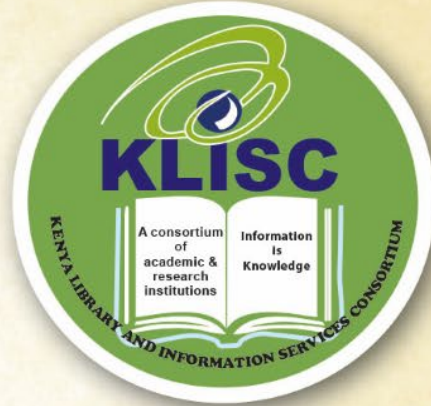


KENYA LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SERVICES CONSORTIUM

17th Berlin Open Access Conference



Kenya's Open Access Transition: Local Strategies Supporting a Global Vision

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Progress Through Partnerships

Introduction & Context

- Kenya is advancing Open Access (OA) through diverse strategies.
- KLISC plays a key role in transformative agreements.
- Goal: Align Kenya's OA efforts with OA2020 and Diamond OA Summit resolutions.





Unique Characteristics of Open Access in Kenya



- Government
commitment via Kenya
Open Data Initiative.



- Limited institutional
funding for APCs.



- Growth in digital
infrastructure supporting
OA.



- Copyright policies
evolving to support OA.

Transformative Agreements – Local Priorities & Challenges

KLISC-led negotiations
reduce APC burdens.

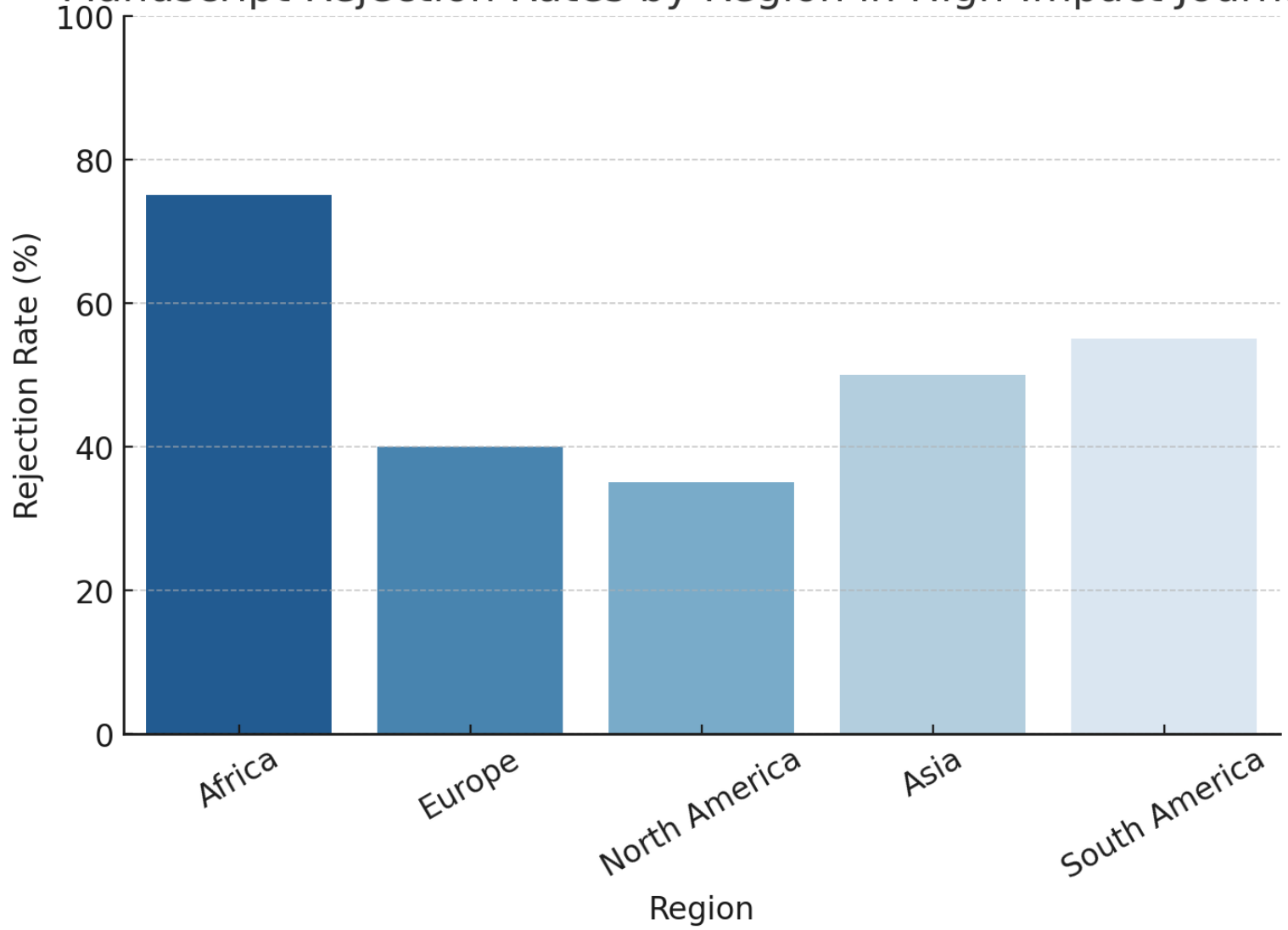
Example: Partnership
with Oxford University
Press and Taylor &
Francis.

