



You are cordially invited to a webinar on

The Role of Research Funders in Advancing Open Access Publishing in Africa

hosted by

Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf)

In collaboration with the

International Network for Advancing Science and Policy (INASP)

Date: 12 November 2025

Time: 10:00 – 11:30 (GMT+2)

Platform: Zoom

RSVP: [Click here to register](#) (After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar)

Background

Africa's scientific and socio-economic development depends on a robust and inclusive research publishing system. Yet African researchers face structural challenges that limit the visibility, accessibility, and impact of their work. The Open Access movement was meant to be the solution to democratising access to knowledge, but progress is now stalling. Recent estimates suggest that, at the current rate of change, it will take 70 years to see the big five commercial publishers transition all their journals to fully open access models. Furthermore, the pay-to-publish Open Access model that now predominates has created new barriers to publication through prohibitively expensive Article Processing Charges (APCs).

The current research publishing system is not working for African scholars. However, alternatives already exist, including Open Access repositories and Diamond Open Access journals, which do not charge to read or publish, and are typically built on not-for-profit and scholarly-run infrastructure. There is an opportunity to develop and strengthen African owned Open Access publishing infrastructure to both improve discoverability and reduce the barriers to publication for African researchers, enhancing the impact of their work both regionally and globally.

Research funders both from the continent and outside have a crucial role to play in shaping a better research publishing system. INASP has been working with partners to develop evidence and advance dialogue on research publishing reform through science diplomacy. This webinar will present new evidence including: a review of Open Access policy options for research funders and a mapping of the African research publishing landscape. This evidence will form the basis for a panel discussion exploring the role of African research funders in advancing Open Access to evidence.

Why Attend?

This webinar will explore the role of research funders in advancing Open Access publishing in Africa, responding to new evidence with insights from key stakeholders and experts in the research funding landscape. It will provide an opportunity for participants to:

- Discuss new evidence on funder Open Access policies and the African research publishing landscape.
- Hear from research funders and other stakeholder on current strategies and future approaches for advancing Open Access to research evidence.
- Contribute to conversations around African-led Open Access publishing solutions.