



The Global South and the challenge of assessment :

Journal Publishing Practice and Standards (J.P.P.S.) as a framework

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At the beginning , there was Denis and Henry....

- 1665 saw the launch of the two first scientific *peer reviewed* periodicals.
- *Journal des Sçavans* and *Philosophical Transactions* " born " two months apart launched a new way to spread information.
- These two pionneers were followed by tens of thousands of titles making the periodical the favorite tool by which researchers publish and share their discoveries.

How much ?

- There seem to be real cacophony regarding the *number* of scientific / scholarly / peer reviewed periodicals.
- Many reasons
 - Defintions
 - Status(discontinued, change of titles, merger, splitting, etc...)
 - Selection criterias
 - Inclusion criterias
 - Different institutions doing the count (Ulrich's , Institute for Scientific Information, Directory of Open Access Journal, etc...)

Some numbers but still fuzziness and haziness prevail

- Price (1963) in a "Little science , Big Science" plotted that by 2000, there will be 1000 000 titles.
- Tenopir & King (2014) in " The Growth of journals publishing " made some projections that widely ranged in numbers and added to the confusion as to the exact number of scientific/academic and refereed journals titles:
 - ✓ 14694 (Mabe , 2001)
 - ✓ 23750 (Bjork et al, 2008)
 - ✓ 57400 (King et al, 1981)
 - ✓ 71000 (Meadows , 1988)
 - ✓ 70 000-80 000(Meadows , 1995)

Is Ulrich's right ?

Table 6.1

Growth in the number of journals according to Ulrichsweb, May 2002 to November 2011

	May 2002	February 2003	October 2004	June 2006	October 2007	February 2008	April 2010	November 2011
Active (all)	n/a	175,639	193,299	204,808	216,405	219,774	219,954	327,225
Active and online	30,564	33,393	37,533	48,788	55,795	56,885	70,973	84,851
Active and academic/scholarly	n/a	39,565	45,614	54,052	60,288	61,620	69,262	122,273
Active and refereed	22,835	23,231	21,802	23,187	23,758	24,059	27,156	30,775
Active and academic/scholarly and refereed	16,925	17,649	21,532	22,788	23,658	23,973	28,838	57,736
Active and online and refereed	n/a	12,575	11,722	14,338	15,441	15,668	19,343	23,832

• The Ulrich's database seems to have a more comprehensive listing that is broken down into the following categories :

1-Active 327 225 titles.

2-Active and Online 84 851 titles.

3-Active and academic/scholarly 122 273 titles.

4-Active and refereed 30 775 titles.

5-Active and academic/sholarlyand refereed 57 736 titles.

