

AUTHOR AID

putting research knowledge at the heart of development



AuthorAID: An Overview

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PSP Journals Committee
December 3, 2015

Today's Presentation

- AuthorAID: a brief introduction
- AuthorAID beneficiaries: some vignettes
- Origins and operations
- Main components
- Chances for participation and collaboration
- Open discussion



AuthorAID (www.authoraid.info):

A Brief Introduction

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



Supporting Developing Country Researchers in Publishing Their Work

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Registering is free and easy. Find out more about the benefits of AuthorAID

[Join now](#)AuthorAID is coordinated by [INASP](#).**Rhoune's View***"Through the AuthorAID website, I met my mentor - a PhD student at the University of Michigan. She has been very dedicated in offering me guidance on how to improve my writing skills."*

Rhoune Ochako, Kenya

The AuthorAID community includes over 10,000 researchers from around the world. If you are looking for help, want to share your expertise or are searching for someone to work with, then the AuthorAID community can help!

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Stick to one**Featured Researchers**[Mohammad Hasan Gerami](#)**Research interests:** Fisheries Ecology
AuthorAID member[Ashelbir Demie](#)**Research interests:** agricultural economics and rural development
AuthorAID member[Bryan Nyary](#)**Research interests:** Pathology, neurology, general medicine, public health, global public health, HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, ...**Looking for a mentee****Upcoming Events**

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AuthorAID Beneficiaries: Some Vignettes



Psychiatry Researcher in Somalia



- Wishes to publish findings but is unsure how to proceed
- Using AuthorAID website, learns how to write and publish journal articles
- Within 2 years, has multiple papers accepted

Demographer in Kenya



- Wants to improve writing skills
- AuthorAID mentor gives guidance in accessing literature, analyzing data, interpreting results, writing papers, and responding to reviewers' comments
- Result: publications

Physicist in Nepal



- At AuthorAID workshop learns how to approach editor about worrisome requested revision
- Goes on to facilitate AuthorAID workshops himself
- Receives AuthorAID travel grant to speak at conference

Researcher in Ethiopia



- Has 2 papers accepted contingent on editorial revision
- For each, obtains assistance from an editor volunteering as an AuthorAID mentor
- Both papers published soon thereafter

Origins and Operations



AuthorAID: Some History

- Concept from Phyllis Freeman and Anthony Robbins (editors, *Journal of Public Health Policy*)
- Carefully monitored pilot phase 2007–2009
- Full operation since
- Increasing emphasis on embedding the activities in developing countries
- Main sources of funding: Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and UK Department for International Development (DFID)

AuthorAID Director: Julie Walker, INASP



Some Other Project Team Members: INASP Associates

Barbara Gastel, USA



Ravi Murugesan, India



Some Other Project Team Members

Alex Arreola, Mexico



**Bernard Appiah,
USA/Ghana**



Volunteers: Crucial to AuthorAID

- Mentors: researchers and editors helping developing-country authors
- Others—for example, individuals who
 - Translate AuthorAID materials into their native languages
 - Provide or suggest materials for the AuthorAID resource library
 - Write guest posts for the AuthorAID blog

Main Components of AuthorAID



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

- Focus 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

Ethiopia (2008)



Kenya (2008)



Nicaragua (2008)



Rwanda (2009)



Bangladesh (2009)



Sri Lanka (2010)



Tanzania (2010)



Nepal (2011)



Ghana (2011)



Pakistan (2012)



Kenya (2012)



Sri Lanka (2013)

(Train the Trainer Workshop)



Tanzania (2014)



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



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
- Course in late 2015: more than 1,000 participants
- Embedding partners now providing some instruction via their own Moodle sites

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COURSE OVERVIEW

Research Writing in Environmental Health

There are new forum posts

Research Writing Course - Batch 7 (Environmental Health)

Writing Grant Proposals - Batch 1

Research Writing Course - Pilot

There are new forum posts

Workshop on Research Writing - Archived July 2015

MY PROFILE

**Barbara Gastel**

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AuthorAID Mentoring



Some Topics on Which AuthorAID Mentors Sometimes Provide Guidance

- Using appropriate research methods
- Doing data analysis
- Choosing suitable journals
- Writing articles
- Responding to reviewers' comments
- Preparing presentations and posters
- Writing grant proposals

Needed: More Mentors

- In total, about 11,000 registrants on AuthorAID website as of late 2015
- (Also can use website without registering)
- About 6,800 self-identified as prospective mentees
- Fewer than 300 self-identified as prospective mentors

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Mentoring and Collaboration

The aim of AuthorAID is to help researchers in developing countries to write about and publish their work. One way we achieve this is through developing a global network of researchers. Through the network, researchers can find long-term mentors or short-term advice to help them through the process of research design, writing and publication. This also enables researchers to find others in their field for collaboration, discussion and information.

