Scholarly Journal Publishing Forums in Tanzania Universities: An Insight

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Abstract
The paper provides insights into scholarly journal publishing forums in Tanzania universities. It contextualises the current state of scholarly publishing and factors militating them in addition to providing possible palliatives for addressing them. The study employed a survey research design to collect both qualitative and quantitative data from websites, editors of journals, and directors of research at the universities under review. The results show that 63 (98.4%) of the scholarly journal forums are available at the selected universities. Journal editors indicated that 46 (71.9%) of their journals are both in print and electronic formats, followed by 11 (17.2%) who indicated only the electronic format as the mode of publication, whereas seven (10.9%) indicated only the print format. The results also show that 43 (67.2%) have adopted the open access philosophy, 16 (25%) have yet to do so and five (7.8%) remain non-committal. Considering the present journal publication realities, there is a need to review the publishing process to accommodate the online journal system (OJS) for the submission and processing of manuscripts. Furthermore, the study found the preferred mode to be a hybrid because the ICT infrastructure, cost of bandwidth, internet connectivity, and electricity remained an impediment to shifting to the purely online mode. Implicitly, academic journals for Tanzania's universities should currently be accessible in both print and electronic formats until when technologies dictate otherwise.

Introduction

The paper aimed at determining the availability of scholarly journal publishing forums in Tanzania. According to the Association of Research Libraries (2014) scholarly communication is described as a system through which research and other scholarly writings are created; evaluated for quality; disseminated to the scholarly community; and preserved for future use. Indeed, on the other hand, a forum is a public meeting place for open discussion or expression of ideas (Merriam-Webster dictionary, 2023). Essentially, the goal of scholarly publishing forums strive to promote research-related activities in the world of academia for the benefit of the educational society. Besides, such forums also seek to provide an opportunity for faculties and research scholars to present and discuss their research work. Within Africa, the growth in the number of universities during the twentieth century led to a need to disseminate their research, and scholarly journals were chosen as the preferred medium (Adebowale, 2001). This is because universities are mandated to impart knowledge, create new knowledge, extend the created knowledge to the community, and develop innovations to uplift life quality (Rogayan & Corpuz, 2022). The system of scholarly publishing has served the scholarly community well in many respects since the print journal era began in the mid-seventeenth century (Adebowale,2001). However, with the growing strains in this system, coupled with the rapidly unfolding opportunities enabled by ICT, an alternative economic model for scholarly publishing forum has emerged which is open access journals. (Basancenot &Vranceaun (2014). This is an open access publishing which is viewed as one in which the scholarly literature can and should operate. Ndumbaro and Wema (2016); Abdu (2023) citing the examples of Tanzania and Nigeria established that most of the journals are available in print format and not published regularly. To address the situation, the studies recommended adopting a new model of publication which is Open Access publishing because of sustainability and cost effectiveness. In fact, open access publishing facilitates publishing workflow particularly collecting, submitting, assigning reviewers, supporting editorial decision making, copy-editing and publishing hitherto   done manually (Sidyk, & Zdunek, 2021, Fisher, 2008). However, Abdu (2023) lamented that journals are reluctant to seize the opportunities and potential of online and Open Access publishing. The extent to which Tanzanian universities have adopted a new modal of scholarly publishing is worth investigating. In terms of challenges of scholarly

journal publishing, studies by Ndumbaro and Wema (2016): Abdu (2023) reported scholarly journals are not freely available online and are invisible. This limits the impact and visibility of the journals, the authors, and ultimately the research institutions. Thus, the global knowledge pool is missing a portion of the research emanating from Africa.

This paper intends to contextualise scholarly journal publishing forums in Tanzania universities at a time when the country's higher learning institutions have become increasingly aware of improving visibility and sharing their research outputs from Africa and globally. An analysis of this phenomenon is, therefore, necessary, imperative, and timely.