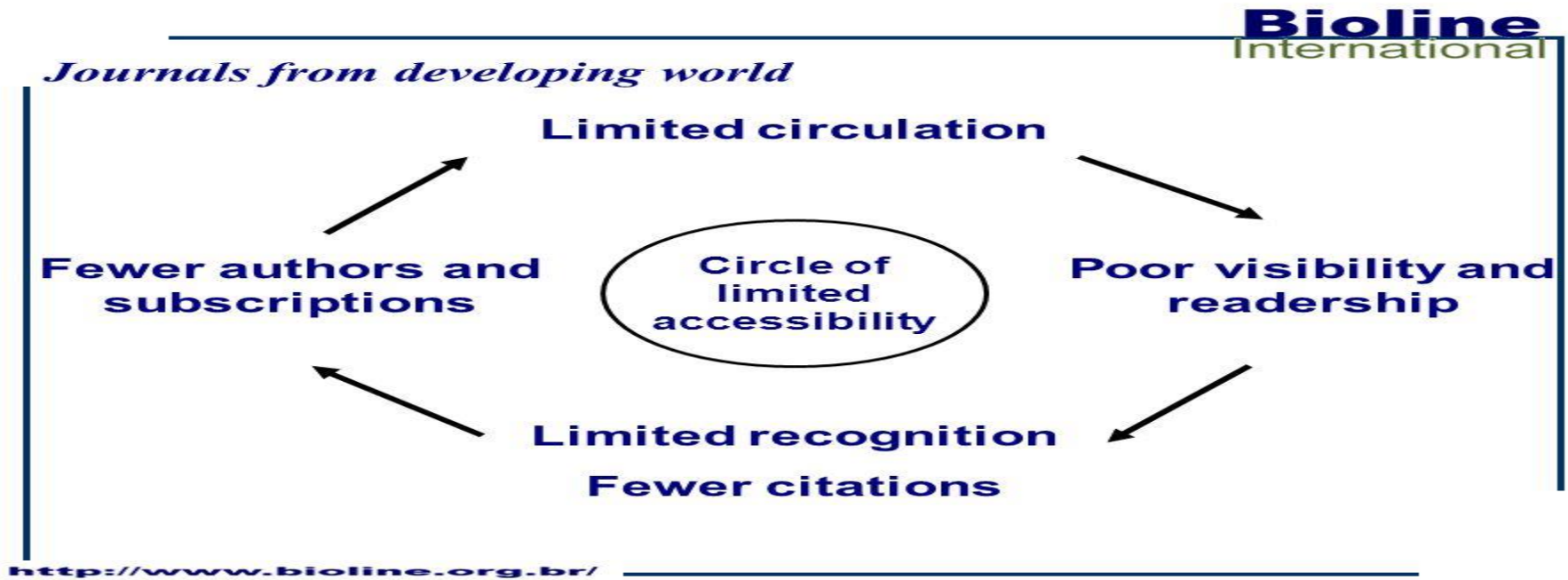
6-Active and online and refereed 23 832 titles.

• There seem to be a more logic in this list and **Active and academic/sholarly and refereed** with **57 736 titles** is the closest one to the real number.

The Global South(s): an old concept with different names

- Third World, Underdeveloped , Developing countries and finally Global South(s).
- Different layers of South(s) → difficulties to define THE or A Global South.
- World Bank classification GNI/capita:
 - ✓ Low income (also known as LDCs): < \$1025
 - ✓ Lower-middle income : \$ 1029-3995
 - ✓ Upper-middle income : \$ 3996-12375
 - ✓ High income : > \$ 12375
- Global South(s) generally in Low and Lower middle incomes.

