

Recognising great work

Emerald Group Publishing Research Awards

Emma Stevenson, 2013

One of the aims of Publishers for Development is to highlight what the community is doing to support and enable developing country researchers. One of the ways that Emerald has been trying to increase the representation of developing country research in their journals is through the Emerald Group Publishing Research Awards.

Improving the visibility of Southern research

Although we talk of a global research system, Southern research is significantly underrepresented. Ensuring that the work of southern researchers is visible and is recognised is critical if we are to strengthen the cycle of knowledge around the world. It's not only about new data and new evidence, but about introducing new methods, approaches, paradigms and theories into the world of academic debate, discussion and teaching. Many of the most pressing problems facing the world today can also only be addressed by researchers joining force. Greater visibility for Southern work can help to foster this kind of cross-regional collaboration.

Published articles are the basic currency of academic promotion, of securing research grants, and of building networks. Getting published is particularly vital for emerging researchers trying to establish their academic careers, but unfamiliarity with the global publishing system often makes it difficult for them. The academic publishing system can be mystifying from the outside.

How awards can help

Awards can showcase a researcher's work, and build confidence. It can also assist emerging researchers to raise their profile within their own departments and institutions. They can also help to encourage others by giving recognition to the slow and difficult craft of academic writing. The visibility that comes from these awards is good for their colleagues too – it proves that international publishers are interested in the work of developing country researchers. If you or other publishers you know of are doing something similar, do let us know.

"[We] are honoured and delighted to have won the prestigious Emerald/ALCS award. This award represents a significant step in my dream to support and promote indigenous knowledge and entrepreneurship, which I believe is of immense value to contemporary society besides local communities."

Henrietta Onwuegbuzie, Lagos Business School, Nigeria
Winner of AMRF Award 2011

Winners of the 2011 African Management Research Fund Award

Henrietta Onwuegbuzie and Dr Norma Juma received the award 2011 for their research proposal entitled '*Achieving Sustainable Development through Indigenous Innovation and Entrepreneurship*'. The winners were chosen out of 33 submissions in the management category. High scores were received from the judging panel across all 5 judging criteria.

Each application was judged, by a panel of experts, on the criteria below. The research must:

- Be of significance, and in particular, illustrate how it will benefit the social good
- Demonstrate originality and innovation
- Make an outstanding contribution to theory and its application
- Illustrate the appropriateness and application of the methodology
- Demonstrate sound implications for theory and practice



Henrietta Onwuegbuzie and Dr Norma Juma receiving their award presented by Emerald's Jim Bowden at the 2011 Academy of Management Conference.

Emerald Group Publishing Research Awards

These awards aim to support researchers in developing regions. Emerald works in close collaboration with academic and corporate associations across the globe, awarding a total of 30 Outstanding Doctoral Research Awards, Research Fund Awards and Case Writing Competition awards each year. These provide opportunities for researchers worldwide to gain international recognition for their work and win research funding.

A dedicated services team manage the awards; helping applicants with any enquiries, arranging for expert panels of judges and ensuring that winners receive their prizes and that their work gets the recognition it deserves. The prize includes a certificate in addition to the research funding or prize money and Emerald supports the applicants in completing their research and encourages them to publish their work, providing guidance where necessary.

Hosting the awards program provides the opportunity for Emerald to communicate with communities in the region and to promote the Emerald content and brand. Emerald attracts new authors and builds prestige through working with key associations within the subject area or country.

As AuthorAID has shown, the guidance and support of an experienced academic is hugely important in supporting early career researchers. The Emerald/AABS case writing competition also involves mentoring for case writers, by distinguished academics, in advance of entering the competition. This is working very well and is something which we hope to replicate with more awards

Working in partnership

The majority of the awards are run in conjunction with a partner association to ensure maximum impact. This has included the African Engineering Association, the Academy of African Business and Development, the Association of African Business Schools, Consejo Latinoamericano de Escuela de Administración and INASP.

Every partner plays a significant role in the success of the award giving an added stamp of quality, increasing awareness and presenting the awards to winners at their conferences. Partner associations are selected on the basis of a shared goal of supporting researchers, particularly within developing regions.

Raising profiles

Previous winners have commented that the award raises their own profile as well as that of their institution. In most cases so many high-quality research proposals are received that a number of Highly Commended Awards are bestowed. While they do not receive a monetary prize, winners of the Highly Commended Awards have said that the award has

benefited their project. Certificates are presented in person to the winners at a conference or at their institution wherever possible. Winners commonly invite their colleagues and family to see them receive their prize and more than one winner has invited a local newspaper along.

The services team promotes the success of the researchers on our website, via press releases and on our social media pages including Twitter and Facebook. All applicants benefit from increased publishing opportunities and even those who do not win benefit from having their work evaluated by experts in the field, and feedback given wherever possible.

“We have presented papers at several conferences on the project; one paper won a best paper award. I personally have an opportunity to work with a University in Ghana partly because of the award. The award has an impact on the credibility of other grants that I am applying for; I won a second award for the LA & Caribbean last year. My own research in Africa has been encouraged because I received an award from Emerald and ALCS.”

BettyJane Punnett, University of the West Indies,
Highly Commended Award winner

“The funding permitted the opportunity to organize a small network of educators, which in turn gave rise to more opportunities for support. The US National Science Foundation is now supporting some work that follows up the Emerald award. The impact of the award is growing regularly. We have now held four additional media-making workshops in math education east Africa – without the Emerald award none of this would have happened. What the funding did was purchase a catalytic activity. It provided a link without which a dozen other things would never have happened. The large impact of your award is still forming for the social good.”

Eric Hamilton
Winner of AERF Award 2008

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For more information on the research awards, visit the website: <http://bit.ly/RipymV>

