

# AuthorAID: Helping African and Other Researchers to Communicate Their Work

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AuthorAID at INASP

By Ravi Murugesan, 23 November 2012

AuthorAID mentors are encouraged to take our new survey Read More...

Guest Post: More Translations in Brazilian Portuguese/Mais Traduções em Português

By Barbara Gastel, 22 November 2012 Read More...

Tip of the Week #104

#### Featured Researchers



Abiodun Egbetokun Nigeria Research interests: evolutionary economics - absorptive capacity - firm networks and

Latest Resources

AuthorAID in the Eastern Mediterranean

Tips of the Week 76-100

(PDF document, 135Kb)

More resources...

AuthorAID Discussion

**1** 75%

#### Why communicate research?

- Crucial to scientific advancement
- Crucial to development
- More specifically:
  - To be used by other scientists and society, research must be communicated—through journal articles, talks, popular media, etc.
  - To get funding, scientists must write proposals.
- Very relevant to themes of this conference

#### AuthorAID (www.authoraid.info)

- Purpose: to help researchers in developing countries to communicate their work
- A project of the International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP)
- Established in 2007
- Funded by Sida, Norad, and DFID
- The work of a small team (all with other duties) and of volunteers

UTHORAID

#### Some Collaborators

- IFS (International Foundation for Science)
- NUR (National University of Rwanda)
- TDR (UNICEF-UNDP-World Bank-WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases)
- RSC/Pan Africa Chemistry Network





#### Main Components

- Workshops on research writing
- Online mentorships
- Online resource library
- Blog
- E-mail discussion list
- Online course
- Small grants

## Workshops on Research Writing

Glimpses from a Few in Africa

### Ethiopia (2008)



### Kenya (2008)



### Rwanda (2009)



### Tanzania (2010)



### Ghana (2011)



### Ethiopia (2012)



### Kenya (2012)



#### The Workshops

- Usually 2 to 5 days
- Address one or more of the following:
  - Writing and publishing journal articles
  - Preparing and giving presentations
  - Writing proposals
- Interactive
- Train-the-trainer emphasis
- Sometimes train-the-trainer workshops

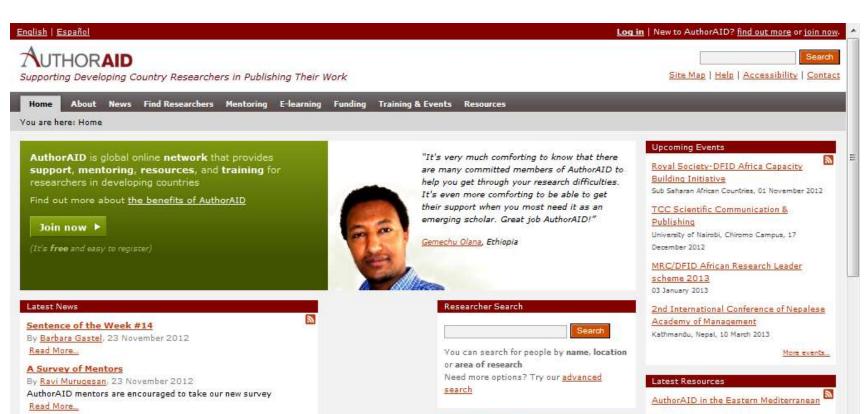
#### Online Mentorships

- Can seek mentors and mentees through the AuthorAID website
- AuthorAID staff also can help in matching
- Can vary in scope and duration



#### Openly Accessible Content





Traduções em Português

By Barbara Gastel, 22 November 2012

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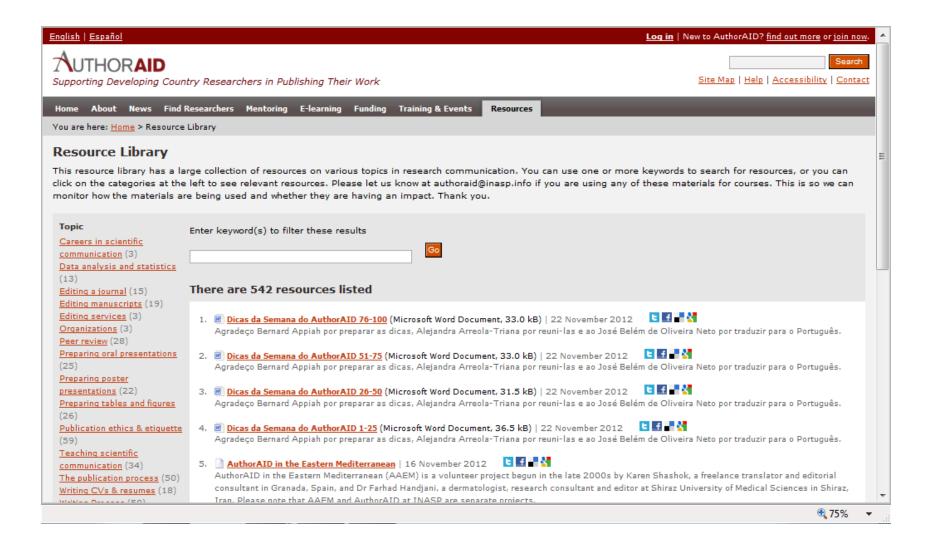
More resources...