As research communication is of global benefit, it is vital that researchers can find others in their field and get the information they need to develop their skills or ensure the latest research is shared and accessible.

- Become a mentor
- Find a mentor
- Collaborate with other researchers
- Get help or advice with a task

Find a mentor

Are you an early-career researcher seeking someone more experienced to help you with your writing and research?

- Would you like guidance in writing and submitting scientific papers?
- Would you like advice about responding to reviewers?
- Are you seeking advice on writing grant applications?

[Learn more about the mentoring scheme](#)

Become a mentor

Are you a senior researcher or editor who can provide mentoring support to up-and-coming researchers?

- Would you like to volunteer for a cause that's related to higher education or research?
- Are you keen to share your knowledge of research writing and scholarly publishing?
- Do you enjoy coaching or mentoring?

[Learn more about becoming a mentor](#)

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[Find a researcher](#)

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 **Guest Post: Two Free Reference Management Tools**


Zotero and Mendeley

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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 News



Guest Post: Two Free Reference Management Tools

By Barbara Gastel Nov. 15, 2015

Zotero and Mendeley

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By Barbara Gastel Nov. 8, 2015

An insight from a graduate student

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By Bernard Appiah Nov. 4, 2015

Stick to one

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Upcoming Events

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AuthorAID Resource Library

- As of late 2015, 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

Resource Library

Search:

Search



Why academics should take social media seriously

By | Nov. 2, 2015

Article on the LSE International Development blog



"Predatory Publishers"

By | Oct. 25, 2015

Provides links to information on topics such as predatory journal publishers, predatory book publishers, bogus (fake) conferences, predatory publishing practices, and avoiding predatory publishing.



How to Pitch to a Science Editor

By | Oct. 10, 2015

A SciDev.Net Practical Guide.



Tips of the Week 226-250 (Chinese Translation)

By | Oct. 10, 2015

Tenth set of 25 weekly tips on writing and publishing.



TDR Implementation Research Toolkit

By | Oct. 10, 2015

From the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases, hosted at the World Health Organization.

Topic

[Academic blogging](#) 1
[Careers in scientific communication](#) 3
[Communicating with non-scientific audiences](#) 4
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Resource Type

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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



Recent discussions

[Discussions →](#)



[Help to find PhD topic](#)

Tobias Güzüm on November 16



[To send or not to send](#)

Shraavan Kumar on November 16



[Text editing](#)

Carolyn Taurio on November 16



[Call for Proposals: Mobilizing Local Knowledge for Competitiveness Strategies \(English/French\)](#)

Faana Hussain on November 16



[Sharing Publications on Research Gate and similar Platforms](#)

Olusayemi Olagunju on November 16



[Request for Volunteers: Sri Lanka, Colombo - 25th/26th November 2015](#)

Helen Ninka Eke on November 16

Recent resources

[Library →](#)



[How To Choose a Good Scientific Problem 2009.pdf](#)

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AuthorAID Small Grants



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

Locally Led Workshop in Zambia (2012)



Locally Led Workshop in El Salvador (2013)

