



Outcomes of the ASSAf study on: "Progress in Scholarly Publishing in South Africa: Journals and Books"

Prof David Woods
Mrs Susan Veldsman

*Applying scientific thinking
in the service of society*

Broad overview of presentation

- Overall objectives of the SPP
- Recommendations of the report
- National Platform for Open Access: SciELO South Africa

OVERALL OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSAf SCHOLARLY PUBLISHING PROGRAMME

- concerted intervention into the country's national system of Innovation (NSI), aligned with the Ten-Year Innovation Plan of the DST
- enhancement of the quality, quantity and worldwide visibility of original, peer-reviewed publications produced by researchers
- fostering of a new generation of highly competent and productive scientists and scholars.
- based on approaches typical of Academy activities (evidence-based, peer review, etc)

ASSAf REPORT 2006: JOURNAL-BASED PUBLICATIONS: 10 recommendations

- Strong indigenous journal system essential
- Code of best practice in editing and peer review needed
- Cyclical peer review of journals by ASSAf panels proposed
- Suggests accreditation of research outputs by govt. should be based on peer review-QA system as next phase of incentivising quality in Higher Educ. Instits.

ASSAf REPORT(CONTIN.)

- National platform required for open access through free-online journals and institutional repositories – govt. backing needed, mechanisms to be explored
- Information system to be set up, plus citation indexing and valid bibliometric methods
- Translation of scholarly content needed for public benefit – esp. education, innovation, development

ASSAf REPORT: PROGRESS ON RECOMMENDATIONS 1,3 AND 5

- National Scholarly Editors' Forum established
- Consensus "National Code of Best Practice in Editorial Discretion and Peer Review"
- Published database of journals/editors
- Shuttleworth Foundation-sponsored pilot study of editors' incentives and production/print publishing system - consultations with editors – preliminary recommendations for resource-sharing, involvement of university presses, harmonisation of e- and print-publishing technology

Discipline-grouped peer review of scholarly journals

- Mandate given for discipline-grouped peer review of scholarly journals – criteria and process guidelines approved – panel and reviewers appointed
- editor's logistics-focused questionnaire
- multiple independent peer review focused on content
- panel consensus
- report finalised by Committee on Scholarly Publishing in SA - first two Consensus Peer Review Reports completed (Social Sciences , Agriculture/Basic Life Sci)
- next four groups of journals underway – Law, Religion, Humanities and Medical Sciences.

ASSAf REPORT: PROGRESS ON RECOMMENDATION 4

- Negotiations for inclusion of best-practice guidelines in CHE/HEQC QA systems for higher education institutions, science councils
- Working toward free-online, 4-tiered course system in scientific writing for postgrads and young staff-consultative expert workshop expressed strong support :
 - Tier 1: Selected resources, access details
 - Tier 2: Online, self-teaching 'lecture-exercises' course
 - Tier 3: Mentoring system- experienced retirees, etc
 - Tier 4: Block face-to-face short courses

ASSAf REPORT: PROGRESS ON RECOMMENDATION 2

Follow-up, DoE-commissioned ASSAf consensus study on scholarly publishing in books/book chapters:

1. Strong support for scholarly books/collected works = deep scholarship level

- National Scholarly Publishers' Forum proposed
- Quality assurance system – proper peer review approaches, code of best practice
- Support system for publishing of scholarly books needed
 - consortia, infrastructure, alignments, etc
- Open Access to be maximised, but sustainable business models

RECOMMENDATION 2 (contin.)

