peer-reviewed articles were published in the *Opvoedkunde* section. Only fully peer-reviewed articles are included in the formal accredited *LitNet Akademies* node, but the wider domain publishes an extensive range and significant amount of material engaging with the accredited articles and other related topics, such as the debate on the future of South African universities, access to education and language of teaching. This material consists of online academic seminars, interviews with researchers, book reviews, conference papers and competition contributions. Most of these articles are commissioned, and the authors receive payment. A total of 284 manuscripts were received over the same period; 23 manuscripts were rejected without peer review, and 85 after peer review. Three articles had a non-South African address.

A minimum of two peer reviewers are approached for each manuscript accepted for the peer-review process. If the overall review results are not unanimous, a third peer reviewer is approached as an arbitrator. Peer reviewers are selected by the individual section editors and sometimes by the editor-in-chief for their specific expertise within their field of study. Peer review is conducted in a 'blind way'. *LitNet Akademies* rigorously follows the implementation of valid reviewer critique and article improvement. Each article is returned to the author or authors for adjustments suggested in the peer-review reports, even if the article has been recommended for publication by both reviewers. An equally rigorous process of text editing is undertaken by language practitioners in consultation with the section editor and the author(s). Strict protocols are followed. Peer reviewers receive follow-up information in cases where the outcome of reviews is not straightforward (e.g. when a third reviewer is approached as an arbitrator). In cases where one or both reviewers have specific criticisms and recommendations, the amended

article is sent back to the reviewers for approval before finally being accepted for publication. Each of the section editors assesses reviewer performance and uses such information for future reference and decisions. *LitNet Akademies* pays a researcher's fee for peer reviewing. In 2019 a total of 217 peer reviewers were thus compensated (30 of which were for reviews of articles rejected after peer review), and 2.3% had a non-South African address. All peer-review reports are archived by the section editors and are available on request. Based on a random selection of articles, an average period of 18 weeks between receipt of a manuscript and online publication in HTML was calculated.

The *LitNet Akademies* founder editor-in-chief has been in office since the inception of the peer review status of the accredited node. He has also been founder editor of the wider domain since January 1999. The *Opvoedkunde* (Education) editor has been in office since October 2015. The founder editor initiated the project and was not appointed competitively. The positions of the section editors were not advertised publicly; the appointments were done through initial headhunting followed by a thorough selection process. The editors are all of high academic standing, and all of them are also senior academics with considerable and strong research records. The section editors are contracted on a year-to-year basis, and the editor-in-chief of the academic project is appointed by the board of the non-profit company *LitNet Akademies*. The editors do not write official peer reviews of articles submitted to their sections. Members of the editorial advisory board may be asked to do peer reviews of articles within their field of expertise and provide advice on editorial policies and practices. The editorial board consists of the editor-in-chief, the section editors and the editorial manager (who is responsible for the production of the journal). The editor-in-chief and the language practitioner have been involved since the initiation of the project, thereby creating a stable environment. The other members of the editorial board were appointed with the creation of new sections. The journal has a strong editorial advisory board consisting of prominent academics from different disciplines and institutions across South Africa, with 12 board members from outside South Africa. The board comprises a good mix of older and younger, male and female, and white and black academics. The board is, at times, expanded to represent the growth of the journal to new disciplines, but there is no fixed term. Although there is no public advertising, a thorough selection process precedes appointments. The period of appointment is not specified. All members of the editorial board and editorial advisory board are appointed to provide specific topical expertise.

The accredited node *LitNet Akademies* does have published editorial guidelines and is also subject to the policy guidelines of the wider digital domain, available at www.litnet.co.za and <https://www.litnet.co.za/litnet-akademies-opvoedkunde-stylriglyne/>. *LitNet Akademies* is subject to the policy guidelines of LitNet, available at <https://www.litnet.co.za/bepalings-en-voorwaardes>. The *LitNet Akademies* editorial/policy guidelines are aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. *LitNet Akademies* has never found it necessary to publish any errata or retractions.

LitNet Akademies does not publish value-added features. Only fully peer-reviewed articles are included in the formally accredited *LitNet Akademies* pages. The percentage of pages in each issue that represented peer-reviewed original material was 100%.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The articles published are of high quality, and are provided with a comprehensive English abstract and keywords. The articles address local and regional issues, and the authors are from different institutions in South Africa. The journal is commended on its time frame. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and online publication in HTML is 18 weeks. It was noted that peer reviewers are topical experts in their specific fields and only consider the best-quality articles with original contributions for publication. The journal strives to publish the best work on relevant, interesting and topical issues in the various fields that it covers.

Even though the journal only publishes Afrikaans articles, it manages to open debates and evoke various opinions and perspectives and academic research on critical educational and social issues in the South African and global societies. There are some concerns about the lack of contributions for international authors. However, there seems to be consensus that the quality of the articles published is of high standard and adheres to the academic standard expected from accredited journals, nationally as well as internationally.

Essential technical features:**(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)**

Consensus review: The English abstracts are comprehensive and well written, and there is proper editing of the approved articles since the LitNet office for production oversees the text editing and proofreading of articles and abstracts. The citation practice is good and the presentation and layout of the journal are professional and of high quality, with clear publication details for authors.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability

Consensus review: The content and articles are relevant to a broad audience and compare favourably with similar journals in the field.

Business aspects**(Business-related criteria; Bibliometric assessments)**

LitNet Akademies is the title owner, and the publisher is *LitNet*. There is no regular print run. All production and distribution are handled in-house by *LitNet* staff. *LitNet Akademies* is embedded in the *LitNet* mainframe, which in turn carries both paid (very limited) and unpaid advertising. No advertising money flows to *LitNet Akademies*. *LitNet* often publishes announcements, advertisements and press releases with an academic theme free of charge (e.g. information regarding seminars, academic posts). The Trust vir Afrikaanse Onderwys and Naspers Chairman's Fund provide financial sponsorship to the journal.

LitNet Akademies does not levy any page charges or article-processing charges on authors. The editorial workflow is managed through an online management system, loading of articles on to the web and manual systems. *LitNet Akademies* is an open-access journal, and the node is also listed on Sabinet, a pay-to-subscribe e-publication service to which most scholars have access via their universities. *LitNet Akademies* is included in several university repositories.

There have been no offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal. It is open access, not for sale, and the company's MOI bars the possibility of selling. Authors retain the copyright on articles published. Authors are bound by the licensing agreement of the publisher, *LitNet*.

LitNet Akademies is accredited by DHET. The journal has no impact factors. Altmetric indicators are administered. 'Front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal formed part of ASSAf's *Report on Grouped Peer Review of Scholarly Journals in Humanities Part 1: Literature Group* and was reviewed by ASSAf in 2016.

