

Workshop Day 2:
Effective Mentorship in Research Writing
and
Networking Between Institutions
to Promote Research Writing

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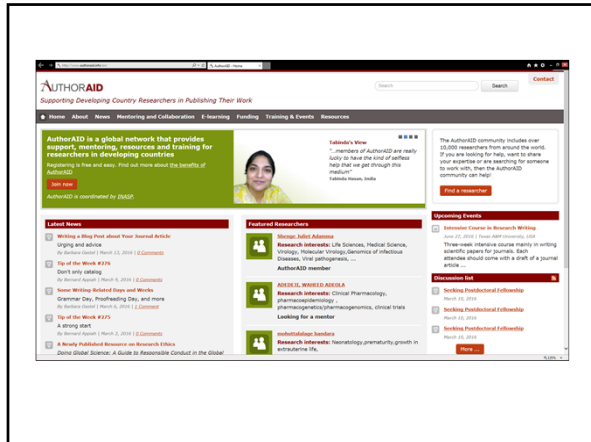


My Main Topics for Today

- Resources for improving scientific writing
 - Some favorite individual resources
 - A meta-resource: AuthorAID
- Ways institutions promote scientific writing
 - Writing centers
 - Editorial offices
 - Courses
 - Other

**Resources for Improving
Scientific Writing**

Some Favorite Individual Resources



AuthorAID (www.authoraid.info)

- A project mainly to help researchers in developing countries to write about and publish their work
- Based at INASP (www.inasp.info), an international development charity in Oxford, UK
- Established in 2007
- Has multiple interrelated components



AuthorAID Components: An Interrelated Array

- On-site and online instruction
- Mentoring
- Online community
 - Blog
 - Resource library
 - Email discussion list
- Small grants to give workshops, provide online courses, present at conferences, etc

On-Site Workshops

- Largely on writing and publishing journal articles or writing grant proposals
- Initially a few per year, led by AuthorAID
 - Sometimes in partnership with publishers or others
 - Typically 2 to 5 days
 - With local co-facilitators
 - Train-the-trainer aspect
 - Presentations available in AuthorAID resource library
- Now considerably more workshops, mainly locally led by embedding partners

Research Writing Workshop (Sri Lanka, 2010)



Train the Trainer Workshop (Sri Lanka, 2013)

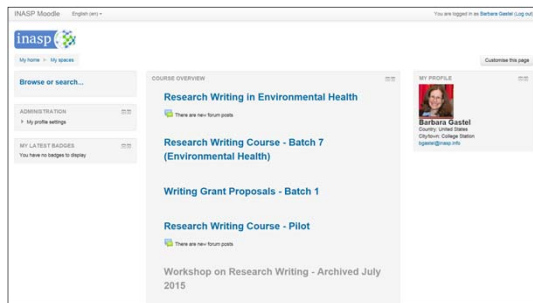


Workshop on Mentorship in Research Communication (Sri Lanka, 2015)



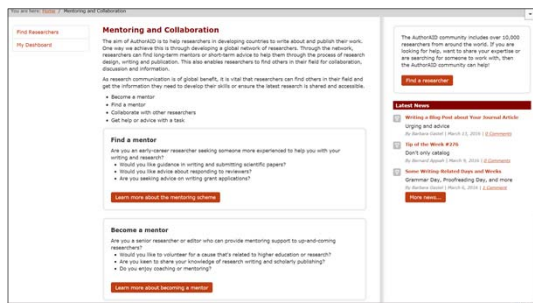
Online Courses: An Increasing Emphasis of AuthorAID

- Pilot tested in 2011 at National University of Rwanda
- Moodle platform used
- Main offering: 5-week course on research writing
- Also, for example,
 - Spanish-language version of this course
 - Course on writing grant proposals
- MOOC in late 2015: more than 1,000 participants
- Embedding partners now providing some instruction via their own Moodle sites



AuthorAID Mentorship

- Prospective mentors and mentees register via AuthorAID website; then can seek each other
- Some topics of mentorship
 - Using appropriate research methods
 - Doing data analysis
 - Choosing suitable journals
 - Writing articles
 - Responding to reviewers' comments
 - Preparing presentations and posters
 - Writing grant proposals

