

Strengthening Kenyan journals for DOAJ inclusion and trusted Open Access

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Proposed Curriculum for African Countries

Hosting all country scholarly journals on a
central/national/federated platform

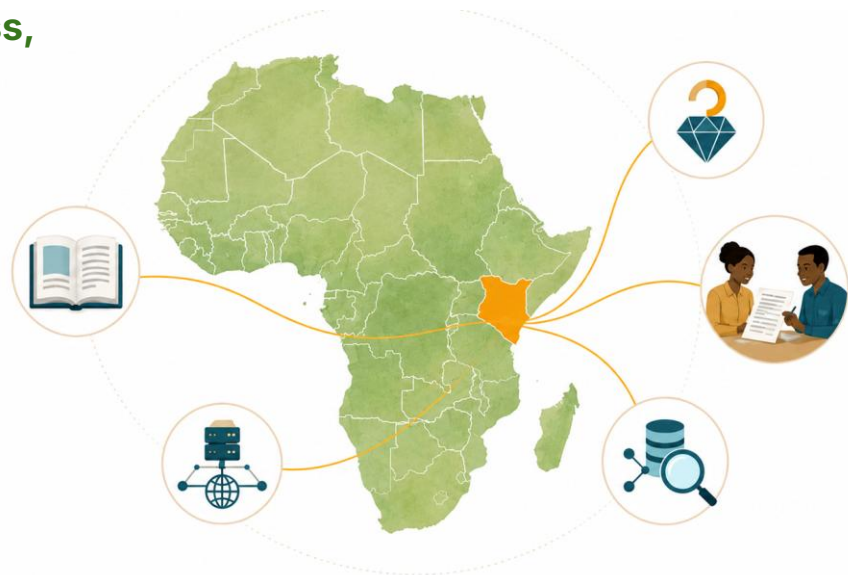
DOAJ 2026: Morocco, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania

- 1 Connect with country coordinator (e.g. KLISC)
- 2 Identify partners, funding (e.g. KENET, DOAJ, ASSAf, EIFL)
- 3 Planning & Marketing
- 4 Hosting
- 5 Feedback & implementation; succession planning; DOAJ CPD Certificates
- 6 Awareness incl. media
- 7 Country scholarly journal audit, assessment, feedback, improvement
- 8 DOAJ application

Day 1

African Scholarly Publishing Landscape & Quality Ecosystem

It outlined the **African scholarly publishing environment**, with particular attention to **open access, Diamond OA, peer review, journal quality, visibility, indexing, metrics, funding, sustainability and open infrastructure**. It also connected these themes to practical capacity-building goals for the **African country journals**, such as improving **editorial workflows, metadata quality, ethical standards, discoverability in services like DOAJ and OpenAlex and broader stakeholder coordination** to strengthen trusted scholarly publishing systems in Africa.





Legal framework in the African country, incl. copyright, licensing and Diamond OA policies

Explained the **policy and legal environment relevant to scholarly publishing** in the African country. It covered the national research and funding framework, legal deposit requirements, copyright ownership, licensing principles, Creative Commons options, data protection and open access policy expectations in line with African country law and DOAJ-aligned best practice.

Introduction to scholarly journals and OJS

Introductory training presentation that explained the role of scholarly journals and **open infrastructure in strengthening African research systems**, while also giving practical guidance on improving journal quality and discoverability. It covered common compliance and governance problems, especially around **DOAJ** readiness, licensing, editorial transparency and metadata consistency, then moved into the value of publishing articles in PDF, HTML and JATS XML for accessibility, interoperability, preservation and harvesting by services such as Crossref, DOAJ and OpenAlex. It also introduced **OJS 3.5** as part of a broader, federated approach to building more sustainable Diamond Open Access publishing capacity in Kenya and Africa.