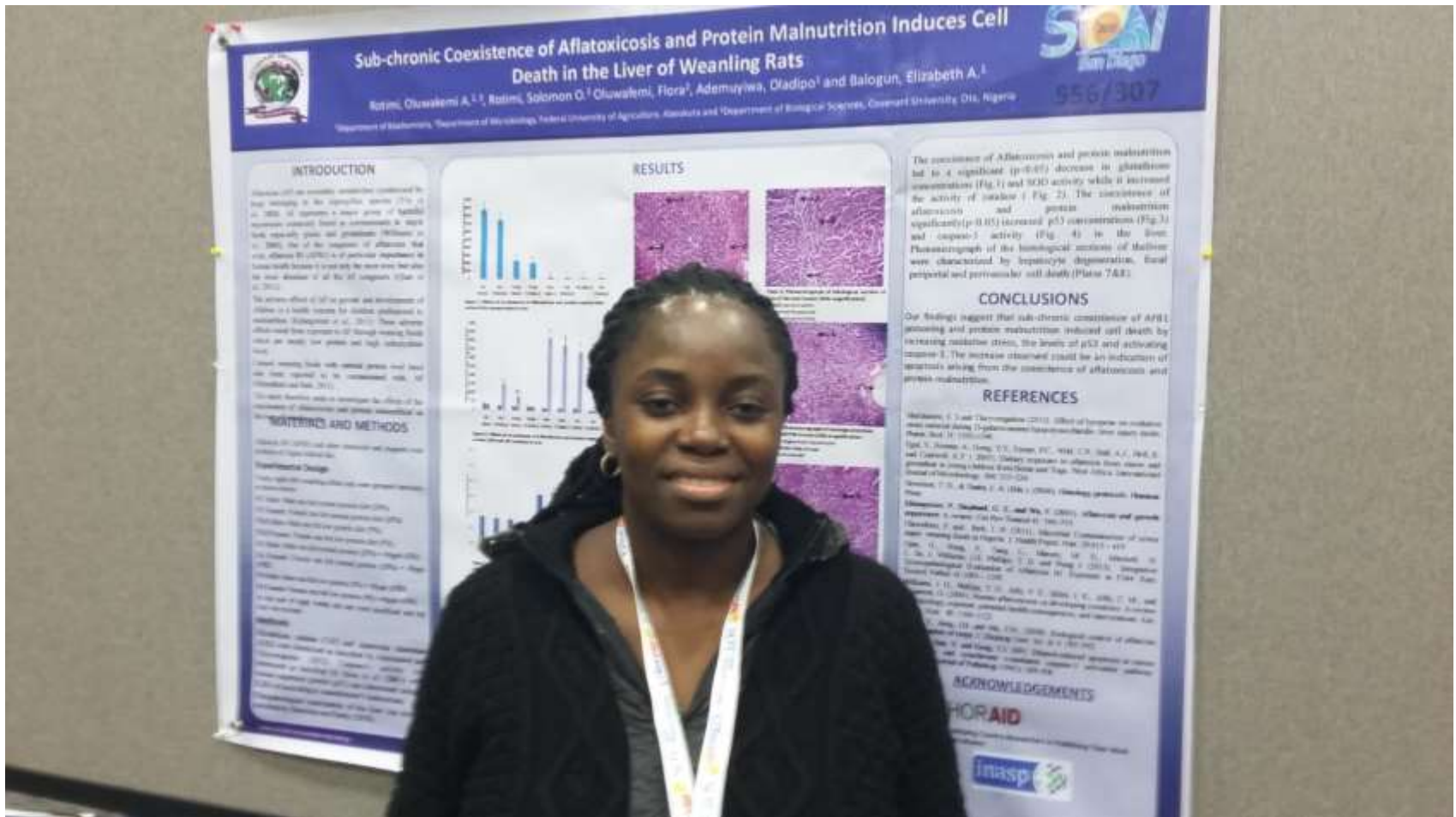


AuthorAID Travel Grant Recipient from Nepal (2014)



- Received a travel grant to present at a conference in Italy
- Led to a fellowship to obtain a PhD there

AuthorAID Travel Grant Recipient from Nigeria (2015)



AuthorAID and Journals: Potential for Further Collaboration



How AuthorAID Can Help Journals

- Facilitating better submissions
 - Through workshops and courses
 - Through mentoring
 - Through materials online
- Helping to train or update editors and peer reviewers through the above
- Other
- Feel free to link to www.authoraids.info!

How Journals Can Help AuthorAID

- Helping to increase the pool of mentors
 - By having editors volunteer
 - By calling on readers to volunteer
- Contributing in other ways (or helping to recruit others to do so)
 - Suggesting or preparing resource library items
 - Doing translations
 - Writing guest blog posts
 - Answering questions posed on the discussion list
 - Providing ideas for further developing AuthorAID

Some Potential Areas for Further Partnering

- Funding and provision of workshops
- Funding of grants and scholarships
- Other—let's brainstorm!



Please feel free to contact us at authoraid@inasp.info.

Discussion





Thank You!



AUTHOR **AID**

putting research knowledge at the heart of development

