#  “Collaboration for sustainable open access publishing in Africa” portals survey

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“Collaboration for sustainable open access publishing in Africa” project aims to **develop and deliver a participatory funding approach** **that will enhance quality and sustainability of African diamond open access** (OA) publishing initiatives while maintaining their diversity. Diamond OA means that no fees to authors and readers are charged. **Two open grant funding calls for proposals** co-designed with the diamond OA community will be issued and the funds provided will strengthen quality diamond OA publishing across Africa. The project is implemented by EIFL, AJOL and WACREN.

If you are based in Africa and manage an institutional, national, regional and/or discipline specific portal/website that hosts/indexes/aggregates African diamond OA journals we invite you to fill in this survey. Your participation in the survey will help us better understand challenges that the diamond OA community is facing and plan the grant funding calls for proposals to support the community.

The survey is divided into six sections:
1. General portal features
2. Funding, incentives, institutional support, sustainability and collaborations
3. Editorial quality and research integrity/publication ethics
4. Technical service efficiency
5. Visibility and discoverability (including indexation)
6. Challenges, funding needs and support required to make diamond OA publishing more sustainable

The survey has a total of 39 questions and takes approximately 30 minutes to complete.

Please find [here] a printable [Word file](https://eifl.net/sites/default/files/resources/portals_survey.docx) version of the survey for you to review before you fill in the survey online. Please note that only the online version can be used to submit your final answers.

The survey should be answered, preferably, on a computer. The survey saves answers per page as you click the “Next Page” button and move to the following page. You can exit the survey if you wish and re-enter by copying the link in the same device and browser from which you first accessed it. The pages you have filled in up to that point will be saved. Please note that you will also be able to go back and make changes to your answers before submitting them.

Please press the “Submit” button at the end of the survey. Otherwise, your answers will not be recorded. Please note, that after pressing the submit button, you won't be able to make any changes to your answers.

The survey closes on February 29, 2024.

If you encounter technical issues while filling in the survey please contact the project manager Iryna Kuchma at iryna.kuchma@eifl.net.

By default, the responses provided in this survey will be anonymised. Neither you nor your affiliation (institution/organization/journal, etc.) will be identified in any future project outputs. Your participation in this study is confidential. Personal data collected throughout the survey (an email if you choose to provide it) will be handled in accordance with the [EIFL’s privacy policy](https://eifl.net/page/data-protection-policy).

Do you agree with the Privacy Policy? \*

Yes

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**I. General portal features**

1. Country, where your portal that includes African diamond OA journals is based. \*

2. Your portal title \*

3. Your portal website (URL) \*

4. Your portal scope (Please select all that apply) \*

Disciplinary portal

Institutional portal

National portal

Other (please specify):

5. Name/s of the host organization/s of your portal \*\*

(please include the name/s of your host institution/s - University/Research institute/Professional association or other entity).

6. Language/s in which you publish journal articles on your portal \*

7. Languages of the interface and information and support pages (About, Help sections and other guidelines) \*

8. How many journals does your portal include? \* 

9. How many articles does your portal include? \* 

10. How many articles were added in 2023? \* 

11. How many journals are diamond OA? \* 

12. What disciplines does your portal mainly cover? (Please select all that apply) \*

Multidisciplinary

Natural sciences

Engineering and technology

Medical and health sciences

Agricultural sciences

Social sciences

Humanities

Non-academic

Other (please specify):

13. How many people work for your portal? \* 

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**II. Funding, incentives, institutional support, sustainability and collaborations**

14. How does your portal’s personnel work? \*

There is a dedicated unit responsible for the portal with employed personnel (fully or partially employed to work for the portal)

There is no dedicated unit and everyone is working as volunteers

There is a dedicated unit responsible for the portal with some personnel employed and some working as volunteers

There is no dedicated unit but the personnel is employed by the institution and is sharing their time between the portal and other tasks

15. Are there any incentives for your portal’s personnel at your institution (e.g. less other institutional administrative work, additional points at evaluation/promotion, etc.)? \*

Yes

No

16. If yes, please describe the incentives in place.

17. How is your portal funded? (Please select all that apply) \*

Fixed and permanent subsidy from your host organization

Periodically negotiated subsidy from your host organization

Time-limited grants or subsidies, either private or public from outside your host organization

Permanent public/government funding (international, national, local)

Collective funding (e.g. crowdfunding, membership fees, etc.)

Print sales (e.g. print on demand)

Any other income (event organization, commercial revenue, loans, etc.)

Other (please specify):

18. How stable are these funding sources based on the last three years? \*

Very unstable

Unstable

Neither stable or unstable

Stable

Very stable

Don’t know

19. Do you have an annual approved budget for the portal? \*

Yes

No

20. Does your host organization provide you with in-kind support either in the form of labour, facility costs or other? (Please select all that apply) \*

Facilities and premises

Human Resource management, general financial and legal services

General IT services (email, hardware, Internet, etc)

Service-specific IT services (publishing platform/website, tools, etc)

Salaries of permanent staff

Salaries of temporary staff

Other (please specify):

21. To save costs, do you collaborate/would consider collaborating with other organizations in any of the following areas? (Please select all that apply). \*

Production services (copy-editing, proofreading, typesetting, metadata, etc.)

