

Template for eResearch Africa 2017

Poster Submissions

Megan Banner (1), Stevan Bruijns (2)

1. Services coordinator, African Federation for Emergency Medicine, Cape Town, SOUTH AFRICA, banner.megan@gmail.com
2. Senior lecturer, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, SOUTH AFRICA, stevan.bruijns@uct.ac.za

Title	EXPLORING FACTORS UNDERLYING SUCCESSFUL PUBLICATION FOLLOWING PARTICIPATION IN AN AUTHOR ASSIST SERVICE
Full name	MEGAN E BANNER
Institution	THE AFRICAN FEDERATION FOR EMERGENCY MEDICINE
Country	SOUTH AFRICA
Corresponding Author's Email	BANNER.MEGAN@GMAIL.COM
Focus area	RESEARCH DATA MANAGEMENT

ABSTRACT

Notes:

- The abstract should be no longer than two pages using this template. A third page can be used for information about the authors.
- Your submission should include a short abstract of no more than 300 words in the space provided above. Submit all extended abstracts as a PDF attachment to your submission via email, conference@eresearch.ac.za and cc: cindy.mathys@uct.ac.za.
- Navigate to www.eresearch.ac.za | **Participate** for information on submission guidelines.

Exploring factors underlying successful publication after participation in an Author Assist service

Author Assist is an initiative of the African Journal of Emergency Medicine (AfJEM) that pairs an experienced researcher with an author recently rejected for publication to assist with revision of the rejected article. This study explores the factors of the assistance process that contribute to successful publication after resubmission and blind peer-review. It aims to improve Author Assist's ability to facilitate successful publication by analysing the relative impacts of potential areas of focus within individual manuscript development. A grounded theory qualitative approach applying inductive category development first looks at the assistance process for seven individuals via semi-structured interview. Shorter, structured surveys with a wider sample then provide feedback on specific components of the process and inform recommendations for improvements to the programmes.

Participant stories within the African Acute Care context tend to be consistent with available literature describing current global challenges in overcoming barriers to scientific research and publication. Recounts of the Author Assist process are overwhelmingly positive, and frame the programme as a worthwhile, albeit time consuming, initiative that makes a substantial difference in the professional development of individuals; their ability to take on mentorship roles themselves; and their future success in scientific publication. Inductive build-up from interviews of effective components of the process, and suggestions for progression of the programme are confirmed by survey responses from other past participants. Common themes arising from author feedback include perceived pressure by assistants to complete work on time amidst other career demands; the effectiveness of the partnerships in addressing issues of language, structure, and submission requirements; and the desire for the programme to encompass the full research process. Assistant themes tend to mirror those of the authors. In addition, multiple assistants suggest a more involved manuscript assessment by the journal, prior to commissioning a partnership. Also suggested is a redesign of the assistant database to categorise by type of assistance offered, rather than by topic expertise, perhaps suggesting the introduction of a “team tackle” method, rather than start to finish with a single partnership.

The findings from this study confirm Author Assist’s unique niche within emergency care development, and its effectiveness in supporting individual research careers. A number of reasonable and low cost improvements to the programme have been put forward for AfJEM to improve ability to facilitate successful publication.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR(S)

1. Megan Banner is from Rhode Island in the US, and has a background in microbiology and wilderness first response. She has recently completed an MSc in Emergency Medicine from the University of Cape Town. She is the services coordinator for African Federation for Emergency Medicine, and works primarily as the manager of the Author Assist program and as the African Journal of Emergency Medicine’s technical editor.
2. Stevan Bruijns is a senior lecturer at the University of Cape Town. His interests include triage, research mentorship and the emergency care knowledge gap. He is the editor-in-chief for the African Journal of Emergency medicine and has held this position since the journal was founded seven years ago. He lives in Wellington with his family.