Literature Review

Availability of Scholarly Journals Publishing Forums

Scholarly or academic journals, also known as scientific journals or peer-reviewed journals, play a key role in communicating research findings. Such scholarly communication refers to any form of exchange used by scholars and researchers in the elaboration of knowledge through critical discussions and conversations with fellow humans. This is according to the Guédon, et al., (2019). Scholarly publishing can also be referred to as the formalised sub-set of scholarly communication Guédon, *et al.,* (2019). Moreover, scholarly publishing serves as a platform for researchers and academicians to communicate their research findings in the world of academia. After all, as Stranak (2008) proffers, scholarship is about the creation and sharing of knowledge, with one of the most important and preferable means for sharing and disseminating the research results being scholarly academic journals. These scholarly or academic journals publish current materials subjected to the peer review process for quality control and rigour. As a result, the publishing of results in these scholarly journals is credible and authentic. Besides, scholarly journals serve as a forum for scholars to share information and knowledge generated through research, which is subjected to intellectual analysis and scrutiny (The Open University of Tanzania [OUT], 1997).

The launching of scholarly journals is very much in line with the objectives and functions of universities worldwide. Such objectives include conducting research to generate new knowledge and expanding the frontiers of knowledge for solving socio-economic and development problems (Huria, 1996). Moreover, the knowledge generated through research helps to enrich teaching, research and learning. However, for the research-generated

information to be of significance and of practical use in society, it must be shared with the public and policy-makers, particularly through scholarly journal publishing forums.

Even though the basic universal mission of universities is to conduct research, publish and disseminate information, the contribution of Africa to the world of knowledge stands at a measly 2.6 percent, and that of sub-Saharan Africa, where Tanzania belongs, at an abysmal 1.4 percent (UNESCO, 2015). Meanwhile, the holistic state of scholarly publishing in Tanzania remains largely indeterminate. This low ranking of sub-Saharan Africa by UNESCO (2015) raises a pertinent question regarding the state of academic scholarly journals in individual countries such as Tanzania, hence this study. As such, the research aimed to (a) establish the availability of scholarly journal publishing forums in Tanzania's universities, (b) examine the publication formats in use, (c) determine the potential of ICT for scholarly publishing, (d) explore the challenges and solutions associated with scholarly journal publishing forums in Tanzania.

Scholarly Journal Publishing Formats

Historically, print journals have ably served as forums of scholarly communication. Indeed, the print journal has a long tradition in scholarly communication. However, the development of ICT coupled with changes engendered by the digital revolution and the rapid growth of the open access platform has added another mode of scholarly communication. As a result, the electronic version has inevitably come to complement the long-established printed version. In fact, as Stranack (2008) notes, now even publishers are increasingly developing electronic versions of their print journals, as part of electronic publishing whose alternative names include online publishing or e-publishing. Consequently, universities use these platforms—print and electronic in a hybrid mode to share ideas and experiences in the respective areas of specialisation including from an interdisciplinary perspective. Zell (2020) opined that the two formats will co-exist in the feasible future for users to make their own choice that suits their needs. Stranack (2008) on the other hand suggests for journals with the resources to produce both formats Thus, university run journals in both print and electronic formats are established to serve as forums for communication and often tend to be flagships of their respective universities. Often, respective universities cover the cost of running these journals. Crucially for academic and research staff these scholarly journals in both print and electronic formats serve as a primary criterion for securing promotion to senior and professorial ranks in Tanzania's universities (OUT, 2015; URT, 2014, 2021).
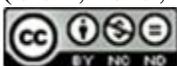
Yet, in Africa, generally, the state of scholarly journals left much to be desired. Discussing the state of scholarly publication in Africa, Chisenga (2006) contended that very little research output finds its way into international journals. Okemwa (2016) attributed this dire situation of a low scholarly publication rate in sub-Saharan Africa to a problem of knowledge diffusion for the regions and, possibly, low knowledge generation. Both Chisenga (2006) and Okemwa (2016) present claims that tally with the UNESCO (2015) report on global shares of scientific publications. The UNESCO report has painted a gloomy picture regarding Africa's contribution as a continent and particularly sub-Saharan Africa to the world of knowledge. Ikoja-Odongo (2010) has argued that even though African scholars and researchers on the continent conduct research and generate their ground-breaking research findings, the means for getting the research findings published are either poor, too slow, or non-existent in their respective countries or regions.

Information and Communication Technologies and Scholarly Publishing

The development of information and communications technologies (ICTs) has revolutionised scholarly publishing in the world. According to Tettey (2009), the advent of ICT has changed the academic publishing landscape by expediting the publishing process and making it much more efficient. Gray (2009) contends that ICTs provide new opportunities for the effective dissemination of research, offer the potential for greater impact and global reach in previously unimagined ways relative to print communication. The ICT through the open journal system (OJS) has facilitated scholarly journal publishing workflow particularly collecting, submitting, assigning reviewers, supporting editorial decision making, copy-editing and publishing hitherto done manually (Sidyk, & Zdunek, 2021, Fisher, 2008). Still, how the potential of ICTs has been embraced and exploited in Tanzania's scholarly publishing in Tanzania remains a subject worth investigating.

