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Open access journal publishing in Kenya is steadily increasing as a result of a project that was implemented by the Kenya Library and Information Services Consortium (KLISC) in 2022, with support from EIFL.

Before the project, only three KLISC member universities had active online open access journals, says Dr Gitau Njoroge, who is EIFL's Open Access Coordinator in Kenya. "About 20 of our member institutions were publishing print journals and we targeted those that wanted to publish their journals online.

"The key challenge was to convince university managements that high quality open access journals could increase visibility of research output and raise university profiles. We achieved this by ensuring that senior staff participated in awareness-raising and training workshops, which we organized in five regions of Kenya.

"We trained editorial boards, researchers, ICT staff and librarians in open access publishing. We set up Open Journal Systems (OJS) platforms for hosting online journals at 17 institutions. We trained technical staff to customize and manage the platforms. In addition, we spoke about meeting quality standards for indexing in directories like the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). And we stressed the importance of policies to ensure adherence to best practices."

As a result, the number of open access journals being published is steadily increasing. Some universities such as Meru, Rongo, Strathmore, Kambianga and Kirinyaga have published the latest issues of their journals online, and other institutions have also uploaded back issues.

"There is now a new enthusiasm for open access publishing and a 'can-do' attitude. We will continue to build on this through follow-up workshops to make sure that publishing schedules and quality standards are maintained," says Dr Njoroge.



> "KLISC and EIFL have together built a strong base for increasing and improving open access journal publishing in Kenya for wider research accessibility and discoverability."
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> – **DR GITAU NJOROGE**