Suggested improvements

Consensus review: It is recommended that the names and details of the editorial advisory board should be placed on the home page of the journal, and more international peer reviewers should be invited. The journal should create some form of impact factor and run special editions with guest editors. This could address the suggestion to feature work from rural and geographical areas that are often disregarded and overlooked.

The editors should consider providing information on ethical clearance, plagiarism tracking software and where the journal is indexed.

Panel's consensus view

- i. **The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.**
- ii. **The journal should be invited to join the SciELO SA platform.**
- iii. **The editors should consider making the names of the editorial board and advisory board clearly accessible on the website.**

4.7.11 New Agenda: South African Journal of Social and Economic Policy**Focus and scope:****(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)**

New Agenda: Journal of Social and Economic Policy is a South African journal with an interdisciplinary focus and an emphasis on economic issues. It provides rigorous and independent analysis and reliable data on a range of social and economic issues and engages in and encourages academic and policy debate. The primary target audiences are policymakers and analysts, academics, university students,

researchers and relevant stakeholders in the NGO sector. The journal has recently started publishing online and cannot measure its reach and readership.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus view: The editor-in-chief is of high standing, and the editorial team has some high-standing academics. Due to the journal's scope in relation to engaged policy debate, the editorial team has many policy leaders rather than academics. The reviewers noted that this is not a research-led academic journal. Instead, the journal focuses on policy debates and influence in the political domain, civil society and academia. The focus of the journal is on stimulating policy-related debate in society and within the policy circle. The journal occupies a necessary space in the interface between research, policy debates and civil society's role in mobilisation for policy interventions.

Questionnaire

(Editorial process-related criteria)

New Agenda was established in 2000 and is published quarterly. It is available online at <https://ifaaza.org/latest-new-agenda/>. Information on visit and download records and the number of countries in which the journal is read was unknown at the time of the review. Issues are pre-scheduled to appear on specific dates. The death of the long-serving editor, Prof Ben Turok, in December 2019 disrupted publication, and the journal was required to find a guest editor. Coincidentally, at around the same time, two of the three other members of the production team left the organisation. COVID-19 halted printing, sales and distribution for six months.

During the three-year review period, 43 full articles, ten book reviews and 20 interviews were published. About 60 full articles, ten book reviews (commissioned) and 20 interviews were submitted over the same period. No manuscripts were rejected without peer review, and about 15–20% were rejected after peer review. Less than 5% of the peer-reviewed papers had at least one author with a non-South African address.

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The previous editor used to conduct peer review in consultation with the two editorial board members. The two members of the board who are academic professors (one of whom is retired) are the current reviewers. Peer review is not conducted in a 'blind way'. The accepted articles do not require much adjustment other than implementing the journal's referencing style and cutting to the usual length. Some articles that would otherwise be rejected are often referred with a brief for a rewrite. Peer reviewers do not receive follow-up information. Reviewer performance is not assessed, and information is not captured in a database. Four peer reviewers were used in one of the three years under review, none of whom had a non-South African address. The peer-review reports were not accessibly retained in the journal's records. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication online and in print is three to six months.

The current editor has been in office since 2020 and was headhunted by Prof Turok. The appointment period was for three years. Members of the editorial board deal with peer review and advise on editorial policies and practices. Five members of the board have been in place since 2014. The other five were appointed in 2018. Information on their appointment period, the process of appointment and the location of the board members was not provided at the time of the review.

The journal is guided by its mission statement. *New Agenda* does not accept payment for editorial content, and advertorial content is clearly identified. Writers' affiliations and funding sources, where applicable, are also identified. ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review* does not apply to the journal. Errata are published in the next issue.

The journal publishes value-added features such as critical editorials and analytical book reviews. The percentage of pages in each issue that represented peer-reviewed original material was 60%.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus view: The journal is explicit about its policy-political focus, and has a particular concern in relation to South African developments, and policy and political debates. These are often well written and engaging, but many of them are best understood as commentary or opinion pieces rather than research articles presenting the results of original empirical research or theory-based analysis. These

contributions are often very short at less than 5 000 words. These observations are not intended as a criticism of the journal per se, since the additional features are consistent with its aims, and independent journals of this nature are important and ought to be welcomed. They have the potential to make an important contribution to vigorous, informed debate and analysis, and the spread of ideas. However, different metrics for quality assessment are required for the different forms of articles. The guidelines for article submission should reflect the different formats more clearly.

The system of peer review for articles that fall on the 'research' side of the spectrum is not clear. The practice and communication of the journal's policy in this regard should be reviewed by the editor and editorial board to bring it in line with best practice (as set out in ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice*). It appears that the former editor had a major hand in both the peer-review process and decisions around acceptance or rejection of submissions, and that the number of additional reviewers used is very limited. The appointment of a new editor is an opportune time to review and strengthen the peer review policies for articles that aim for recognition as full research articles.

The journal publishes a reasonable number of articles on relevant topics per issue but, as noted above, most are short and many take the form of commentary pieces rather than full-length research articles. Authors are often well-known local public figures or public intellectuals, and some are academics with a good scholarly reputation. Overall, the journal can be regarded as contributing to policy debates and more-informed public discourse.

The focus is strongly on South Africa, with a commitment to a broader pan-African coverage. The authors are almost entirely local; the editor estimates the percentage of authors with a non-South African address at under 5%.

The journal carries editorials and book reviews, although the latter are short (500 words or less) and are not designed to deliver in-depth reviews of the book under consideration. There are also edited interviews with prominent public figures and reports on projects, both of which add to the policy interest and topicality of the journal.

In summary, judged as an academic journal, the quality of articles in *New Agenda* is average to poor. However, this is because it is intended to provide a space for policy debates, and in this respect, it would be assessed as 'good'. It was noted that the journal does not have a clearly defined blind peer-review process. The journal has a clear focus on contemporary South African policy questions, and involves many leading academics, public intellectuals and state officials. In terms of South African policy debates, the journal makes an important contribution. However, in terms of research outputs, the journal does not represent the best work in South Africa or abroad. The journal has significant enrichment features.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus view: The journal does not use standard academic abstracts, but more of a summary of what is in the article. All articles are in English. The citation practices do not meet the standard norms of academic practice. The overall design and layout of the journal and of individual articles online are good; care is taken with the presentation of articles with a view to enhancing their visual appeal and accessibility. This is in keeping with the aim of the journal to reach out not only to academics but to a broad spectrum of informed and interested readers.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability

Consensus view: The journal provides analyses, commentary and some primary material (e.g. interviews), making it suitable as a resource for graduate students and academic staff in the social and economic sciences generally. The journal offers graduate students and young academics articles that are easy to read and digest but which offer immense insights into policy issues in South Africa and other parts of the African continent and the Global South. As noted, the target readership extends beyond these groups to include policymakers and the NGO sector as well, which is commendable.