Challenges and Solutions of Scholarly Journal Publishing

In his exposé on the state of affairs and challenges of scholarly publications in Uganda, Ikoja-Odongo (2010) and Katama (1997) highlighted lack of financial sustainability base for financing of journals, dearth of expertise, dependence on donor agencies, distribution channels and irregular publishing as impediments to scholarly publishing in Uganda. Thus universities should

consider embracing e-publishing such as the OJS (Katama, 1997). The OJS enhances scholarly recognition by making local research outputs visible throughout Africa and abroad (Stranack, 2008). This state of affairs raises a crucial question regarding how universities in Tanzania embraced the Open Journal System forum for scholars to publish, disseminate and raise the visibility of their research outputs.

Studies by Sangeda and Lwoga (2017), Sife, andLwoga, (2014), Thomas (2018), Chirwa and Sife (2018), Fussy (2019), and Kazoka and Wema (2020), Ndumbaro and Wema (2016) that have been conducted in Tanzania provide useful information on collaborative scholarly research, which is key in generating new knowledge. However, they do not provide a comprehensive and informative state of scholarly journal publishing in Tanzania and. Africa generally. Murray and Coleridge's (2014) study, on the other hand, covered 56 African countries including Tanzania. Nonetheless, Murray and Clobridge's (2014) was rather general because of its broad inclusiveness, hence not judiciously addressing the specific nuances pertaining to research on scholarly publishing in Tanzania's universities. This work seeks to provide insight into scholarly journal publishing forums for Tanzania's universities to bridge the associated gap.

Methodology

The study, which used the survey approach to generate quantitative data, was conducted at both public and private universities in Tanzania. The country has 32 recognised universities (Tanzania Commission for Universities [TCU], 2023). Out of these thirty-two institutions, 13 purposively selected universities seven public and six private-owned participated in the study. This almost parity between the types of institutions ensured accommodation of diverse participants' opinions.

From the sampled universities, the study population consisted of 13 Directors of research publication and innovations and 64 journal editors. All the participants qualified for the study as key players of their respective universities in scholarly publishing. The data on the journals were obtained from the journal websites of their universities and from African Journal Online (AJOL), hosting some of the university journals for visibility and improved international access. The journal websites were purposively selected because with the development of ICT, they also serve as gateways to information resources.

Data collection instruments comprised semi-structured interviews, self-administered questionnaires and document review. Self-administered questionnaires with open and closed ended questions were administered to 64 journal editors whose roles include maintaining and developing their
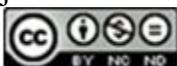
respective journals' profile, quality, credibility, and reputation. On the other hand, interviews were held with directors of research who serve as custodians of policies related to research, publications, and innovation in their respective universities.

The resultant qualitative data from face-to-face interviews were coded and transcribed before being subjected to thematic analysis. Qualitative findings have been presented in narrative form with verbatim interview extracts serving as evidential testimonies. On the other hand, the analysis of quantitative data collected using closed-ended questions of the questionnaire was done with the assistance of SPSS Version 20, with the results presented in tabular form, showing particularly the relationship between variables to understand how they affected each other.

Results

Table 1 presents the names of participating Universities, category, number of directors, editors and scholarly journals

Table 1: Participating universities by category, number of directors, editors and scholarly journals

Name of the university	Category	Directors of research	Editors and number Journals	Percent
University of Dar es Salaam	Public	1	19	29.7
The Open University of Tanzania	Public	1	9	14.1
Tumaini University - Dar es Salaam College	Private	1	6	9.4
Saint Augustine University of Tanzania	Private	1	5	7.8
Teofil Kisanji University	Private	1	4	6.3
Mbeya University of Science and Technology	Public	1	4	6.3
Sokoine University of Agriculture	Public	1	3	4.7

Moshi Cooperative University	Public	1	3	4.7
Ruaha Catholic University	Private	1	3	4.7
Mzumbe University	Public	1	3	4.7
Ardhi University	Public	1	2	3.1
Catholic University College of Mbeya	Private	1	2	3.1
Saint John's University	Private	1	1	1.6
Total		13	64	100.0

