



ZIMBABWE COUNCIL FOR HIGHER
EDUCATION



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**GUIDELINES FOR
ACCREDITING
ZIMBABWEAN
JOURNALS**

INTRODUCTION

Journal accreditation is an official recognition of a journal that meets set standards or granting recognition of a journal that meets and maintains set standards.

All academic journals being published in Zimbabwean universities, institutions or organizations in the public and private sector will have to be accredited by the ZIMCHE. By accrediting a journal, the ZIMCHE would be recognizing the quality, and intellectual and professional contributions of a journal. The ZIMCHE hopes that the journals published in Zimbabwe especially by higher education institutions to be of international standing that follows rigorous processes with regards to peer review and the publishing processes.

Accreditation is important as it brings with it, the surety that a journal follows rigorous procedures and attracts a much wider scholarship within and outside Zimbabwe. Internationally recognized scholars/ experts will publish in the journals which will be a benefit to the readership in academia and in both the public and private sectors.

Once the list of accredited Zimbabwean journals is in place, the ZIMCHE will take a lead in compiling a list of accredited journals that include journals published outside the country. We hope to partner with our South African colleagues in this regard.

RATIONALE FOR ZIMCHE INSTITUTING THE NATIONAL JOURNAL ACCREDITATION FRAMEWORK

The main objective of instituting the national journal accreditation framework by the ZIMCHE is not only to provide uniform standards for assessing the scholarly merit of research journals, but to also help promote excellence in local scholarship; ensure benchmarking with international standards; and encourage stronger linkages between scholarly publishing, graduate research and mentorship to facilitate meaningful interventions at the institutional and national levels. The ZIMCHE, in

liaison with the Research Council of Zimbabwe (RCZ) will also endeavour to ensure local research embraces the national research agenda to advance development plans, such as the current National Development Strategy 1 and Vision 2030.

SHORTCOMINGS TO BE ADDRESSED

The accreditation of local journals is intended to address shortcomings that include the following:

1. No tradition of evaluating the standard and quality of journals through a nationally coordinated system. The quality of journals has been left to the discretion of institutions, individual publishers and-or editors.
2. Limited copies of publication, poor online visibility and international indexing.
3. Interruptions in publication.
4. Questionable standard of the quality and rigour of articles considered for publication due to limited submissions.
5. Editors lack requisite expertise and experience.
6. Cosmetic inclusion of Editorial Board Members with nominal roles.

CRITERIA FOR JOURNAL ACCREDITATION

We suggest that the following internationally recognized criteria for journal accreditation will be followed by the ZIMCHE:

1. The purpose of the journal must be to disseminate research results, and the content must support high level learning, teaching, research, and innovation in the relevant subject area.
2. The journal must have an International Standard Serial Number (ISSN);
3. Manuscripts accepted for publication in the journal must be peer blind reviewed.

4. At least **50%** of contributions published in the journal must emanate from other multiple institutions.
5. The journal must be published at the frequency it is intended to be published, e.g. quarterly, biannually, annually, or biennially.
6. The journal must have an editorial board, with more than two-thirds of the editorial board members beyond a single institution, and which is reflective of expertise in the relevant subject area.
7. The journal must be distributed beyond a single institution; and
8. Journals must include English abstracts if their language of publication is not English.

Journals that do not meet the above criteria will not be accredited by the ZIMCHE. Publications from such journals will not be considered for academic staff members' tenure and promotion purposes.

ACCREDITATION APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

When applying for journal accreditation, the following information must be submitted to the ZIMCHE:

1. Title, including translations if not published in English.
2. The ISSN of the journal.
3. Publisher and the publisher's address and contact details.
4. Frequency of publication.
5. Evidence that, the journal has been published uninterrupted for a minimum of two years as well as the latest two consecutive copies of the journal.
6. Editorial policy, including evidence of the peer review process.
7. Editorial Board - the status of the members of the editorial board must be stated together with their institutional affiliations and qualifications.
8. In the case of electronic journals, the journal's internet Uniform Resource Locator (URL) must be included.

9. Proof of the journal's library holdings and/or downloads for electronic publications.

Following submission to the ZIMCHE, the applications are reviewed by at least three peer reviewers whose reports will be considered by the Higher Education Quality Assurance Committee of the ZIMCHE.

REMOVAL FROM THE JOURNAL REGISTER

Zimbabwean journals not fulfilling the criteria for approval will be removed from the approved list of Zimbabwean journals. The ZIMCHE will annually assess local journals if they continue to meet the criteria. However, institutions and individuals may submit a proposal for the removal of a journal. Proposals must be accompanied by a detailed motivation for the removal of such journals, in particular stating which criteria the journal ceases to fulfil.

Removed journals may be re-submitted when they meet the criteria they had ceased to fulfil. For purposes of transparency, the reasons for removal of journals will be made public.

ZIMCHE CEO

Professor K. P. Dzvimbo



Name:

Signature:

Date:

K. P. Dzvimbo 12/03/2025

COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

Professor M. Rukuni

Name:

Signature:

Date:

M. Rukuni 20-3-2025