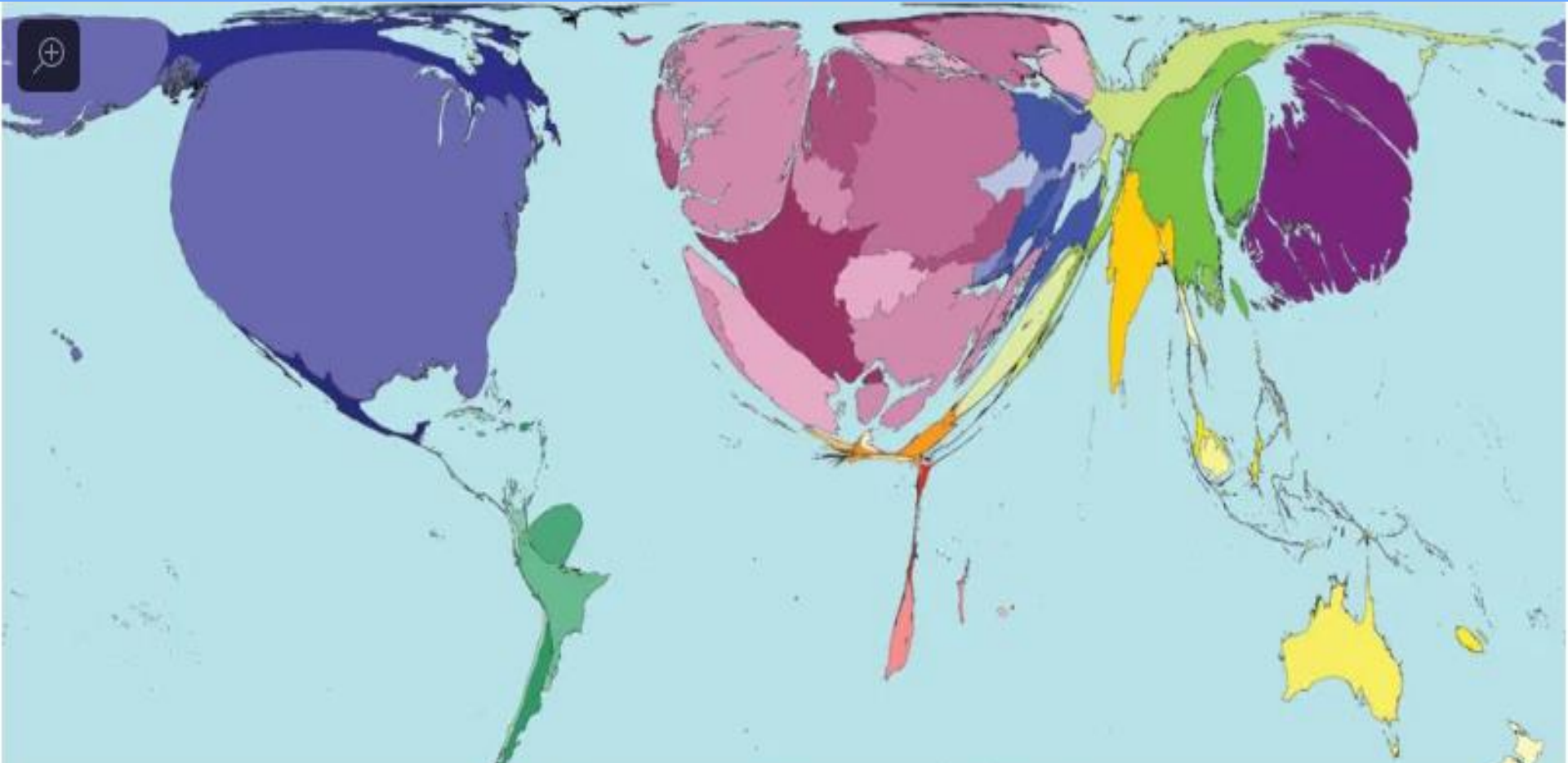
Publishing in the Global South(s): a picture is worth a thousand words



" **The circle of limited accessibility** " summarizes perfectly what publishing (or trying to publish) means. A vicious circle that excludes researchers from The Global South(s) not intrinsically but because of their origin. Biases of all sorts are preponderant in publishing but more so for The Global South(s).

THE SOLUTION ? Publishing " locally " (nationally, regionally ,continentally, etc..) ➡ Algerian Scientific Journal Plateform, Directory of Free Arab Journals, African Journals On Line (and the different JOLs), etc....

Again , a picture.....



A world map based on scientific research papers produced

J.P.P.S. framework : a tool to enhance Global South(s) publication visibility and trustworthiness.

Journal Publishing
Practices and Standards
(JPPS) framework



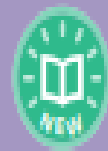
- **J.P.P.S.** framework : joint program A.J.O.L.(African Journal On Line) and I.N.A.S.P. (International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications).
- **1998** - : Journal On Line project helped establish Global South(s) Journals to “ gain an online presence and increase their global visibility “
- **2017** - : because of the perceived quality of journals from The Global South(s); AJOL and INASP teamed up to come with a set of criteria to " increase respect for Southern journals ".
- JPPS serves two complementary purposes:
 - ✓ **For authors** , the insurance they publish in a journal that obeys to a preset number of quality criteria
 - ✓ **For editors**, feedback from JPPS help improve journal practices and also aims at upgrading the journal at next assessment. (6 to 12 months)

JPPS criteria: a wide range of possibilities

The JPPS assessment process rates each JOL partner journal into one of the following six rating categories:



One star - has met the basic requirements for at least two years



New title - has been publishing for less than two years, but meets basic requirements



Two stars - compliant with additional publishing practice quality criteria



Inactive - has not added new content to the JOL platform in over one year



Three stars - consistently excellent in all the technical and editorial publishing best practices set out in the assessment criteria of the Journal Publishing Practices & Standards (JPPS) framework



No stars - not currently meeting the basic criteria for inclusion on a JOL platform

One star : the basic minimum

Official JPPS levels are only provided by AJOL and INASP. If in doubt about a JPPS claim, please check the journal's listing via the JPPS webpage (www.journalquality.info) or an official JOL site.