Source: Institutional websites, African Journal Online & Field data 2021/2022

Availability of Scholarly Journal Publishing Forums in Universities

The factors that promote scholarly journal publishing in universities include the availability of scholarly journal forums within and outside respective institutions. Journal editors were asked to indicate whether they have had in place journal publishing forums at their universities. The results are summarized in Table 2:

Table 2: Availability of scholarly journal publishing forums (n=64)

Availability	Frequency	Percent
Available	63	98.4
Not available	1	1.6

Source: Field Data, 2021-2022

Table 2 shows that almost all the majority (n=63; 98.4%), of journal editors but one (1.6%) reported having no journal scholarly publishing forums. Out of 13 sampled universities as indicated in Table 1, the University of Dar es Salaam had the highest number of active scholarly journals (n=19; 29.7%), followed by the Open University of Tanzania with 9 (14.1%), and Tumaini University - Dar es Salaam College (TUDARco) with six (9.4%). One director of research said:

> *One of the missions of universities is to conduct research and disseminate information. [As such,] in the absence of scholarly journal publishing forums you become a glorified high school and that's why we have in place scholarly journal publishing forums* (D_PRI6, 2021).

Purpose of Scholarly Journals
Directors and editors were asked to state the purpose of establishing their journals. Table 3 presents the results:

Table 3: Purpose of scholarly journals

Purpose	Frequency	Percentage
Dissemination of research findings	61	96
Communication with peers in the field	37	58
Exchange of knowledge	2	3.2
Staff promotion	2	3.2
Promoting students' creative work	1	1.6
Visibility	1	1.6
Collaboration	1	1.6

Source: Field Data, 2021-2022 (Note: Multiple Responses)

Results in Table 3 show that 61 (96%) of the respondents mentioned 'dissemination of information' as the purpose for establishing scholarly journals, followed by 37 (58%) who mentioned 'communication with peers in the field' whereas only two (3.2%) said 'exchange of knowledge', 'staff promotion' and another two (3.2%), One (1.6%) indicated 'promoting students creative work', another (1.6%) 'visibility', and one (1.6%) 'collaboration' 1 (1.6%). In this regard, one of directors of research, publication and innovation said:

> *...the objective is to give researchers forums to disseminate their research findings to the general public as well as a platform for promoting staff* (D_PUB2, 2022).

The results of the study in this regard are tallied with that of Guédon, et al., (2019), which insists on universities as key actors in scholarly communication in the context of their research and educational missions.

Ownership and Financing of Scholarly Journals

Table 4 presents the responses of journal editors regarding the ownership of their respective journals:

Table 4: Ownership and financing of scholarly journals

Ownership	Frequency	Percent
University	44	68.8
Faculty	14	21.9

Schools	6	9.4
Department	4	6.2
Financing		
University	61	95.3
Donor's support	3	4.7
No fund at the moment	1	1.6
Professional associations	1	1.6
Article purchases	1	1.6

Source: Field Data, 2021-2022 (Note: Multiple Responses)

As Table 4 illustrates, 44 (68.8%) of the editors mentioned the university, followed by 14 (21.9%) who mentioned faculty, 6 (9.4%) indicated schools and (6.2%) departments. In other words, these journals are generally owned by respective universities, whether run by faculties, schools and departments or any other unit. Similarly, the directors of research and publications confirmed such ownership of university journals. As one of them explained during an interview:

> *Scholarly journals are owned by the university and to a less extent by professional associations to fulfil the mission, which is amplified through research to generate new knowledge to be used to enrich the teaching of the qualified young minds needed in the public and private sectors as well as solving societal problems through the use of the research findings* (D_PUB1, 2022).

In terms of financing, usually the sustainability of scholarly journals needs robust and reliable financing mechanisms. In this regard, the journal editors reported that their journals were solely financed by their respective universities. Table 4 presents the results:

Apparently, the model of financing scholarly journals depended on the generosity of their respective universities as mentioned by 61 (95.3%) of the responding editors, followed by three (4.7%) who indicated donor support, one (1.6%) who admitted having no source of funding at the moment, one (1.6%) went for professional association and article purchases. The responses were supported by answers provided by one of the directors of research and publications, who said:

> *Actually, our journals are non-commercial, and do not charge article processing fees, thus they require some subsidy from the university to continue running* (D_PRI4, 2022).