2. Public policy (accreditation of research outputs):
 - Local treated equally to “international”
 - PhD dissertations published as books only if meet proposed types of scholarly books
 - General/Advanced textbooks ditto
 - Min. length 60 000 words = substantial work
 - Weighting 10 units for >180 000 words; 7.5 for 120 000, 5 for 60 000
3. Point of departure for conference proceedings
4. Encourage book reviews in SA journals
5. Increase use of books for educational purposes/ teacher training

ASSAf REPORT: Progress on Recommendation 6 (Open Access)

National platform for open access through free-online journals and institutional repositories – govt. backing, mechanisms

Vision of increasingly visible, highly cited/high-impact, collaboration-inviting, open accessible, locally published journals in SA:

Open-access (OA) literature is digital, online, free of charge to end users, and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions

A) Global Science Publishing Arena

- Publishing in Scientific Journals-most common and powerful way to disseminate research findings
- Visibility and credibility, requires publishing in journals indexed in global indexing databases (WoS, Scopus)
- Jnl indexed in WoS is to be considered scientifically important
- The system assumes that 20% journals (biggest, best established, high impact and most respected) contains 80% of real value of scientific knowledge
- Most scientists in developing countries remain at the periphery of this critical communication process—exacerbating the low international recognition and impact of their accomplishments
- For science to become influential and productive in dev countries---this needs to change

Scientific publishing in industrial vs developing worlds

- Industrial world
 - Economy of electronic publication, open access, and property rights fuel current academic and policy debates
- Developing world
 - Concerns are more fundamental such as sustaining local research activity, and achieving the appropriate global reach of its scientific activities

GLOBAL RESEARCH REPRESENTATION WEB OF SCIENCE COVERAGE

Region	# Journals from Region in Web of Science	
Europe	5,573	49%
North America	4,251	38%
Asia-Pacific	965	9%
Latin America	272	2%
Middle East/Africa	200	1%

Language	# Journals in Web of Science	
English	9114	81%
Other	2147	19%

COVERAGE OF REGIONAL AND SOUTH AFRICAN JOURNALS

Web of Science	2005	2010	Growth	Variation
<u>Total</u> <i>Journals Indexed</i>	8,834	11,423	2,589	+ 29%
<u>Regional</u> <i>Journals Indexed</i>	1,716	3,605	1,889	+ 110%
<u>South African</u> <i>Journals Indexed</i>	27	67	40	+ 148%

CHANGING NATURE OF SOUTH AFRICAN RESEARCH

Web of Science® with Conference Proceedings

Results CU=SOUTH AFRICA

Timespan=All Years. Databases=SCI-EXPANDED, SSCI, A&HCI, CPCI-S, CPCI-SSH.

Results: 171,150

Refine Results

Search within results for [Use the Results Analysis Tool](#)

Search

Subject Areas

Refine

- GENERAL & INTERNAL MEDICINE (19,790)
 - CHEMISTRY (11,314)
 - ENGINEERING (9,805)
 - SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY - OTHER TOPICS (8,385)
 - ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES & ECOLOGY (7,888)
- more options / values...

Document Types

Refine

- ARTICLE (115,001)
 - PROCEEDINGS PAPER (15,151)
 - MEETING ABSTRACT (13,903)
 - LETTER (10,015)
 - NOTE (5,292)
- more options / values...

