



Research Manuscript Writing

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- ① Minding Global South Gap
- ② Developing a Research Manuscript
- ③ Publication of Research Manuscript
- ④ Peer Review, Review Response and Post-Publication

① Minding Global South Gap

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Current Scenario:

- Output: Africa accounts for only 2.6% of the world's academic publications, while contributing 12% to the global population.
- Gap: This translates to a 10-fold disparity between Africa's population share and its published research output.
- Growth: Although Africa's publication rate is growing faster than the global average, it is still lagging behind.

Contributing Factors:

- Limited Research Funding: Africa receives only 1.3% of global research and development funding, hindering infrastructure and project development.
- Inadequate Infrastructure: Many African universities lack research facilities, equipment, and skilled personnel, impeding research quality and quantity.
- Weak Publication Culture: Lack of mentorship, training, and peer-review support can discourage researchers from publishing their work.
- Predatory Publishing: Unethical practices like predatory journals can exploit researchers' lack of experience, leading to low-quality publications.

Consequences:

- Limited Global Impact: African research findings remain largely undiscovered and underutilized, hindering global knowledge sharing and solutions to local challenges.
- Brain Drain: Talented researchers may seek opportunities abroad due to limited resources and recognition in Africa.
- Development Challenges: Lack of locally-driven research hinders informed policymaking and sustainable development solutions for African communities.

Benefits of Journal Outputs from Thesis:

- ROI for government for the Thesis grant offered to MA, MSc, MPhil and PhD students
- Mentorship systems provided by faculty and universities
- Avenue to inspire early career researchers to jump-start their researcher career in academia and industry
- Avenue to address socio-economic issues that need policy attention and that could become avenue for entrepreneurial pursuit

Support for Global South Research

AuthorAID is a free pioneering global network (>14,000) that provides support, mentoring, resources and training for researchers in low and middle income countries

- Personal mentoring by highly published researchers and professional editors
- Online training workshops on scientific writing
- A discussion group for discussion and questions where researchers can benefit from advice and insights from members across the globe
- Access to a range of documents and resources on best practice in writing and publication
- A chance to network or collaborate with other researchers

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Thesis vs Journal Manuscript

- ① Similarities
- ② Differences

Starting the Manuscript

- ① Start by identifying the quality journals in your discipline
- ② Your manuscript (thesis and journal article) should use non-predatory articles only
- ③ Not all research questions in your thesis need to be in a single journal article. It depends on the depth of issues and whether it is possible to split into two journal articles
- ④ The quality of your data and appropriateness of your research design will determine the quality of your manuscript, take note!

Drafting a Manuscript for a Journal

- ① Read the journal information and see the requirements and styles
- ② Take note of the publisher and any requirements they have (e.g. referencing style, submission style (pdf or editable documents), posting research data, ethical clearance and others)
- ③ Start on a new note, based on a style that aligns with the journal and not a copy-cut or summary of the thesis/long essay/report
- ④ Have your readers in mind, either solely or a mixed of academics, practitioners, local, regional or global audience, specialists and generalists

Draft-Ready ≠ Journal-Ready

- ① Proofread and copy-edit your draft (friends in English Department or others can help)
- ② Share your research within closed groupings and present or discuss it
- ③ Attend local and international conferences with the draft and seek for expert comments and feedback as much as possible
- ④ Present the work to technical experts and seek for their feedback which is usually helpful to explain some of the institutional factors which the researcher may not be aware of
- ⑤ Check your internal consistency and the appropriateness of the conclusions of the study
- ⑥ Spell out how unique your study is and the contributions to the extant literature

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Before Submitting to Journal

- ① Open access vs subscription-based publication
- ② To Be Avoided: Predatory Journals (THINK, CHECK, SUBMIT, see: <https://thinkchecksubmit.org/>)
- ③ Refer to publication resources from AuthorAID (see: <https://www.authoraid.info/en/resources/>)
- ④ Chartered Association of Business Schools (CABS) ranking
- ⑤ Australian Business Deans Council (ABDC) ranking
- ⑥ Impact Factor
- ⑦ Scopus Indexed
- ⑧ Web of Science (also called as SCI - Science Citation Index)

Over-Assessment and Under-Assessment of Quality

- ① High-Quality Manuscript to Low-Tier Journal vs Low-Quality Manuscript in High Tier Journal
- ② Leads to desk rejections
- ③ Delays in publication
- ④ Publication of articles in low tier journal though they could make it to top tier outlets

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Peer-Review Stage

- ① Expect various types of reviews: constructive, high quality, low quality, generic, specific etc
- ② Focus on how the process can enhance the final version of your article
- ③ Be bold and professional

Review Response

- ① Follow the journal's guidelines
- ② Seek help if it is needed
- ③ Engagement, Explanation and Transparency

Post-Publication

- ① Social media engagement
- ② Sharing your work among policymakers
- ③ Using your experience to mentor others