The results paint a very positive picture on the part of universities because only three (4.7%) of the respondents indicated donor support as a method of financing their journals. Possibly, it could be a case of donor fatigue dependence syndrome. However, one of the directors of research and publications lamented that *"we do not have the funds at the moment as we depend on subsidies, but also lack of publishable articles. These factors have accounted for our journals to be dormant for several years"* (D_PRI4, 2022). Similarly, Ikoja-Odongo (2010) posits that the lack of a guaranteed financial support base threatened the sustainability of many of the scholarly journals since they could cease publication once the sources of funds dried up.

Scholarly Journals Publishing Formats and Hosting

There is a considerable debate regarding what form the publication formats should be used especially during this ICT era. The editors' responses on this aspect are as summarised in Table 5

Table 5: Scholarly journals publishing formats and hosting

Formats	Frequency	Percent
Both	46	71.9
Electronic	11	17.2
Print	7	10.9
Total	64	100
Hosting		
University/library website	46	85.2
National and international databases	17	31.5
AJOL	5	9.3
University-owned server	1	1.9

Source: Field Data, 2021-2022

As Table 5 demonstrates, 46 (71.9%) journal editors indicated that their journals were in both print and electronic formats, followed by 11 (17.2%) who indicated electronic format only whereas seven (10.9%) indicated print format. Generally, these results show that most of the respondents indicated that their journals were published in both print and electronic formats. The

results corroborate well with that of Zell (2020), who opined that all formats should be made available for users to make their own choice that suits their needs [… until such time and technologies dictate otherwise].

On further probing on why both formats were used, one of the directors of research and publication said:

> *It is logical to use both print and electronic formats because every user has his/her own taste. Thus, no one should be denied the right to access and use information because of formats. My humble opinion is that all the formats should be made available and users should make their choices to suit their needs. Thus, the conventional wisdom suggests having democratization of information regardless of formats* (D_PUB3, 2022).

Regarding the hosting of scholarly journals, editors indicated where their electronic journals were hosted. Results in Table 5 show that 46 (85.2%) hosted their journals on the university/library website, followed by 17 (31.5%) who mentioned national and international databases. Another five (9.3%) indicated AJOL and one (1.9%) mentioned university own server. From Table 5, it can be learned that the university/library website, which serve as information gateway, plays a significant role in hosting scholarly journals. In support, interview extract proffers:

> *For scholarly information to be accessed by the majority of researchers, it is part and responsibility of the university requirement to host electronic scholarly journal on the university/library website* (D_PRI5, 2022).

The results suggest a positive role libraries play to ensure that scholarly works emanating from their universities become visible and accessible locally and globally.

Availability and Reasons for Maintaining Journals Online
Journal editors were further asked to state whether their journals were available online and state the reasons for doing so.

Table 6: Online journal availability and reasons

Online Journal	Frequency	Percent
Available	52	81.3
Not available	8	12.5
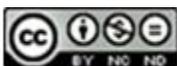
I don't know	4	6.3
Reasons		
To improve visibility of the journal and institution	39	76.5
Wider dissemination	38	74.5
Low running cost	12	23.5
It is a part of university requirements	1	2

Source: Field Data, 2021-2022

Table 6 indicates that 52 (81.3%) of the editors said that their journals were available online, eight (12.5%) reported being unavailable online, and four (6.3%) said they did not know. For those respondents who said they were unavailable online it emerged during an interview with one of the directors of research and innovation:

> *They were in the process of making them available online after sorting out issues of policy related to journal hosting online, infrastructures and expertise* (D_PRI1, 2021).

The results from journal editors and directors of research clearly indicated that, to a large extent, their journals were available online whereas others were in the process of doing so.

On reasons for making their scholarly journals available on line the most common reason given by journal editors were to enhance visibility of their journals and institutions (n=39; 76.5%), wider dissemination of information (n=38; 74.5%), low running cost (n=12; 23.5%), and as part of the university requirements for hosting their journals online (n=1; 2%).

Open access Journal Adoption and Future Directions
Universities worldwide have embraced open access philosophy to facilitate publishing and dissemination of scholarly works to the research community and the society without any restrictions.

