



higher education & training

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Higher Education and Training
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Dear Prof de Villiers

PREDATORY JOURNALS LIST - 2016 RESEARCH OUTPUTS

The institutional report sent to the DVC: Research, Innovation and Postgraduate studies in December 2017 on the allocation of research output units for 2016 publications refers.

The institutional report provided two lists of journals for 2016, the first identified as “predatory journals” and the second as “possible predatory journals”. It indicated that the Department had taken a decision to exclude all journals published on the lists from the 2016 evaluations. It further stated, that if the journals were found to be credible in terms of the research outputs policy, the subsidy units would be awarded for these publications during the 2017 evaluation process.

Some of the journals in the list labelled “predatory journals” had been verified with ProQuest, who had confirmed that the journals had been removed from their lists because they were predatory. However, it has been brought to the attention of the department that some or all of the journals on that list may, in fact, be credible. The decision that these journals will not be subsidised has therefore been suspended. The Department withdraws the list, as indicated below, and will include all qualifying articles in these journals as part of the 2017 evaluation process, and research outputs subsidy will be generated accordingly. However the Department will continue with the verification process, and should any journal be found not to be line with the policy criteria, subsidy will be withdrawn.

Title	ISSN	EISSN
Banks and Bank Systems	1816-7403	1991-7074
International journal of educational sciences	0975-1122	2456-6322
Journal of communication [Delhi]	0976-691X	2456-6586
Journal of economics [Delhi]	0976-5239	2456-6594
Journal of human ecology	0970-9274	2456-6608

Journal of psychology [Delhi]	0976-4224	2456-6292
Journal of social sciences	0971-8923	2456-6756
Journal of social sciences	1812-0687	
Journal of sociology and social anthropology	0976-6634	2456-6764
Problems and Perspectives in Management	1727-7051	1810-5467
Studies of tribes and tribals	0972-639X	2456-6799
Studies on Ethno-Medicine	0973-5070	2456-6772

The second list of 'possibly predatory journals' was compiled in error through a misunderstanding in the due diligence process of confirming journals that are predatory. The journals in the second list are not predatory. The Department regrets the error and will generate subsidy for articles published in the journals on this as tabulated below.

Title	ISSN	EISSN
Africa Education Review	1814-6627	1753-5921
African studies quarterly: the online journal of African studies	2152-2448	
Anthropology Southern Africa	2332-3256	2332-3264
Electronic Journal of Research in Educational Psychology	1699-5880	16962095
Global Health Action	1654-9716	1654-9880
International Journal of Primatology	0164-0291	1573-8604
Journal of agribusiness and rural development	1899-5241	1899-5772
Journal of Asian and African Studies	0021-9096	1745-2538
Journal of global business and technology	1553-5495	
Journal of media law	1757-7632	1757-7640
Bulletin of comparative labour relations	0770-3724	

The Department has all the records and information pertaining articles published in the affected journals for each institution, and we will incorporate the relevant units into the 2017 evaluation process.

The Department will continue to investigate journals and will withdraw any journal identified as predatory at any given stage. Paragraph 5.12 of the Research Outputs Policy states that:

“the Department will periodically sample journals to assess if they continue to meet the criteria. However, institutions and individuals may submit a proposal for the removal of a journal. Proposals must outline detailed reasons for the removal of such journals, in particular, stating which criteria or criterion of the policy the journal ceases to fulfil”.

The Department reserves the right to withhold payment of research output subsidy in respect of any article published in a journal that does not meet the criteria as outlined in the research output policy. Researchers are urged to continue assisting the Department in this matter so as to safeguard the quality and integrity of SA's research and improve its scholarship.

Once more, the Department regrets the error and the confusion it has caused. The Department will work with institutions to develop systems to ensure that the quality of research outputs from South African universities improves, and that such administrative oversight does not recur.

Yours sincerely



Dr D Parker
Deputy Director-General: University Education
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