OUR MISSION
To support individuals and institutions to produce, share and use research and knowledge, to transform lives.

OUR CORE PILLARS
Capacity building | Convening
Influencing | Partnerships
Supporting the visibility of research from the Global South since 1998

8 JOL’s in LMICs and regions
895 journals
4.2 million downloads during 2016
AJOL's vision is for African learning to be translated into African development

The world's largest online library of peer-reviewed, African-published scholarly journals

www.ajol.info
Global talent is needed to address global problems. Researchers in the global South are often in the best position to address the world’s biggest challenges.
It is vital that Southern researchers have the opportunity to publish their research and for it to be discoverable by other regional - as well as global - researchers.
“The divide between the rich & the poor, the privileged and the deprived, the powerful and the marginalised has become marked primarily by a differentiation in access to knowledge & information. Those who have access to cutting-edge knowledge hold the advantage in all arenas of social, political & economic life today”

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela
The challenges for Southern journals

Southern journals face many challenges in terms of being respected internationally which can limit the perceived credibility of the published research.

Usually stand-alone journals; not commercially published.

Online accessibility was the first challenge, but also:

- Under-represented in international indexes and rankings.
- Lack of familiarity with international publishing standards.
- Legitimate but unfamiliar journals wrongly labelled as “predatory”.
- Lack of financial and structural support.

[Inasp logo] [AJOL logo]
The impact on research and development

Research effort can be wasted because other researchers don't know about it and can't build on it

Lack of contextual evidence for policy makers and influencers
Journals in the global South can champion local and regional research.

“Ensuring that high-quality Southern journals are trusted as part of regional and global scholarship is essential for redressing international scholarly imbalances and helping the Sustainable Development Goals to be realized.”

Sioux Cumming
Programme Manager, INASP’s Journals Online project
Understanding local contexts and challenges faced by Southern journals

"The JPPS framework builds on many years of work by AJOL and INASP in supporting the dissemination of Southern journals and understanding the various contexts and challenges faced by these journals.

We needed a new means to objectively verify and share credibility of journals from LMICs."

Susan Murray
Executive Director of AJOL
A far-reaching set of criteria for assessing Southern journals

www.journalquality.info

Jointly hosted by

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AFRICAN JOURNALS ONLINE

AJOL
Reassures readers and authors that journals meet international standards to a particular level

Guides journal editors on improving publishing processes

Acknowledges journals that have attained internationally recognized publishing standards
Journals assessed against the JPPS criteria and are given one of six levels:

- three stars
- two stars
- one star
- no stars
- new title
- inactive title

www.journalquality.info
Assessment criteria

**One star** - has met the basic inclusion requirements for at least two years

**Two stars** - compliant with additional publishing practice quality criteria

**Three stars** - consistently excellent in the technical and editorial publishing best practices set out in the JPPS framework criteria

**New title** - has been publishing for less than two years, but meets basic inclusion requirements

**Inactive** - has not added new content to the JOL platform in over one year

**No stars** - not currently meeting the basic criteria for inclusion on a JOL platform
Assessment criteria

108 criteria based on:

Inclusion standards set out by international journal indices and industry guidelines *

Experience of contexts and practices in developing country journal publishing

Testing and feedback from journal editors in Africa

*Including DOAJ, SciELO South Africa, Clarivate, Scopus, WAME, FAME, COPE

NOTE: JPPS does NOT assess quality of research content, only publishing practices

www.journalquality.info/criteria
of every journal on a JOLs platform

provided to editor, highlighting areas to improve

of JPPS level added to each journal’s site

of assessed journals available only at

by UK-based experts in developing country publishing

How it works

JPPS levels are being rolled out to journals on JOLs platforms around the world during the 2nd half of 2017
How it will continue

- **Re-Assessment**
  - by application from a journal
  - And spot checks

- **Report**
  - provided to editor, highlighting areas to improve

- **Display**
  - of JPPS level added to each journal’s site

- **Official list**
  - of assessed journals available only at journalquality.info

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JPPS

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**Display**

- of JPPS level added to each journal’s site

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**Report**

- provided to editor, highlighting areas to improve

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**Re-Assessment**

- by application from a journal
  - And spot checks

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**How it will continue**

- Journal quality assessment
  - by application
  - spot checks
  - report provided
  - display added
  - official list

---

**Journal quality assessment**

- by application
  - spot checks
  - report
  - display
  - official list

---

**How it will continue**

- Journal quality assessment
  - by application
  - spot checks
  - report provided
  - display added
  - official list

---

**Journal quality assessment**

- by application
  - spot checks
  - report
  - display
  - official list
The JPPS framework... offers us an important opportunity to improve the status of our journal. Thank you for the clear criteria.

Dr Chandre Gould
Editor of South African Crime Quarterly
South African Institute for Security Studies
“I am thrilled with the two-star status as it is, but I have stirred the editorial board that we have to achieve three-star status.

I am determined to work towards it.

Thank you so much for the constant support you have given me to work on the journal.”

Dr Anuja Abyadeera, Editor
Sri Lankan Journal of Anaesthesiology
“This, in my opinion is more proactive and more helpful than the blacklist.

I'm presently involved in efforts to revive a journal that went down... going through this JPPS, I can easily identify what we need to do to get the journal back on track.

Journals can use the guidelines to strengthen their publication practices.”

Prof. Emmanuel A. Ameh
Chief Consultant Paediatric Surgeon
National Hospital, Abuja, Nigeria
“We have brought out a new facelift to the whole journal, and wish to improve on it. We are targeting the ‘one star’ of the standards by this year. Hoping to go up to two stars by 2018 too and for it to be indexed very soon.”

Dr C Arambepola and Dr Shamini Prathapan, Co-Editors
Journal of the College of Community Physicians of Sri Lanka
Internationally accepted assessment criteria for the quality of publishing practices and policies

Reassures readers and authors about which are reputable journals

Guidance for journal editors on improving publishing processes

Supporting the credibility and visibility of Southern journals
Next steps

Seeking funding for:
Implementing the JPPS framework for southern journals beyond the JOLS

Training and advisory support via face to face and online methods to address knowledge and skills gaps

Building peer networks of journal editors for collective problem-solving and learning

Further use of marketing and communications techniques to maximise online visibility and dissemination of Southern journals.

Assessing adoption of the JPPS system by other role-players.
A far-reaching set of criteria for assessing Southern journals

Thank you to STM for including JPPS in the programme

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