



# The AuthorAID Project:

Building Capacity in Communicating Research

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Supporting Developing Country Researchers in Publishing Their Work

 
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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.)*

"...being an AuthorAID mentor goes beyond a conventional teacher-student relationship - it is a really stimulating and worthwhile learning process for both mentee and mentor."



[Dan Korbel](#), United Kingdom

## Upcoming Events

[Fellowships and writing workshops for climate change researchers from South Asia](#)

Delhi, India, 21 February 2012

[Call for mentors: SICRISA](#)

29 February 2012

[AuthorAID Travel Grant](#)

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[Rising Stars in Global Health](#)

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You can search for people by **name**, **location** or **area of research**.Need more options? Try our [advanced search](#)

## Featured Researchers

**Howard NJOKU** Nigeria

*Research interests:* Energy Analysis, Solar Thermal Systems, Thermal Storage, CFD, Exergy Analysis, GIS applied to Renewable Energy Resource Estimation, Heat Transfer, Energy Materials

[Looking for a mentor](#)**FITRI ARKHAM FAUZIAH** Indonesia

*Research interests:* Health Professional Education Nursing

[Looking for a mentor](#)**V. Murale** India

*Research interests:* strategic HRM, Intellectual Capital, Consumer Behavior, Service quality, Loyalty, Organizational Citizenship behavior

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## Latest Resources

[SICRISA mentors](#)

(PDF document, 63Kb)

[Ethics of Scientific Publication: An Introduction](#)

(Microsoft PowerPoint presentation, 164Kb)

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[how to tackle delayed journal response?](#)

15 February 2012

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# Overview

- Background
- Workshops
- Online Resources
- AuthorAID Grants
- Mentoring



# The AuthorAID Concept



- Goal: to help developing-country researchers to write about and publish their work
- Idea of Anthony Robbins and Phyllis Freeman, editors of the *Journal of Public Health Policy*

# The Concept (cont)

- Builds on previous work with similar goals (for example, China Medical Board program)
- Novel aspect: extensive use of Web (including Web-based mentoring)
- Not a single program or project

# INASP

- International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications
- UK-based nonprofit focusing on supporting global research communication
- Site of the largest AuthorAID project
- Some other realms of INASP involvement: library development, information access, online-journal development

# AuthorAID at INASP

- Funded by Sida (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency), Norad (Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation), and DFID (UK Department for International Development)
- Initially (2007–2009) a carefully evaluated pilot project
- Current funding cycle: 2010–2012

# Main Partners (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)



# Main Components

- Workshops on research writing
- Openly accessible content
- Grants (for example, to hold workshops)
- Mentoring (scientific and editorial) by volunteers

# AuthorAID at INASP Leadership

**Julie Walker, INASP**



**Sioux Cumming, INASP**



# AuthorAID at INASP Leadership

**Barbara Gastel, Knowledge  
Community Editor**



**Ravi Murugesan,  
Training Coordinator**



# AuthorAID Graduate Assistants

**Alejandra (Alex)  
Arreola-Triana**



**Bernard Appiah**



# Workshops on Research Writing



# Glimpses from a Few Workshops



# Ethiopia (2008)



# Kenya (2008)





# Nicaragua (2008)



# Rwanda (2009)



# Bangladesh (2009)



# Sri Lanka (2010)





# Nepal (2011)



# Ghana (2011)



# The Workshops

- Several per year
- In developing countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America
- Focus largely on
  - Writing and publishing journal articles
  - Preparing poster presentations and oral presentations
  - Writing grant proposals

# The Workshops (cont)

- Typically 2 to 5 days
- Sometimes held in conjunction with partners or conferences
- Combine lectures and small-group work
- Serve researchers from varied disciplines
- Have local co-facilitators
  - Help relate content to local context
  - Learn to give the workshops themselves



# The Workshops (cont)

- Encourage attendees to share the learning
- Increasingly followed by train-the-trainer workshops
- Facilitators and trainees have gone on to give multiple workshops
- Also help in publicizing AuthorAID, assessing needs, and testing materials

# Locally Led Workshop in Nepal (2011)



# Online Course in Research Writing

- Developed by Ravi Murugesan, AuthorAID training coordinator
- Based on the AuthorAID workshops
- Pilot-tested at the National University of Rwanda in autumn 2011
- Expected to become openly available soon

# Openly Accessible Content



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."



[Rhoune Ochako](#), Kenya

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## Researcher Search

 Search

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

**Mohamed Navaz** Sri Lanka

*Research interests:* Classroom interaction at tertiary level, especially between teachers and learners

**Looking for a mentor**

**PARAMANANDAN** India

*Research interests:* ICT for Rural Development, Restoration of Ecosystem, Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Development

**Looking for a mentor**

**Dr. Syed AKhtar Hussain Bokhari** Pakistan

*Research interests:* Periodontal Medicine, preventive cardiology, clinical research

**Looking for a mentee**

[Find more researchers](#) from more than 4200 researchers in 161 countries.

