



Reducing the South to North gap in knowledge diffusion

AfricaScienceNetwork is a pioneer in the provision of online open access information focused on Africa. The *International Journal of Advanced Studies and Research in Africa* (IJASRA) that is supported by AfricaScienceNetwork contains timely research on all aspects of humanities, social sciences, life and applied sciences that would not otherwise be readily available to researchers in both developing and developed world. AfricaScienceNetwork is not a publisher, but an aggregator that provides a free platform for IJASRA who wish to participate in the global open access movement.

AfricaScienceNetwork is a not-for-profit electronic publishing service committed to providing open access to quality research articles published in Africa. Africa Science's goal of reducing the South to North knowledge gap is crucial to a global understanding of education, research, economics, health, biodiversity, the environment, conservation and international development. This "lost science" deprives the global scientific community of much essential knowledge from local and regional research in Africa. In many disciplines—such as tropical medicine, infectious diseases, epidemiology, biodiversity, environmental sciences, international development, political sciences, literature, music, all fields of engineering —this can have serious consequences for the progress of science and for the development of a knowledge base that is truly global in scope and perspective. AfricaScience provides a unique service by making knowledge and scientific information generated in this continent available to the international research community worldwide.

Since its inception, Africa Science's activities have cross-cut a number of areas, including content delivery service, research on the efficacy of open access dissemination, as well as in education and training. In particular, AfricaScience:

- Provides a free platform to promote open access publications for researchers who may not otherwise have sufficient resources on their own;
- Reduces technological and financial barriers to knowledge acquisition by providing IJASRA journal material on an open-access, easily accessible basis, regardless of geographic, technological or financial boundaries;
- Improves the visibility of Africa i.e. of developing world publications, allowing them to enter into mainstream research and knowledge activities and thereby raising their impact and credibility;
- Acts as an OAI data provider, allowing journal articles to be easily harvested and discovered by other indexing services;
- Promotes open access to the academic community through case studies, research into how open access affects authors, and studies of library use and adoption of such resources

Africa Science was launched in January 2010 and has not yet well established partners. Since its inception, Africa Science's operations have been supported by substantial in-kind contributions of the founder (server hosting charges, webmaster allowances, and administration). Beginning in 2021, Africa Science will be moving towards a community support business model that calls for broad based support from libraries as well as communities with the mission of knowledge access for all. Please see the [Support Africa Science](#) page for more detail, or email us at: africasciencenetwork@gmail.com