AuthorAID: A look back and forward

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Research communication cycle
AuthorAID – Components

1. Workshops on scientific writing for researchers
2. Online mentoring scheme
3. Knowledge community – blog, e-resources, etc.
4. Small grants – travel, organising workshops
5. Discussion list
1. Workshops

- Usually 3 to 5 days long
- Fully funded workshops
  - Organised by country coordinator and facilitated by AuthorAID staff (Barbara Gastel or me)
- Jointly funded workshops
  - Organised by partner organisation (e.g., IFS) and facilitated by AuthorAID staff
- Locally organised workshops
  - By people who attend our train-the-trainers workshop (without funds from INASP)
  - By small-grant recipients
Workshops

• Four to six fully or jointly funded workshops have been conducted every year
• Many locally organised workshops
• Workshops in the past year:
  – Kenya, Zambia, Ghana, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Nepal, Zimbabwe, Tanzania
Ethiopia – 2008
2. Online mentoring scheme

- Anyone can create a profile on the website
- Mentees: Early-career researchers in developing countries
- Mentors: Senior researchers and editors, in developing or developed countries
- Advanced search, private messaging

“...my experience with AuthorAID has been great! Through the AuthorAID website, I met my mentor Jackie Goodrich - a PhD student at the University of Michigan. Jackie has been very dedicated in offering me guidance on how to improve my writing skills.”

Rhouve Ochako, Kenya
Size

• Rapidly growing community
• Low administrative supervision or control (something to improve)

4800+ members (28 May 2012)

- Mentees, 3367, 70%
- Mentors, 672, 14%
- Neither, 779, 16%
How it works

Anyone can look up researchers offering or seeking mentoring
Only members can see full profiles and contact others
Guidelines and learning agreement template provided
A case study

- Contacted by mentee
- Exchanged CVs to assess match
- Helped mentee write up 2 papers for publication during her PhD
- Many hour-long Skype calls
- Structuring and presenting data, getting started with writing, identifying journals, career development

“...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 Korbel, United Kingdom
3. Knowledge community

• Blog
  – Multiple posts every week, on topics related to research communication
  – Tip of the week, resource of the week

• E-resources
  – Over 500 free e-resources on topics related to research communication
Tip of the Week #81
By Bernard Appiah, 11 June 2012
Setting deadlines...  Read More...  (2 Comments)

Back from 2 Workshops in Kenya
By Barbara Gastel, 10 June 2012
Read More...  (2 Comments)

Resource of the Week #61: Poster Presentations—An Evaluation Form and an Advice Source
By Barbara Gastel, 09 June 2012
Read More...

Tip of the Week #80
By Bernard Appiah, 04 June 2012
Read More...

Guest Post: A Recent AuthorAID-Supported Workshop in Nepal
By Barbara Gastel, 04 June 2012
Read More...
Resource Library

This resource library has a large collection of resources on various topics in research communication, data analysis, and statistics. You can click on the categories at the left to see relevant resources. Please feel free to use these materials for courses. This is so we can monitor how the materials are being used and improve them.

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Enter keyword(s) to filter these results

There are 510 resources listed

1. [Designing Conference Posters](#) | 05 June 2011
Website giving extensive advice on preparing post
4. Small grants

- Two types of grants:
  - Travel: For researchers to present at conferences
  - Workshop: For researchers or administrators to organise workshops on research communication

- Total of 6 travel grants ($1500 each) and 8 workshop grants ($2500 each) every year

- Two rounds, announced in January and June
Congratulations: New Recipients of AuthorAID Travel Grants

By Barbara Gastel | 29 March 2012

Mohammad Jahangir Alam, Ridwan Berihu Raju, and Charles Teta

Hello. We are pleased to announce the recipients of the current round of AuthorAID travel grants. The recipients are

- Dr. Mohammad Jahangir Alam, associate professor, Bangladesh Agricultural University
- Mr. Ridwan Berihu Raju, lecturer, Semera University, Ethiopia
- Mr. Charles Teta, research fellow, National University of Science and Technology, Zimbabwe
5. Discussion list

- Hosted on Dgroups
- Very active and self-regulating
- Questions from early-career researchers are often addressed by senior researchers and journal editors
AuthorAID Discussion

The purpose of the AuthorAID Discussion group is to allow AuthorAID members to communicate freely and openly.

Log in now
Log in now if you are already a member.

Join this group
Join this group now.

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<td>Aminu Shittu; Matt Hodgkinson; Steve N Kabamba</td>
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AuthorAID in the future
Some areas of work

• E-learning (successful pilot course in 2011)
• Improved mentoring scheme, possibly on an academic social networking site
• Training for researchers in the social sciences and humanities
• Intensive pedagogy training to increase the number and quality of locally organised workshops
• Courses on research communication embedded in partner institutions
Thank you

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