ONE STAR (of a possible three)

This journal has been compliant with the JPPS basic (new journal) criteria for at least two years

Criteria

1. The journal is published within the JOL country or region (the publishing, peer review management, business development and production is all handled in-country).
2. The journal publishes original research (in addition to other content).
3. The journal has a clearly-stated aim, focus and scope.
4. The masthead ("about the journal" information) includes:
 - 4.1. The journal title.
 - 4.2. The ISSN, registered with the ISSN International Centre.
 - 4.3. The name of the publisher, institution and/or society by which the journal is published (with all relevant contact details, including physical address, phone numbers, email addresses and website address). Journals are encouraged to use official or institutional email addresses rather than Yahoo or gmail email addresses.
 - 4.4. The copyright statement.
 - 4.5. The licensing statement (if the journal is Open Access, it needs to have selected an official licensing statement, for example the Creative Commons licence).
 - 4.6. Details of the Editor and an Editorial Board with identifiable members. All details about the Editor and Editorial Board must be up to date and **accurate**. Names and titles should be written out in full, and all persons listed should be actively and verifiably involved with the journal.
 - 4.7. Accurate publishing frequency, which is clearly stated (number of issues published per year, or an explanation of the process if the journal is publishing article-by-article).
5. The journal provides clear and comprehensive instructions to authors, including:
 - 5.1. An explanation of the types of manuscript that a journal will consider.
 - 5.2. A detailed style guide (that includes referencing style).
 - 5.3. A description of how to submit an article.
 - 5.4. A functional and frequently-checked contact email address for the journal.
6. Basic information displayed on the front page of each article, whether print or online, includes:
 - 6.1. The article title.
 - 6.2. The name(s) of author(s).
 - 6.3. The abstract (or summary, in the case of some humanities journals).
7. All articles relate to the focus and scope of the journal.
8. Each article includes complete bibliographic information for all cited references.
9. The journal sends the JOL (or another appropriate platform in the future) digital, English-language (and any other language, in addition) titles, abstracts, article keywords and PDFs of the full text of each issue in a timely manner, immediately after publication (or loads its own content, if trained to do so).
10. The journal has an established publishing track record (of at least two years).
11. The journal publishes at least one issue per year, and/or at least five articles yearly, and publishes issues on time, according to the stated publishing frequency.

Two stars : a notch above



TWO STARS (of a possible three)

In addition to the criteria for a one-star journal, this journal is compliant with additional JPPS criteria for publishing practice quality

Criteria

NOTE: These items are in addition to the criteria of the one-star level.

