Welcome to the 2021 AuthorAID Newsletter!

With this newsletter we hope to celebrate the community's achievements across the year, share updates and information about the work of AuthorAID – including how you can continue to support us, and use this opportunity to tell you about plans and activities taking place next year.

The 2021 'Capture your research' competition winner was Dr Ravichandra Mondreti (right), an independent marine biologist in India. The competition was part of our Research Writing in the Sciences online course in which we challenged participants to share a picture and story of them conducting research. We received many amazing photos that transported us around the world and showcased the incredible research of the AuthorAID community. You can read more and see the amazing runners up on the AuthorAID website.

Mentoring for women researchers

AuthorAID recognises the additional barriers for women researchers in accessing support. Through our mentoring work, alongside our partner Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD), and our MOOCs we have supported thousands of women researchers to access training, grants, and other support. Women represent 37% of AuthorAID mentees and 32% of mentors. And 50% of our MOOC completers are women.

"AuthorAID gave me access to numerous mentors from different fields as an early career researcher. Some of these mentors worked with me during the proposal development stage until completion. Others were helpful in other ways such as reading manuscripts, career tips and linking me with other faculty that they thought would be useful for my progress."

Dr. Oluwaseyi Somefun, South Africa

Search for a mentor on the 'Find a Researcher' page: www.authoraid.info/en/mentoring/search

Online courses – 2021 in numbers

There were **7,596** participants and **2,819** completers in the three MOOCs. Participants came from **99** countries.

The top six countries represented by completers were:

Nigeria (686)   Kenya (214)
Uganda (276)   Tanzania (199)
Vietnam (284)   Ethiopia (173)

MOOC course completers reported a **58%** increase in confidence for the 10 key topics in research writing.

The top areas in confidence increase were:

1) Dealing with peer reviewer comments
2) Distinguishing between suspicious and trustworthy journals, and
3) Identifying a suitable target journal

Donate to AuthorAID to help us secure our future and support researchers to make a greater impact

We are committed to ensuring that AuthorAID activities and MOOCs are free at the point of access to the researchers that need them most. However, in an increasingly challenging landscape, we rely heavily on donations to help us keep the service running.

To find out more about our MOOCs, how to sponsor a MOOC or other ways to partner with AuthorAID, contact Steph Avis, INASP's Partnerships and Business Development Manager, or Donate via JustGiving.

2022 MOOC schedule

- **Research Writing** – 5th April to 16th May 2022 (6 weeks)
- **Research Writing in the Social Sciences** – 7th June to 19th July 2022 (6 weeks)
- **Research Writing and Proposal Writing** – 6th September to 1st November 2022 (8 weeks)

Find out more on the AuthorAID website and subscribe to our Moodle site for updates.

Voice of Early Career Researchers survey

Thank you to those who took part in our survey in 2019/2020 on the challenges facing researchers. The study confirmed some well-known challenges that Early Career Researchers face, both at home and globally. These include gender inequity, inequity in research collaborations, access to funding, and an ongoing pressure to prioritise academic publishing over other types of impact. You can read the full report at www.inasp.info/VoiceofECRs

Research culture in the global South

SOUTHERN RESEARCHERS ARE POSITIVE ABOUT THEIR CAREERS AND WANT THEIR WORK TO TRANSFORM LIVES

BUT THERE ARE CHALLENGES

Opportunities for research collaboration are critical to higher positivity

INASP's "Voice of Early Career Researchers study" reveals how researchers in the global South feel about their career and work environment.

We are running the study again for 2021 – would you like to make your voice heard?
Go to https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/AABlog

Contribute to community learning by publishing on AuthorAID

Do you have top tips or guidance about aspects of research that you are itching to share with the rest of the AuthorAID community? Or perhaps you'd like to share recent experiences or learning in your work? All AuthorAID members can now submit articles and blog posts to the website using our new submission system.

Simply to go the News section of the AuthorAID website and click on 'my articles'.

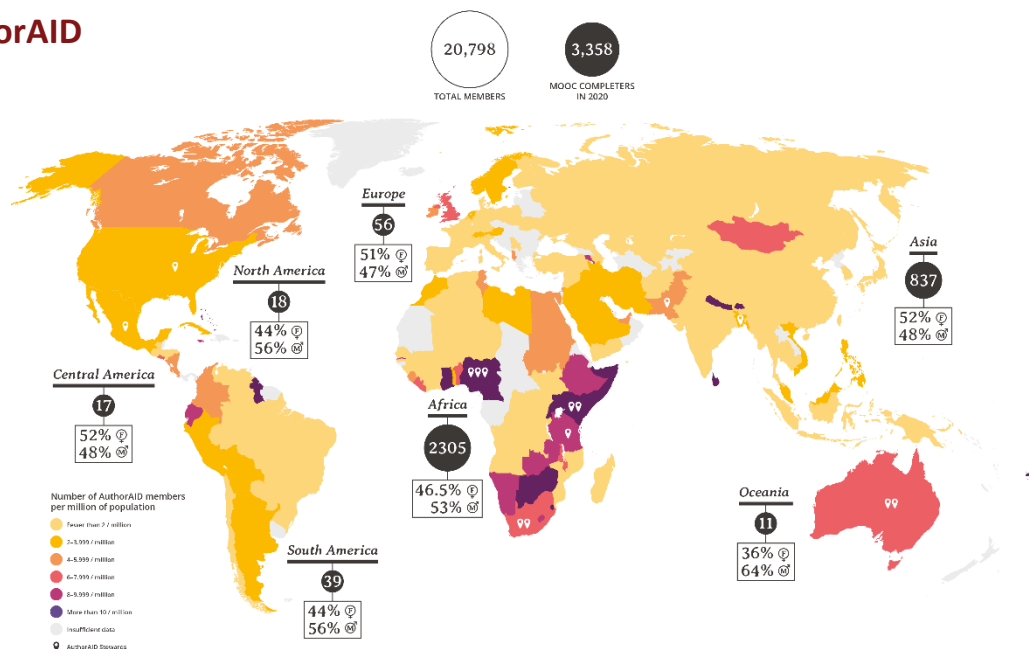## Global spread of AuthorAID

Last year the AuthorAID membership grew to over 20,000 members from more than 174 countries. To celebrate this fact we put together this map to visualise where all our members and online course completers were based.

View the full-size image on the AuthorAID website

Global spread of AuthorAID membership

20,798 TOTAL MEMBERS

3,358 MOOC COMPLETERS IN 2020

Europe 56 — 51% / 47%

North America 18 — 44% / 56%

Central America 17 — 52% / 48%

Asia 837 — 52% / 48%

Africa 2305 — 46.5% / 53%

Oceania 11 — 36% / 64%

South America 39 — 44% / 56%

Number of AuthorAID members per million of population

Fewer than 2 / million
2–3,999 / million
4–5,999 / million
6–7,999 / million
8–9,999 / million
More than 10 / million
Insufficient data
AuthorAID Stewards

Donate with JustGiving™

You can also join the AuthorAID discussion group – a space for peer learning, collaboration and advice. We will also use this platform for important updates and opportunities in 2022. Sign up at: https://groups.google.com/g/authoraid

Got a story to tell? Would you like to provide feedback on your experiences with AuthorAID? Please email us at authoraid@inasp.info