

LAUNCH OF THE ARIN PUBLISHING ACADEMY

1. Background and Justification

Africa is home to a dynamic community of researchers, early-career scholars, policymakers, and practitioners producing valuable knowledge across climate resilience, public health, sustainable development, governance, biodiversity, and socio-economic transformation among other thematic areas. Despite this intellectual vibrancy, Africa continues to contribute less than 5% of global knowledge production, an outcome rooted not in a lack of capacity, but in systemic barriers that prevent African research from becoming visible, influential, and accessible globally.

Significant research output across African universities, think tanks, and research programmes remains unpublished or insufficiently disseminated. Limitations include gaps in academic writing skills, minimal exposure to global publishing standards, high publication fees, lack of mentorship, weak institutional support, and limited indexing of African research in international journals.

Policymakers, NGOs, and civil society also require high-quality, evidence-driven communication including policy briefs, technical papers, strategic notes, and op-eds, among others to inform decisions. Yet many professionals lack structured training to effectively translate evidence into actionable formats.

Recognizing these persistent gaps, the [Africa Research and Impact Network \(ARIN\)](#) in collaboration with [Taylor & Francis Group](#) has conceptualized the [ARIN Publishing Academy](#). The Academy builds on ARIN's mission to democratize knowledge production, strengthen the science-policy interface, and elevate Africa's role in shaping global ideas. It also leverages ARIN's Memorandum of Understanding with Taylor & Francis Group, integrating publishing expertise, editorial mentorship, and global visibility mechanisms.

The ARIN Publishing Academy is a transformative, long-term, Africa-owned solution designed to strengthen research excellence, expand publishing capacity, and promote evidence translation into policy and practice.

2. Rationale for the Academy

2.1 The Research-to-Publishing Gap

Strong research output exists across Africa, yet much of it never reaches peer-reviewed journals due to limited training in manuscript development, peer-review navigation, ethical publishing, mentorship, and high publication costs.

2.2 The Evidence-to-Policy Gap

Professionals across sectors often struggle to translate technical findings into policy-relevant products, weakening evidence uptake and limiting public engagement.

2.3 Structural Gaps in Africa's Knowledge Ecosystem

Africa lacks a structured, continent-wide publishing support ecosystem. The Academy fills this gap by creating a sustainable platform for research writing, publishing, and knowledge translation.

3. How the Academy Fills the Gap

Through the Publishing Academy, the following activities will be implemented

- a. Capacity building in academic writing and publishing
- b. Training in policy and public-oriented writing
- c. Mentorship, coaching, and peer review networks



- d. Data literacy and research quality enhancement
- e. Increased visibility through global publishing networks

4. Objectives of the Launch of the Academy

- i. To officially introduce and position the ARIN Publishing Academy as a continental platform for strengthening Africa's research writing, publishing, and knowledge translation capacities.
- ii. To engage key partners, scholars, policymakers, and publishers in dialogue on advancing African-led knowledge production and equitable participation in global publishing systems.
- iii. To mobilize stakeholder support, visibility, and commitments toward the operationalization, sustainability, and scaling of the Academy across African institutions.

6. Expected Outcomes

- a) Enhanced awareness and recognition of the ARIN Publishing Academy among African scholars, institutions, and global publishing partners.
- b) Strengthened partnerships and strategic alliances, including editorial collaborators, mentors, universities, and development partners aligned to support the Academy.
- c) Improved readiness for Academy roll-out, including increased stakeholder buy-in, resource mobilization prospects, and a strong foundation for enrolling the first cohort of trainees.

7. Expected Outputs

- i. A clearly communicated vision, structure, and operational framework of the ARIN Publishing Academy shared with stakeholders during the launch.
- ii. A multi-stakeholder panel discussion and engagement session generating insights, recommendations, and collaborative opportunities for strengthening Africa's publishing ecosystem.
- iii. A post-launch communiqué capturing commitments, expressions of interest, and partnership opportunities from universities, publishers, funders, and research networks.

ARIN Publishing Academy Launch Programme

Date: 16 December 2025

Time: 2:00–4:30 PM EAT (2 hrs 30 mins)

Format: Virtual Event

Host: Africa Research and Impact Network (ARIN)

Partner: Taylor & Francis Group

Moderator of the Session: Florence Onyango: Communication Manager, ARIN

Time	Activity	Facilitator/In-charge
1:50-2:00pm	Log-in and self Introductions on the Chatbox	ARIN IT
2:00-2:10pm	Welcoming Remarks: Significance of launching the ARIN Publishing Academy as a milestone in strengthening Africa's leadership in knowledge production, underscore ARIN's commitment to bridging publishing inequities,	Dr Joanes Atela, Executive Director, ARIN
2:10-2:20	Official Opening Remarks: Accelerating Research Excellence and Impact in Africa through Strategic	Nitasha Devasar

	Partnerships.	Managing Director and Commercial Lead for Taylor & Francis South Asia & Sub-Saharan Africa Region
2:20-2:50pm	Key Note Speaker: Re-imagining Africa's Place in Global Knowledge Ecosystems: Building Equitable Pathways for Research Excellence and Publishing Power	Pamla GoPaul AUDA-NEPAD
2:50-3:00pm	The Structure of the ARIN Publishing Academy	Dr Humphrey Agevi
3:00-3:20PM	Partner Spotlight: Taylor & Francis' Commitment to Advancing Global Knowledge Equity: Opportunities for African Scholars Through Enhanced Access, Editorial Support, and Global Publishing Platforms	Dr. Madhurima Kahali, Head of Academic Relations, Taylor & Francis
High-Level Panel Discussions		
3:20-3:30pm	Panelist 1: What systemic barriers within global and African publishing ecosystems currently limit African scholars' access, visibility, and success in reputable journals? and how can a continental initiative like the ARIN Publishing Academy, in partnership with publishers such as Taylor & Francis, effectively address these gaps for equitable publishing pathways, and structured capacity support?	Dr. Mao Amis Africa Centre for Green Economy
3:30-3:40pm	Panelist 2: What specific capacity gaps in academic writing and research rigor continue to limit the visibility and quality of Africa-led scholarship, and what practical strategies can institutions adopt to systematically strengthen these competencies across early-career and established researchers?	Prof Idil Boran York University
3:40-3:50pm	Panelist 3: Given the persistent gap between research production and its uptake in policy and practice across African institutions, what skills and structural supports are missing for researchers and practitioners to translate evidence into impactful?	Shehnaaz Moosa South South North
3:50-4:00pm	Panelist 4: What key digital, data, and structured-publishing gaps limit high-quality, impactful African scholarship, and how can the ARIN Publishing Academy support researchers to adopt systematic, technology-enabled publishing approaches that enhance visibility, credibility, and policy impact?	Dr Edwin Kanda MMUST
4:00-4:10pm	Questions and Answers	Dr Eurallayh Akinyi ARIN
4:10-4:25pm	Closing remarks and Way-Forward	Dr Joanes Atela, ARIN

