



# **ACADEMIC PUBLISHING INDABA**

***"Charting the Emerging Frontiers of  
Scholarly Communication"***

23 – 24 May

# 2024

HOTEL SKY, SANDTON

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# CONFIRMED SPEAKERS



**Prof Keyan Tomaselli**

Chair: Committee on Scholarly Publishing in South Africa



**Brian Scrivener**

President: The Association of Canadian University Presses, Canada



**Susan Veldsman**

Director: Scholarly Publishing Unit - Academy of Science of South Africa



**Prof Maria Frahm-Arp**

Executive Director: Library & Information Centre, University of Johannesburg



**Marco van der Merwe**

Partner and Head of the Trademark Department - Spoor & Fisher



**Prof Makobetsa Khathi**

Executive Director: Research Chairs and Centres of Excellence - National Research Foundation (NRF)



**Prof Jen Webb**

Dean: Graduate Research Office - Head of Department: University of Canberra, and executive member of the Association of Australasian Writing programs, Australia



**Prof Nyasha Mboti**

Head of Department: Communication Science - University of the Free State



**Siphethile Gcukumana**

Manager: Knowledge Management & Information Services - Council for Scientific & Industrial Research



**Prof Gregory Brown**

General Editor - Oxford University Studies in Enlightenment, UK



**Prof Sarah Nuttall**

Director: Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of the Witwatersrand



**Prof Johannes Cronje**

Digital Teaching & Learning - Cape Peninsula University of Technology



**Allison Levy**

Director - Brown University Digital Publications, USA



**Prof Serges Kamga**

Member of the Editorial Board: Pretoria University Law Press



**Prof Elizabeth Le Roux**

Coordinator: Publishing Studies - University of Pretoria

# 6 of 100 Benefits of Attending?



## Navigate the complexities of the academic publishing process

Gain valuable insights, techniques, and strategies to improve academic writing skills and enhance their publishing capabilities.



## Appreciate digital scholarship and new technologies

Examine the role of digital technologies in transforming scholarly publishing, including trends such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, and immersive media, and their implications for content creation, distribution, and preservation.



## Understand copyright, licensing, and intellectual property

Deep dive into copyright issues, licensing models (e.g., Creative Commons), and intellectual property considerations in scholarly writing, with a focus on promoting ethical and sustainable practices in content sharing and reuse.



## Discover publishing opportunities

Learn about different publishing models, submission guidelines, and publication opportunities tailored to your research interests and career goals.



## Enhance visibility and reputation

Showcase expertise, share insights, and contribute to scholarly discourse, thereby increasing recognition and building a positive reputation among peers and potential collaborators.



## Exploit networking opportunities

Establish connections and build relationships with peers and potential collaborators. These connections can lead to future research collaborations, co-authorship opportunities, and access to valuable resources and support networks.



## Conference Background and Synopsis

The traditional academic publishing paradigms have been increasingly supplemented, and in some cases supplanted by digital platforms. This transformation has had far-reaching implications for the accessibility, impact, and interactivity of research findings, helping to bridge the knowledge gap between academic and non-academic communities.

Additionally, there are new innovations in the way scholarly content is created and presented. Writers can now incorporate citation management softwares, multimedia elements, interactive figures, and other digital enhancements to enrich the reader's overall experience and comprehensibility of complex findings. Open-access journals and repositories have also emerged, making research freely available to anyone with an internet connection.

However, the next generation scholarly writing also brings forth challenges. The proliferation of predatory journals, the ease with which anyone can publish online and the pressure to publish often and quickly can sometimes compromise the rigorous peer-review processes and quality control that gives credibility to academic publishing. As technology continues to evolve, the scholarly publishing landscape will likely undergo further disruption, and it is crucial for academia to adapt and address these pitfalls.

The Academic Publishing Indaba is set to explore this contemporary ecosystem of scholarly communication, highlighting the challenges, opportunities, and cutting-edge innovations that define it, from AI-driven editorial workflows to blockchain-based peer review systems.

The interdisciplinary gathering of leading academics, publishers, librarians, and technology innovators will aim to produce a set of actionable recommendations that can create a roadmap for improving and embracing technological advancements as well as ethical standards in scholarly communication.

Spotlight will also be on of data reproducibility challenges, as well as the sustainability and funding of open access model to make sure that academic writing can continue to thrive without compromising on quality. Whether you are an early-career researcher seeking guidance on navigating the publication process or a seasoned editor looking to stay abreast of the latest developments in academic publishing, this conference promises to be an invaluable forum for learning, sharing, and advancing the frontiers of knowledge dissemination.