A comparison of this journal with 'leading international journals' would be unfair. It is not an academic journal in the conventional sense. Its primary focus is initiating debates on public policy and the functioning of public institutions. In terms of the set objectives, the journal does exceptionally well in its stated domain. Its niche is multidisciplinary public debate and policy intervention.

Business aspects

(Business-related criteria; Bibliometric assessments)

The Institute for African Alternatives (IFAA) is the owner and publisher. The journal has a regular print run of 2 000 copies per issue. Production and distribution are outsourced to freelance designers, and the journal uses an agent to distribute the publication. The journal carries paid advertising and receives financial sponsorship from the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation.

The journal had 110 paying subscribers, 51 of whom were individual subscribers as opposed to organisations. The journal does not charge APCs. The journal uses an online management system, loading of articles on to the web and a manual system to manage the editorial workflow. The journal is open access and it is part of a commercial e-publication service through Sabinet, and also part of a non-commercial e-publication mechanism. There have not been any offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal. The copyright belongs to IFAA.

The journal is accredited by DHET and does not have an impact factor. There are altmetric indicators. The 'front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. This is the journal's first independent peer review.

Suggested improvements

Consensus view: *New Agenda* does not currently meet the standard for research-led academic publishing, and needs to clarify its standing in respect of academic publishing. The journal should retain its current position as a home for contemporary policy debates led by practitioners in South Africa, or transform into a proper academic journal. The journal should make a much clearer distinction between academic research and public commentary in its current format. The appointment of a new editor is an opportune time to review and strengthen peer-review policies for articles that aim for recognition as full research articles. Should the journal continue as it is, it would still be a worthwhile endeavour to employ different metrics for quality assessment and to determine the impact of the content. Further guidelines for article submission should reflect the different formats more clearly.

The editor and editorial board should develop a much-expanded panel of independent reviewers in relevant disciplines for the peer review of research articles, under the oversight of the editor and the board. Information about the members and role of the editorial board should be available on the home page of the journal website; at present this information is available only in the front pages of the journal itself.

Given the pan-African commitment of *New Agenda*, the editor and editorial board should explore ways to broaden the continental reach of the journal in terms of both readers and authors. Expanding the editorial board to include respected academics from African universities, research institutions and policy think-tanks could be a useful first step in this direction.

Panel's consensus view

- i. **The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list on condition that the suggested improvements are implemented by the end of 2024.**
- ii. **The journal should not be invited to join the SciELO SA platform.**
- iii. **The editor should seriously consider the feedback provided in terms of incorporating more research-based articles that undergo blind and rigorous peer review such that the journal would meet the criteria for accreditation.**
- iv. **In addition, the panel believes that this journal plays a significant role in the policy landscape and should consider creative ways in which it may be able to function by publishing, for example, both empirical research and commentaries.**

4.7.12 *Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy in South Africa [Name changed to Psychoanalytic Practice]*

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

[Note: This document was completed during a major transition period for the journal. For the past few years, *Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy in South Africa (PPSA)* has been struggling to attract sufficient quality papers due to the journal's local focus and title, and niche theoretical field (with only a few local universities teaching a psychoanalytic orientation). The journal has found that practising clinicians do not write regularly, while academics (who write more regularly) prefer submitting to international

journals. The fact that the journal is small and historically has featured only 3–4 papers per issue has also made it increasingly difficult for the journal to meet the 75/25% DHET rule. Thus, a decision was taken by the journal's editorial board at the AGM in November 2019 to run one last edition of *PPSA* in 2020 in honour of the passing of one of the journal's founders (Trevor Lubbe, who passed away at the end of 2019) and then rebrand the journal to internationalise. The name change will not affect the scope of the journal. The aim is to try to gain wider international authorship and readership. The journal will be changing its name to *Psychoanalytic Practice*.]

The objective of the journal is to act as a vehicle for psychoanalytic thinking to develop psychoanalytic psychotherapy in the areas of theory, clinical practice, training, and research. The journal focuses predominantly on the application of psychoanalytic theory to clinical work (psychotherapy); however, the journal does publish papers that apply psychoanalytic thinking to broader historical and societal issues, which opens the scope somewhat to writers from disciplines other than psychology. *PPSA* offers a forum for authors engaged in more specialist psychoanalytic writing, as the journal assumes a level of familiarity with psychoanalytic theory in its readership base. This allows for the development of psychoanalytic theory, especially in its application to the local context.

PPSA's target audience was predominantly local clinicians and scholars, but also attracted a small international following. The hope is that through rebranding, a larger international readership can be attracted. Historically, *PPSA* subscription has been included in the annual fees of members of the South African Psychoanalytic Confederation (SAPC). These subscriptions from practising psychologists and students constituted more than 75% of the readership. The other 25% was made up of non-SAPC member subscribers (mostly local, with some international) and a few international institutions. In future, subscriptions will be done individually on the journal website, which will be updated to reflect the name change.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The editorial team consists of a good mix of academics and experienced private practitioners. The academics represent psychology departments that have a strong psychoanalytical focus in their professional programmes. The questionnaire to the editor mentions an international editorial board member, but such person is not reflected on the website, hence the reviewers and the panel could not comment on their reputation. With the journal's intended shift towards a more international audience, the editorial board should aim to include more members with an established international academic profile.

The journal struggled to attract sufficient quality papers due to its local focus and title, and niche theoretical field. The rebranded journal is in competition with several high-profile journals. The quality of the papers on average is very good. This is in comparison to competing international journals on psychoanalytic practice. Many of the articles address local issues of relevance in psychoanalytic practice such as racism, minority prejudice as well as issues of social justice. The journal reflects a good range of these issues.

Questionnaire

(Editorial process-related criteria)

The journal was established in 1992 and is published twice per year. The journal has recently moved to an online platform. It can be accessed at <https://www.ppsajournal.co.za/>. Information on visit and download records, as well as the number of countries in which the journal is read, was not available at the time of the review. Issues are pre-scheduled to appear on given dates. Historically, there have been a mid-year issue and an end-of-year issue; however, in 2019 due to a lack of papers that met the quality requirements, the issue was delayed. Subsequently, the issues for 2019 were collapsed into one longer edition which was published at the end of 2019. The mid-year issue of 2020 was delayed due to COVID-19. Most of the volunteer editorial staff are academics, and the disruption of the academic year due to the national lockdown created some delays.

