

Kenya, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Mozambique - A Qualitative Study on Visibility of African Journals

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Overview

Identification

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NOTES

N/A

Overview

ABSTRACT

Background

Journals are the primary medium for scholarly communication among academic communities. Journal visibility helps researchers to make decisions on where to publish. Some of the visibility platforms include Google Scholar (GS) platform, Scopus platform, Open Access (OA) system, Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) platform, International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) platform, International Network for Advancing Science and Policy (INASP) platform, Web of Science (WoS) and PubMed platform. There is limited visibility of African journals which can be attributed to a number of underlying factors that affect the journal editorial practices. The factors include a lack of awareness among researchers, challenges related to access and dissemination, financial constraints, and limited access to digital platforms and technological infrastructure.

Methodology

This study employed a cross-sectional study design and the data was collected qualitatively. In-depth interviews (IDIs), Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) were conducted in Kenya. Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were conducted in Kenya, Ethiopia, Nigeria, and Mozambique. The study population comprised the journal chief editors, representatives from African-wide journal databases/indexers, institutional repository representatives, and researchers. A purposive sampling technique was utilized in identifying the study participants. Ethical approvals were sought from relevant bodies in the countries. The qualitative data from the audio-recorded interviews was transcribed using MS Word and exported to NVivo software for analysis. The analysis was based on pre-defined themes as well as the use of open inductive content analysis.

UNITS OF ANALYSIS

African universities

African research institutions

Journal indexers

Scope

NOTES

African journal editors, African-wide journal databases/indexers, institutional repositories, journal chief editors, and researchers/authors/potential publishers, institutional heads of research

TOPICS

Topic	Vocabulary	URI
Journals indexing		
Journals discoverability		
Journals indexing		

KEYWORDS

Africa journals, Journal discoverability, Editorial practices

Coverage

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

Kenya

Ethiopia

Nigeria

Mozambique

UNIVERSE

African journal editors, African-wide journal databases/indexers, institutional repositories, journal chief editors, and researchers/authors/potential publishers, institutional heads of research

Producers and Sponsors

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Sampling

Sampling Procedure

The study utilized a purposive sampling technique and targeted African journal editors, African-wide journal databases/indexers, institutional repositories, journal chief editors, and researchers/authors/potential publishers, institutional heads of research. Purposive sampling was utilized to ensure equal representation of the study participants based on the thematic areas (Humanities, social sciences, health sciences, etc). This ensured the generalisability of the research findings across all thematic areas. An initial search done on Kenyan journals found 120 journals hosted by universities and research institutions. This total number will generate enough sample size for our study. The assumption was that, the same number of journals will be hosted by institutions in Ethiopia, Nigeria, and Mozambique.

Purposive sampling was used to recruit 30 journal editors for the study. Twenty representatives from institutional repositories were included in the study. Thirty authors/researchers were also selected purposively, and ten institutional heads of research. Two representatives from African-wide databases/indexers were also included in the study.

Deviations from Sample Design

None

Response Rate

100%

Weighting

N/A

Questionnaires

Overview

In-depth interviews (IDIs), Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) were conducted in Kenya. Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were conducted in Kenya, Ethiopia, Nigeria, and Mozambique . The study population comprised the journal chief editors, representatives from African-wide journal databases/indexers, institutional repository representatives, and researchers.

Data Collection

Data Collection Dates

Start	End	Cycle
2024-06-18	2024-11-24	N/A

Data Collection Mode

Other [oth]

Questionnaires

In-depth interviews (IDIs), Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) were conducted in Kenya. Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were conducted in Kenya, Ethiopia, Nigeria, and Mozambique . The study population comprised the journal chief editors, representatives from African-wide journal databases/indexers, institutional repository representatives, and researchers.

Supervision

Data was collected by 12 Research Assistants who were supervised by a Research Officer incharge of data qualitative data collection. During the FGDs, IDIs and KIIs, the Research officer conducted sit inn interviews and debriefings after every session.

Data Processing

Data Editing

Qualitative data was collected using recorders which were confirmed to be in good working condition. The recordings were then downloaded from the recorders and uploaded in an official and secure google document on a daily basis. The recordings on the recorders were also deleted on a daily basis to ensure data privacy, security and protection

Other Processing

The recordings were transcribed by well trained transcribers and then shared on a secure folder for storage awaiting data analysis

Data Appraisal

Estimates of Sampling Error

N/A

File Description

Variable List

Documentation

Questionnaires

KII interview guide for Kenyan representatives from African wide indexers and databases.docx

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 Author(s) African Population and Health Research Center
 Date 17/11/2025
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 Language ENGLISH
 Contributor(s) Marta Vicente-Crespo
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 Filename FGD guide for Kenyan authorsresearcherspotential publishers.docx

FGD guide for Kenyan journal chief editors, and representatives from institutional repositories.docx

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Other materials

Research protocol- Visibility of African Journals -A Qualitative Study(ERC) - Clean copy (1).pdf

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