Table 7: Open access journal adoption and future direction of scholarly journals

Adoption	Frequency	Percent
Adopted	43	67.2
Not Adopted	16	25

I don't know	5	7.8
Total	64	100
Future direction		
To have a hybrid mode printed and online	42	68.9
To see all journals are published online	23	37.7
Investment in journals is still not seriously considered	1	1.6

Source: Field Data, 2021- 2022

Table 7 illustrates the patterns of adoption of Open Access. Results show that 43 (67.2%) reported to have adopted open access philosophy, 16 (25%) had yet to do so and five (7.8%) reported that they do not know. From Interviews with directors of research and publications had mixed views:

> *The matter is still under discussion in various university forums to decide whether it should be open access or not and which license attributes should be used"* (D_PRI1, 2022)*.*

> Another director said*:*

> *Their journals are available online but not exactly as per open access philosophy because readers are supposed to pay for access fee in order to offset running costs* (D_PUB1, 2022).

Generally, the study found that most of the sampled universities in Tanzania had adopted the Open Access philosophy. For those who reported not adopting and not knowing cases that suggested that the 'Open Access' concept and philosophy remains new, hence necessitating the need to raise awareness on the appropriate open licence to be used and the attendant benefits of open access philosophy for individuals and universities.

On future direction of scholarly journal publishing in Tanzania, editors were asked to provide their views. Table 7 presents a summary of the results. 42 (68.9%) of the editors reported that they could prefer to see all their journals available in a hybrid mode (print and online), followed by 23 (37.7%) who opined that all the journals should be published online with only one (1.6%) editor saying that investment in journals was not seriously considered. During interviews with directors of research publications and innovations, it emerged that the hybrid version was the most preferred mode. As one of them pointed out:

It is the university requirement to go into the hybrid mode because the infrastructure, cost of bandwidth and electricity reliability is not yet conducive to go purely online. Some parts of the country have yet to be connected to the national ICT backbone, besides that some users still prefer to read printed journals and for archiving purposes. I suggest that we produce printed journals and then we will go online. From my perspective, a hybrid print and online is a preferred mode (D_PUB1, 2022).

Challenges Facing Scholarly Journal Publishing

Table 8: Challenges facing scholarly journal publishing

Challenges	Frequency	Percent
Lack of sustainable funds to run the journal	38	63.3
Lack of adequate articles for publishing	29	48.3
Lack of training for editors and authors	28	46.7
Journal management commitment	15	25
Low quality of manuscripts submitted by Tanzanians which are rejected at first rate	2	3.3

Source: Field Data, 2021-2022 (Note: Multiple Responses)

Results in Table 8 show that 38 (63.3%) respondents reported a lack of sustainable funds to run the journal,29 (48.3%) mentioned a lack of adequate articles for publishing. While, 28 (46.7%) cited a lack of training for editors and authors, 15 (25%) indicated a lack of journal management commitment and two (3.3%) cited low quality of manuscripts submitted by Tanzanian scholars, which are rejected at the first reading. In an interview with one of the directors stated that:

Even though we are increasingly striving to disseminate more and more research outputs from Tanzania, it is exceedingly disappointing to note that our journals are characterized by low-quality manuscripts submitted by Tanzanian scholars as they are rejected at first reading. As a solution, there is an urgent need to promote reading, research, writing, and publishing skills through short courses among young academicians. Other solutions include grooming local contributors and local editors who will be fully committed to the writing/publishing and editing of scholarly journals (D_PRI2, 2021).

In the same vein, another director of research and publications said:

> *The quality of our journals must be improved. There is one practice, which currently compromises the quality of journal publications in most journals in Tanzania. This happens where authors exert undue pressure on journal editors to help them get their papers published for purposes of academic promotion* (D_PUB2, 2021).

Discussion of Results

This paper has investigated the availability of scholarly journal publishing forums in Tanzania's universities. The study has acknowledged a number of initiatives taken by the universities in the country to put in place journal publishing forums for the purpose of creating and disseminating their research findings to the public, as part of their missions. The results show that there exist a number of scholarly journal publishing forums in Tanzania, and the majority of them are owned by universities. In terms of financing of scholarly journals, the results paint a positive picture on the part of universities and to a less extent to donor support. The findings are contrary to those reported by Ikoja-Odongo (2010) and Katama (1997) who asserts that lack of financial sustainability base for financing of journals and dependence on donor support. Regardless of the availability of publishing forums, getting adequate manuscripts publishing remained a vexing challenge. As a result, many journals failed to come out regularly due to lack of manuscripts, experienced editors and reviewers. Thus, there was a need to foster the reading and writing culture, training of editors and authors and whenever possible, set aside seed money for conducting research. Regarding scholarly journal publishing formats, the results indicate that there are two dominant scholarly journal publishing formats used to share information namely print and electronic. The results corroborate well with that of Zell (2020), who opined that all formats should be made available for users to make their own choice that suits their needs, until such time when technologies dictate otherwise. Stranack (2008) on the other hand suggests for journals with the resources to produce both formats.