Authors

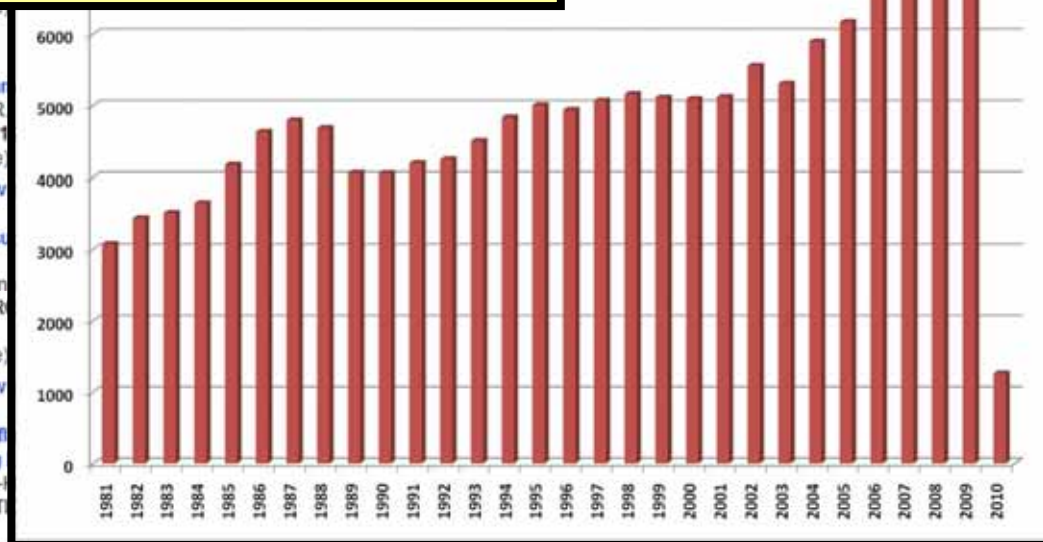
Group Authors

Editors

Print E-mail

- Title: PERCEPTIONS AB
Author(s): Puoane Than
Source: ETHNICITY & DI
Times Cited: 0 (from Web of Science)
[Links](#) [View abstract](#)
- Title: Critical assessment of voltam
Author(s): Ragubeer N., Beukes D. R.
Source: FOOD CHEMISTRY Volume: 1
Times Cited: 0 (from Web of Science)
[Links](#) [Full Text](#) [View](#)
- Title: Synergistic enhancement of su
phenylamine
Author(s): Agboola Bolade O., Ozoem
Source: JOURNAL OF POWER SOUR
2010
Times Cited: 0 (from Web of Science)
[Links](#) [Full Text](#) [View](#)
- Title: Quantitative determination of fl
methods and confirmation by using
Author(s): Avula Bharathi, Wang Yan-
Source: JOURNAL OF PHARMACEUT
2010
Times Cited: 0 (from Web of Science)
[Links](#) [Full Text](#) [View abstract](#)

South African researchers averaged just over 3,000 papers a year in the 70s – 90s. Now well over 8,000 papers per year