During the three-year review period, 18 full articles and four book reviews were published. The journal received 25 articles and four book reviews over the same period. Four manuscripts were rejected without peer review, and three were rejected after peer review. Only one paper was from an international author.

At least two peer reviewers are selected for each submitted manuscript. The editor matches the article's subject areas with the reviewer's areas of expertise. Reviewers who could possibly identify the author based on the content of the paper are avoided as far as possible. Peer review is conducted in a 'blind way'. Valid reviewer critique and article improvement are rigorously implemented. In the case of minor revisions, the editor checks that the reviewers' feedback has been implemented. In cases where a paper required major revision, the paper is re-reviewed by one of the original reviewers and the editor. Inadequate implementation of feedback results in the paper being returned to the author with further comment highlighting necessary changes. Peer reviewers do not receive follow-up information, but this is currently being considered by the editorial board for implementation. The suggestion is to forward both blind reviews to each reviewer and let them know the outcome of the process. Reviewer performance is assessed. Reviewers who submit poor reviews are not asked to act as peer reviewers again. Furthermore, poor reviews are not used in the peer-review process. Instead, additional reviews are requested from another peer reviewer. This information is not captured in a database. In 2018, 16 reviewers were used, none of whom had a non-South African address. One international reviewer was used in 2017. The peer-review reports were accessibly retained in the journal's records. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication online and in print was three to eight months.

The managing editor has been in office for 11 years, and the editor has been in office for over five years. The current managing editor was approached by the previous managing editor, who was unable to continue with the duties. The editorial board proposed a list of potential candidates, and the current editor was offered the position. Their appointment periods were not specified. The editor handles the administration around blind peer review. Board members are often approached to review, but many reviewers also come from the psychoanalytic community at large, usually those with experience in writing or in academia. If the editor is a co-author on a paper, another board member handles the blind review process to ensure its integrity. The members of the board provide advice on editorial policies and practices. The longest-serving member has served since the inception of the journal in 1992. The most recent member was appointed at the beginning of 2019. Most other board members have served for at least four to ten years. Their appointments did not follow a competitive process. According to the journal's constitution, board members serve for a period of three years, at which point half the board resigns (but can stand for re-election). There is currently one international editorial board member. Board members have diverse topical expertise within the field of psychoanalysis. Some are in academia and others are in private practice with extensive writing experience.

The editorial guidelines are published on the journal website under 'Notes to contributors'. The journal has a conflict-of-interest policy. Both authors and reviewers are required to declare any conflicts of interest. Authors are required to declare this on the title page of an article. Reviewers are requested to declare any conflicts of interest in the reviewer guidelines ('Notes to reviewers'). The journal's editorial guidelines are compatible with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. The journal has not encountered any errors, but would publish errata if any errors become apparent.

The journal publishes critical editorials (occasionally), analytical book reviews and correspondence on published articles as value-added features. The percentage of pages in each issue that represented peer-reviewed original material was at least 80%. Only book reviews are not peer reviewed.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The journal published excellent work around psychoanalytic psychotherapy that is contextually grounded and linked to issues of social justice. The articles published during the 2017–2019 review period were of variable quality. The articles authored by academics tend to offer more original, scholarly and potentially impactful contributions than those authored by private practitioners, or by current or recent graduate students. The latter groups of authors often apply existing psychoanalytic theory to specific cases or contexts, but do not always offer novel theoretical or clinical contributions that could impact on the field more broadly. These manuscripts may therefore not have been accepted by international psychoanalytic journals. Novelty and impact aside, all the contributions are clearly written and well edited.

There are usually two issues per annum, with three or four articles each. This yielded six articles for 2017 and seven for 2018. In 2019 due to a lack of submissions, there was only one issue with five articles. Across the three years, this is a low number of articles per issue and per annum compared to other South African or regional psychology journals as well as international psychoanalytic journals. The editor indicated

that there is a very limited pool of potential contributors to the journal under its current branding, and this has now led to plans to rebrand and re-target the journal in order to generate more and better quality contributions. This decision seems entirely warranted given the low number of articles deemed publishable in this review cycle.

As the editor notes, South African academics working psychoanalytically have increasingly tended to publish in international journals, reflecting institutional requirements to publish in higher-impact journals. It is thus likely that some of the best quality work by South African authors working in this field is being published in international psychoanalytic journals. However, *PPSA* has certainly published an adequate sample of good quality, locally produced work.

Despite the journal title, the scope of the journal does not have an exclusive focus on South African contextual issues. However, the content of the issues over the period 2017–2019 does reflect a focus on applying a psychoanalytic lens to local contextual issues, probably due to the preponderance of local rather than international contributors. With the shift towards attracting more international submissions and readership, it is unclear whether the new iteration of the journal will include a focus on local and regional issues, or whether this will just depend on where the submissions come from. The articles published in this review period represent authors from different regions of South Africa. There was only one article by an international author, probably due to the current branding of the journal as South African. Most volumes include an editorial and a book review.

In summary, the journal publishes only two issues a year with very few annual contributions. A limited number of 16 articles, four book reviews and two forum contributions were published over the three-year review period. One of the strengths is the inclusion of editorials, book reviews and a forum space (although the role of the forum space is not clear) apart from research articles. Most of the authors are from the University of the Witwatersrand, and there is only a single article from an international author. Whilst the articles are well written and deal with issues relevant to psychoanalysis in South Africa, they are not cross-cutting and are not from experts in the field. The journal should try to attract more diverse contributions from across South Africa.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: All articles are in English and are introduced by proper English-language abstracts. The abstracts are well written and of a good standard. The presentation, layout, style and copy-editing are all of good quality. Ethical standards were maintained in the reviewed volumes.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability

Consensus review: Local graduate students and young staff in professional psychology training programmes would find the journal content of value as it reflects contextual issues. The contributions of local private practitioners and recent graduates should theoretically encourage new graduates and junior psychoanalytically oriented academics to publish in the journal.

The number of issues and articles published per annum is well below the average for leading international journals. Some of the contributions by private practitioners and graduate students would most likely not have been accepted in leading international psychoanalytic journals due to their limited potential impact on the field.

Business aspects

(Business-related criteria; Bibliometric assessments)

The editorial board both owns and publishes the journal as a non-profit organisation. Since the recent move to an online platform, only limited print runs will be done to supply libraries and specific requests for hard copies. The distribution is not outsourced, but the printing is outsourced. The journal does not carry advertising. Conference announcements are sometimes included, but not advertisements for products or workshops. The journal does not receive financial sponsorship.

There are about 400 paying subscribers, 5% of which are institutions as opposed to individuals. The journal does not charge APCs. The journal uses a manual system to manage the editorial workflow. The journal is not open access, and there is an annual subscription fee. There have been offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal, but such offers have been declined. The journal retains the copyright for the published articles. Authors retain certain rights to use the accepted author manuscript and the published article. Authors are required to sign a publishing agreement.

