



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

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Knowledge Community Editor,  
AuthorAID at INASP

**AuthorAID** is global online **network** that provides **support, mentoring, resources, and training** for researchers in developing countries

Find out more about [the benefits of AuthorAID](#)

[Join now](#) ▶

(It's **free** and easy to register)



"...my experience with AuthorAID has been great! Through the AuthorAID website, I met my mentor Jackie Goodrich - a PhD student at the University of Michigan. Jackie has been very dedicated in offering me guidance on how to improve my writing skills."

[Rhoun Ochako](#), Kenya

#### Upcoming Events

[Royal Society-DFID Africa Capacity Building Initiative](#)

Sub Saharan African Countries, 01 November 2012

[TCC Scientific Communication & Publishing](#)

University of Nairobi, Chiromo Campus, 17 December 2012

[MRC/DFID African Research Leader scheme 2013](#)

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[2nd International Conference of Nepalese Academy of Management](#)

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#### Researcher Search

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You can search for people by **name, location** or **area of research**

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#### Featured Researchers



[Abiodun Egbetokun](#) Nigeria

Research interests: evolutionary economics - absorptive capacity - firm networks and

# 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](http://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



# 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



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Find out more about [the benefits of AuthorAID](#)

[Join now](#) ▶

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"It's very much comforting to know that there are many committed members of AuthorAID to help you get through your research difficulties. It's even more comforting to be able to get their support when you most need it as an emerging scholar. Great job AuthorAID!"

[Gemechu Olana](#), Ethiopia

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#### Featured Researchers



[Abiodun Egbetokun](#) Nigeria

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# 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



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## Resource Library

This resource library has a large collection of resources on various topics in research communication. You can use one or more keywords to search for resources, or you can click on the categories at the left to see relevant resources. Please let us know at [authoraid@inasp.info](mailto:authoraid@inasp.info) if you are using any of these materials for courses. This is so we can monitor how the materials are being used and whether they are having an impact. Thank you.

### Topic

[Careers in scientific communication](#) (3)  
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1. [Dicas da Semana do AuthorAID 76-100](#) (Microsoft Word Document, 33.0 kB) | 22 November 2012   
Agradeço Bernard Appiah por preparar as dicas, Alejandra Arreola-Triana por reuni-las e ao José Belém de Oliveira Neto por traduzir para o Português.
2. [Dicas da Semana do AuthorAID 51-75](#) (Microsoft Word Document, 33.0 kB) | 22 November 2012   
Agradeço Bernard Appiah por preparar as dicas, Alejandra Arreola-Triana por reuni-las e ao José Belém de Oliveira Neto por traduzir para o Português.
3. [Dicas da Semana do AuthorAID 26-50](#) (Microsoft Word Document, 31.5 kB) | 22 November 2012   
Agradeço Bernard Appiah por preparar as dicas, Alejandra Arreola-Triana por reuni-las e ao José Belém de Oliveira Neto por traduzir para o Português.
4. [Dicas da Semana do AuthorAID 1-25](#) (Microsoft Word Document, 36.5 kB) | 22 November 2012   
Agradeço Bernard Appiah por preparar as dicas, Alejandra Arreola-Triana por reuni-las e ao José Belém de Oliveira Neto por traduzir para o Português.
5. [AuthorAID in the Eastern Mediterranean](#) | 16 November 2012   
AuthorAID in the Eastern Mediterranean (AAEM) is a volunteer project begun in the late 2000s by Karen Shashok, a freelance translator and editorial consultant in Granada, Spain, and Dr Farhad Handjani, a dermatologist, research consultant and editor at Shiraz University of Medical Sciences in Shiraz, Iran. Please note that AAEM and AuthorAID at INASP are separate projects.

# Blog

- 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

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[Ocean science for sustainable development: Facts and figures](#)

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## 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

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By [Bernard Appiah](#), 15 February 2012

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[Resource of the Week #44: Skype—An Aid to Mentoring and More](#)

By [Barbara Gastel](#), 10 February 2012

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[Tip of the Week #63](#)

By [Bernard Appiah](#), 07 February 2012

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[Which Affiliation to List?](#)

By [Barbara Gastel](#), 05 February 2012

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# 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](http://www.authoraid.info)).