

BIUST Document Control Cover Sheet

1.0 Document Information

Document Title : RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS POLICY
Doc No: ORDI 06.01.17

2.0 Document History

Version	Date Released	Released to	Purpose
V 1.1	24-08-2017	Ad-Hoc Committee On Scientific Research	Internal Review
V. 1.2	25-08-2017	Quality Assurance Office	Compliance
V 1.3	28-08-2017	DVC Research, Development & Innovation	Review & Recommendation
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3.0 Document Sign Off:

Name	Position/ Role	Signature	Date
DENNIS SKINER	Ag. DVC Research, Development & Innovation	<i>Dennis Skinner</i>	21/6/2018
<i>Hogetswe Totolo</i>	SENATE Chair/Vice Chancellor	<i>Hogetswe Totolo</i>	21/06/2018
<i>Bernard Mbele</i>	Chairperson of COUNCIL	<i>Bernard Mbele</i>	06/07/2018

Policy Title:	RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS POLICY
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Intellectual Property Policy 	

1. Background

BIUST has to earn prestige and status, to be on the list of world renowned universities. Such a status will attract good researchers, good professors, good students, investment capital, and government funding allocations. For that, it has to be on all global rankings. Global rankings rely on the output of publications recognized at the international level.

“Publish or perish” is a phrase that is often quoted but not necessarily appreciating the reasons. The expression seems to have first appeared in an academic context in Logan Wilson's book, "The Academic Man: A Study in the Sociology of a Profession", published in 1942. Since then, academic management has been putting pressure on staff to publish more. In particular, for research oriented universities, this is very important.

In the introduction of the Strategic Plan 2016 – 2022, it states: “The University has to be ready to accept the opportunities and challenges that will be presented to it so as to make a key contribution towards the economic development, competitiveness and quality of life of the country, as well as making its mark regionally and globally. In summary the strategy sets the course for the University to achieve the ambition of becoming a premier research-based University of Science and Technology.”

More specifically, the University Strategic Plan states in Objective S06:

“To develop high quality research and innovation that can be transformed into tangible applications and products and provide research services and facilities that can support the needs of industry and society”.

From this objective one of the measures is the number and quality of publications by academic staff in peer reviewed refereed journals and included in citation indexes as reported in the annual University Research and Innovation Report.

2. Purpose

There are many outlets where one can publish a scientific contribution: peer reviewed journals, non-peer reviewed journals, books, volumes of proceedings, conference abstracts etc.

The purpose of this research publications policy is aimed to orient University staff and students to publish in reputable journals, with a suitable citation index or impact factor, in reputable databases and to foster patenting activity in the university.

3. Scope

This policy covers all aspects of the publication of research and inventions to orient all University scholars to publish in reputable journals, with suitable citation index or impact factor, in reputable databases and to foster patenting activity in the university.

4. Policy Goal

To establish a common understanding in the University concerning the activity of publishing and innovation/technology transfer.

5. Policy Objectives

The policy objectives are to:

- 5.1** Encourage and incentivise the academic community to publish in reputed journals, peer reviewed and indexed in reputable databases.
- 5.2** Encourage and incentivise the academic community to patent their inventions and register in the national or international patent databases.
- 5.3** Increase the national and international visibility of the University through high quality performance in research, publishing and patenting;

6. Policy Principles

The following principles apply:

6.1 Publishing

- 6.1.1 Publications are the image of BIUST. Their quality is related to the quality of the University.
- 6.1.2 A Publication is the result of proper, genuine research act.
- 6.1.3 Publications, like the research they report, must abide by the principles of the highest research ethics of the University.
- 6.1.4 BIUST does not hinder the publication in form of articles, books, in any journal or proceedings, or at any publishing house, but strongly promotes the publication in genuine (and not predatory) peer reviewed journals indexed in reputable international data bases, in books by reputable international editing houses (e.g. Springer, Wiley, McGraw-Hill, Taylor & Francis etc.) which are indexed in the international databases.
- 6.1.5 BIUST supports participation in conferences and publications in conference proceedings which are indexed in reputable databases
- 6.1.6 Academic staff should reach an average set publishing target per annum
- 6.1.7 Publication Plan for each Academic Department, considering the productivity of the fields of knowledge, in terms of publications will be assessed. Mechanisms to stimulate publishing should be put in place.

- 6.1.8 The University believes that good quality teaching is based on good quality research.
- 6.1.9 The University supports the production of patents with indexing in reputable Patent Database.

6.2 Reporting Research Outputs

- 6.2.1 BIUST is committed to maintain a record of all research publications by its staff and students which will be stored in the institution's repository in digital form.

- 6.2.2 BIUST is committed to report all research publications by its staff and students, including that of its honorary appointment holders during their period of association with BIUST.
- 6.2.3 In order that BIUST achievements and investment in research is given appropriate recognition, the name BIUST must be attributed on all BIUST staff research outputs.

6.3 Conflict of Interest

- 6.3.1 Publications produced by a publisher that is owned by a member of staff, their family or relative would not normally be considered eligible for the institution's collections.
- 6.3.2 However, if an independent assessor can ascertain the quality of such publications then a research committee can pronounce on the inclusion of such publication in the institution's repository.

7. Policy Applicability

The policy covers all research entities and all parties involved in research for or with BIUST.

8. Policy Implementation Framework

The Deputy Vice Chancellor Research and Innovation is the custodian of this policy. This Policy will be reviewed at planned intervals as per the BIUST Policy on Policies.

9. Definition of Terms

Citation index - a kind of bibliographic index, an index of citations between publications, allowing the user to easily establish which later documents or journal articles cite which earlier documents.

Impact factor - a measure of the frequency with which the average article in a journal has been cited in a particular year. It is used to measure the importance or rank of a journal by calculating the times its articles are cited.

Peer reviewed journals – scientific journals which publish only after peer reviewing the papers submitted to publication.

Predatory publishing - is an exploitative publishing business model that involves charging publication fees to authors without providing the editorial and publishing services associated with legitimate journals (open access or not).

Scholarly peer review (also known as refereeing) - the process of subjecting an author's scholarly work, research, or ideas to the scrutiny of others who are experts in the same field, before a paper describing this work is published in a journal or as a book.

Science Citation Index (SCI) - citation index originally produced by the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI). The larger version (Science Citation Index Expanded) covers more than 8,500 notable and significant journals, across 150 disciplines, from 1900 to the present. These are alternatively described as the world's leading journals of science and technology, because of a rigorous selection process.

SCOPUS and Web of Science (WOS) databases – the largest indexing databases; evaluating ease of use and coverage of Scopus and the Web of Science, a 2006 study concluded that "Scopus is easy to navigate, even for the novice user. ... The ability to search both forward and backward from a particular citation would be very helpful to the researcher. The multidisciplinary aspect allows the researcher to easily search outside of his discipline" and "One advantage of WOS over Scopus is the depth of coverage, with the full WOS database going back to 1945 and Scopus going back to 1966. However, Scopus and WOS complement each other as neither resource is all inclusive.