# “Collaboration for sustainable open access publishing in Africa” journals survey

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“Collaboration for sustainable open access publishing in Africa” project aims to **develop and deliver a participatory funding approach** **that will enhance quality and sustainability of African diamond open access** (OA) publishing initiatives while maintaining their diversity. Diamond OA means that no fees to authors and readers are charged. **Two open grant funding calls for proposals** co-designed with the diamond OA community will be issued and the funds provided will strengthen quality diamond OA publishing across Africa. The project is implemented by EIFL, AJOL and WACREN.

If you are publishing a diamond OA journal in Africa we invite you to fill in this survey. Your participation in the survey will help us better understand challenges that the diamond OA community is facing and plan the grant funding calls for proposals to support the community.

The survey is divided into six sections:  
1. General journal features  
2. Funding, incentives, institutional support, sustainability and collaborations  
3. Editorial quality and research integrity/publication ethics  
4. Technical service efficiency  
5. Visibility and discoverability (including indexation)  
6. Challenges, funding needs and support required to make a diamond OA journal more sustainable

The survey has a total of 37 questions and takes approximately 30 minutes to complete.

Please find a printable [Word file](https://eifl.net/sites/default/files/resources/journals_survey.docx) version of the survey for you to review before you fill in the survey online. Please note that only the online version can be used to submit your final answers.

The survey should be answered, preferably, on a computer. The survey saves answers per page as you click the “Next Page” button and move to the following page. You can exit the survey if you wish and re-enter by copying the link in the same device and browser from which you first accessed it. The pages you have filled in up to that point will be saved. Please note that you will also be able to go back and make changes to your answers before submitting them.

Please press the “Submit” button at the end of the survey. Otherwise, your answers will not be recorded. Please note, that after pressing the submit button, you won't be able to make any changes to your answers.

The survey closes on February 29, 2024.

If you encounter technical issues while filling in the survey please contact the project manager Iryna Kuchma at [iryna.kuchma@eifl.net](mailto:iryna.kuchma@eifl.net).

By default, the responses provided in this survey will be anonymised. Neither you nor your affiliation (institution/organization/journal, etc.) will be identified in any future project outputs. Your participation in this study is confidential. Personal data collected throughout the survey (an email if you choose to provide it) will be handled in accordance with the [EIFL’s privacy policy](https://eifl.net/page/data-protection-policy).

Do you agree with the Privacy Policy? \*

Yes

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**I. General journal features**

1. Country, where your diamond open access journal is registered/based \*

2. Your diamond open access journal title \*

3. Your diamond open access journal website (URL) \*

4. Your diamond open access journal ISSN/eISSN number \*

5. Name of the host organization/s of your diamond open access journal\*



(please include the name/s of your journal owner/s – University/Research institute/Professional association or other entity. If there is no host organization, please write so).

6. Language/s in which you publish your journal articles \*

7. How many journal articles did you publish in 2023? \* 

8. What disciplines does your journal mainly cover? (Please select all that apply) \*

Multidisciplinary

Natural sciences

Engineering and technology

Medical and health sciences

Agricultural sciences

Social sciences

Humanities

Non-academic

Other (please specify):

9. How many people work for your journal in any capacity? \*

None

Less than 2

2–5

6–10

11–20

21–30

More than 30

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**II. Funding, incentives, institutional support, sustainability and collaborations**

10. How does your journal’s personnel work? \*

There is a dedicated unit responsible for the journal with employed personnel (fully or partially employed to work for the journal)

There is no dedicated unit and everyone is working as volunteers

There is a dedicated unit responsible for the journal with some personnel employed and some working as volunteers

There is no dedicated unit but the personnel is employed by the institution and is sharing their time between journal publishing and other tasks

11. Are there any incentives for your journal’s personnel at your institution (e.g. less other institutional administrative work, additional points at evaluation/promotion, etc.)? \*

Yes

No

12. If yes, please describe the incentives in place.

13. How is your diamond open access journal funded? (Please select all that apply) \*

Fixed and permanent subsidy from your journal's primary institution's base

Periodically negotiated subsidy from your journal's primary institution's base

Time-limited grants or subsidies, either private or public from outside your journal's primary institution's base

Permanent public/government funding (international, national, local)

Collective funding (e.g. crowdfunding, membership fees, etc.)

Print sales (e.g. print on demand)

Any other income (event organization, commercial revenue, loans, etc.)

Other (please specify):

14. How stable are these funding sources based on the last three years? \*

Very unstable

Unstable

Neither stable or unstable

Stable

Very stable

Don’t know

15. Do you have an annual approved budget for the journal? \*

Yes

No

16. Does your journal host organization provide you with in-kind support either in the form of labour, facility costs or other (excluding peer review)? (Please select all that apply) \*

Facilities and premises

Human Resource management, general financial and legal services

General IT services (email, hardware, Internet, etc.)

Service-specific IT services (publishing platform/website, tools, etc.)

Salaries of permanent staff

Salaries of temporary staff

Other (please specify):

17. To save costs, do you collaborate/would consider collaborating with other organizations in any of the following areas? (Please select all that apply). \*

Editorial services (selection of manuscripts, peer-review, plagiarism checking services, etc.)

