



**AJOL**

## **African Journals OnLine**

**Promoting Global Access to  
African Scholarly Research**

**Creative Commons Licenses  
February 2022**



# AJOL's Vision and Mission

**AJOL** = **A**frican **J**ournals **O**n**L**ine

[www.ajol.info](http://www.ajol.info)

- **AJOL's Vision** is for African learning to translate into African development
- **AJOL** works to increase visibility of and online access to African-published scholarly journals in support of quality higher education, research and research dissemination on the continent



# Currently:

AJOL hosts **557** journal  
published from **35** African  
countries

Over 20 million  
full-text downloads each year

by researchers, lecturers,  
librarians, students, policy-  
makers and professionals  
from all over the world.



# Services to Partner Journals



- **Free** hosting, software and website maintenance
- Free digital backups of all journal content sent to us
- Much higher visibility for each title than being online alone - wider international audience (aggregation of titles)
  - Many more potential readers
  - Joining AJOL leads to increased author submissions (and subscriptions)
- Free publicity for individual journals through AJOL
- Free DOI's through AJOL
- Links on AJOL site to other resources useful for Journals, Researchers and librarians
- Training workshops for journal partners
- Option of online workflow management via AJOL after training.
- An international advocacy voice for African research journals.

# Beyond Access to Quality and Connection







# Core work and future projects

- Expand hosting and support services to journals – access to African research is foundational
- Implement and further develop JPPS quality framework – quality is the next step
- This can help offset the North-South knowledge economy inequity
- Community of practice for African journals for better representation of stand-alone journal interests
- Continue collaborations with African and global initiatives
  - INASP, AfLIA, CODESRIA (ACI), DOAJ, eIFL, EQUATOR network, Research4Life, AAS, ASSAf, SARUA, CIARD, AJPP, WAME, ORCID, CrossRef, PKP, CLACSO, SciELO, NORHED supported projects?, etc.
- New project to index African HE support projects and initiatives
- WHO library project to preserve and host African health journals
- Secure financial support for the above



# Why do OA journals need licences?

1. When author/s own copyright of their article, a license is agreed to in the formal agreement between journal and author/s, so that the journal may legally publish the article

<https://www.inasp.info/sites/default/files/2018-04/INASP%20-%20Editors%20Toolkit%20-%20DIGITAL.pdf>

2. So that researchers know how they are legally allowed to use an article (or dataset) published by the journal... This type of licence is the main one we speak of today



# How to choose an OA license?

- AJOL encourages journals to use Creative Commons licenses...

<https://chooser-beta.creativecommons.org/>

- This fits perfectly with license requirements for AJOL and DOAJ inclusion!





#### 4. License type

The journal must permit the use of a Creative Commons license that allows the creation of derivative products.

- CC BY
- CC BY-SA
- CC BY-NC
- CC BY-NC-SA

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#### 5. License information in articles

Creative Commons licensing information must be displayed in all full-text article formats.

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#### 6. Copyright and publishing rights

Authors must retain unrestricted copyright and all publishing rights when publishing under any license permitted by the journal.



Please feel free to ask any questions.

With thanks to



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