

## AJOL: Using the Bridge

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The advent of the internet and the World Wide Web (WWW) in the 1990's, more recent developments in open source software, and current advances in Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) infrastructure and connectivity in Africa can potentially help to move the continent away from the global knowledge periphery, and in turn lead to development and poverty reduction. However, ICTs are merely the tools of the information age. In complex, heterogeneous African contexts it is the pro-active, systemic, collaborative, organized, appropriate and strategic *use* of these tools by stakeholders in the continent's systems of knowledge generation and dissemination that will determine their impact, along with a further multiplicity of factors that impinge on the nature of this usage. This paper details AJOL's notable experiences and lessons learned in facilitating the use of the Web to increase visibility of and access to peer-reviewed, African-published research journals with the aim of bringing African research and knowledge to greater prominence throughout the continent itself and in the global knowledge system. Rather than a tired and conventional focus on North-to-South transfer of knowledge, emphasis is placed on African intra-continental, South-South and South-to-North information flow across the bridge that is the WWW.