Production services (copy-editing, proofreading, typesetting, metadata, etc.)

IT services (submission system, platform, website, etc.)

Communication services (marketing/dissemination, social media, etc.)

Administrative, legal and financial services (contracts, accounting, documentation, etc.)

Training, support and/or advice on publishing policies and best practice

None

Don’t know

Other (please specify):

18. Do you have a journal sustainability plan? \*

Yes

No

19. What are the main challenges related to the financial sustainability of your journal and how could they be addressed? \*



By financial sustainability we mean the capacity to develop and implement feasible medium-term financial strategies that facilitate the consistent execution of editorial tasks, incorporating essential developmental elements for adhering to globally recognized quality standards in editorial work and publishing, all while guaranteeing the continuous accessibility of published content.

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**III. Editorial quality and research integrity/publication ethics**

**Peer review**

20. What type/s of peer review is/are in use in your journal? (Please select all that apply) \*

Single-anonymised peer review (authors do not know who the reviewers are)

Double-anonymised peer review (both authors and reviewers are anonymous to each other)

Open peer review - Open identities of the reviewers, authors and editors

Open peer review - Open reviewers' reports

Open peer review - Open participation in the peer review process (community)

Editorial review

Other (please specify):

**Policies/guidelines/instructions**

21. Do you have specific policies/guidelines/instructions on editorial quality (definition of quality criteria, compliance, peer review process and editorial independence commitment) and research integrity/publication ethics (authorship criteria, data sharing and reproducibility statements)? \*

Yes

No

22. If you answered yes, please provide a URL/s of your journal’s editorial, research integrity/publication ethics policy/guidelines/instructions.

**Editorial Board**

23. How many editorial board members does your journal have, NOT including editors or editorial staff? Include all board types if your journal has more than one type of board, such as editorial, international, advisory?

1-10

11-20

Other (please specify)

24. Approximately what percentage of your editorial board members are from outside your country

1-10%

11%-30%

31-50%

Over 50%

25. Approximately what percentage of your editorial board members are from outside your institution

1-10%

11%-30%

31-50%

Over 50%

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**IV. Technical service efficiency**

26. How is your journal’s technical infrastructure maintained and updated? (Please select all that apply) \*

In-house by an IT department/personnel

In-house by a dedicated publishing department (e.g. the library)

In-house across different departments

Partially outsourced

Mainly outsourced

Fully outsourced

Other (please specify):

27. Does your publishing infrastructure support online publishing workflows (e.g. a journal’s online platform is used to submit manuscripts, review them and make them openly available after approval for publication)? If your online platform performs some of the online publishing actions only, please indicate which ones. \*

Yes - all publishing workflows are online

Some publishing workflows are online

No

28. What software do you use for your publishing system? \*

Open Journals System (OJS)

Janeway

Lodel

DSpace

WordPress

Drupal

Don’t know

Other (please specify):

Other: Customisation or own development (please specify), Other open source software (please specify), Other commercial software (please specify)

29. Do you assign unique persistent identifiers to published content (e.g. DOIs, URNs, ORCIDs, Handles, ARKs)? \*

Yes

No

30. If you answered yes, please select the persistent identifiers you use

Crossref-DOI

Datacite-DOI

Other DOI

ORCID

URN

Handle

ARK

Other (please specify):

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**V. Visibility and discoverability (including indexation)**

31. Where is your journal indexed? (Please select all that apply) \*

AJOL

BASE

CORE

DOAJ

Google

Google Scholar

Medline

OpenAIRE

PubMed Central

Scopus

Web of Science

WorldCat

My journal isn’t indexed anywhere

Other (please include the URLs of all relevant portals):

If indexed in National databases, indicate that under Other and please include URLs.

32. If you tried to get indexed by some indexes/databases listed above and failed, please describe your challenges. (Please select all that apply)

Satisfying the non-technical participation criteria

Satisfying the technical participation criteria

Satisfying the metadata requirements

Paying for membership, annual or one time

Paying for recurring charges, for example, monthly fees

The language of the communications/requirements/paperwork is only in English

The language of the communications/requirements/paperwork is another language that is hard to understand

The service/its requirements/its paperwork are too technical

Other (please specify):

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**VI. Challenges, funding needs and support required to make a diamond OA journal more sustainable**

33. Which challenges do you face? (Please select all that apply) \*

Financial constraints

Administrative constraints

Lack of human resources

Lack of expertise

Technical limitations of existing infrastructure

Providing adequate resources for the infrastructure and services

Issuing persistent identifiers

Trying to achieve and maintain interoperability with other services and systems

Archiving, backing up or preserving content and software

Other (please specify):

34. What are your unmet funding needs? \*



35. What kind of support would make your journal more sustainable? \*



36. Your contact email if you would like to receive our call for proposals for grant funding

Please verify that you have entered a valid email address above, so we can contact you.

37. If you provided your email above, would you also like to receive other updates on the “Collaboration for sustainable open access publishing in Africa” project?

Yes

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**VII. End of the survey**

Is there any feedback you would like to provide on the survey?



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