Free access for Readers | No Article Publishing Fees for Authors

Governing policies for quality publishing

Practical training presentation that set out the core policies a scholarly journal should have in place to meet quality, transparency and **Diamond Open Access expectations**. It walked through policy areas such as peer review, publication ethics, AI disclosure, conflicts of interest, special issues, preservation, corrections and retractions, complaints and appeals, editorial governance, author fees, reporting standards, inclusive language, code and protocol sharing, preregistration, metadata openness, post-publication discussion, disclaimers and website accessibility, showing how these policies support DOAJ alignment and stronger journal governance.

Day 2

Configuring a journal in OJS 3.5

Practical training presentation focused on setting up and managing a journal in OJS 3.5 as part of a broader workshop on quality and trusted open access publishing. It explained how journal teams should register and be assigned **roles**, then walked through the responsibilities of key role players such as the Journal Manager, Editor-in-Chief, Section Editor, Author, Reviewer, Copyeditor, Layout Editor and Proofreader, while also highlighting core configuration tasks like **journal settings, sections, submission guidelines, workflows, plugins, DOI setup and production processes**. Overall, it served as a hands-on guide to how a journal should be structured and operated within OJS.



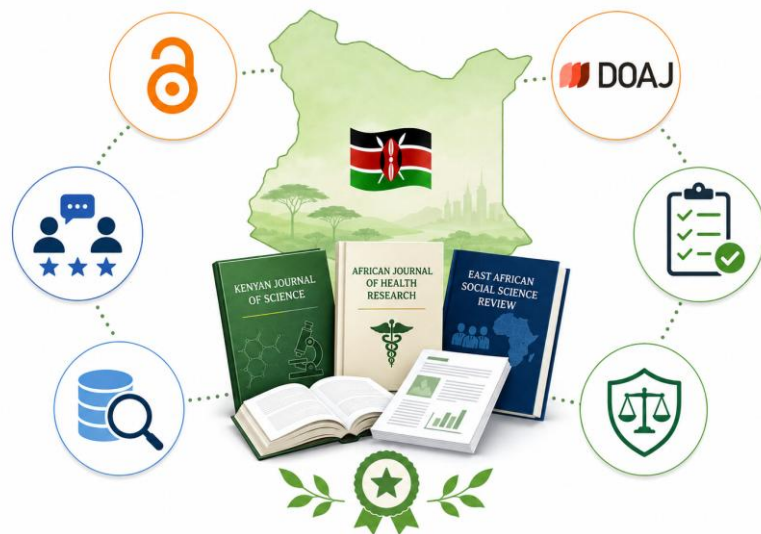


Editorial workflow

Short practical training presentation that explained the **basic workflow for processing a journal article in OJS, from submission through review, copyediting, production and final publication**. It also places that workflow in a broader African scholarly communication context by arguing that strong local publishing systems support knowledge sovereignty, evidence-based policymaking, research capacity and academic community-building, before ending with a simple step-by-step outline of how editors, reviewers and production staff move an article through the journal process.

Indexing of scholarly journals

Practical training presentation that explains how journals can strengthen their visibility and qualify for inclusion in major discovery and indexing services. It covers basic discoverability steps such as **Google Search Console** and analytics, then outlines the application processes, selection criteria, and common reasons for rejection for Web of Science, Scopus, and **DOAJ**, with strong emphasis on publishing regularity, editorial transparency, ethics policies, metadata quality, abstracts, references, DOIs, and internationalisation. The deck also places indexing within the wider African scholarly publishing landscape, arguing that while the continent has deep publishing traditions and strong Diamond Open Access activity, **uneven infrastructure** and global evaluation norms continue to shape how local journals pursue recognition and visibility



