



የሳይንስና ከፍተኛ ትምህርት ሚኒስቴር
Ministry of Science and Higher Education - Ethiopia

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
Ministry of Science and Higher Education

Directive on Establishing and Implementing a
National System of Journal Evaluation and Accreditation

Directive No: Research 02/2019

September 2019



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Journal Evaluation and Accreditation in Ethiopia

Preamble

By virtue of the powers vested in it by Proclamation number no.1152/2019 to create the conditions for the flourishing of science, research and higher education in Ethiopia;

Realizing its responsibility to improve and enhance the quality and relevance of research and research outputs to the nation's development endeavours;

Cognizant of the need to set minimum national standards of quality for research journals published in Ethiopia and to accord official recognition to those journals that meet the minimum standards;

The Ministry of Science and Higher Education (MoSHE) hereby issues Directive No.: Research 02/2019 to establish and implement a national system of journal evaluation and accreditation in Ethiopia.

1. Short Title

This Directive can be cited as "Directive No.: Research 02/2019 on Journal Evaluation and Accreditation in Ethiopia".

2. Definitions

In this Directive, unless the context requires otherwise:

- 2.1 "Accreditation" means the official certification that a journal has fulfilled the minimum quality standards as demonstrated by its performance in the external evaluation prescribed in this Directive.
- 2.2 "Criteria" means the quality indicators and/or assessment factors used for determining whether a journal meets the standards required for accreditation.



- 2.3 “Cycle” means the recurrence of a round of evaluation and accreditation after an interval of a three-year period.
- 2.4 “Editor” means the principal leader of the editorial team responsible for editorial decisions and the production of the journal as per the established editorial policies.
- 2.5 “Evaluation” means an expert assessment of the quality of a journal as per the criteria established in the Ministry’s Guideline for National Journal Evaluation.
- 2.6 “External evaluation” means an independent assessment of a journal by a body outside the journal’s publisher.
- 2.7 “Ministry” means the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, mandated to accredit national journals.
- 2.8 “Publisher” means an institution that finances, produces, disseminates, and/or manages a journal.

3. Rationale

Research and research outputs are valuable inputs to the growth of any country’s economy and the enhancement of national development. In this context, journals play a critical role in the timely dissemination of research findings that could be used in producing the skilled workforce the nation needs and in informing development decision-making processes. Yet, the culture of research journal publishing is still at an early stage of development in Ethiopia.

The quality requirements for determining the reputability of the journals vary between institutions. There is also no national system for ensuring that the quality of the journals is comparable to international standards. Nor is there a mechanism for identifying and recognizing excellence in journal publishing and for guiding journals to strive for higher standards. Hence, introducing a national system for ensuring common quality standards for journals in Ethiopia has become necessary.

4. Objectives

- 4.1 To provide a national framework for the assessment of the quality of research journals;
- 4.2 To promote international standards in local journal publishing practices;
- 4.3 To promote excellence in scholarship within Ethiopia;



- 4.4 To identify challenges encountered in journal publishing and pave the way for solutions at the national and institutional levels;
- 4.5 To publish online the list of accredited Ethiopian journals and promote their national and international visibility and status.

5. Accrediting Organization's Roles

- 5.1 The Ministry of Science and Higher Education will be responsible for assigning an organization or team of experts that carry out journal evaluation tasks
- 5.2 The Ministry of Science and Higher Education shall be responsible for the accreditation of research journals published in Ethiopia.
- 5.3 As an accreditor, the Ministry shall issue implementation guidelines that specify the requirements and procedures for journal evaluation and accreditation.
- 5.4 Based on the findings and recommendations from the evaluation, the Ministry takes measures to address the challenges facing journal publishing in Ethiopia.
- 5.5 The Ministry will also take appropriate measures to encourage and reward best performing journal/s.

6. External Evaluator's Roles

- 6.1 Journals applying for accreditation shall be evaluated by an independent organization, OR pool of experienced researchers meeting the requirements of evaluation and hence officially assigned by the Ministry.
- 6.2 The External Evaluator shall assess the journals as per the Ministry's Guidelines and report the results of the evaluation and its recommendations to the Ministry.

7. Steps in the Evaluation and Accreditation Processes

The accreditation process shall proceed according to the following major steps:

- 7.1 At the beginning of each calendar year, the Ministry issues a call for journals to apply for accreditation.
- 7.2 The owners/publishers of applicant journals submit to the Ministry the information and documents required for application.
- 7.3 The Ministry forwards the application documents and required information to the External Evaluator to initiate the external evaluation.
- 7.4 The External Evaluator organizes the evaluation of the applicant journals and submits the results and its recommendations to the Ministry.



- 7.5 Based on the results of the external evaluation and the recommendations of the External Evaluator, the Ministry approves and announces the list of accredited journals.
- 7.6 The Ministry addresses any appeals against the evaluation results.
- 7.7 The Ministry periodically updates the list of accredited journals based on new additions and the findings of its monitoring of journals' performance in the interim period between evaluation cycles.

