

The AuthorAID Project:

Building Capacity in Communicating Research

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Knowledge Community Editor,
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Supporting Developing Country Researchers in Publishing Their Work

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resources, and training for researchers in developing countries

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"...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

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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

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

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Find more researchers from more than 4200 researchers in 161 countries.

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

29 February 2012

Rising Stars in Global Health

23 March 2012

AuthorAID Workshop Grant

31 March 2012

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SICRISA mentors

(PDF document, 63Kb)

Ethics of Scientific Publication: An Introduction

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AuthorAID Discussion

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 <u>evaluated</u> 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





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

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"...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

Upcoming Events

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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

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?

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The AuthorAID Website

- www.authoraid.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



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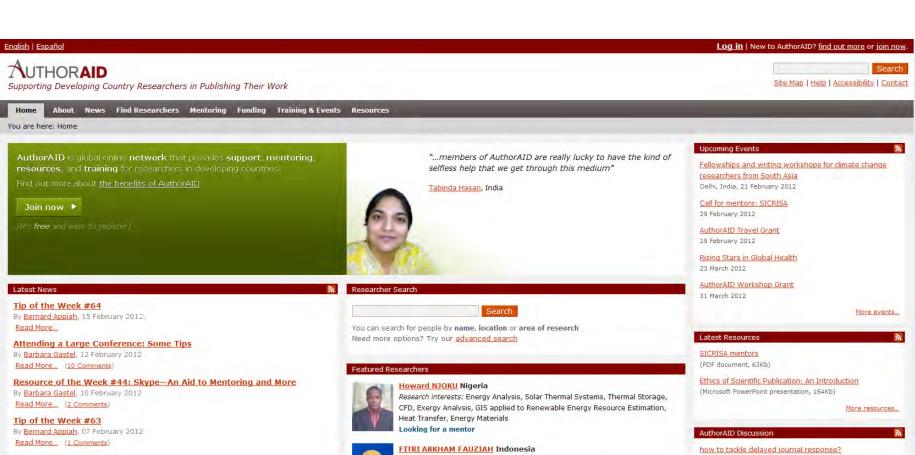
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Blog

(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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SciDev.Net

<u>Sleeping sickness drug resistance mechanism</u> <u>identified</u>

15 February 2012

<u>Phase-changing materials in trial to preserve</u> vaccines

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Why Pacific islands should take on ocean monitoring

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Pacific fisheries need tech to track climate impact

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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 \dots A <u>session</u> 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

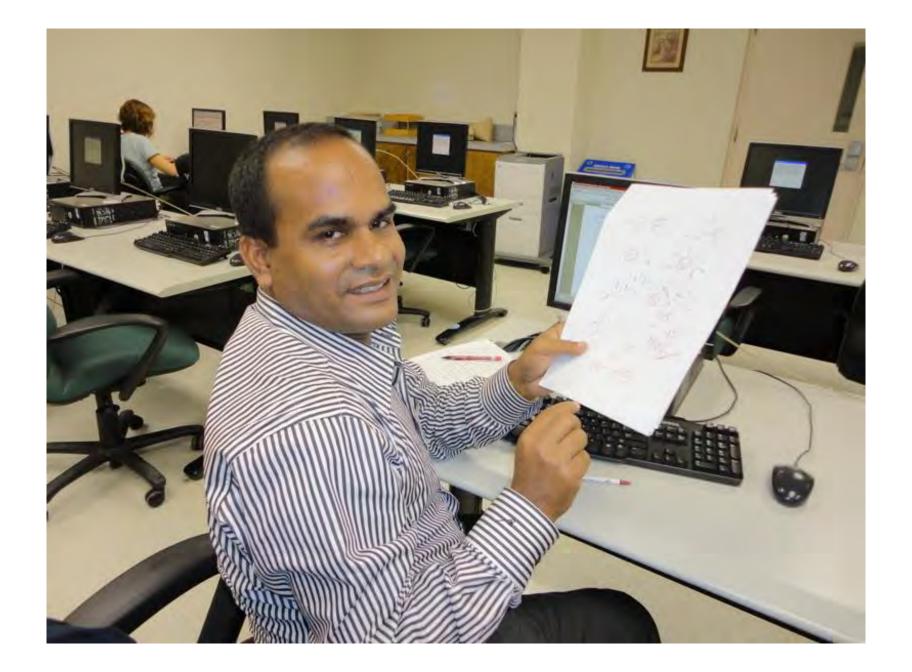


AuthorAID Grants



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



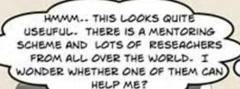
Mentoring

- 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



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

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







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....







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



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!