The journal is accredited by DHET and listed on Cengage; EBSCOhost; Google Scholar; ProQuest; and Sabinet. There are no impact factors or altmetric indicators. The 'front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal was independently peer reviewed by DHET at the time of applying for accreditation.

Suggested improvements

Consensus review: The proposed changes are not necessarily recommended by the reviewers and review panel. Renaming the journal *Psychoanalytic Practice* will not set it apart from any of the numerous psychoanalytic journals around the world. A focus on clinical practice – which is what the proposed new name suggests – is not at all unusual for psychoanalytic journals, almost all of which publish both clinical and theoretical papers. Moreover, there is no special expertise in psychoanalytic practice among South African clinicians. The editor should compare the rebranding of this journal with the existing Taylor & Francis journal *Psychodynamic Practice* and consider whether the proposed relaunched journal will offer anything new and distinctive.

The editor should actively solicit contributions on South African themes (e.g. the psychoanalysis of racism, transformation, gender-based violence or corruption) from leading authors, subject to blind peer review, and invite open peer commentaries on these papers and online discussion. There could be much more reporting on local events such as the two annual conferences of the South African Psychoanalytical Association (SAPA) and the South African Psychoanalysis Initiative (SAPI), which are always original and local in content and often highly topical and controversial. Another suggestion is to engage international psychoanalytic thinkers on issues faced in South Africa (e.g. a special issue topic such as the Black Lives Matter movement; the Rhodes/Fees Must Fall movement; the Marikana massacre; State Capture; the Life Esidimeni tragedy; or the life and work of Edwin Cameron).

The editorial team could consider widening the scope of the journal to psychodynamic practice rather than being narrowly focused on psychoanalytical work. A section titled 'Student forum' could be included, with contributions invited from national and international students for this section. This might contribute to introducing the journal to a broader group of potential contributors and subscribers. A practical suggestion is to liaise with national and international psychology departments that focus on psychoanalysis and psychodynamic psychotherapy and their applications. Group contributions could be invited from specific departments or student groups, and special issue editors could invite or contract authors to contribute to contemporary issues such as engagement with race, poverty, decolonising psychodynamic work or psychotherapy, and training and practice in non-Western contexts.

As the journal starts to orient itself more towards an international audience, it may be useful to include some invited reviews from leading international scholars that address specific issues in psychoanalytic practice (e.g. psychoanalytic practice in lower-resource or culturally diverse contexts). Integrative reviews by leading scholars often attract an international readership and can help build the profile of a journal. The journal would do better to establish an online footprint, including an online submission system.

The journal is not open access and does not meet the criteria for inclusion on the SciELO SA platform. If the journal were to change to openly accessible full text, it would need to commit to including DOIs and keywords with its articles.

Panel's consensus view

- i. **The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list on condition that the proposed restructuring occurs.**
- ii. **The journal should not be invited to join the SciELO SA platform.**
- iii. **The panel believes that the journal should approach other journals in this broad field with a view to cooperation or possible mergers. Alternatively, the journal could rebrand with a broader focus in psychotherapy.**

4.7.13 *Southern African Journal of Social Work and Social Development*

Focus and scope:

(Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership)

The purpose of the *Southern African Journal of Social Work and Social Development* is to promote and stimulate research and innovation that empowers individuals, families, groups, organisations and communities to advocate for and advance sustainable development and human well-being. The

journal is committed to publishing research that contributes to the creation of socially just, rights-based and humane living contexts, both locally and internationally, with a particular focus on the southern African region.

The journal has its roots in social work, which is the discipline from which most contributors come. However, the title and scope of the journal are interdisciplinary and include geography, sociology, political studies, anthropology, religious studies, psychology, development studies, economics, public health and management, as well as some of the natural sciences (e.g. dietetics, nursing). The journal provides guidance, based on sound research, for those who practice, tutor, research or study in the fields of social work and social development in southern Africa. The intention of the journal is to maintain a balance between theory and practice. There is only one other social work journal in southern Africa (*Social Work/Maatskaplikewerk*) and one other journal on development (*Development Southern Africa*). The journal thus provides a unique and important space for regional research on social work and social development.

Readers of the journal are primarily social work practitioners and educators, but also include community development practitioners, development workers and social policymakers. Contributors are therefore encouraged to specify the practical implications of their work for those involved in social work and social development practice and education in the African context. The primary target audiences are predominantly local social work and development scholars, but also scholars from other disciplines, and those working in southern Africa and further afield. Currently, all the major South African universities have subscribed through Sabinet. The subscribers to the journal include 11 higher education institutions and one government department.

Editing functions:

(Standing, local institutional spread, international participation)

Consensus review: The editor, assistant editor, section editors and members of the editorial board represent different academic institutions across the country and have a diverse profile. They are all academics with high national disciplinary reputation and academic stature, while some, such as the editor and assistant editor, also have high international academic stature and are recognised as leaders in the discipline of social work. The editorial team is of good standing and has a good institutional spread and some international participation.

Questionnaire

(Editorial process-related criteria)

The journal was established in 1988 and publishes three issues per year. It is available online at <http://upjournals.co.za/index.php/SWPR/index>. The journal recorded 11 039 views and 1 890 downloads in 2018 and 2019 through Sabinet. The OJS records indicate 22 088 views and 1 592 downloads in 2018 and 2019. The journal was read in 93 countries, 26 of which are African countries. Issues are pre-scheduled to appear in March, July and November. There have been no significant interruptions in publication.

During the three-year review period (2017–2019), the journal received 191 manuscripts and published 80 full articles and seven editorials. About 33 manuscripts were rejected without peer review, and 29 were rejected after peer review. The proportion of peer-reviewed papers that had at least one author with a non-South African address was 13%.

Two peer reviewers are selected for each submitted manuscript. Peer reviewers are selected from a pool of reviewers loaded on to the database, comprising mostly academics in South Africa as well as reviewers from other countries. The database is regularly updated from a separate list of social work academics maintained by the Association of South African Social Work Education Institutions (ASASWEI). In addition, the journal board has an official shortlist of reviewers who serve on the review board. These reviewers are utilised more regularly than the larger pool of reviewers. The areas of the research topic and methodological expertise are captured for each reviewer. Once the editor has screened a submission for originality, length and relevance to the journal, she or he identifies two reviewers, who have not reviewed very recently, to serve as reviewers based on their expertise. Where possible, consideration is given to gender, race and nationality to ensure as diverse a pool of reviewers as possible. Reviewers may not come from the same institution as the author. Peer review is conducted in a 'double-blind way'. Authors are not informed who reviewed their article, and reviewers do not know who the author is. Reviewer critique and article improvement are rigorously implemented. Once both reviews are received, the editor reads the full manuscript and the two reviews. The reviewers'

comments are evaluated in relation to the editor's reading of the manuscript. The feedback letter to authors includes both reviewers' comments as well as additional comments from the editor, who may also provide guidance to authors if the reviewers contradict each other or the journal requirements. Many reviewers, and sometimes also the editors, provide comments directly to the manuscript, and these are anonymised and submitted to the authors. As a rule of thumb, authors are given a second chance to improve a manuscript unless both reviewers agree that it should be declined. There is thus an investment in developing the research writing skills of authors.