## Attendees will include the following:

- ✓ Academics from various disciplines
- ✓ Editors
- ✓ Publishing Coordinators
- ✓ Researchers
- ✓ Writing Instructors and academic support staff
- ✓ Proof-readers
- ✓ Peer Review Coordinators
- ✓ Librarians and Information science professionals
- ✓ Digital Content Managers
- ✓ Post-graduate students
- ✓ Institutional administrators
- ✓ Policymakers
- ✓ Technology providers



## Key Areas to be Discussed:

- ✓ Ethical concerns and responsible publishing: Addressing issues of plagiarism, data manipulation, authorship disputes and conflicts of interest in academic publishing.
- ✓ The role of peer review and editorial policies in maintaining quality and integrity.
- ✓ Promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in publishing practices.
- ✓ Alleviating the financial stress of publishing
- ✓ Strategies of increasing visibility and impact of scholarly work for early career researchers
- ✓ The role of libraries, institutions, and societies in shaping the future of publishing.
- ✓ Predictions and visions for the evolving publication models over the next decade.
- ✓ Open access movement and sustainability
- ✓ Peer review evolution
- ✓ Research metrics and altmetrics

# PRELIMINARY AGENDA

## FIRST DAY: THURSDAY, 23 MAY

**07: 45 – 08: 30**

Registration & welcome refreshments

**08: 30 – 08: 35**

Opening remarks by conference chair & Fireside Conversations (Pty) Ltd

**08: 35 – 09: 15**

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Enhancing Discoverability and Visibility of Scholarly Content**

With the vast amount of scholarly content available online, discoverability and visibility are key challenges for researchers and publishers. This session will explore strategies for enhancing the discoverability of scholarly content through metadata optimization, search engine optimization (SEO), and social media engagement. The session will also explore strategies for building online profiles, engaging with followers, and measuring impact.

**09: 15 – 10: 00**

**Institutional Support Mechanisms for Scholarly Publication Initiatives: Does a university need a writing centre?**

Through a review of literature, this presentation assesses the impact and necessity of institutional instruments such as writing centres by exploring the range of services they offer, including consultations, workshops, and feedback provision. The study highlights benefits such as fostering a vibrant writing culture, addressing writing challenges, and aiding multilingual scholars. It aims to provide insights into the role of writing centers in universities' research missions and inform decisions on institutional support for scholarly publication initiatives.

**10: 00 – 10: 30**

**The Political Economy of the South African Scholarly Publication Value Chain: Funding, Regulation, Quality Assurance and Monitoring**

This presentation seeks to locate SA within the global publication ecosystems and draw the complex links in SA between the funding and regulatory bodies such as ASSAf, DHET, DSI, NRF, DSAC, SACO, CREST and how these ministries and their contracted academic consultancies (CREST, SACO) monitor, shape and sometimes complicate outcomes. This funding/regulatory/monitoring/incentive framework then needs to be examined in relation to: (a) internal university resource allocation and how they interpret the national policy; and (b) the rapidly shifting digital environment, the headlong rush into open access, which has open the doors to the predators (cloned and fake journals, paper mills, article brokers and all those miscreants documented by Retraction Watch) allocation and how they interpret the national policy; and (b) the rapidly shifting digital environment, the headlong rush into open access, which has open the doors to the predators (cloned and fake journals, paper mills, article brokers and all those miscreants documented by Retraction Watch)

**10: 30 – 11: 00**

Coffee/Tea break and speedy networking

**11: 00 – 12: 15**

**Publishing from the South: Reflections**

- Comparative reflections when thinking about publishing specifically in Southern contexts
- Some of the limitations of publishing in the North
- What historical and archival studies do we need to better understand the routes that Publishing from the South has taken?

CONTINUE.....

**12: 15 – 13: 00**

**Purposeful Collaborative Endeavors for Research Libraries and University Presses with Clear Intentions**

Collaborative publishing models, such as library-led publishing initiatives and consortia-based publishing platforms, are gaining traction in the digital era. This paper explores the significance and benefits of purposeful collaborative efforts between research libraries and university presses, emphasizing the clarity of intentions in fostering such partnerships. It discusses the potential outcomes and advantages for both entities, including enhanced scholarly communication, increased dissemination of research outputs, and optimized resource allocation.

**13: 00 – 14: 00**

**Networking lunch**

**14: 00 – 14: 45**

**CASE STUDY**

**The Present and Future of the Scholarly Monograph: Born-Digital Publishing at Brown University**

Brown University Digital Publications is breaking new ground in creating born-digital scholarly monographs, fully peer-reviewed and published by leading university presses that take full advantage of the digital environment to advance long-form scholarly arguments in ways that could never be rendered in a conventional book. Opening new horizons for intellectual dynamism and innovation, digital scholarship has become an area of an established if continuously evolving aspect of 21st-century academic practice. Enabling scholars to think in different ways about important questions or take up new questions that may not have previously been possible, digital scholarship has significantly extended the reach and impact of research and learning. Widely recognized as accessible, intentional, and inclusive, Brown University's novel, university-based approach to digital content development is helping to set the standards for the future of scholarship in the digital age.