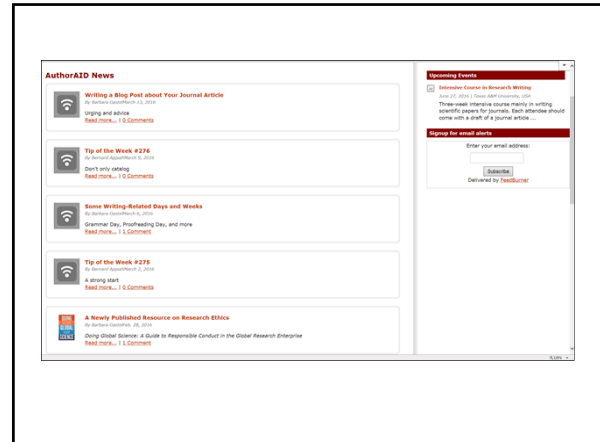


The AuthorAID Online Community



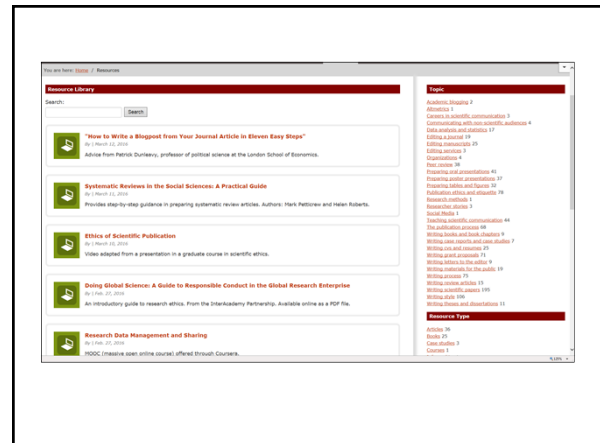
AuthorAID Blog

- On research communication
- Archived since its origin in 2007
- At least 2 posts per week
 - General post (wide range of topics)
 - Tip of the week
- Spanish-language version of AuthorAID website: includes Spanish translations of posts



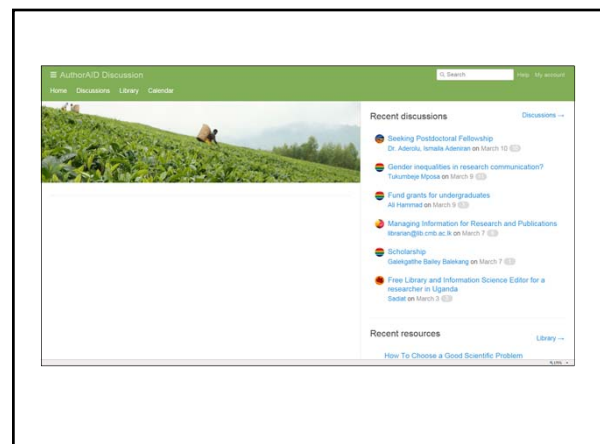
AuthorAID Resource Library

- As of early 2016, about 700 items
- About 500 in English; others in Arabic, Chinese, French, Persian, Portuguese, Spanish, or Vietnamese
- Presentations, articles, Web links, and more
- Many aspects of research communication represented
- Can search by topic, resource type, or language
- Includes list of some [key resources](#)



AuthorAID Email Discussion List

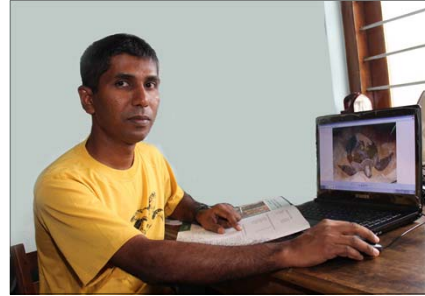
- On Dgroups
- Began in 2009
- Archived
- Often lively discussion
 - In response to researchers' inquiries
 - In response to scenarios posted by AuthorAID project team member



AuthorAID Small Grants

- For candidates from developing countries
- Available since 2011
- Highly competitive
- Main categories
 - To give workshops on research communication
 - To travel to conferences where presentations have been accepted
 - To give online courses
 - Gender grants

AuthorAID Travel Grant Recipient from Sri Lanka (2014)



A Question to Consider:

*How could you use
AuthorAID resources
at your institution?*



Thank You!