Day 3

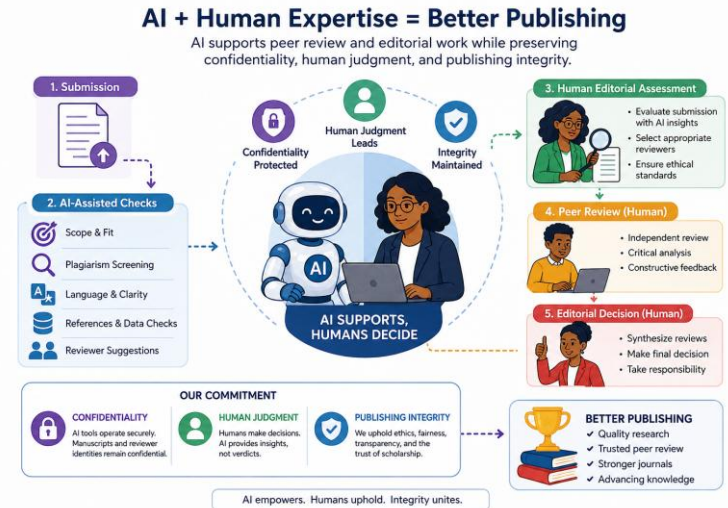
Publishing ethics, research integrity and COPE in African scholarly publishing

Explains why publishing ethics has become a core part of journal quality, visibility and indexing readiness. It distinguishes **research integrity from publishing ethics**, uses real editorial case studies to explore common problems such as **plagiarism, duplicate submission, reviewer conflicts of interest, editor bias and authorship disputes**, and then shows how journals can respond through clear policies, consistent procedures and governance structures aligned with **COPE guidance**. The presentation also emphasises that institution-based African journals, especially those operating in high-conflict environments, need **explicit policies on peer review, conflicts of interest, corrections and retractions, data availability, AI use, plagiarism screening, and complaints and appeals** in order to protect the integrity of the scholarly record.



Artificial Intelligence (AI) in scholarly publishing

Practical training presentation that explores how **AI can be used in peer review and editorial work while preserving confidentiality, human judgment, and publishing integrity**. It reviews emerging guidance from COPE and DOAJ, outlines the main use cases and risks of AI reviewer tools, discusses disclosure and policy requirements for journals, and argues that AI should function only as a support tool within a human-in-the-loop model, ideally through secure or locally hosted systems rather than public cloud tools when unpublished manuscripts are involved.



Diamond Open Access Business Models

Practical training presentation on how Diamond Open Access journals can be sustained without charging either readers or authors. It argues that the **main challenge is not simply funding, but institutional responsibility and recognition of publishing labour**, and it compares different sustainability approaches such as institutional subsidy, library consortia, national platform support, volunteer-driven models and grant funding. Using African examples, the presentation makes the case that **scholarly publishing should be treated as shared research infrastructure, with coordinated investment in hosting, metadata, DOI support, preservation and governance** rather than reliance on *ad hoc* goodwill alone.



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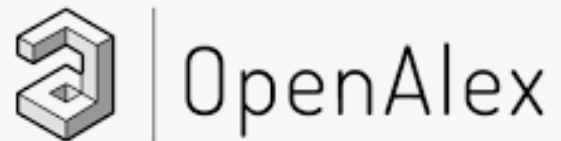
Marketing, communication, science engagement

Practical presentation on how journals can move published research from simply being online to being **noticed, understood, trusted, and used**. It covers concrete strategies such as OJS announcements, reader alerts, newsletters, RSS feeds, social media, press releases, metadata and indexing basics, and communication policies, while also framing these activities within a broader science engagement approach that **connects journal content to researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and the public through plain-language summaries, accessible formats, and ethically managed outreach**.



Reporting to an editorial board, funder, etc

Practical training presentation on how editors and journal teams can use **reporting to strengthen journal governance, transparency, and strategic decision-making**. It explains why accurate metadata and consistent use of OJS matter for reliable metrics, outlines good reporting practices, identifies key data sources such as **OJS statistics, OpenAlex, Crossref, peer-review reports, Google Analytics, and Search Console**, and shows the kinds of questions editorial boards should be able to answer about submissions, peer review, backlog, integrity, visibility, compliance, and operational risks. Overall, the deck frames journal reporting as a tool for accountability, evidence-based planning, and ongoing quality improvement.