1. The journal has an editorial policy statement (including an accurate and detailed explanation of the validity of the peer-review and the quality-control processes applied to all manuscripts or authors' texts submitted for publication).
 2. The masthead ("about the journal" information) includes:
 - 2.1. An eISSN for the online version of the journal registered with the ISSN International Centre.
 - 2.2. As well as the Editorial Board member information, any other oversight body involved with the journal, for example an International Advisory Committee, are named with up to date and accurate information. Names and titles are written out in full, and all persons listed are actively and verifiably involved with the journal; the list also includes the primary and up to date institutional affiliation (or connection with a larger organization, for example a society or university) of each person listed. **NOTE:** The JOLs require journals to provide accurate contact details, including institutional (and other) email addresses for ALL persons listed on the masthead, as part of the review process. These contact details will not be made publicly available by the JOL unless instructed to do so by the journal/publisher.
 3. The journal provides clear and comprehensive instructions to authors, including:
 - 3.1. information about copyright (please note the importance of telling authors whether the journal will be the copyright holder after publication of an article, or whether copyright remains with authors).
 - 3.2. if the journal charges readers subscription fees, or charges authors or authors' institutions any handling fees, publication fees or similar, the amount/s should be clearly stated and publicly available on the JOL website as well as on the journal's own website (if it has one) and in the journal's hard copy (if it has one).
 4. Basic information displayed on the front page of each article includes:
 - 4.1. The journal title, volume and issue number, page numbers.
 - 4.2. Article keywords.
 - 4.3. The article DOI (digital object identifier, which is a string or set of numbers that uniquely identifies a published article).
 5. The journal publishes at least one issue per year and/or at least **eight** articles per year, and publishes issues on time, according to the stated publishing frequency.
 6. The journal has a publicly-available, accurate and detailed description of its peer-review process on the JOL and on its homepage, if it has one.
 7. Language and copy editing provide clarity for readers; layouts are consistent; tables, graphs and images are of good quality; and the same style is consistently used throughout the journal.
 8. The cover of the journal looks professional or competent (no clip art or pre-made pictures, or low-quality images).
 9. If the journal or publisher has its own website or is included on websites other than the JOL (for example, on a university website), the website quality is good (having a professional and functional or well-working site design with no garish or over-decorated, flashing images), and the journal content is up to date.
- #### **Recommendations**
10. The journal is strongly recommended to have clear and comprehensive instructions to peer reviewers, which are also placed on the journal's own website and/or its JOL homepage.

Three stars : the top



THREE STARS (of a possible three)

In addition to all of the criteria for one-star and two-star journals, the journal also consistently (for at least three years) meets the following criteria

Criteria

1. The journal includes copyright and licensing information on the first page of each article.
2. The journal includes author ORCID(s) (for at least the corresponding author, but preferably for all authors). See orcid.org for more information on ORCIDs.
3. The journal includes funding acknowledgements by authors is displayed on the first page of each article (but may be on the last page).
4. Submission, acceptance and publication dates are included on the first page of each article.
5. The DOIs of referenced articles are included in the bibliographic references of each article.
6. Information about subscription fees, handling fees, publication fees or similar are included in the author instructions; if there are no fees, then this should be stated.
7. If the journal has its own website then the primary institutional affiliations of its full Editorial Board as well as of any other governance committees, such as advisory committees are included.
8. The Editorial Board (and any supporting committees) is institutionally and geographically diverse (or varied) and ideally with a good gender balance.
9. The journal has a clearly stated policy on authors' permissions to deposit the article in a personal, institutional, thematic and/or other Open Access repository, including whether the permission is for the post-publication version or pre-publication version of the article.
10. The journal implements, and publicly and transparently shares, its policies on publication ethics (codes of moral and correct publishing conduct) and publishing malpractice (improper publishing conduct) on its own website and on its JOL homepage, including plagiarism, copyright violations, errors, retractions, data sets, gender, racial and language policies.
11. The journal loads its own content onto the JOL platform.
12. The journal has an archival, digital preservation arrangement with an external party, for example CLOCKSS (a joint venture or project between certain publishers and research libraries to create a reliable global archive or place where documents are stored).
13. The journal has a full back file of archival content available online (via the JOL and/or on its own website).
14. At least one issue and/or **10 articles** are published per year (**preferably more**).

Recommendations

15. It is recommended that journals include contact email addresses and/or a link to each Board member's primary affiliation (connection to a larger organization, for example a society or university) website, under the JOL's "About the journal" section and on the journal's own website, if it has one.
16. Membership of COPE (the Committee on Publication Ethics) and/or OASPA (the Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association) (for Open Access journals) is strongly encouraged.
17. For Open Access journals to get a JPPS three-star status, they are strongly encouraged to provide evidence that they meet the DOI technical requirements and DOI Seal Qualifiers (see doaj.org/application/new).

New title :a probation period of two years



NEW TITLE

A new journal (Volume 1, Issue 1 or similar) may be accepted for inclusion on a JOL platform if it is assessed and found to meet the basic criteria; the journal will however only be assigned a star rating after it has been continuously published in line with these criteria for at least two years.

Criteria

NOTE: It is the journal's responsibility to alert or notify the JOL of the need for it to be given a star status once it has been publishing for at least two years, and provide adequate proof of compliance.

