

Vice Chancellor, Others Task Authors on Quality Publication, Right Journal

The Vice-Chancellor, Covenant University, Professor AAA. Atayero, and discussants at the 2017/2018 Executive Advance programme of the University have stressed the imperative of authors among the faculty and non-teaching staff churning out quality publications in high impact journals that would earn them citations and increase the University's reputation.

Making his presentation titled, 'ReCITE: Vision 10:2022: Lessons from Scival and Times Higher Education Reports', the Vice Chancellor said that the University had made a lot of investment in various services towards driving the vision of becoming one of the top 10 universities in the world. And while reviewing the performance of Covenant University on Scival between 2012 and 2017, he said that the University had 1403 publications on an average of 200 per year.



Vice-Chancellor, Professor AAA. Atayero, making his presentation on the topic "Recite: Vision 10:2022; Lessons from SCIVAL and T.H.E. Reports"

Citation, Professor Atayero noted, is a function of the quality of an author's publication, and now that authors in the University were publishing a lot, they have to think about publishing quality. He added that publications should be in focus and not in volume, research clusters should be motivated to continue what they were doing, authors should choose where they want to put their work, and do comparative analysis with other universities in their areas of competency.

Also, the Vice-Chancellor, who emphasised that the University has to collaborate more with the Industry, urged members of faculty to attend conferences with the aim of forging viable collaborations as collaboration translates to reputation.

Dr. Evans Osabuohien of the Department of Economics and Development Studies, moderator of the panel discussion that followed the Vice-Chancellor's presentation, enjoined discussants to situate the issue from macro to micro perspective while drawing on their personal experiences.

Speaking on what it takes for authors to get their works accepted in High Impact Journals, Dr. Oluseyi Ajayi of the Department of Mechanical Engineering said that the choice of topic must be modern and trendy; the research must be of global relevance to easily attract attention; and new methods should be used to solve old problems. He stated further that the analysis of an author's findings is very important; the author should discuss in graphs and charts; and the abstract must capture the totality of research work in a brief sentence.

According to another faculty from the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Dr. Olayinka Ohunakin, who spoke on steps to take in international collaboration, there is a limit to what an author can do in the field of science without international collaboration, such that issues that transcend world borders demand international collaboration.

The third discussant, Professor Innocent Chiluwa of the Department of Languages and General Studies, while analyzing what high impact journals expect from authors, said that every journal, like Scopus and Science Direct, expects a good paper whether in the sciences, arts and the humanities. He regretted that authors are publishing papers but in the wrong journals and advised authors in various academic disciplines to collaborate to increase visibility of the University.

To further guide authors on their choice of platforms for their publications, the Director, Vice-Chancellor's Office, Dr. David Omole, had during his presentation titled, 'Selecting Journal and Conference Outlets for Optimum Visibility', said that there were thousands of journals and conference sources for any author to choose from. The common rating parameters, according to him, are Publication volume (for numbers); Citation (impact); H-Index (impact); Currency (research activity); and Field of experience.

Stating that there is so much an author can do in a lifetime, Dr. Omole asserted that an author wants his effort to count and receive adequate visibility; attracts grants; get speaking engagements; consultancy, and recognitions. He highlighted tips for improving visibility as maintaining a unique brand, having a niche area, and uploading publications in appropriate archiving sites.

Professor Christopher Awonuga, one of the three faculty that featured in the panel discussion that followed Dr. Omole's presentation, stressed the importance of proof-reading and editorial service for quality publication. "If we want to compete favourably, we must ensure that the quality of our work is top notch; if the quality is low, they won't consider it for peer review," he advised.

Also, while Dr. Eziyi Ibem of the Department of Architecture enumerated the three key things when looking at a paper as Structure, Craftsmanship and Contribution, Dr. David Igbokwe of the Department of Psychology admonished researchers to always look out for established authors with whom they can collaborate, because research is a game of collaboration.

