

**National Coordination Council for Open Access
Publishing and Digital Scholarship in Nigeria**

ANNEXES

Supporting Documents to the Terms of Reference

Annex A: Work Programme (12–18 Months)

A1. Purpose of the Work Programme

This Work Programme defines the activities, sequencing, and outputs through which the Council will fulfil its mandate during its initial 12–18 month period.

The Work Programme focuses on **coordination, alignment, and implementation guidance** to embed Open Access Publishing as core national research infrastructure. It does not constitute operational service delivery or project execution.

A2. Guiding Principles

The Work Programme is guided by the following principles:

1. **System coherence** – alignment across regulation, funding, institutional governance, and infrastructure
2. **Institutional stewardship** – public and academic control of publishing and persistence
3. **Diamond Open Access-first** – avoidance of author-facing charges
4. **Phased implementation** – sequencing based on readiness, not institutional status
5. **Sustainability** – long-term public value from public investment

A3. Phase 1: National Baseline and Consolidation (Months 0–3)

Objectives

1. Establish an authoritative national baseline for Open Access Publishing capacity and practice.
2. Consolidate existing policy instruments, pilots, and infrastructure into a shared reference point.

Key Activities

1. Map existing Open Access Publishing activities across universities (books, journals, repositories, research data).
2. Identify institutional readiness, capacity gaps, and friction points.
3. Consolidate national policy commitments and agreed principles relevant to Open Access Publishing.

Key Outputs

1. National Open Access Publishing Baseline Report
2. Institutional readiness and gap analysis
3. Agreed scope of practices already compliant versus areas requiring reform

A4. Phase 2: Regulatory, Funding, and PID Alignment (Months 3–6)

Objectives

1. Translate policy commitments into implementable regulatory and funding logic.
2. Establish a coherent national approach to persistence and identifiers.

Key Activities

- Develop draft guidance linking Open Access Publishing to accreditation and quality assurance.
- Align Open Access Publishing with public funding and infrastructure investment.
- Convene and initiate a National Persistent Identifiers (PIDs) Working Group.
- Engage NBTE and NCCE to map sector-specific alignment considerations.

Key Outputs

- Draft national guidance on Open Access Publishing and accreditation
- Funding-aligned Open Access Publishing sustainability guidance
- PID Working Group terms of reference and workplan
- Initial sector-alignment notes

A5. Phase 3: Publishing Systems and Research Assessment Pilots (Months 6–12)

Objectives

1. Test coordinated Open Access Publishing practices in real institutional settings.
2. Advance responsible research assessment aligned with openness and quality.

Key Activities

- Pilot coordinated Open Access Publishing workflows across selected institutions.
- Implement agreed PID practices across pilot outputs and repositories.
- Develop national Responsible Research Assessment guidance.
- Facilitate Senate-level and institutional testing through engagement with Vice-Chancellors and institutional leadership.

Key Outputs

1. Pilot implementation reports
2. National Responsible Research Assessment guidance
3. Model promotion and evaluation language recognising Open Access Publishing
4. Interim lessons learned report

A6. Phase 4: Institutionalisation and Scale (Months 12–18)

Objectives

1. Embed agreed practices into national and institutional processes.
2. Define sustainable long-term coordination arrangements.

Key Activities

1. Finalise national guidance and roadmaps for Open Access Publishing.
2. Define governance and sustainability options for continued coordination.
3. Produce sector-adaptation notes for polytechnics and colleges of education.

Key Outputs

1. National Open Access Publishing Roadmap (3–5 years)
2. PID governance and sustainability recommendations
3. Sector-adaptation guidance for NBTE and NCCE
4. Final Council report and transition recommendations

A7. Expected Outcomes

At the conclusion of the Work Programme, Nigeria will have:

- Coherent national guidance for Open Access Publishing
- Aligned regulatory, funding, and infrastructure frameworks
- Responsible research assessment practices recognising openness
- A sustainable, institutionally governed scholarly publishing ecosystem

Annex B: National Persistent Identifiers (PIDs) – Coordination Framework and Issues for Consideration

B1. Purpose of this Annex

This Annex sets out the initial framing, principles, and issues to guide the work of a **National Persistent Identifiers (PIDs) Working Group**, to be coordinated under the auspices of the Council.

This Annex **does not** constitute a final or binding national PID policy. It provides a structured basis for coordination, consultation, and evidence-based decision-making.

B2. Context and Rationale

Persistent Identifiers (PIDs) are foundational to Open Access Publishing and digital scholarship, supporting:

3. long-term persistence and citability,
4. discovery and interoperability,
5. research assessment and reporting,
6. trust in the national scholarly record.

Nigeria currently operates in a plural and uneven PID environment, with inconsistent adoption across books, journals, research data, repositories, and institutions.

Without coordination, this risks:

- unnecessary duplication of costs,
- dependency on single vendors,
- inconsistent persistence guarantees,
- weak alignment with public infrastructure investment.

