

# PUBLISHERS *for* DEVELOPMENT *in Action*

## PREPARING FOR PUBLICATION

Taylor and Francis /Routledge contribute to publishing workshop in Cameroon

Janet Remmington, 2011

The University of Buea on the slopes of soaring Mount Cameroon played host to the inaugural Commonwealth Summer School<sup>1</sup> and interlinking RIMI4AC Research Management initiative. As part of the programme, Taylor & Francis/Routledge and the Commonwealth journal The Round Table presented on 'Preparing for Publication and Supporting Early Career Authors'.

A full auditorium of students, junior and senior academics engaged with the topic as Janet Remmington, Regional Director for Africa at Taylor & Francis,<sup>2</sup> and Dr Mélanie Torrent, of The Round Table's Editorial Board,<sup>3</sup> elaborated on the publishing process and common pitfalls in getting a journal article published. Lively discussion was generated, which was conveyed also in French, courtesy of the University's Advanced School of Translators and Interpreters.



Participants review materials

In common with academic authors around the world, scholars spoke of the challenges involved in surviving, and indeed being sharpened through, the peer review process. Key points included selecting the most appropriate journal for submission of one's article, clear articulation of what makes the findings distinctive or noteworthy, and meticulous preparation of the manuscript. There was a strong focus on early

career scholars – the need to build a publication record as soon as possible, the value of being mentored by more senior academics, and the importance of contributing to local research cultures and tapping into support and peer networks (such as INASP's AuthorAID programme).<sup>4</sup>

Taylor & Francis announced a new best paper prize to be awarded in partnership with the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission. The awardee will be a deserving recent Commonwealth scholarship holder with a research paper accepted for publication in a recognised peer-review journal (further details to follow).

The global, and indeed online, context in relation to regional and local conditions was very much at the fore. The publishing workshop – along with linked sessions on availability of content resources, securing research funding, writing research proposals – noted the growing trends of transnational research collaboration and co-authorship and also of access and interaction opportunities through the Web.



An animated session of the publishing workshop in Cameroon

Dr Rosemary Shafrack, Chief Librarian at the University of Buea, spoke of the institution's wide range of electronic and print resources – including the Research4Life programme, TEEAL, EBSCOHost, and the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) Low Cost Journal Scheme – while registering the challenges of increasing user engagement affected by a mix of infrastructural, technical, information literacy, and researcher behaviour reasons. Her position that user awareness is key is reflected in guidelines prepared by the ACU and INASP on boosting online usage by African researchers and authors.<sup>5</sup> Taylor & Francis also pointed to an array of contributor resources on their Author Services site,<sup>6</sup> including their 'How to Get Published' materials and STAR initiative<sup>7</sup> which provides a month's direct access to over 1,300 journals for researchers during the authoring process, complementing other schemes.

In sum, the publishing workshop provided a productive cross-section of scholars from a multiplicity of places to engage with the presentation around the goal and prize of authorship. Preparing for publication may be a long, tough journey, but it is an undertaking that can be aided through institutional, peer, and publisher support structures and resources to reach the end-point – as in scaling Mount Cameroon's peak to claim the view.

### Janet Remmington

is the Editorial Director, Arts & Humanities, and the Regional Director, Africa, Science and Social Science, at Taylor & Francis, Routledge Journals

1. [www.acu.ac.uk/conferences/commonwealth\\_summer\\_school\\_2011](http://www.acu.ac.uk/conferences/commonwealth_summer_school_2011)
2. [www.tandf.co.uk/journals/africa](http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/africa)
3. [www.moot.org.uk](http://www.moot.org.uk)
4. [www.authoraid.info](http://www.authoraid.info)
5. [www.acu.ac.uk/member\\_services/professional\\_networks/libraries\\_network/journal-access-africa](http://www.acu.ac.uk/member_services/professional_networks/libraries_network/journal-access-africa)
6. <http://journalauthors.tandf.co.uk>
7. [www.tandf.co.uk/star](http://www.tandf.co.uk/star)



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