



higher education & training

Department:
Higher Education and Training
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Communiqué Number 1: April 2026

ZAPublication Monitor and the Journal Finder

To all University Research Offices

The Department of Higher Education and Training (the Department) wishes to bring to your attention an important development and improvement to the process underlying the submission of publications for subsidy under the Department's Research Outputs Policy. One of the ongoing challenges in the past has been that universities have submitted journal articles for subsidy which have contained various errors, including the following:

- *Submitting articles in journals that were not on any of the approved lists that the Department had distributed to universities*
- *Authors submitting articles in journals where the journal name was wrongly spelt or where a journal spelling variant was used, which made it difficult for the Department to identify which journal was the correct one (journals change their names quite often)*
- *Authors from different universities who co-authored to publish an article in the same journal would often submit journal names that were different*
- *Articles were submitted to journals that were deemed by the major journal lists and indexes (Web of Science, Scopus and DOAJ) as already having been 'delisted' because of evidence of unethical or questionable ethical practices.*

To address these challenges, the Department, in conjunction with the Centre for Research on Science and Technology (CREST), the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) and the National Research Foundation (NRF), developed a consolidated Master list of approved journal names. This list will take effect immediately and serve as the sole reference list for articles published in 2026 and submitted for subsidy in 2027.

The list can be found at the following link: <https://db.crest.sun.ac.za/zapublications/>

Instructions for using this new facility are available on the webpage mentioned above. Essentially, any author can use the Journal Finder to search whether a specific journal is currently eligible for subsidy. Alternatively, one can download the complete list of journals, which contains information on more than 49,000 journal titles and the current

status of each. The list will be updated at the end of May and October 2026 to reflect any changes in a journal's status throughout the year.

The Department encourages you to distribute the link to the Journal Finder or, alternatively, the downloaded Journal List to all potential authors on your campus.

If you have any questions, a link is provided to email the Department.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thandi Lewin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Thandi Lewin

Deputy-Director General: University Education Branch

Date: 28/04/2026