KENET, KLISC, Kenya

KENET, Members / By

Members of Kenya's strengthening Diamond and researchers to build and Information Service Education Network (KENET) strengthening editorial



TOWARDS DOAJ INCLUSION – REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON QUALITY AND OPEN ACCESS SCHOLARLY JOURNAL PRACTICES

FEBRUARY 19, 2026

February 19, 2026: The Kenya Library and Information Services Consortium (KLISC), in collaboration with the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), successfully held a regional workshop on Quality and Open Access Scholarly Journal Practices, with a special focus on Diamond Open Access.

The workshop brought together journal editors, publishers, librarians, researchers, and research support professionals from across the region to strengthen capacity in managing high-quality scholarly journals. Discussions centered on enhancing editorial standards, improving journal governance structures, strengthening peer-review systems, and increasing discoverability through adherence to international indexing criteria such as DOAJ requirements.

Participants also explored sustainable and ethical Open Access publishing models, with particular emphasis on Diamond Open Access, which promotes free access to scholarly content without charging authors article processing fees. The workshop provided a valuable platform for collaboration, knowledge exchange, and strategic alignment aimed at elevating the quality, credibility, and global visibility of African scholarly journals.

KLISC is committed to supporting institutions and journal teams in advancing trusted, transparent, and sustainable Open Access publishing practices in the region.

Other workshop partners included the Kenya Education Network (KENET), the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf), the Technical University of Mombasa, and the Adventist University of Africa.



Kenya workshop on scholarly publishing

Members of Kenya's scholarly publishing community attended a three-day workshop from 18-20 February 2026, focussing on strengthening Diamond Open Access journal publishing in the country. Eighty participants - including editors, editorial board members, librarians, university publishing administrators, emerging journal managers and institutional research officers - deepened their expertise and built stronger national coordination across all Kenyan scholarly journals. Participants were not simply seeking guidance on applying to indexing directories; they were focused on building sustainable, high-quality publishing systems that can support Kenyan scholarship for the long term.

The workshop was closely aligned with the strategic objectives of KLISC, KENET, DOAJ and the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf), all of which prioritise strengthening research visibility, promoting open access, improving journal quality standards and building sustainable scholarly publishing infrastructure. By situating the training within these broader institutional and international frameworks, the programme ensured that national capacity-building efforts were directly connected to regional and global open science priorities.

Inclusion in DOAJ has been emphasised as being important for visibility, but the workshop also emphasised that true readiness requires much more. Sessions addressed the full ecosystem of scholarly publishing, including editorial governance and transparency, publishing ethics and research integrity, copyright and licensing clarity, peer review systems, metadata quality and discoverability, XML preparation for indexing, mastery of Open Journal Systems (OJS) and sustainability planning for Diamond Open Access. The central message resonated strongly with participants: inclusion is an outcome; publishing excellence is the foundation.

The programme further combined strategic discussion with practical implementation. Participants engaged in full demonstrations of the OJS editorial workflow, hands-on exercises using metadata, peer review configuration discussions, sustainability and budgeting conversations, reflections on the implications of artificial intelligence in scholarly publishing and readiness for applying for

editorial processes and of the group enriched management.

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not charge authors or sessions explored how

Audit of Kenyan Scholarly Journals (108)