The basic criteria for inclusion on a JOL are:

1. The journal is published within the JOL country or region (the publishing, peer review, management, business development and production is all handled in-country).
2. The journal publishes original research (in addition to other content).
3. The journal has a clearly-stated aim, focus and scope.
4. The masthead ("about the journal" information) includes:
 - 4.1. The journal title.
 - 4.2. The ISSN, registered with the ISSN International Centre.
 - 4.3. The name of the publisher, institution and/or society by which the journal is published (with all relevant contact details, including physical address, phone numbers, email addresses and website address); journals are encouraged to use official or institutional email addresses rather than Yahoo or gmail email addresses.
 - 4.4. The copyright statement.
 - 4.5. The licensing statement (if the journal is Open Access, it needs to have selected an official licensing statement, for example the Creative Commons licence).
 - 4.6. Details of the Editor and an Editorial Board with identifiable members. All details about the Editor and Editorial Board must be up to date and accurate. Names and titles should be written out in full, and all persons listed should be actively and verifiably involved with the journal.
 - 4.7. Accurate publishing frequency, which is clearly stated (number of issues published per year, or an explanation of the process if the journal is publishing article-by-article).
5. The journal provides clear and comprehensive instructions to authors, including:
 - 5.1. An explanation of the types of manuscript that a journal will consider.
 - 5.2. A detailed style guide (that includes referencing style).
 - 5.3. A description of how to submit an article.
 - 5.4. A functional and frequently-checked contact email address for the journal.
6. Basic information displayed on the front page of each article, whether print or online, includes:
 - 6.1. The article title.
 - 6.2. The name(s) of the author(s).
 - 6.3. The abstract (or summary, in the case of some humanities journals).
7. All articles relate to the focus and scope of the journal.
8. Each article includes complete bibliographic information for all cited references.
9. The journal sends the JOL (or another appropriate platform in the future) digital, English-language (and any other language, in addition) titles, abstracts, article keywords and PDFs of the full text of each issue in a timely manner, immediately after publication (or loads its own content, if trained to do so).

Inactive title: on the way out ...



INACTIVE TITLE

This journal is not up to date on the JOL. Only archival content is hosted. This could be due to one or more of the following:

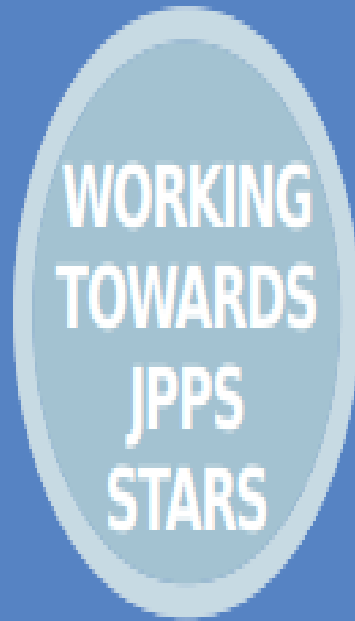
- The journal has been taken over by a publisher outside of area served by the JOL, so no longer qualifies for inclusion.
- The journal has stopped publishing.
- The journal is still publishing, but has stopped sending its content to the JOL, and the JOL has been unable to re-establish contact with the journal.
- The journal is experiencing a long delay in publishing its next issue (one year or more).

NOTE 1: It is the responsibility of the journal to make sure that its JOL entry is accurate and up to date (including all journal contact information, and Editorial Board names and information), and that the most-recently published content is available on the JOL.

NOTE 2: Even if a journal has stopped publishing altogether or has been taken over by an overseas publisher, archival content could still be of use to the international research community, so past content is usually kept on the JOL.

NOTE 3: If the journal enters into a co-publishing agreement with an international publisher such that editorial control and the majority of the management of the journal remains in the country, including control of peer reviewing, the journal may stay on the JOL.

Aiming for the ...stars !!!



NO STARS

A journal which does not meet the basic requirements of a one-star journal. This might be a legacy journal that was accepted onto the JOL before the implementation of the more rigorous selection criteria or it may be a journal that has not maintained the required basic publishing practices and standards.