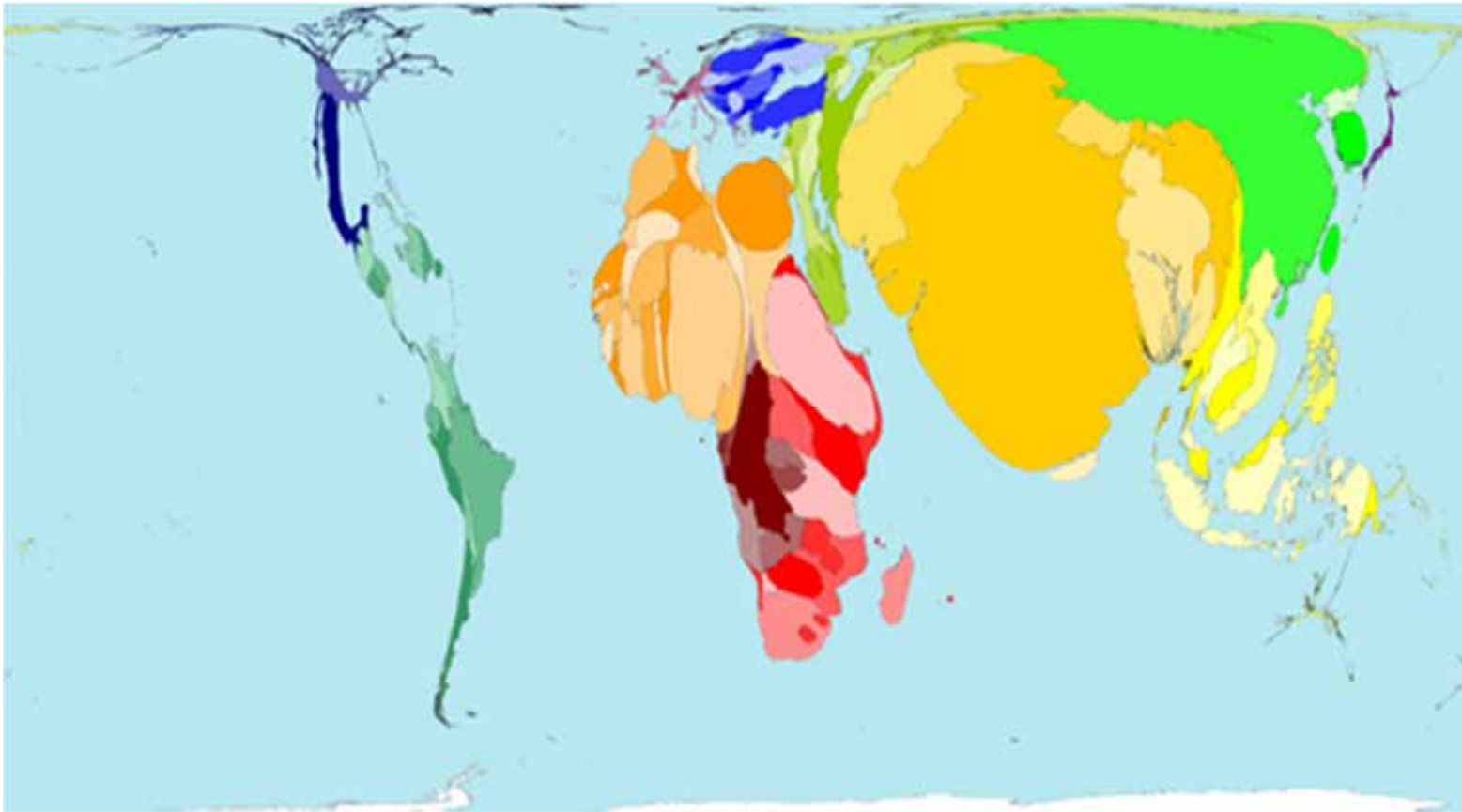


Science Research

How are we doing as a continent?



On Poverty?



B) Status of Scholarly publishing in SA

Research publishing in South Africa is undertaken in good faith and with much personal effort and commitment by editors and their editorial boards, but is very fragile in that:

- infrequent, often irregular publication of thin issues is generally used to deal with a low supply of good papers
- a majority of the journals play only a tiny role in the world research publishing system, as judged by citation in the most extensive, multi-disciplinary, indexed database available;
- the “mixed bag” of quality and reputation in the DoE’s local accreditation list means the whole group is “tainted” in the eyes of key stakeholders.

Editor's incentives

- Pilot project for Shuttleworth Foundation
- Need to elevate study into a evidence-based-study to eventually influence policy and advise HE institutions and government and other stakeholders
- Identified three broad categories
 - Material reward (direct and indirect) not widely practiced – but appreciated. Not perceived as an incentive
 - Editorial efficiency—improved infrastructure e.g. online manuscript system. Assistance in copy editing
 - Recognition
 - Career progressing

SciELO South Africa National Platform

- SciELO is a fully cross indexed platform, which forms part of a developing country "ISI" system
- Usage, downloads, visits can be monitored daily
- Creation of national platform for open access publishing of high-quality by the editor, author and users on the system!
- SciELO Brazil is in discussion with the "proper" ISI for the inclusion of SciELO journals in their database and citation analysis system
- Journals on the platform for inclusion will be stringently selected by Review Panels -- to ensure quality SA Scholarly journals

SciELO SA (contd.)

- Publishing on this platform is free as it is funded by the Dept of Science and Technology
- Could be linked with institutional per-article co-payments possibly linked to the DoE research output subsidy system
- possible partial subsidization by DST of the print versions (if they are of high quality, post peer reviewed) AND is unable to tolerate possible loss in income
- being part of a possible new DoE accreditation system linked to ASSAf's SPP activities

PROCESS STEPS

- Task Team recommended “SciELO-SA” model to ASSAf’s CSPiSA on 14 Oct 08; to ASSAf Council on 29 Oct 08 –approved
- Consultative meetings DST, DoHET, NRF, HESA, Sept 08
Abel Packer presentation to editors at NSEF in Oct 08, sent to all editors/publishers for information and comment
- Start-up in early 2009, 7 pilot journals in SciELO SA, budgets adjusted, staff recruited, hardware/software acquired, training
- Currently- 41 issues; 735 articles
- 20 more journals to be added during the next year
- Selection criteria: accredited and ISI/IBSS listed; peer review panels
- In c. 3 years, fully indexed, open access, high-quality SA journal system!


