



Association of  
Asian Social Science  
Research Councils

## ASIA-PACIFIC SOCIAL SCIENCE JOURNAL DIRECTORY

### PROJECT SCOPE

#### 1. OVERVIEW

The Association of Asian Social Science Research Councils (AASSREC) has committed to a strategic initiative to develop a directory of reputable, peer-reviewed social science journals in the Asia-Pacific region to be published on its website and updated periodically as a service to AASSREC members and other social science researchers in the region.

#### 2. OBJECTIVES

To produce a free, searchable directory of high quality and innovative peer-reviewed social science journals in the Asia-Pacific region in 2023. The directory will include publications that meet an agreed criteria for independent peer-review, and appropriate processes for editorial review and retraction. It will be updated periodically, subject to demand and resource availability.

The directory aims to:

- Help researchers find appropriate (high-quality) and innovative journals in which to publish their work;
- Help researchers avoid predatory publishers;
- Increase visibility of high-quality Asia-Pacific publication outlets;
- Identify journals from countries in the Asia-Pacific that scholars don't often view as reputable but that have peer-review processes which meet international standards;
- Increase collaboration between academics to help bridge gaps in social science research; and
- Increase visibility of AASSREC to researchers in the Asia-Pacific region.

Once complete, the directory will be promoted to AASSREC members, and through other global networks (e.g., International Science Council). AASSREC members will also be encouraged to share the resource with their own networks.

#### 3. DELIVERABLES

- Catalogue of social science journals in Asia Pacific (.csv) with relevant fields (TBD) and metadata (incl. criteria for inclusion, any other relevant background information) published as a searchable table in a webpage (TBD)
- An overview or 'About' statement providing information on the aims and objectives of the directory and the criteria for inclusion which will be published on the webpage alongside the directory.
- Catalogue maintenance procedures: process map (from how to identify journals, to publishing the list on the website) and procedures (as required; printed and/or video)

- Online form (and associated process/procedure) to nominate additional journals or suggest a journal is taken down
- Process to evaluate user-nominated journal additions/deletions (incl. rules for judging journal quality)
- Communications plan to disseminate/encourage use of the directory with relevant Asia-Pacific organisations
- Ongoing governance arrangements, including mechanism(s) to assign/rotate directory ownership and responsibilities (funding, maintenance), periodic review and evaluation, and reporting mechanisms.

#### 4. GOVERNANCE

Steering Committee:

- Up to eight (8) individuals drawn from AASSREC's membership to oversee the project
- Responsible for determining the detailed scope of the project along with the methodology and criteria for inclusion
- Meet 3-4 times or as required during the project development
- A Steering Committee Chair will be elected at the Committee's first meeting
- Support for the Steering Committee will be provided by the AASSREC Secretariat at the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia (ASSA).

Project lead/work:

- The project will be co-ordinated by the AASSREC Secretariat, under the supervision of the Secretary General.

#### 5. RESOURCES

The project will be supported by three staff members in the AASSREC Secretariat (Secretary-General, Senior Policy Analyst, Program Officer). The Secretariat staff are not dedicated to this project and must fit this around their day-to-day jobs.

AASSREC has allocated a budget of AUD \$10,000 for the project to cover website development expenses and if needed, to fund additional project support staff in the AASSREC Secretariat.

#### 6. BOUNDARIES AND EXCLUSIONS

The directory will include reputable, peer-reviewed social science journals published by individuals, entities or organisations in the Asia-Pacific region. The directory will include journals published in the following countries or areas:

- |                               |  |  |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| • Australia                   | • Korea, Democratic People's Republic of | • Lao, People's Democratic Republic of |
| • Afghanistan                 | • Korea, Republic of                     | • Malaysia                             |
| • Bangladesh                  | • India                                  | • Maldives                             |
| • Bhutan                      | • Indonesia                              | • Mongolia                             |
| • Cambodia                    | • Iran, Islamic Republic of              | • Myanmar                              |
| • China, People's Republic of | • Japan                                  | • Nepal                                |
| • Chinese Taipei              | • Kazakhstan                             | • New Zealand                          |
| • Cook Islands                | • Kiribati                               | • Niue                                 |
| • Fiji                        | • Kyrgyzstan                             | • Pakistan                             |

- Papua New Guinea
- Philippines
- Russian Federation
- Samoa
- Singapore
- Solomon Islands
- Sri Lanka
- Tajikistan
- Thailand
- Tonga
- Turkey
- Turkmenistan
- Tuvalu
- Uzbekistan
- Vietnam

The directory will include journals from the following social science disciplines:

- Anthropology
- Archaeology
- Arts
- Asia Studies/Area Studies
- Built environment & Design
- Business and Management
- Communication and media studies
- Criminology
- Cultural Studies
- Demography
- Development Studies
- Economics
- Education
- Gender Studies
- Health Studies
- History
- Human geography
- Indigenous Studies
- International Studies
- Law and Legal Studies
- Linguistics
- Multidisciplinary
- Philosophy
- Policy & Public administration
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Religious Studies
- Science, Technology & Society
- Social Work
- Sociology
- Statistics

The directory will include multidisciplinary journals and interdisciplinary journals primarily in the social sciences. Books, conference proceedings and research-based news outlets will not be included in the directory.

The directory will include journals that provide content in any language of the Asia Pacific region.

The directory will not be limited to journals that have an English title or content however for the purposes of assessment and to assist with the dissemination of publications, journals nominated for inclusion should provide an English translation of the title, aims, objectives, peer-review procedures, and abstracts of the publication.

## 7. TIMELINE

- 6 months - Basic deployment of directory and accompanying processes, guidelines and forms
- 12 months – Review user feedback, functionality, and objectives and add key features
- 18 months and beyond – Collaborative work/initiatives to refine directory and achieve full specifications.