Peer reviewers receive follow-up information. The editor sends the reviewers an anonymised copy of the letter to the authors after the actual review, allowing them to see the review of the other reviewer. The editor makes additional comments to reviewers in the email if there are discrepancies between the reviewers, or between the reviewers and the editor. This is done to strengthen the reviewing skills of reviewers. Once the article is finally accepted or rejected, the reviewers are usually notified of this final decision. Reviewer performance is assessed, and information is captured in a database. There is a facility for rating reviewers on OJS, and reviewers are rated globally based on turnaround time and the usefulness, specificity and objectivity of their review. These ratings influence the decision to use a particular reviewer again. In 2019, 130 reviewers were used, 7% of whom had a non-South African address. The peer-review reports were accessibly retained in the journal's records. The journal is now run entirely on the OJS of Unisa Press, so all reviewer reports and letters from the editors are available for auditing. The average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication online was 388 days to publication in 2020.

The editor has served as interim editor, assistant editor and co-editor since January 2016. The journal also has an assistant editor and five section editors. Historically, the journal has not followed an open advertisement process. The board identifies individuals with qualities suitable for the editor. These are ranked in order of preference and then approached systematically with an invitation to apply for the position. The editor does not have an appointment contract, but his re-appointment as co-editor was approved by the board in late 2018. Members of the editorial board do not generally deal with peer review but assist when asked to do so. They provide advice on editorial policies and practices as a key part of their role. Members have been in office for periods ranging between two and six years. The board identifies individuals who have various qualities that make them suitable to become a board member, taking into consideration the profile of the individual and of the board (e.g. demographic diversity, international representation in the region and globally). These are ranked in order of preference and then approached systematically with an invitation to apply to join the board. Their term of office is for three years, which is renewable. They are appointed from inside and outside the country to provide specific topical expertise, broadly in relation to social work and social development, but not with an eye on reviewing individual manuscripts.

The journal has a general set of editorial policies that cover the focus of the journal, the peer-review process and the nomination of the editorial board. In addition, there are guidelines for authors on manuscript preparation, submission and page fees. These are available at <http://upjournals.co.za/index.php/SWPR/about>. The journal does not have a conflict-of-interest policy. The editorial policy and guidelines of the journal are largely aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*. The journal does not have a policy on errata, but errata are published when necessary.

The journal publishes value-added features such as critical editorials, critical topical reviews and analytical book reviews. The percentage of pages in each issue that represented peer-reviewed original material was 99%.

Content:

(Quality, focus, spread within domain, sample of best work in SA, enrichment features)

Consensus review: The journal practices vigorous implementation of peer-review critique, and authors have the opportunity improve manuscripts, which contributes to the high standard of articles that are accepted for publication. In this way, the quality of articles is enhanced and the academic and research writing skills of authors are also improved, which serves as a stimulus for the publication of scholarly work.

The substantial number of manuscripts that are declined before and after peer review is testament that the journal publishes the best and most contemporary research. The quality of the articles published ranges from average to good. Apart from 2017, when challenges were experienced due to the change

of editors, all issues have been released on schedule. The journal has been published three times per annum since 2018, with a good number of articles per annum.

The journal has a strong focus on a wide range of local and regional problems dealt with by social workers, social service professionals and community workers from a social work and social development perspective. It is one of the stated aims of the journal to offer a space for the publication of such regional research. On average, about eight manuscripts were published quarterly in each issue, and the articles were each about 18 pages long including references. The articles read well and cover a wide range of social issues.

The issues presented in the journal focus on both local and regional issues and across fields of social work, but predominantly on social welfare and working with individuals (e.g. including mind, body health; psychological impact on individuals) and families (e.g. including youth-headed households, widows), community (e.g. volunteers, community-based learning) and social policy (e.g. women and land ownership, NGOs), and broader issues of decoloniality, neoliberalism and social-belief issues. Some of the articles covered school and medical social work. The articles were relevant to the issues faced by local communities, and the authors presented these clearly from different perspectives. Although some of the authors were not social workers, their material was relevant to the journal and of high quality.

The journal focuses on southern Africa, and an overwhelming majority of articles were from South Africa, followed by Zimbabwe, Botswana, and other West and East African countries such as Nigeria, Ghana and Burundi. Similarly, many the authors were social workers, followed by psychologists, while some were from developmental studies and sociology. In the most current issue reviewed, public health practitioners (from the field of nursing) also contributed. The journal seems to appeal to practitioners in fields related to social work. The journal consistently offers scholarly features such as editorials, and occasionally book reviews.

In terms of quality, the articles range from average to good, with some of the best work in the field being published in the journal. As regards focus, the reviewers noted the broad scope of the journal both in terms of the geographical coverage of the region and the research fields of social work and social development. Despite shifting to a regional focus during the review period, the journal remains dominated by South African authors. Lastly, in terms of enrichment, all reviewers noted that little had been done in this regard; editorials had ceased in 2018, and book reviews were very rare.

Essential technical features:

(English abstracts, errata, citation practice, presentation)

Consensus review: Abstracts are in English and are well written. There were no published errata. Citation practices were satisfactory, with a few minor errors. The presentation, design, layout and style are adequate and create a professional image. One reviewer suggested that the use of more figures, tables and pictures could improve the journal.

Usefulness in capacity development, and international comparability

Consensus review: The journal serves as a platform for publications of local graduate students, as evident from the vast number of joint publications of graduates and their supervisors, and from the joint publications of experienced academics and young staff in the disciplines concerned. In this way, the journal offers a stimulus for the publication of scholarly work. In addition, the journal serves as a study source that undergraduate and graduate students can access and utilise for study purposes, and teachers can use for teaching and learning. The journal thus assists capacity development both as a source of accessible research for young scholars and as a vehicle for joint publication by junior and more senior scholars.

The journal could soon become comparable with others in the field such as *Development Southern Africa* and *Social Work/Maatskaplike Werk*.