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# The AuthorAID Website

- [www.authoraids.info](http://www.authoraids.info)
- English-language site dates back to 2007
- Spanish-language site debuted June 2011
- Most recent design update: October 2011

# Resource Library

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

## 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.



















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### There are 478 resources listed

1.  [SICRISA mentors](#) (PDF document, 63.1 kB) | 14 February 2012 
2.  [Ethics of Scientific Publication: An Introduction](#) (Microsoft PowerPoint presentation, 164.5 kB) | 04 February 2012   
A lecture from a graduate course on scientific ethics. Focuses mainly on ethical standards for writing and publishing journal articles. Introduces basic principles of ethics, notes ethical norms and issues in research publication, and lists sources of further information.
3.  [PDF copy - Application for workshop grant](#) (PDF document, 258.1 kB) | 01 February 2012 
4.  [PDF copy - Application for travel grant](#) (PDF document, 244.4 kB) | 01 February 2012 
5.  ["Avoiding Plagiarism, Self-Plagiarism, and Other Questionable Writing Practices: A Guide to Ethical Writing"](#) | 26 January 2012   
Module by Miguel Roig, PhD, professor of psychology, St. John's University. Funded and posted by the (US) Office of Research Integrity. Available in both HTML and PDF. Includes examples of adequate and inadequate paraphrasing.
6.  [Mentoring learning agreement](#) (Microsoft Word Document, 39.5 kB) | 24 January 2012   
Mentees and mentors are advised to complete this learning agreement at the start of a mentoring relationship.
7.  [Scientific Writing: 10 Basics](#) (Microsoft PowerPoint presentation, 128.5 kB) | 20 January 2012   
Lecture from a writing-intensive undergraduate course (Biology of Mammalian Cells and Tissues) at Texas A&M University. Introduces basic principles. Suitable overall for students in a variety of fields.
8.  ["Authorship Skills"](#) | 20 January 2012   
A set of learning modules from HINARI. Includes a presentation, titled "Authorship Skills Web-Bibliography", with links to resources on various subjects, such as writing journal articles, editing journals, avoiding plagiarism, citing references, and writing effectively in English. To access this Web bibliography, click on the link below the heading "Module 4". The HINARI Authorship Skills modules have been developed with support of a grant from the Elsevier Foundation to the Librarians Without Borders/Medical Library Association (USA) E-Library Training Initiative.
9.  ["How to Handle Authorship Disputes: A Guide for New Researchers"](#) | 13 January 2012   
From the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE). Discusses not only authorship disputes but also other aspects of authorship. Includes advice on preventing authorship problems, suggestions of what to do if such problems occur, definitions of important terms relating to authorship, and discussion of the concepts represented by these terms. Suitable not only for new researchers but also for more advanced ones.





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"...members of AuthorAID are really lucky to have the kind of selfless help that we get through this medium"

[Tabinda Hasan](#), India


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**FW: Hi!**

15 February 2012

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# Blog

(News Section of Website)

- Began November 2007
- Now three posts per week
  - General post
  - Tip of the week
  - Resource of the week
- Some themes:
  - Advice on communicating research
  - AuthorAID activities and materials
  - Other conferences



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## AuthorAID News

### [Tip of the Week #64](#)

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

One strategy for writing readably is using simple or common words. For example, instead of writing "This is a fundamental principle," just write "This is a basic principle."

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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 ...

[Read More...](#) (10 Comments)

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

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

Hello again. Usually our Resource of the Week is a source of content. This week our resource is one that can aid the communication process.

The resource I'm referring to is [Skype](#). Many AuthorAID members already use Skype. For readers not familiar with Skype, let me say a little about it. And for everyone, let me say a little about using Skype in mentoring.

Skype is an online service through which people can talk with each other for ...

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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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# 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

# Some Statistics

- As of 15 February 2012, more than 4200 registrants, in 161 countries
- From 16 February 2011 to 15 February 2012, a total of 77,141 visits from 35,542 visitors in 184 countries/territories



# AuthorAID Grants



# AuthorAID Grants

- First awarded in 2011
- For candidates from designated developing countries
- Small grants for 3 purposes
  - To present at international conferences
  - To hold writing-skills workshops
  - To attend Texas A&M University intensive course in research writing





# Mentoring



# Mentoring

- By volunteers
  - Main backgrounds: research, editing
  - At a variety of career stages
- Very largely online
- Can arrange through website
- AuthorAID team can help in matching
- Guidelines and learning agreement available
- High demand for more mentors; AAAS a seemingly logical source

# THE MENTORING JOURNEY

AUTHORAID

RAHIM IS WORKING IN A UNIVERSITY IN NAIROBI AND IS STRUGGLING TO WRITE UP HIS RESEARCH...



THIS IS TOUGH ... I REALLY NEED SOME HELP WITH THE DATA ANALYSIS AND WRITE UP IF I'M GOING TO GET IT PUBLISHED ANYWHERE

HIS DEPARTMENT LIBRARIAN HAS SOME ADVICE...



HAVE YOU TRIED THE AUTHORAID WEBSITE, RAHIM? SOMEONE THERE MAY BE ABLE TO HELP YOU.



HMMM... THIS LOOKS QUITE USEFUL. THERE IS A MENTORING SCHEME AND LOTS OF RESEACHERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD. I WONDER WHETHER ONE OF THEM CAN HELP ME?



I'LL TRY TO SEARCH FOR A MENTOR IN MOLECULAR ECOLOGY



A COUPLE OF DAYS LATER...



HI, RAHM! THIS IS JANE COLLINS. I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A MENTOR?

YES, THAT'S RIGHT. TNANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR CALL. LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT MY RESEARCH....



15 MINUTES LATER...



THAT'S GREAT - I'D BE DELIGHTED TO HELP YOU. AUTHORAID HAVE ALREADY PROVIDED ME WITH SOME GUIDELINES ABOUT HOW TO SET UP A MENTORING RELATIONSHIP, SO I'LL TAKE A LOOK AT THOSE AND GET BACK TO YOU WITH THE NEXT STEPS.

# Looking Ahead

The logo for AUTHORAID features a stylized 'A' composed of a grey triangle and a red swoosh. This is followed by the word 'AUTHOR' in grey and 'AID' in red.

AUTHORAID



# Some Possible Priorities

- More mentoring
- Continued expansion of online resources
- Additional leadership and ownership by developing-country researchers—to help sustainably build capacity in communicating research

# Thank you!

