

Introducing Five New Journals – And Reasons for Our Portfolio Expansion

We are happy to announce the addition of five new journals to our portfolio, bringing the tally to 45. These journals are:

1. [African Journal of Theatre, Music and Dance Studies](#)
2. [African Journal of Industrial Economics, Labour Relations, and Cross-border Studies](#)
3. [African Journal of Capital Markets, Risk Management, and Development Finance](#)
4. [African Journal of Journalism, Social Media and Indigenous Communication Systems](#)
5. [African Journal of Gerontology, Population and Demographic Studies](#)

The journals will debut in December 2026 as Volume 1, Combined Issues 1 & 2, 2026. The journals will not charge a publication fee. Kindly help circulate through your networks.

To contribute, send your article to: info@adonis-abbey.com, copying editor@adonis-abbey.com.

Why do we keep adding to our journal portfolios?

Adonis & Abbey Publishers started in the publisher's kitchen in South-East London, United Kingdom, on 18 March 2003 (just a day after the publisher's birthday, on 17 March). The following year (2004), it expanded into journal publishing with the lofty ambitions of (a) to “address the issue of the high mortality of journals published by Africans” and (b) to “enable African scholars to set and own their research agenda rather than continuously anticipating the needs of donors who funded their journals”. Our first journal, [African Renaissance](#), started in 2004, and in 2006 we launched our second journal, [African Journal of Business and Economic Research](#). Today, our journal portfolio has grown to 45. This raises a legitimate question: what drives our portfolio growth?

Six core drivers are behind our journal expansion.

1) **Unbundling from our existing journals:** When submissions to our existing journals become **overwhelming**, we need to unbundle them to avoid a situation where people whose papers are accepted may have to wait for an additional year or two for the papers to be published - as happens with some of the leading journals from the Global North. We have unbundled several journals from African Renaissance, including the [Journal of African Union Studies](#) (now also indexed in Scopus), the [Journal of Somali Studies](#) (indexed in Scopus and ranked Q1 in the

latest Scimago Journal Ranking), and the [African Journal of Democracy and Election Research](#).

Two of the five new journals we are launching, namely the [African Journal of Industrial Economics, Labour Relations, and Cross-border Studies](#) and the [African Journal of Capital Markets, Risk Management, and Development Finance](#), are unbundled from [African Journal of Business and Economic Research](#), (AJBER). Despite unbundling several journals from AJBER, such as the [African Journal of Public Administration and Environmental Studies](#) (now also indexed in Scopus), submissions remain overwhelming, even as the journal has drastically increased its rejection rate. Our aim is that the journal will eventually focus only on macroeconomics and general finance.

2. Areas underserved by current international journals

We started some new journals because we felt existing journals in the field did not properly incorporate African voices. For instance, when we set up the [African Journal of Law and Justice System](#) (now indexed in Scopus and ranked by Scimago Journal Ranking), it was a recognition that most of the existing, high-quality law journals seemed not to recognize the potential benefit of incorporating ‘indigenous African justice system’ into their discourses. Similarly, one of the five new journals we launched, the [African Journal of Journalism, Social Media and Indigenous Communication Systems](#), seeks to complement existing international journals on journalism and social media by highlighting the neglected subfield of ‘indigenous African communication systems’, which we feel also deserves scholarly attention.

3. Legitimation of our modest efforts by Africanists and leading global indexers

One of our objectives as academic publishers is to help amplify African voices in what is now called the ‘bibliometric economy’. In doing so, we have received direct and indirect encouragement not only from Africanists but also from the major global indexers, which have indexed our journals. For instance, all 40 journals we publish are indexed in major global databases such as EBSCO, ProQuest, and SABINET. Additionally, nine of our journals are indexed in Scopus while eight are ranked by Scimago Journal Ranking (1 journal ranked Q1; 2 ranked Q2; 3 ranked Q3; and 2 ranked Q4). IBSS has indexed 21 of our journals, while DHET, the regulator of Higher Education in South Africa, accredited 20 of our journals in the 2026/27 academic year. Our journals are also in respected databases such as JSTOR, the Australian Business Dean’s Council (ABDC), the Norwegian List, and the UGC CARE List (the regulator of higher education in India).