Business aspects

(Business-related criteria; Bibliometric assessments)

The title owner and first co-publisher is the Department of Social Work at the University of Johannesburg, and the second co-publisher is Unisa Press. The journal is printed only via print on demand. Between 10 and 30 copies of each issue are printed. Production and distribution are managed by Unisa Press. The journal does not carry any advertising and does not receive financial sponsorship.

The journal has 15 paying subscribers through Unisa Press and 58 through Sabinet. For Unisa Press, 11 of the 15 are organisations, and for Sabinet all 58 are organisations. Authors are charged a page fee of ZAR175.44 per page (including VAT) for published articles. The editorial workflow is managed through OJS, a manual system and the loading of articles on to the web. The journal is not open access and is part of a commercial e-publication service.

There have been no offers from multinational publishers to purchase the journal. Unisa Press has a copyright agreement that authors must sign, and copyright is vested in Unisa Press. However, as long as authors do not use the article in ways that would directly conflict with the publisher's business interests, they retain the right to use their own article (provided they acknowledge the published original in standard bibliographic citation form).

The journal is accredited by DHET. There are no impact factors or altmetric indicators. 'Front details' for papers and English abstracts are mandatory. The journal has not been independently peer reviewed before.

Suggested improvements

Consensus view: The journal should consider additional scholarly features such as topical reviews, book reviews, conference papers and scholarly correspondence.

Internal organisational development practices around the editorial team could be strengthened. More scholars from beyond South Africa and outside of social work should be recruited, and more articles should be attracted from young scholars and practitioners.

For inclusion on the SciELO SA platform, the journal would need to change to openly accessible full text and commit to including DOIs in its articles.

Panel's consensus view

- i. The journal should continue to be listed on the DHET accredited list.**
- ii. The journal should be invited to join the SciELO SA platform should it become open access.**

Appendix A: Questionnaire sent to editors of journals under review

[Note: The questionnaire was revised in 2018 before the reviews took place.]

1. Purpose of journal, positioning, focus, scope, readership, etc.:

- 1.1 What is the focus and scope of the journal (i.e. what does it say about this in your masthead)?
- 1.2 Is the journal's aim to focus on a specific discipline or field, or does it (also) include an interdisciplinary focus?
- 1.3 How does the journal serve the South African research community in relation to its focus and scope?
- 1.4 Who are your primary target audiences (predominantly local scholars or also further afield)?
- 1.5 What is the journal's reach and how is the readership composed (i.e. international subscribers, institutions, and/or individuals in terms of numbers and/or percentages)?

2. Editorial process-related criteria:

- 2.1 When was the journal established?
- 2.2 What is the publication frequency of your journal, per year?
- 2.3 If online,
 - 2.3.1 What is its URL?
 - 2.3.2 What is the visit and download record?
 - 2.3.3 In how many countries is the journal read?
 - 2.3.4 In how many African countries is the journal read?
- 2.4 Scheduled issues:
 - 2.4.1 Are issues of your journal pre-scheduled to appear on given dates?
 - 2.4.2 If scheduled, do the issues in fact appear regularly on the scheduled dates?
- 2.5 Have there been significant interruptions in publication since the journal's inception? If so, provide details.
- 2.6 Peer-reviewed original papers:
 - 2.6.1 How many peer-reviewed original papers have you published during the last three years:
 - a. Full articles?
 - b. Letters?
 - c. Review articles?
 - d. Book reviews?
 - e. 'Conference papers'?
 - f. Other?
 - 2.6.2 How many manuscripts in each of the above categories were received in the last three years?

- 2.7 Rejection rate:
- 2.7.1 Approximately how many manuscripts in each category were rejected *without* peer review (as a pre-peer review decision)?
 - 2.7.2 How many were rejected *after* peer review?
- 2.8 What proportion of peer-reviewed papers of all kinds that you published had at least one author with a non-South African address?
- 2.9 Peer reviewers:
- 2.9.1 How many peer reviewers are usually approached for each submitted manuscript?
 - 2.9.2 How are peer reviewers selected?
- 2.10 Is peer review conducted in a 'blind way', i.e. authors and institutions blinded out?
- 2.11 How rigorous is the implementation of valid reviewer critique and article improvement?
- 2.12 Do peer reviewers receive follow-up information, e.g. outcomes of the reviews?
- 2.13 Is reviewer performance assessed and is such information captured in a database?
- 2.14 Total of peer reviewers:
- 2.14.1 How many peer reviewers were used in total, in any one of the last three years?
 - 2.14.2 What proportion of these had non-South African addresses?
- 2.15 Are peer-review reports accessibly retained in your records?
- 2.16 What is the average period between receipt of a manuscript and its publication:
- In print?
 - Online?
- 2.17 Editor/editor-in-chief:
- 2.17.1 How long have you been editor/editor-in-chief of this journal?
 - 2.17.2 Were you appointed competitively (i.e. following advertisement and a selection process)?
 - 2.17.3 For what period have you been appointed?
- 2.18 Do members of your editorial board and/or editorial advisory board:
- 2.18.1 Handle peer review of individual manuscripts?
 - 2.18.2 Advise on editorial policies/practices?
 - 2.18.3 How long have they been in office:
 - Editorial board?
 - Editorial advisory board?
 - 2.18.4 Are they appointed competitively (i.e. following advertisement and a selection process)?
 - 2.18.5 For what period?
 - 2.18.6 From inside and outside the country?
 - 2.18.7 To provide specific topical expertise?

- 2.19 Policies:
- 2.19.1 Do you have published editorial/policy guidelines? What is the policy? (Please send us a copy)
- 2.19.2 Is there a conflict-of-interest policy? If so, please provide details.
- 2.19.3 Have your editorial/policy guidelines been aligned with ASSAf's *Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing and Peer Review*?
- 2.20 Do you publish errata in all cases where errors have become apparent? What is your policy?
- 2.21 Does your journal contain value-added features such as:
- Critical editorials?
 - 'News and views' analyses of articles being published?
 - Critical topical reviews?
 - Analytical book reviews?
 - Correspondence on published articles?
 - Other?
- 2.22 What is the percentage of pages in each issue that represents peer-reviewed original material?