In the meantime, universities in Tanzania have seized opportunities offered by ICT to make their scholarly journals to have online presence for improving their visibility and accessibility. A notable cited laudable initiative is that of African Journal Online (AJOL) for providing a platform to improve accessibility and visibility of scholarly journals emanating from Africa. However, AJOL is not a database but a platform as affirmed by the AJOL website, which states: "AJOL is the world largest and prominent platform of African published scholarly journals." This situation is also applicable to
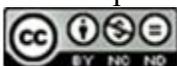
Google Scholar, which is also not a database, but a Web Search Engine (Gusenbauer, 2019).

Likewise, it emerged that universities had adopted open access philosophy, which inter alia, is geared towards sharing research results with the community without any restrictions. However, doubt shrouds its implementation and the centre for discussion is on whether to adopt open access. This murky area, which is not yet resolved for some universities, needs special attention to have a common understanding among stakeholders and university management.

Regarding the future direction of journal publishing in Tanzania, the preferred mode for the time being is hybrid whereas others prefer to see all journals made available online. One can thus argue that hybrid mode is the way to go because of the inadequate infrastructure, cost of bandwidth, unstable internet connectivity and unreliable power supply as they are not available all the time as a result it becomes difficult to adopt a purely online mode. Additionally, some parts of the country are not yet connected to the national backbone. The results are in line with those of Zell (2020), who asserts that students and scholars will continue to need access to both digital and traditional print materials. Based on the results, it is evident that, there is a cohort of an overall trend of challenges facing institutional scholarly journal publishing in Tanzania, which needs solutions.

The challenges identified, which have caused a relapse and need a strategic sustainable intervention in scholarly journal publishing, are associated with the quality of journals, which requires improvement. After all, authors exert undue pressure on journal editors to help them in getting their papers published for the purpose of academic promotion. To militate such a situation, the use of open journal system can reduce if not eliminate such challenges. Besides, there is a need for maintaining print and electronic format because of inherent infrastructural challenges. Such challenges include unreliable electricity, internet connectivity and bandwidth, which militate against the accessibility and usage of online journal format. As a result print is the only option under such circumstances. Other mentioned challenges are lack of sustainable funds to run online scholarly journals as well as inadequate articles for publishing. As a solution, there is an urgent need for universities to set aside adequate funds to support scholarly publishing because it is a backbone of academia. Furthermore, there is a need to promote reading, research, writing and publishing skills through short courses targeting young academicians. Other solutions include grooming of local and international contributors as well as editors who will be fully committed to the writing/publishing and editing of scholarly journals.

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Conclusion and Recommendations

In light of the key research findings and based on Tanzania's experience, it is suggested that a review of publishing process be undertaken with the view of accommodating online scholarly journal system (OJS) for the submission and processing of manuscripts. The use of OJS can speed up the process and avoid collusion between authors and reviewers, which ultimately ensures universities generates credible scholarly publications of international standards. The study generally recommends, at least for the moment, scholarly journals should be accessible in both print and online formats. In order to improve the quality of journals it is recommended that strong editorial boards and rigorous review process are established with the view of soliciting and attracting more articles from within and outside the country and ensure that the scholarly journals are registered and indexed with strong academic databases to improve its visibility and accessibility. This could be achieved by enlisting the services of editors and reviewers from all over the world, in order to improve and enhance the credibility of journals.

Other recommendations revolve around investment in both human and financial resources in the production process of journals and encourage all journal outlets to have an online presence. Also, it is imperative to persuade researchers to publish their results in reputable scholarly journals on issues that pose a challenge to contemporary society. Awareness creation on the scholarly journal publishing forums available among academicians and researchers needs no emphasis. Accordingly, universities should also consider a leading role to ensure support of introducing policies and guidelines regarding open access publishing and open journal system. Overall, scholarly journal publishing entails moving towards openness; moreover, it is imperative for universities to adopt open access publishing philosophy in a bid to raise their visibility of research outputs from Tanzania.

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