**14: 45 – 15: 30**

**Why I don't use the library**

In a hyperconnected world filled with Large Language Models we need a new approach to information literacy. This talk will consider the use of artificial intelligence throughout the research process, and show how AI can be used for:

- Brainstorming
- Discovery
- Classification and Categorisation
- Analysis
- Production and dissemination

**15: 45 – 16: 30**

**Crafting a Manuscript for Global Appeal: Strategies for Engaging International Audiences and Reviewers**

- Understanding the cultural nuances in writing for an international audience
- Incorporating diverse perspectives to enrich the manuscript's appeal
- Strategies for clear and effective communication across language barriers
- Navigating differences in academic standards and expectations worldwide
- Leveraging inclusive language and inclusive content to resonate with diverse readership
- Addressing potential biases and assumptions in the manuscript to ensure broad relevance
- Engaging with international reviewers: tips for fostering constructive feedback and collaboration

**16: 30 – 16: 45**

**Conference chair's recap and closing remarks**

CONTINUE.....

## SECOND DAY: FRIDAY, 24 MAY

**07: 45 – 08: 30**

Registration & welcome refreshments

**08: 30 – 08: 35**

Conference chair's welcome remarks

**08: 35 – 09: 45**

**PANEL DISCUSSION: Progress Assessment and Overcoming Obstacles in Open Access Publishing**

- How has the landscape of academic publishing changed due to open access publishing?
- What are the financial implications of open access publishing?
- What are transformative agreements and why are they important?
- What role should universities, libraries and research offices be playing to ensure that open access publishing is equitable for scholars in the global south?

**09: 45 – 10: 30**

**Harnessing Community-Driven Publishing for Equitable, Open, and Effective Scholarly Communication**

Community-driven "Diamond Open Access" models aim to provide free access to scholarly publications, addressing inclusivity, diversity, and transparency issues. These models have transformative potential, particularly in the Global South, emphasizing collaboration and government investment to improve the academic publishing landscape. By adopting non-commercial Diamond Open Access, countries can enhance visibility and recognition for their research contributions globally, promoting equity and sustainability in knowledge sharing.

**10: 30 – 11: 00**

Coffee/Tea Break and speedy networking

**11: 00 – 11: 45**

**Artificial Intelligence and Policies in editorial decision making for scholarly publishing**

Researchers began experimenting with ChatGPT since it was released in November 2022, looking at ways how they could benefit, and how it could support writing systematic reviews, literature searches, summarising academic articles, etc. which many publishers wanted to reject before the trend gained traction. Some publishers were quick to react, updating their respective editorial and publishing policies, stating unconditionally that ChatGPT can't be listed as an author on an academic paper.

There were also those publishers who addressed this 'grey area' differently regarding the question of whether ChatGPT can be used for assistance in the research process through the level of detail and clarity of their policies. Others are taking a proactive approach to defining guidelines on the proper use of AI technologies and consider the possibility that ChatGPT could implement an 'assisted-driving' approach promising to free researchers' time from the burden of scientific writing and free up their time for other research and science activities. Another issue is whether traditional plagiarism checkers have caught up to AI detection and can those tools be fooled in some way or another.

**11: 45 – 12: 30**

**Steps to Follow and the Questions to Pose in Determining Whether a Cause of Action Exists for a Copyright Infringement Claim: The flow-chart approach adopted by a "computer programmer", turned lawyer.**

- Often, the easier component of copyright litigation relates to proving infringement.
- However, proving the subsistence and ownership of copyright when taking legal action, can be a stumbling block.
- Presenting a checklist for how to approach copyright litigation before committing to it.
- Practical application of the steps with reference to case law and examples encountered in practice.

CONTINUE.....

**12: 30 – 13: 00**

### Data Visualisation and the Future of Academic Publishing

- Interactive and dynamic visualisations
- Multimedia integration
- Augmented reality and virtual reality
- Artificial intelligence and machine learning
- Open access and open data

**13: 00 – 14: 00**

### Networking lunch

**14: 00 – 14: 30**

### The local and global apartheid of academic publishing, and what to (possibly) do about it

This presentation aims to serve as a platform for collective reflection and action, bringing together stakeholders from around the world to envision a more inclusive and equitable future for scholarly communication. The speaker will delve into the systemic inequalities within academic publishing, exploring how certain regions, scholars, and institutions face disproportionate barriers to access, visibility, and recognition. He will also examine the root causes of this divide, considering factors such as economic disparities, linguistic barriers, and biases in scholarly evaluation systems.

**14: 30 – 15: 15**

### Preprint Review and Curation Systems in Advancing Publishing Innovation

**15: 15 – 15: 30**

### Mid-afternoon break

**15: 30 – 16: 15**

### The Impact of Worldwide Open Data Infrastructure in Evolving Policy, Technological Advancements, and Research Landscapes

- The influence of fresh policies, shifting researcher and institutional demands, coordinated backing for open infrastructure, and other transformations on the open data movement and its advocates
- Investigating the prospects and obstacles arising from emerging technologies like machine learning, automation, and decentralized data storage
- Highlighting the continuing importance of generalized data infrastructures in the rapidly evolving research terrain, and the necessity for adaptation through collaborative ventures and partnerships

