

Helping developing-country researchers succeed

Seeing your research featured in a journal for the first time is an unforgettable moment in every researcher's career. Unfortunately, many researchers in developing countries are unable to enjoy that experience because they lack the research-communication skills needed to get published. For the thousands of researchers who participate in AuthorAID at INASP, however, it is a different story. Since joining AuthorAID as a mentee, Rhoune Ochako from Kenya, for example, has published six papers in high-quality journals, been promoted to Senior Research Manager within her organization and is now an AuthorAID mentor herself.



Rhoune's view

"Through the AuthorAID website, I met my mentor - a PhD student at the University of Michigan. She has been very dedicated in offering me guidance on how to improve my writing skills."

Rhoune Ochako, Kenya

AuthorAID works with partners such as publishers, libraries and societies. The aim is to help valuable research from developing countries reach those who can use it to make a difference to the lives of poor and marginalized communities.

AuthorAID provides:

- Online and face-to-face training in research writing skills
- Networking and collaboration opportunities through our website **www.authoraid.info**
- Formal and informal mentoring support through an online mentoring system and an active and friendly discussion list
- A resource library with a wide range of information on writing and publishing, in seven languages
- Small grants for travelling to conferences and running writing workshops

Societies can make a major contribution

We have more than 6,000 developing-country researchers registered as mentees on our database, seeking guidance and support in navigating the research-publishing process. By **encouraging your members to become AuthorAID mentors** you can show them a rewarding way to pass their experience on to others. Society journal editors, board members and reviewers can **direct developing-country authors to the AuthorAID website**. There they will find support to improve the papers they submit to your journals, easing pressure on editorial staff.

The benefits go both ways

The main reason that people sign up to be AuthorAID mentors is to help developing-country researchers by passing on their experience and knowledge in communicating research. However, AuthorAID mentors also discover research that they were not previously aware of, develop their mentoring skills, and make new research contacts.



Dan's View

"...being an AuthorAID mentor goes beyond a conventional teacher-student relationship - it is a really stimulating and worthwhile learning process for both mentee and mentor."

Dan Korbelt, United Kingdom

Finding ways to work together

Promote AuthorAID to your members

For example, the Society of Biology has featured AuthorAID's mentoring scheme in its blog (societyofbiologyblog.org/authoraid-looking-for-research-mentors). You could also recommend mentoring with AuthorAID to members as a way of building up their Continuing Professional Development.

Direct authors to AuthorAID on journal websites

The Royal Society Journals' Submissions page, for example, alerts developing-country researchers to AuthorAID (intl.royalsocietypublishing.org/submit).

Include an advert on your website

The AuthorAID Mentoring Toolkit includes banner adverts along with other promotional materials and a copy of the AuthorAID mentoring guidelines.

Engage with us on social media

Follow @authoraid on Twitter and tweet about our activities and your society's involvement. Like our Facebook page www.facebook.com/AuthorAID-at-INASP. Keep in touch with wider developments at INASP by following @INASPinfo