Master List Kenya Journal Titles .XLSX

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Journal Title	ISSN Print	ISSN Online	DOAJ	DOAJ Pre-assessment report	% DOAJ Readiness %	AJOL	EIFL Funding
Africa Habitat Review	ISSN 2519-7851	2524-1354		Africa Habitat Review (AHR)	68%	Yes	
Africa Journal of Information Professionals		1410-6778		Africa Journal of Information Professionals	33%		
African Christian Theology			Yes			Yes	
African Journal of Alcohol and Drug Abuse (AJADA)	2664-0058	2664-0066		African Journal of Alcohol and Drug Abuse (AJADA)	86%	Yes	
African Journal of Bioethics		2951-9853		African Journal of Bioethics	85%		
African Journal of Biotechnology		1684-5315		African Journal of Biotechnology	49%	Yes	
African Journal of Business and Development Studies		3079-6903		African Journal of Business and Development Studies	70%		
African Journal of Education, Science and Technology	2309-9240			African Journal of Education, Science and Technology	52%	Yes	
African Journal of Empirical Research		2709-2607		African Journal of Empirical Research	92%	Yes	
African Journal of Food and Nutritional Safety		1608-1366		African Journal of Food and Nutritional Safety	21%	Yes	
African Journal of Food, Agriculture, Nutrition and Development (AJFAND)			Yes			Yes	
African Journal of Health Sciences	1022-9272	2306-1987		African Journal of Health Sciences	86%	Yes	
African Journal of Nutrition and Dietetics		3006-5526		African Journal of Nutrition and Dietetics	73%	Yes	
African Journal of Oral Health Sciences	1608-7232	1608-7232		African Journal of Oral Health Sciences	18%	Yes	
African Journal of Pharmacy and Alternative Medicine		3005-6306		African Journal of Pharmacy and Alternative Medicine	71%	Yes	
African Journal of Pure and Applied Sciences		2710-0758		African Journal of Pure and Applied Sciences	74%		Yes
African Journal of Rheumatology	2307-2482	2664-441X		African Journal of Rheumatology	43%	Yes	
African Journal of Science and Technology	2731-2739	1607-9949		African Journal of Science and Technology	50%	Yes	

108 journals identified in Kenya

76 in AJOL

22 of 108 already in DOAJ

(19 in DOAJ + 3 following workshop = 22)

7 received funding through EIFL/AJOL/WACREN (Strengthening no-fee OA publishing in Africa)

DOAJ readiness distribution

Readiness band	Number of journals	Interpretation	
90%+	2	Almost ready / very strong candidates	
85–89%	14	Fast-track candidates after small fixes	
70–84%	28	Promising, but need targeted policy and metadata work	
50–69%	23	Require structured support before application	
Below 50%	22	Foundational remediation needed	

Nearly half of the assessed journals are within realistic reach of DOAJ readiness, but many need coordinated intervention before application.

Strongest candidates for DOAJ (16)

Journal	Readiness
African Journal of Empirical Research	92%
Primary Health Care Practice Journal	90%
Journal of the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO	89%
Eastern Africa Journal of Contemporary Research	89%
Journal of Research and Academic Writing	88%
Journal of Pastoral and Practical Theology	88%
Journal of Education Management & Leadership	88%
Cradle of Knowledge: African Journal of Educational and Social Science Research	87%
Pan-African Journal of Theology	86%
African Journal of Health Sciences	86%
African Journal of Alcohol and Drug Abuse	86%
KLISC Journal of Information Science & Knowledge Management	86%

What prevents DOAJ inclusion?

Fix category	Number of journals affected
Editorial board transparency	44
ISSN display/validation	44
DOI / metadata consistency	42
Archiving / preservation policy	35
Licensing clarity, especially CC licence	34
Copyright statement consistency	21
APC / fee transparency	21
Peer-review transparency	15
Publication ethics policy	6
Author guidelines completeness	2

Challenge: good practice ios not clearly documented, standardised or visible on the website.

Big 7 major challenges to address in Kenyan journals

- “Free to read” is often confused with “Open Access”
- Metadata and discoverability are major weaknesses (ISSNs)
- Policy pages are often incomplete or fragmented
- Editorial transparency needs strengthening (endogeny)
- Peer review is often stated, but not sufficiently described
- Archiving and preservation appear repeatedly as missing or weak
- Conflicting info/journal info between own website and AJOL website not in sync

Review of journals conducted

Finding:

Kenya has a **substantial base of scholarly journals** with regional visibility, especially through **AJOL**, but **DOAJ readiness depends on making journal practices transparent, consistent, machine-readable and openly reusable.**

Thank you for this opportunity.

eifl KNOWLEDGE
WITHOUT
BOUNDARIES

