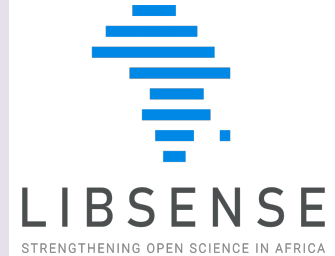




IDEAS ON OPEN SCIENCE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH IN AFRICA



A collaborative project between
[PublicHealth.Africa](https://publichealth.africa) and [LIBSENSE](https://libsense.org)

Presented by

Dominic Agyei Dankwah



INTRODUCTION



LIBSENSE
STRENGTHENING OPEN SCIENCE IN AFRICA

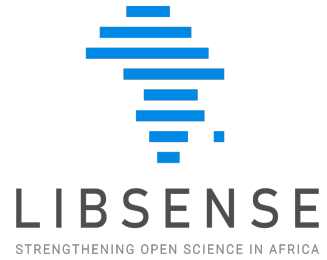
Relative lack of research capacity in the Global South

Lack of research with local relevance to populations in the South

Difficulty in publishing high-quality research in an open access format so that it is readily available and the results can be applied where they are needed



INTRODUCTION CONT.

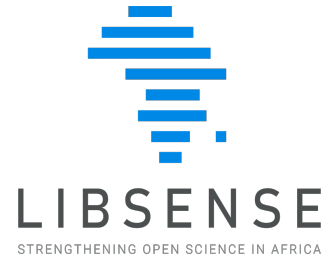


Open Access papers have drastically fewer lead authors from low-income regions

Article Processing Charges (APC) is a barrier to Open Access publication for scientists from the Global South



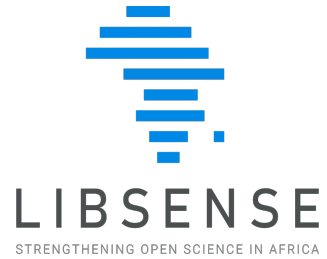
RESEARCH QUESTION



What proportion of African journals, in the broad field of Public Health, publish articles in various categories of open access?



METHODS



Identifying the journals expected to publish articles in the area of Public Health:

Search for journals published in each country using AJOL (African Journals Online), AIM (African Index Medicus), local knowledge



METHODS CONT.



LIBSENSE
STRENGTHENING OPEN SCIENCE IN AFRICA

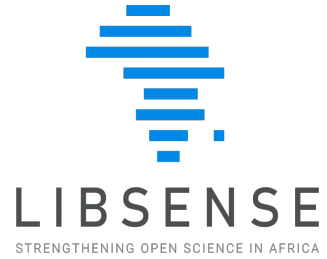
Country journals investigated: 13 countries

Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Data collected by country investigators and validated by an expert librarian to standardise results



RESULTS CONT.



Country journals:

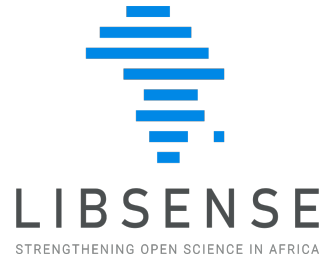
173 journals explored with numbers varying from 1 to 85 in each country.

78 published by universities and 95 by learned societies (some jointly)

89 published twice a year or annually.



RESULTS CONT.



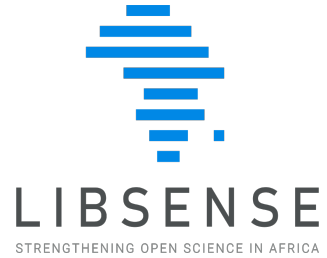
Median per capita GDP of the 13 countries: \$3342

**7 Countries at or below median: GDP 2574; 28 journals
(median of 5 per country)**

**6 Countries above median: GDP 5440; 145 journals
(median of 10 per country)**



RESULTS CONT.



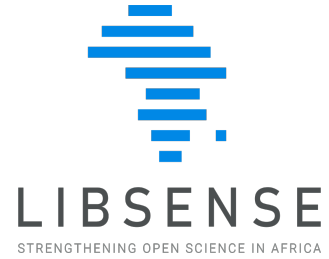
111 of the 173 journals (64%) were open access and available for free download

68 (39%) used a Creative Commons licence

22% were indexed in PubMed, 8% on MEDLINE, 28% on DOAJ, but 67% on AJOL



RESULTS CONT.



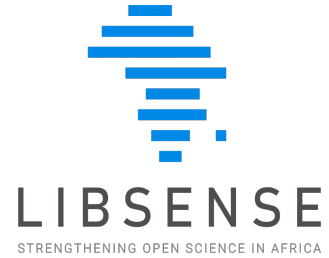
Article Processing Charges: APC: 93 (54%)

Of these, 32 (34%) fully or partially waived

Difference in full APC between journals from countries above median GDP and median GDP or below: 59% vs 29%; Chi-square 8.52; $p=0.004$



IMPLICATIONS



African researchers wishing to publish public health research in local journals have varying opportunities

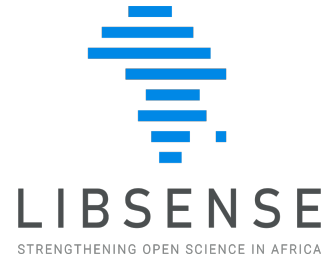
Many face Article Processing Charges

Research findings will be difficult to be found by others, as very few journals are indexed

There is scope for improvements in open publishing of research in local African journals



THE WAY FORWARD



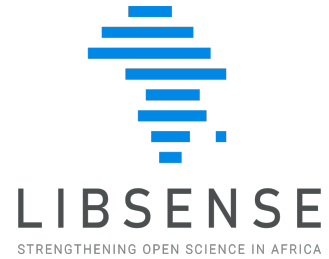
PublicHealth.Africa and LIBSENSE are creating a structure to nurture open access publication in public health in Africa

Specifically, we are deploying

- A repository for public health preprints
- A mentorship platform for authors, editors/publishers and reviewers in public health in Africa



THE WAY FORWARD



These efforts are aimed at encouraging research with local relevance

Promote the culture of peer-review among African public health scientist

Facilitate global discovery of research findings from the Global South