AuthorAID Discussion

**4** 75%

#### Resource Library

- Contains presentations (for example, from AuthorAID workshops), articles, book chapters, Web links, etc—thus far, more than 500 items
- Includes translations of some materials into Arabic, Chinese, French, Portuguese, Spanish, or Vietnamese; more languages sought
- Searchable by subject area, resource type, and language
- Suggestions of content welcome



### <u>Blog</u>

- The news section of the website
- Now usually four or more posts per week
  - General post
  - Tip of the week
  - Resource of the week
  - Sentence of the week
  - Other



#### SciDev.Net

#### Sleeping sickness drug resistance mechanism identified

15 February 2012

#### Phase-changing materials in trial to preserve vaccines

15 February 2012

#### Why Pacific islands should take on ocean monitoring

15 February 2012

Pacific fisheries need tech to track climate impact 15 February 2012

#### Ocean science for systemable development: Facts and figures

15 February 2012

More ...

#### Attending a Large Conference: Some Tips

By Barbara Gastel | 12 February 2012

Greetings again. I hope you're doing well.

In a few days, some of my students and I will attend the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) annual meeting. It will be in Vancouver, Canada.

The AAAS annual meeting is a large conference. Thousands of researchers, from many countries, attend it. There are many sessions at the same time.

Attending such a large conference can be wonderful but overwhelming. How can one make the most of such an opportunity? Here are some tips, mainly for those new to attending such conferences.

- If possible, look at the conference program before attending. List sessions you hope to attend.
- · Take advantage of the chance to network.
  - · Attend conference events such as receptions.
  - Bring business cards. If you're seeking a job or other opportunity, also bring copies of your CV.
  - Consider contacting people beforehand about getting together at the conference.
- . If you'll be presenting at the conference:
  - Carry your presentation materials with you. If traveling by plane, don't put them
    in your checked luggage, which might be delayed or lost.
  - Bring a backup copy of your presentation materials. For example, if your PowerPoint presentation is on a USB drive, also e-mail it to yourself.
  - · Publicize your session to people who might like to attend.

Speaking of which . . . A session at the AAAS meeting will include a presentation about AuthorAID. If you attend the meeting, I hope to see you there.

Wishing you a good week- Barbara

#### Latest News

Tip of the Week #64

By Bernard Applah, 15 February 2012

Boad More

Attending a Large Conference: Some Tips

By Barbara Gastel, 12 February 2012

Read More (10 Comments)

Resource of the Week #44: Skype-An Aid to

Mentoring and More

By Barbara Gastel, 10 February 2012

Read More... (2 Comments)

Tip of the Week #63

By Bernard Applah, 07 February 2012

Read More. (1 Comments)

Which Affiliation to List?

By Barbara Gastel, 05 February 2012

Read More. (5 Comments)

More news...

Log in to add comments

#### E-Mail Discussion List

- Led by Bernard Appiah
- Chance to share ideas, ask questions
- Can sign up when register for AuthorAID



#### Online Course in Research Writing

- Developed by Ravi Murugesan
- Based on the AuthorAID workshops
- Pilot-tested at the National University of Rwanda in autumn 2011
- Places available on a competitive basis
- For more, see new blog post by Ravi



#### **Small Grants**

- Have been offered when funds available
- Quite competitive
- Categories for 3 purposes
  - To give writing-skills workshops
  - To present at conferences
  - To attend summer intensive course in research writing
- Announced on Web and in discussion list

#### Registering for AuthorAID

- Most online AuthorAID content openly accessible (without registration)
- By registering at site, also have chance to
  - Sign up for e-mail discussion list
  - Be notified when new blog posts appear
  - Seek a mentor or mentee or otherwise contact members of AuthorAID community







### Thank you!

Please join us at AuthorAID (www.authoraid.info).