



ESARBICA EDITORIAL REPORT 2024

1. Introduction

This is a report of the activities of the Editorial Board for the years 2023/2024. The reporting is in line with the responsibilities of Editorial Committee as captured in the ESARBICA Constitution. The Editorial Committee is responsible for the publishing and distribution of the printed and electronic publications (Journal and newsletter); use of one or more suitable electronic discussion lists for contact with members. Furthermore, in terms of article 17.1 of the Constitution, ESARBICA shall provide regular communications with its constituency in an appropriate format, be it electronic or paper, including a newsletter or journal published at least once a year and other publications as required. One of the functions of ESARBICA of which the Editorial Committee assists with is to facilitate continuing education through professional attachments, study visits, seminars, workshops, etc. Therefore, the report follows the outlined activities and covers the following: Journal, newsletter, website, educational workshop (Africa strategy) and other publications.

2. Publications

The publications for this reporting period cover the journal and the newsletter.

2.1 ESARBICA Journal

- Issue No 42 (2023) of the Journal was successfully published and is available online through the African Journals Online (AJOL). The link was circulated to member groups. This volume was a special issue of papers presented at the ESARBICA conference held in South Africa in 2023 and Prof Saurombe and Dr Mojapelo were guest editors.
- Prof Mpho Ngoepe, the former editor, continues to provide guidance to the editorial team whenever his services are needed.
- The team is currently working on volume number 43 (2024) to be published in 2025. A request will be made for payment of language editor when the articles are ready.
- The processing of payments for the Language Editor were delayed and these delays have affected our relationship with the host partner for our journal site. In future we have to ensure



speedy payment to ensure timely release of our journal, to avoid threats to be delisted from AJOL website. Clear guidelines for payments to editorial work should be clear and provided in the financial guidelines.

- During the year we registered one authorship query and it was amicably resolved.
- On a positive note we managed to complete forms as requested to facilitate update of the 2024 African Journal Online (AJOL) partnership for updating the Journal site on AJOL website.

2. Newsletter

Issue 29 (2024) of the newsletter was released and distributed to membership groups. However, a design fee of P5, 250, 00 still has to be paid and we request the Board to authorise payment. In future we will explore involvement of volunteers and private sponsors for the newsletter. There is still low turnout of articles in member countries.

3. Focal Persons

Directors in member countries nominated focal persons to assist the editorial team with article submissions and other activities. Unfortunately the team has not actively participated and responded to requests, even for ideas for better hosting of the website. Only representatives from South Africa, Mozambique and Tanzania were able to response and give feedback during the year. A whatsapp ground was created but feedback was received.

4. Website

The website which was hosted at: <https://www.esarbica.info/> by KK Solutions has expired and has not been renewed as there we complaints from some individuals that the current website was not appealing. To respond to this, we submitted a proposal to engage a different host and we have been advised to submit 3 quotations to choose from. We are still working on the issue and in the meantime the website remains inactive.

In the past we did not have any guideline on selecting the website host and used our discretion on reasonable pricing. The issue of the website is still pending.



4. Education of archivists

A regional training plan for 2024 has been developed and circulated to the Board for approval and implementation. This is still pending. It is, however, worrying that coincidentally similar ideas on workshops planned in the regional plan are now being run by ICA using the facilitators who were part of the team assisting the Editor in putting together the ideas. This seems to contradict and dampen regional efforts. We still have to confirm with the ICA Africa Programme Director if the funding promised is still available. The ICA workshops are running at the same time our regional plan was supposed to be under implementation.

5. Future plans

In future we are planning to find private funders to assist with activities of the editorial team, have a separate account for editorial work Review of editorial policies and author guides to be completed.

Opportunities offered by UNESCO to send staff for training in audio visuals and other areas have been missed because there is no coordinated regional plans to ensure nominations are sent. Countries have approached this individually .

Editors

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