We are also a publishing partner with the Web of Science Book Citation Index (BKCI), which qualifies us to submit books and Conference proceedings to both the BKCI and the Conference Proceedings Citation Index (CPCI). BKCI already indexes some of our books. This apparent endorsement of our modest efforts has encouraged us to keep aiming for the sky despite the challenges of academic books and journal publishing. In fact, as recently as a few days ago, IBSS agreed to index the [African Journal of Urbanism, Architecture and Building](#), one of the 13 journals we launched last year, in their database.

4. Paucity of independent African academic journal publishers

The truth is that there is a serious paucity of independent African academic journal publishers that can have their journals indexed in major databases and sustain such indexing. Apart from major University presses like Wits and UNISA in South Africa (which provide institutional support, funding for their journals, and partnership with publishers from the Global North) and aggregators like SABINET and African Journals Online (which are not really publishers), only a few independent African journal publishers have their journals indexed in major databases or can sustain the indexing they obtain.

Journal publishing is extremely demanding and offers little financial reward compared with textbook publishing. Getting a journal accepted into major indexing bodies is arduous. For instance, an unsuccessful submission to Scopus or Web of Science could trigger a quarantine period of up to five years for the journal, and there is no guarantee it will be accepted upon resubmission. Even when your journal is indexed, maintaining its indexing or accreditation status is a different ball game altogether because any indexing or accreditation is valid for only one year, and indexers or accrediting bodies regularly de-register journals for various reasons, including a weak review process or ‘outlier behaviour’. None of our journals has ever lost accreditation or its indexing status.

5. The global context

Most of the journal publishers in the Global North publish thousands or hundreds of journals- not just as a way of branding but also as a way of reducing the unit cost of production. For instance, Taylor & Francis publishes more than 2,500 to 3000 journals; Springer Nature publishes more than 3000; Wiley publishes between 1,500 and 1,850; Elsevier publishes more than 2,900; SAGE publishes about 1,400, while Emerald publishes about 500 journals.

Remarkably, with only 40 journals (45 by December this year), most online and AI searches identify Adonis & Abbey Publishers as one of the leading (if not the leading) African independent academic journal publishers. The disparity in the sheer number of journals published in the Global North and in Africa therefore

reflects the asymmetry in knowledge production and dissemination between the two worlds. Our desire to help bridge this disparity also drives our ambition as academic journal publishers.

6. Tightening our review processes and opening our journals to non-African themes

Almost all our journals started as biannual (twice-a-year) publications. When submissions grow substantially, we move a journal to tri-annual (three times a year), and eventually to quarterly when the tri-annual schedule can no longer effectively accommodate the number of papers accepted.

We are now at a stage where almost all our ten quarterlies cannot cope with the level of submissions. In fact, most have papers accepted up to March 2027, which means that we are getting to a situation where an accepted paper may have to wait for more than one year before being published – a practice we are critical of in some journals from the Global North.

As part of our efforts to improve the quality of the articles we publish and the global standing of our journals, we recently reduced the number of articles we publish in each issue from over 20, in some instances, to a maximum of 15. We also further opened up our journals to contributions on non-African themes. We justified this by arguing that African scholarship cannot exist or thrive in isolation from global trends. Critics have argued that this new policy could lead to even more paper rejections and undermine what some call ‘developmental journal publishing’ (i.e., encouraging younger scholars to publish). We believe newer journals will continue to offer publishing opportunities for younger scholars. At the same time, we continue to aim not only to have all our journals in leading global databases like Scopus and Web of Science, but also to improve their global rankings and standing.