8. Evaluation Cycles and Duration

- 8.1 Journals shall be regularly evaluated after every three years.
- 8.2 Each cycle of evaluation shall commence in the month of *Meskerem*, with the Ministry's call for applications, and conclude with the publication of the list of accredited journals.
- 8.3 The accreditation of a journal shall remain valid for the next three years unless there is a valid justification for withdrawing its accreditation.
- 8.4 An eligible journal that is unable to apply for accreditation in a given calendar year due to circumstances beyond its control can apply for accreditation in the next year in accordance with the Ministry's schedule for application. "

9. Eligibility to Apply for Accreditation

Any journal, irrespective of whether it is owned by a public or private institution, or a professional society, can apply for accreditation if it fulfills the following conditions:

- 9.1 The journal primarily aims to publish original research articles.
- 9.2 The journal's publisher is based in Ethiopia, where the journal is published.
- 9.3 The journal publishes research articles by Ethiopian contributors so long as they meet the journal's assessment criteria.
- 9.4 The journal has Ethiopians among its editorial officers or on its Editorial Board.
- 9.5 The journal has consecutively been published without any interruption during the last three years. However, if the journal's third year of publication without interruption coincides with the evaluation year, it will be eligible to apply provided that all the Issues scheduled for publication in that year have already been released before the time of application.
- 9.6 A journal doubling two consecutive volumes by skipping one calendar year or a journal doubling two consecutive issues of different schedules but containing the minimum number of articles of a single issue, thus skipping an issue, shall be deemed as interrupted and will not be eligible to apply.



10. Appeals Handling

- 10.1 Editors or publishers have the right to appeal to the Ministry regarding the evaluation process and its results.
- 10.2 The appeal has to be lodged to the Ministry within one month after the decision has been communicated to the publisher or editor.
- 10.3 No appeal shall be entertained unless it is based on concrete supporting evidence.

11. Compliance Requirements

- 11.1 All journal publishing institutions seeking to get their journals accredited are expected to comply with the provisions of this Directive and the guidelines issued for the implementation of the Directive.
- 11.2 All journal owners/publishers are required to ensure that their journals apply for accreditation timely and regularly.
- 11.3 The Ministry shall determine whether a journal that is eligible to apply for accreditation but fails to do so without presenting a valid justification may benefit, if at all, from any public resources under the Ministry's jurisdiction.
- 11.4 The Ministry, in collaboration with journal publishing institutions, shall determine under what conditions any article/s published in a non-accredited journal issued after the launch of the first round of accreditation may or may not be used to secure an academic promotion or a public research grant or tenure, or an appointment for a position within higher education institutions.

12. Effective Date

- 12.1 This Directive shall be effective as of September 2019.

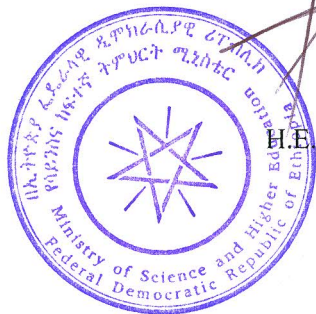
13. Amendment of the Directive

- 13.1 This Directive or any part thereof may be amended by the Ministry any time.
- 13.2 One-third of the journals that underwent the journal evaluation and accreditation processes may petition the Ministry to organize a discussion for the amendment of this Directive.
- 13.3 Any amendment of the Directive has to be communicated to journal publishers.
- 13.4 Any amendment shall not be applicable retroactively.



14. Inapplicable Rules

No rules inconsistent with this Directive shall be applicable to matters regulated by the Directive.



H.E. Hirut Woldemariam (Professor)

Minister



ቀን /Date _____

ለ: ምርምር ጆርናል አሳታሚዎች፣ ባለቤቶችና ዋና አዘጋጆች በሙሉ

ጉዳይ: ምርምር ጆርናል ዕውቅና ለማግኘት ስለማመልከት

የኢ.ፌ.ዴ.ሪ. ሳይንስና ከፍተኛ ትምህርት ሚኒስቴር በኢትዮጵያ ውስጥ ሳይንሳዊ ምርምር የሚጎለብትበትን ስልት የመንደፍ፣ የአገሪቱን የልማት አቅጣጫ መሠረት ያደረገ የሳይንሳዊ ምርምርና ልማት ፕሮግራም የማዘጋጀት፣ የመተግበር፣ አፈጻጸሙን የመከታተልና የመገምገም ሥልጣንና ኃላፊነት በአዋጅ ቁጥር 1097/2011 ተሰጥቶታል። በየትኛውም የዓለም ክፍል ትኩረት የሚሰጣቸው አዳዲስ የምርምር ሐሳቦችና ግኝቶች ለተለያዩ ተጠቃሚዎች የሚሠራጩት በዋናነት በምርምር ጆርናል ህትመቶች አማካኝነት መሆኑ የታወቀ ነው። የምርምር ጆርናሎች ጥራት መጎልበት ለከፍተኛ ትምህርት ጥራት ማደግና ለምርምር ባህል መበልጸግ የራሱ የሆነ በጎ አስተዋጽኦ አለው። የምርምር ባህል መዳበር ደግሞ በዕውቀት መመራት ላለበት የልማት እንቅስቃሴ ስኬት አስፈላጊ መሠረት ነው።