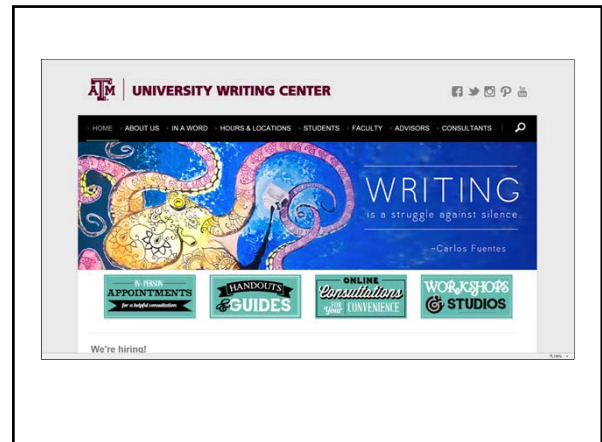
AUTHORAID



Some Ways That Institutions
Promote Scientific Writing

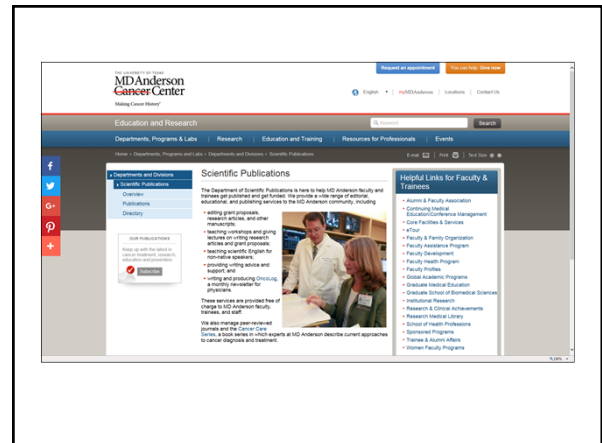
Writing Centers

- Types of services often provided
 - Consultation for authors
 - Online information
 - Presentations and workshops
 - Other
- Commonly have openly accessible resources—see [Writing Centers Online](#)
- Example: Texas A&M [University Writing Center](#)



Editorial Offices

- Contain professional editors
- Help authors refine their article manuscripts, grant proposals, etc before submission
- May help in responding to reviewers
- Sometimes also give courses or presentations
- Example: [Department of Scientific Publications](#) at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center



Courses in Research Writing

- May be face-to-face, online, or a combination
- Some decisions
 - Goals and objectives
 - Schedule
 - Format
 - Activities
 - Materials
 - Assignments
- Example: Texas A&M intensive course in research writing



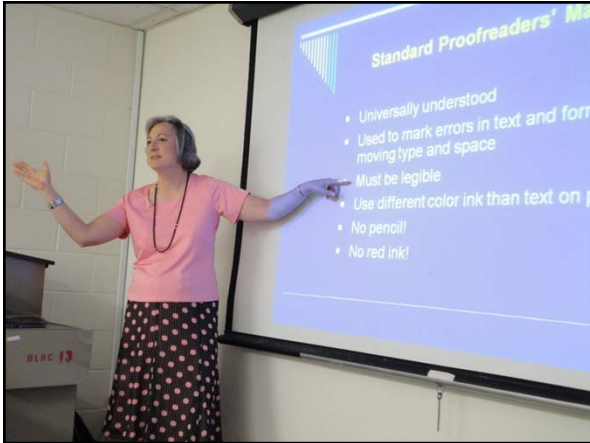
Texas A&M Intensive Course in Research Writing

- Summer course mainly on writing journal articles
- Attendees write/revise article, section by section
- Meets all morning 5 days a week for 3 weeks
- In afternoon/evening, attendees do homework
- Includes individual conferences on writing
- [Slides](#), sample [syllabus](#) available in AuthorAID resource library
- Can readily convert this course to, for example, a semester-long course meeting weekly



Other Institutional Support for Writing: Some Examples

- Lectures, lecture series, or workshops
- Library resources (such as books on research writing)
- Librarians trained in searching research literature
- Support for publication-related software
- Coverage of publication fees in open-access journals
- Training of faculty to teach/mentor research writing
- Hiring or training of academic editors
- Funding to attend workshops and conferences relating to research writing



Thank You!