Budget constraints &
affordability concerns.

- Budget constraints
limiting institutional
ability to participate in
transformative
agreements.

- Need for alignment
with global publishers
while ensuring
affordability for Kenyan
institutions.

Manuscript Rejection Rates by Region in High-Impact Journals



Challenges Faced by African Researchers in High-Impact Publishing

High Rejection Rates & Perceived Discrimination



Many African researchers face rejection due to implicit biases.



Lack of institutional prestige and funding constraints hinder acceptance.




African researchers often face **high rejection rates** when submitting manuscripts to high-impact factor journals and globally indexed databases.



Many believe **implicit biases** exist, leading to the undervaluation of research from Africa despite its scientific merit.

Hindrances to Objective Open Access



-  Paywalls limit access to African research.
- Editorial biases slow knowledge sharing.
- High-impact journals often operate **behind paywalls**, making African research **less accessible** to local and global audiences.
- **Limited representation** of African researchers in editorial boards and peer review panels contributes to systemic challenges.

Shift to Local Publishing & Journal Development



Universities in Africa are investing in homegrown publishing platforms.

- Open access is increasing through regional journals.

African scholars and institutions are **establishing their own local journals** to enhance **regional knowledge dissemination**.

Universities, research bodies, and governments are **investing in homegrown publishing platforms** that prioritize **open access and inclusivity**.

The move fosters **ownership of research narratives, cultural relevance, and increased visibility** of African scholarship

Complementary Approaches to Open Access



- Growth of Diamond OA (no APCs).



- Institutional & national repositories.



- Donor/Grant requirements with OA funding via APC budgets.



- Community-led OA training programs.



Kenya's Contribution to the Global OA Transition

- Aligning with UNESCO OA recommendations.
- Participation in global networks and forums e.g. EIFL and OA2020 meetings.
- South-South collaborations with African nations – ACOLC initiative on Diamond Open Access

KLISC's Work with EIFL



- Negotiating affordable access to e-resources and Discounts and waivers on APCs.



- Capacity building & training.



- Supporting digital repository development.



Supporting local journals development via OJS

KLISC's Engagement with Research4Life

- Strengthening literature access & OA publishing avenues.



- Facilitating institutional access to research content.



Official Country Connector



KLISC's Collaboration with INASP



- Enhancing research visibility & accessibility.



- Supporting institutional repository development.



- Advocating for OA policy changes.



The Africa Coalition of Library Consortia (ACOLC)

- Championing African journals.
- Promoting Diamond OA (no-fee publishing).
- Strengthening regional collaboration for OA policies.

Conclusion



Kenya making strides in OA.



Collaboration remains key.



We advocate for policies aligning national research priorities with OA principles.



Thank You!

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