

Successes in decolonizing research partnerships : Open Science

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Commission for Research Partnerships with Developing Countries (KFPE) - Annual Conference Decolonizing Swiss
Research Collaborations 2023

Workshop «Open Science as a Means to Decolonize Scientific Publishing and Foster Fairer Research
Collaborations», 09.05.2023



Open Science

- ▶ Is the movement to make scientific research (including publications, data, physical samples, and software) and its dissemination accessible to all levels of society, amateur or professional.
- ▶ Is transparent and accessible knowledge that is shared and developed through collaborative networks.

Source

1. *Understanding open science*". unesdoc.unesco.org. UNESCO.org. 2022.
2. Woelfle, M.; Olliaro, P.; Todd, M. H. (2011). "Open science is a research accelerator". *Nature Chemistry*. 3 (10): 745-748.
3. Parsons, Sam; Azevedo, Flávio; Elsherif, Mahmoud M.; Guay, Samuel; Shahim, Owen N.; Govaart, Gisela H.; Norris, Emma; O'Mahony, Aoife; Parker, Adam J.; Todorovic, Ana; Pennington, Charlotte R. (March 2022). "A community-sourced glossary of open scholarship terms". *Nature Human Behaviour*. 6 (3): 312-318.

Challenges

Include

- Funding is often raised as one of the key challenges for researchers
- Scarcity of mentors, lack of writing skills, lack of motivation, and low demand for research by policymakers.
- Lack of research capacity building courses, collaboration, and networking opportunities
- Research seen as a watered-down imitation of what's published in the West.
- Frequently, there is no link between the science being done and the real-world conditions in which it is applied.
- Scholars are increasingly specialized in narrow disciplinary topic areas, which can produce very specialist articles with no connection to public discourse.

Collaboration

- Collaboration is vital as a way to promote open science
- It brings about a cross-fertilization of ideas, helping to create new perspectives
- Pool knowledge and share information that could lead to new discoveries.
- Helps people learn from one another and develop new skills, which can improve the quality of their work.

Open Peer Review Workshop in Africa

- AfricArXiv, Eider Africa, eLife, PREreview, and TCC Africa collaborated to develop a peer-review training workshop, tailored to the region-specific context of African researchers.
- They co-created tools and strategies for scholarly literature evaluation, for a workshop series with researchers
- The Trainer-of-Trainers (ToT) model aimed to create a multiplier effect; trainees encouraged and empowered to mobilise, recruit and train colleagues in their respective scholarly communities.

Goals and approach

- Build capacity and enthusiasm for scholarly open review of preprints among African researchers;
- Provide opportunities to actively participate in peer review and gain recognition through community engagement;
- Help decolonize the academic publishing process by creating equitable opportunities for African researchers to learn together, lead and teach others.

Key principles

- Co-creation
- Localization of content and multilingualism
- Train-the-trainer model
- Openness
- Ongoing support

Objectives

- Reflect on how the legacy of systems of oppression manifest in the peer-review process;
- Identify, reflect on, and address personal biases and assumptions in peer review;
- Learn best practices to write a manuscript review
- Access opportunities to participate in the open peer review and build a public profile as a reviewer.

Participants authored rapid PREreviews and collaboratively wrote a full PREreview published on the PREreview website and on Zenodo.

Crossref: Research Nexus

- Links and relationships in the metadata captured.
- It makes connections between authors, funding, funders, research institutions, publications and other research outputs.
- Provides open, sustainable infrastructure for the global scholarly community
- Aim to reduce the barriers to participation
- A robust research nexus is only possible if the entire community contributes metadata for their local scholarship into the network.
- The Global Equitable Membership (GEM)
- Offers relief from membership and content registration fees for members in the least economically-advantaged countries in the world.
- Members in GEM-eligible countries do not pay Crossref membership or content registration fees.



The African Journal of Bioethics (AJB)

Established in 2022 with the aim of

- Improve the visibility of research in Africa and LMIC's
- Making publication possible for researchers
- Eliminate the barrier of funding
- Encourage pan-African harmonization in pertinent bioethical issues affecting Africa
- Enhancing the standards of experimental and observational research ethics
- Promote robust discussions on emerging bioethical issues.



THANK YOU