No star journals are generally kept online because they are part of the academic record.

Different JOLs assessed by JPPS

- **African Journals On Line (AJOL) : 523 titles.**
- **Bangladesh Journals On Line (BanglaJOL): 143 titles.**
- **Central American Journals On Line (CAMJOL) : 49 titles.**
- **Mongolia Journals On Line (MongoliaJOL) : 07 titles.**
- **Nepal Journals On Line (NepJOL) : 163 titles.**
- **Sri Lanka Journals On line (SLJOL) : 85 titles.**
- **For a total of 970 titles appraised and ranked**

Different JOLs and their ratio in JPPS

African Journals On Line

- ✓ 1 star : 134 (25.62 %)
- ✓ 2 stars : 06 (01 %)
- ✓ 3 stars : 00 (00 %)
- ✓ Inactive: 220(42 %)
- ✓ New : 02 (0.38 %)
- ✓ No star : 136 (26%)
- ✓ Pending : 25 (05 %)

Bengladesh Journals On Line

- ✓ 1 star : 11 (07.69 %)
- ✓ 2 stars : 08 (05.59 %)
- ✓ 3 stars : 00 (00 %)
- ✓ Inactive :71(49.65 %)
- ✓ New : 00 (00 %)
- ✓ No star:53 (37.06 %)
- ✓ Pending : 00 (00 %)

Different JOLs and their ratio in JPPS

Central American Journals On Line

Mongolia Journals On Line

- ✓ 1 star : 15 (30.61%)
- ✓ 2 stars : 01 (02.04%)
- ✓ 3 stars : 00 (00 %)
- ✓ Inactive:10(20.40%)
- ✓ New : 03 (06.12%)
- ✓ No star:19 (38.77%)
- ✓ Pending:01(02.04%)

- ✓ 1 star:01(14.28%)
- ✓ 2stars:01(14.28%)
- ✓ 3 stars : 00 (00%)
- ✓ Inactive:01(14.28)
- ✓ New : 00 (00%)
- ✓ No star:03 (42.85%)
- ✓ Pending:01(14.28%)

Different JOLs and their ratio in JPPS

Nepal Journals On Line

- ✓ 1 star:14 (08.58%)
- ✓ 2stars:19(11.65%)
- ✓ 3 stars : 00 (00 %)
- ✓ Inactive:48(29.44%)
- ✓ New : 23 (14.11%)
- ✓ No star:58 (35.58%)
- ✓ Pending :01 (0.61%)

Sri Lanka Journals On Line

- ✓ 1 star : 21 (24.70%)
- ✓ 2 stars :22(25.88%)
- ✓ 3 stars : 00 (00 %)
- ✓ Inactive :24(28.23%)
- ✓ New : 01 (01.17%)
- ✓ No star :17(20%)
- ✓ Pending : 00 (00 %)

Different ratios across JOLS

- ✓ 1 star : 18.58 %
- ✓ 2 stars : 10.07 %
- ✓ 3 stars : 00 %
- ✓ Inactive : 30.66%
- ✓ New : 03.63%
- ✓ No star : 33.37%
- ✓ Pending : 03.65%

Discussion

- Statistics do not seem very encouraging because :
 - Most of the journals have not had attained high level of scientificness →
 - ✓ Less than 1/5 have reached one star
 - ✓ Just 1/10 have reached two stars
 - ✓ No journal have reached 3 stars , the highest ranking put by JPPS.
 - ✓ Almost 1/3 of the journals are inactive
 - ✓ 1/3 do not have any star
 - ✓ 1/30 are pending
 - Overall outlook is not bright

Reasons ?

- Hard to know from these statistics but one could extrapolate some reasons :
 - Criteria put by INASP and AJOL are too hard to attain.
 - It would have been much more preferable to have criteria put by reserchers and organization FROM the Global South.
 - Open access and related issues are not really understood nor *accepted* in Global South.
 - Open access in the Global South should be a priority and not a FAD that will wither with time.
 - Organization (and researchers) should do everything they can to fight PLAGIARISM.