በኢትዮጵያ ውስጥ የሚታተሙ የምርምር ጆርናሎች የጥራት ደረጃቸው እንደየተቋሙ ይለያያል። ይህም በተለይ በከፍተኛ ትምህርት ተቋሞች ውስጥ ባልተመጣጠነ የጥራት ደረጃ የሚታተሙ የምርምር ጆርናሎች ትክክለኛ ላልሆኑ አካዳሚያዊ የማዕረግ ዕድገት አገልግሎት እንዲውሉ በር በመክፈቱ ምክንያት የተለያዩ ችግሮች የተከሰቱ ሲሆን ወደፊት ግን የአካዳሚክ እድገት የሚሰጠው የታተሙ የምርምር ጆርናሎች ተመዝኖ እውቅና ባገኙ ጆርናሎች ላይ የታተሙ መሆናቸው ሲረጋገጥ ብቻ የሚፈጸም ይሆናል። ከዚህ ጋር ተያያዥ በሆነ መልኩ የሳይንስና ከፍተኛ ትምህርት ሚኒስቴር በአገሪቱ ውስጥ የምርምር ጥራትና እይታን ለማሳደግ እና የምርምር ባሕልን ለማዳበር የተለያዩ የለውጥ ስራዎችን በማካሄድ ላይ ይገኛል። በኢትዮጵያ ውስጥ የሚታተሙ የምርምር ጆርናሎች ጥራት ለማሳደግ እና ከዓለም አቀፍ የጥራት ደረጃዎች ጋር ተመጣጣኝ የሆነ ደረጃ እንዲኖራቸው ሲባል ብሔራዊ የምርምር ጆርናሎች ምዘና እና ዕውቅና ሥርዓት በመስከረም ወር 2012 ዓ/ም ዘርግቷል። የምርምር ጆርናሎች ዕውቅና መመሪያና ዝርዝር የአፈጻጸም መግለጫ (Directive on Establishing and Implementing a National System of Journal Evaluation and Accreditation እና Guidelines for Evaluation of Journals Published in Ethiopia) ተዘጋጅተው የተሠራጩ ሲሆን የኤሌክትሮኒክ ቅጂዎቹን ከ <http://www.moshe.gov.et> ፣ www.ethernet.edu.et ወይም www.facebook.com/she.ethio ድህረ-ገጾች ላይ ማግኘት ይቻላል።

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ቀን /Date _____

ይህንን መመሪያና መግለጫውን መሠረት በማድረግ ጆርናሎችን በየመስኩ ባለሙያዎች በመስፈርቶቹ መሠረት በማስገምገም የምዘና ሥራ እንዲሠራ እና ሚኒስቴር መሥሪያ ቤቱ በጥራታቸው መሠረት ዕውቅና ሊሰጣቸው የሚገቡትን መጽሔቶች ለይቶ እንዲያቀርብ ለኢትዮጵያ ሳይንስ አካዳሚ ኃላፊነት ሰጥቷል።

ስለሆነም በመመሪያው (Directive No. Research 02/2019) አንቀጽ 9 የተዘረዘረውን የሚያሟሉ የዩኒቨርሲቲ፣ የምርምር ተቋሞችና የሙያ ማኅበራት ጆርናሎች ዋና አዘጋጆች ሁሉ እስከ ታህሳስ 3 ቀን 2012 ዓ/ም ድረስ የዕውቅና ማመልከቻቸውን ከሚፈለገው ማሰራጀት እና ሰነድ ጋር በማያያዝ ለሚኒስቴር መሥሪያ ቤቱ በኢሜይል አድራሻ (ethiojournalaccreditation@ethernet.edu.et) እንዲልኩ በጥብቅ ያሳስባል። ማንኛውም የዕውቅና ማመልከቻ በአፈጻጸም መግለጫው (Guidelines No. Research 01/2019) አንቀጽ 2 የተዘረዘሩትን መረጃዎችና ሰነዶች በሙሉ ያሟላ መሆኑን ማረጋገጥ የመጽሔት ዋና አዘጋጆች ሀላፊነትና ግዴታ ነው። እያንዳንዱ የምርምር ጆርናል ባለቤት/አሳታሚ ዩኒቨርሲቲ፣ የምርምር ተቋም ወይም የሙያ ማኅበር በመመሪያውና በመግለጫው የተዘረዘሩትን ተከታትሎ ባለማስፈጸሙ ምክንያት ለሚመጣው ችግርና ለሚሰጠው ውጤት ሁሉ ኃላፊነት ያለበት መሆኑን ሚኒስቴር መሥሪያ ቤቱ ከወዲሁ በአንክሮ ያስታውቃል።

የሳይንስና ከፍተኛ ትምህርት ሚኒስቴር

ህዳር 3 ቀን 2012 ዓ.ም

አዲስ አበባ