B3. Scope of the National PID Coordination Exercise

The PID Working Group shall consider identifiers for:

5. researchers,
6. institutions,
7. publications and research outputs (books, journals, data, software),
8. repositories and national discovery systems.

The scope includes **policy, governance, sustainability, interoperability, and trust**, in addition to technical implementation.

B4. Initial Principles to Guide Deliberation

The following principles are proposed as a starting point for national discussion:

- **Persistence as a public responsibility**, particularly for publicly funded research outputs
- **Institutional stewardship**, ensuring local governance and long-term durability
- **Cost proportionality**, avoiding per-object charging where scalable alternatives exist
- **Interoperability**, ensuring compatibility with global discovery and assessment systems
- **Plurality**, recognising that no single PID system meets all use cases

These principles are subject to refinement through consultation.

B5. Identifier Landscape for Consideration

Without prescribing outcomes, the Working Group shall consider the distinct roles played by existing identifier systems, including:

6. researcher identifiers (e.g. ORCID),
7. institutional identifiers (e.g. ROR),
8. publication identifiers (e.g. DOIs),
9. repository- and preservation-oriented identifiers (e.g. ARKs, Handles).

Particular attention should be given to **institutionally governed identifier models** that support national sustainability, autonomy, and scale, alongside globally recognised identifiers used for indexing and citation.

B6. Strategic Questions for the PID Working Group

The Working Group shall address, inter alia:

- Which PID types should be mandatory, recommended, or context-dependent for different scholarly outputs?
- How can PID costs be aligned with infrastructure funding rather than individual authors?
- What governance arrangements best ensure long-term persistence?
- How should national platforms and repositories issue and manage identifiers?
- How should PID practices align with accreditation, funding, and research assessment?

B7. Expected Outputs

The PID Working Group is expected to produce:

- a National PID Framework aligned with Open Access Publishing and Open Science policy;
- implementation guidance for institutions and platforms;
- recommendations on governance, sustainability, and funding alignment.

These outputs shall be submitted to the Council for validation and onward coordination.

B8. Relationship Between Persistent Identifiers and Trusted Digital Identity (eduID)

Persistent Identifiers require trusted governance and accountable stewardship to remain reliable over time. In the Nigerian context, this trust layer is supported by eduID, which provides verified digital identity and institutional affiliation across the research and education ecosystem.

eduID does not function as a persistent identifier for scholarly outputs, nor does it replace ORCID, DOIs, ARKs, or institutional identifiers such as ROR. Rather, eduID operates as a **national trust and control layer** that supports PID governance by enabling:

3. authentication of individuals acting within scholarly publishing systems;
4. verification of institutional affiliation and delegated roles (e.g. author, editor, librarian, repository manager);
5. controlled and auditable assignment and management of PIDs on behalf of institutions;
6. continuity of stewardship beyond individual staff members.

In this way, eduID complements existing PID systems by ensuring that PID-related actions are carried out by authenticated individuals acting under verified institutional authority.

The PID Working Group shall therefore consider how trusted digital identity and affiliation services, including eduID, can support institutionally governed, sustainable, and auditable PID practices, without introducing unnecessary duplication or barriers to participation.

B9. Status of this Annex

This Annex is deliberative and preparatory.

Final national positions on Persistent Identifiers, including governance and implementation arrangements, shall be adopted following the PID Working Group's process and appropriate institutional endorsement.

Annex C: Definition of Open Access Publishing (Nigeria)

C1. Definition

Open Access Publishing in the Nigerian context refers to the institutionally governed creation, dissemination, preservation, and discovery of scholarly outputs, made openly available for use, reuse, and verification in the public interest. It encompasses:

- scholarly books and monographs,
- peer-reviewed journals and articles,
- research data and software,
- preprints, theses, reports, and other research outputs.

Open Access Publishing is a **scholarly function**, not a format, platform, or business model.

C2. Core Characteristics

Open Access Publishing in Nigeria is characterised by:

- **Openness** – access without financial barriers to readers;
- **Institutional stewardship** – governance by public or academic institutions;
- **Quality and integrity** – adherence to recognised editorial and ethical standards;
- **Sustainability** – reliance on shared infrastructure and public investment rather than author fees;
- **Persistence and trust** – long-term access ensured through repositories, preservation systems, and persistent identifiers.

C3. Relationship to Open Science

Open Access Publishing is a foundational component of Open Science. It enables transparency, reproducibility, equity, and societal impact, and supports responsible research assessment by valuing openness, quality, and contribution over venue prestige.

C4. National Orientation

Nigeria adopts a Diamond Open Access-first orientation, prioritising models that:

- avoid exclusion based on authors' ability to pay;
- strengthen national scholarly infrastructure;
- retain public control over publicly funded knowledge.

Open Access Publishing is recognised as **core national research infrastructure**, essential to the quality, resilience, and sovereignty of Nigeria's knowledge system.