3. Business-related criteria:

- 3.1 Who is the actual title owner (legally) of the journal? And the publisher(s)?
- 3.2 What is the regular print run of your journal, if it is printed?
- 3.3 Are production and distribution outsourced? If so, provide details.
- 3.4 Do you carry advertising which is:
- Paid?
 - Unpaid?
- 3.5 Do you receive financial sponsorship(s)? If so, please list the sponsors and provide details.
- 3.6 What is the number of paying subscribers?
- 3.7 How many of the subscribers are organisations as opposed to individuals?
- 3.8 Do you impose page charges or article-processing charges on authors? If so, provide details.
- 3.9 How is the editorial workflow of the journal managed?
- Online management system
 - Loading of articles on to web
 - Manual system
 - Other
- 3.10 If your journal appears online:
- Is it free online (open access)?
 - Is it free online but password protected?
 - Is it part of a commercial (pay-to-view and/or pay-to-subscribe) e-publication service?
 - Is it part of a non-commercial e-publication mechanism (i.e. MEDLINE)?
- 3.11 What is the journal's estimated total cost each year?

3.12 Has the journal had offers to purchase from multinational publishers?

3.13 What are your copyright arrangements?

3.14 What licensing agreement do you have with authors?

4. Bibliometric assessments:

4.1 Could you provide us with a list of the indices in which the journal is indexed (including Web of Science and/or the IBSS, Google Scholar, Scopus as well as others)?

4.2 Have impact factors (e.g. Google Scholar, WoS or Scopus) ever been determined for your journal? If so, what were they?

4.3 Do you use any altmetric indicators (number of visits to journal website, number of downloads, citations on social media) to monitor the journal's 'performance'?

4.4 Are 'front details' for papers like titles, authors, addresses, affiliations and English abstracts mandatory?

4.5 Has your journal ever been independently peer reviewed before and by whom?

5. General:

5.1 Is there any other information or do you have any comments that may be useful to the panel?

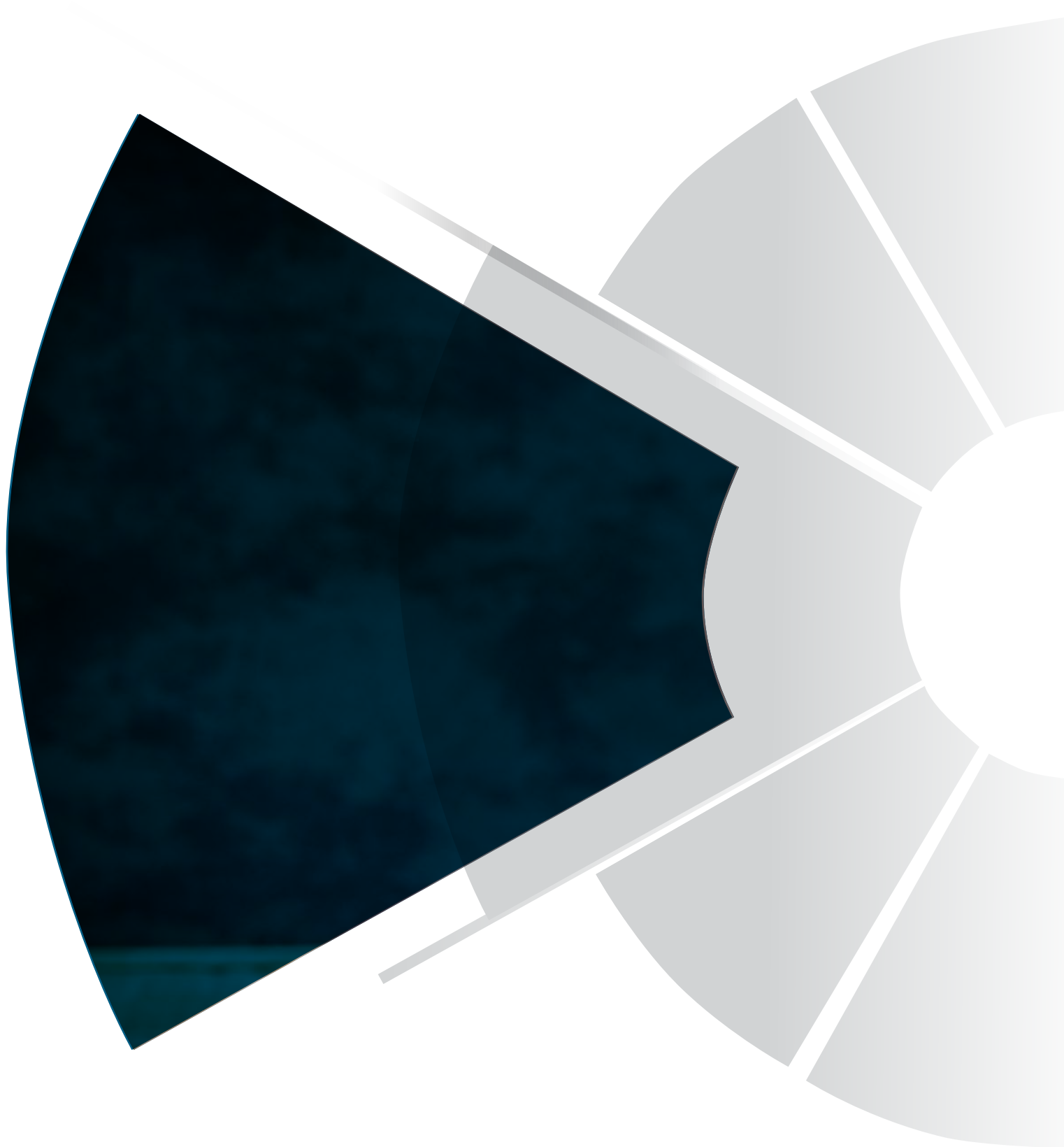
5.2 What do you regard as the main challenges that your journal and editorial team face?

Appendix B: Requests to independent peer reviewers

1. Do the hard copies of the last 2–3 years of issues of the journal reflect:

- 1.1 high national/international disciplinary reputations/standing of the editor-in-chief/associate editors/members of the editorial board?
- 1.2 a high/good (general/average) quality of the articles accepted/published?
- 1.3 a (contextually) adequate/good number of articles each year?
- 1.4 an (adequate/good) sample of the best work done in the country in the discipline/field?
- 1.5 a focus on local/regional kinds of materials/problems?
- 1.6 publication of articles by authors from across the country, and internationally?
- 1.7 useful additional scholarly features such as editorials, topical reviews, book reviews, scholarly correspondence?
- 1.8 appropriate (English-language) abstracts for all articles?
- 1.9 suitable publication of errata?
- 1.10 good citation practice?
- 1.11 good presentation, design, layout, style, copy-editing interventions, images are used in an ethical manner?
- 1.12 suitability as a general ongoing stimulus for local graduate students and young staff in the discipline concerned?
- 1.13 some kind of comparability with leading international journals in the field?

2. Please list your suggestions for an improvement programme for the journal.



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A. Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) Publications

A. ASSAf Consensus Study Reports

2023-06

Report on Grouped Peer Review of Scholarly Journals in Other Disciplines

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