IT services (submission system, platform, website, etc.)

Communication services (marketing/dissemination, social media, etc.)

Administrative, legal and financial services (contracts, accounting, documentation, etc.)

Training, support and/or advice on publishing policies and best practice

None

Don’t know

Other (please specify):

22. Do you have a portal sustainability plan? \*

Yes

No

23. What are the main challenges related to the financial sustainability of your portal and how could they be addressed? \*



By financial sustainability we mean the capacity to develop and implement feasible medium-term financial strategies that facilitate the consistent execution of tasks, incorporating essential developmental elements for adhering to globally recognized quality standards in publishing, all while guaranteeing the continuous accessibility of published content.

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**III. Editorial quality and research integrity/publication ethics**

24. Do you have any inclusion, revision and exclusion criteria that apply to hosted/indexed journals? (Please select all that apply) \*

Institutional, national or disciplinary affiliation

Compliance with editorial quality criteria

Only OA journals are accepted

Only diamond OA journals are accepted

Bibliometric criteria (e.g. publication counts, citation counts, impact scores, etc.)

Other (please specify):

25. If you have any inclusion, revision and exclusion criteria related to editorial quality and research integrity/publication ethics, please provide the URL where these criteria are published

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**IV. Technical service efficiency**

26. How is your portal’s technical infrastructure maintained and updated? (Please select all that apply) \*

In-house by an IT department/personnel

In-house by a dedicated publishing department (e.g. the library)

In-house across different departments

Partially outsourced

Mainly outsourced

Fully outsourced

Other (please specify):

27. Does your publishing infrastructure support online publishing workflows (e.g. a journal’s online platform is used to submit manuscripts, review them and make them openly available after approval for publication)? If your online platform performs some of the online publishing actions only, please indicate which ones. \*

Yes - all publishing workflows are online

Some publishing workflows are online

No

28. What software do you use for your publishing system? \*

Open Journals System (OJS)

Janeway

Lodel

DSpace

WordPress

Drupal

Don’t know

Other (please specify):

Other: Customisation or own development (please specify), Other open source software (please specify), Other commercial software (please specify)

29. Do you assign unique persistent identifiers to published content (e.g. DOIs, URNs, ORCIDs, Handles, ARKs)? \*

Yes

No

30. If you answered yes, please select the persistent identifiers you use

Crossref-DOI

Datacite-DOI

Other DOI

ORCID

URN

Handle

ARK

Other (please specify):

31. Do you provide long term preservation options for the journals you host (e.g. via CLOCKSS, LOCKSS, the PKP Preservation Network (PKP PN), Portico, a national library/repository, etc.)? \*

Yes

No

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**V. Visibility and discoverability (including indexation)**

32. Where is your portal indexed? (Please select all that apply) \*

BASE

CORE

Google

Google Scholar

OpenAIRE

SciELO SA

WorldCat

My portal isn’t indexed anywhere

Other (please include the URLs of all relevant portals):

If indexed in National databases, indicate it under "Other" and please include the URLs.

33. Do you provide support to journals that want to get indexed by AJOL, DOAJ, Medline, PubMed Central, Scopus, Web of Science, etc?

Yes

No

34. If you tried to get indexed by some indexes/databases listed above (or others) and failed, please describe your challenges. (Please select all that apply)

Satisfying the non-technical participation criteria

Satisfying the technical participation criteria

Satisfying the metadata requirements

Paying for membership, annual or one time

Paying for recurring charges, for example, monthly fees

The language of the communications/requirements/paperwork is only in English

The language of the communications/requirements/paperwork is another language that is hard to understand

The service/its requirements/its paperwork are too technical

Other (please specify):

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**VI. Challenges, funding needs and support required to make diamond OA publishing more sustainable**

35. Which challenges do you face? (Please select all that apply) \*

Financial constraints

Administrative constraints

Lack of human resources

Lack of expertise

Technical limitations of existing infrastructure

Providing adequate resources for the infrastructure and services

Issuing persistent identifiers

Trying to achieve and maintain interoperability with other services and systems

Archiving, backing up or preserving content and software

Keeping up with similar services

Other (please specify):

36. What are your unmet funding needs? \*



37. How could we support your work to make diamond OA publishing more sustainable? \*



38. Your contact email if you would like to receive our call for proposals for grant funding

Please verify that you have entered a valid email address above, so we can contact you.

39. If you provided your email above, would you also like to receive other updates on the “Collaboration for sustainable open access publishing in Africa” project?

Yes

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**VII. End of the survey**

Is there any feedback you would like to provide on the survey?



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