SciELO - Scientific electronic library online - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

http://www.scielo.org.za/

Most Visited Getting Started Latest Headlines

SciELO - Scientific electronic libra...



SciELO.org português español help about this site	serial browsing alphabetic list subject list search form	article browsing author index subject index search form
---	---	--

SciELO The Scientific Electronic Library Online - SciELO South Africa is an electronic library covering a selected collection of South African scientific journals.

The library is an integral part of a project being developed by FAPESP - Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado de São Paulo, in partnership with BIREME - the Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information. Since 2002, the Project is also supported by CNPq - Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico.

The Project envisages the development of a common methodology for the preparation, storage, dissemination and evaluation of scientific literature in electronic format.

As the project develops, new journal titles are being added in the library collection.

about this site This is the home page of SciELO South Africa Site.

The objective of the site is to implement an electronic virtual library, providing full access to a collection of serial titles, a collection of issues from individual serial titles, as well as to the full text of articles. The access to both serial titles and articles is available via indexes and search forms.

Done

start | Inbox - Microsoft Out... | Powerpoint templates... | Presentation Soelo S... | Taole AISA presentat... | SciELO - Scientific ele... | 11:52 AM

Library Collection

Alphabetic list - 7 serials listed

- [Hervormde Teologiese Studies](#) - 5 issues
- [Koedoe](#) - 2 issues
- [PER: Potchefstroomse Elektroniese Regsblad](#) - 4 issues
- [SAMJ: South African Medical Journal](#) - 3 issues
- [South African Journal of Education](#) - 7 issues
- [South African Journal of Science](#) - 13 issues
- [Water SA \(Online\)](#) - 6 issues

© 2009 SciELO - Scientific Electronic Library Online



scielo@assaf.org.za

Map Overlay - Google Analytics

- VISITORS
 - Overview
 - Benchmarking
 - Map Overlay
 - New vs. Returning
 - Languages
 - Visitor Trending
 - Visitor Loyalty
 - Browser Capabilities
 - Network Properties
 - Mobile
 - User Defined
 - Custom Variables
- Traffic Sources
 - Content
 - Goals
- Custom Reporting
- My Customizations
 - Custom Reports
 - Advanced Segments
 - Intelligence Beta
 - Email

Map Overlay

Mar 29, 2010 - Apr 28, 2010



15,564 visits came from 157 countries/territories

A special South African solution?

- S A only country to “reward” publication through HE subsidies
- 90-95% of journal articles ex universities
- Unit subsidy value increased 3X recently
- “Author pays” highly problematic
- “Institution pays” logical, at 1-3% of unit subsidy, to enable open access, free online
- Requires re-structuring of present system of S A research journals

A special South African solution?

- S A only country to “reward” publication through HE subsidies
- 90-95% of journal articles ex universities
- Unit subsidy value increased 3X recently
- “Author pays” highly problematic
- “Institution pays” logical, at 1-3% of unit subsidy, to enable open access, free online
- Requires re-structuring of present system of S A research journals

A huge flow of money!

Units as per policy:

Books 331

Conference Proceedings 351

Journal articles 7403

Funds generated:

Approx. R 650 million to H. E.

institutions as block subsidy

=Approx. R 27 million for books

Conclusion

The ASSAf Scholarly Publishing Programme is a concerted intervention into the country's national system of Innovation (NSI), which focuses on

- the enhancement of the quality,
- quantity and
- worldwide visibility of original,
- peer-reviewed publications produced by researchers in the public sector, and the fostering of a new generation of highly competent and productive scientists and scholars
- Consensus Studies – add value and lead to a set of strong policy recommendations based on consensus