

Pengembangan kompetensi editorial dan tata kelola jurnal ilmiah berbasis DOAJ melalui program pelatihan di STIKES Vincentius A Paulo Surabaya *Strengthening editorial competencies and DOAJ-based journal governance through a training program at STIKES Vincentius A Paulo Surabaya*

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
Received: 2026-04-08 Revised: 2026-05-21 Accepted: 2026-07-01 Published: 2026-07-17 Keywords DOAJ; editorial competencies; journal governance; Scientific journal management; training program. Kata Kunci DOAJ; kompetensi editorial; pelatihan; pengelolaan jurnal ilmiah; tata kelola jurnal.	<i>The management of high-quality scientific journals continues to face numerous challenges. This community service activity aimed to evaluate the effectiveness of a training program designed to improve participants' understanding of DOAJ standards and national journal accreditation. This community service activity employed a pre-experimental one-group pretest–posttest design. In the initial phase, 16 participants took a pretest to assess their baseline knowledge; subsequently, they participated in a training session comprising material delivery and interactive discussions. After the activity concluded, a posttest was administered to measure the participants' improved understanding. Data analysis to test the significance of differences before and after the training used the Wilcoxon test. Descriptive analysis results indicated an increase in the average score from 112.5 to 146.3 on the final knowledge test. Based on the Wilcoxon Signed-Rank Test, a Z-value of -3.237 was obtained ($p = 0.001$, $p < 0.05$), indicating that training on scientific journal management in accordance with DOAJ standards and national accreditation standards significantly improved participants' understanding. Furthermore, the effect size indicated by the matched-rank biserial correlation of -0.950 suggests that the training's impact falls into the very large category. The training not only enhanced participants' knowledge of open access principles, policy transparency, and editorial governance but also standardized their understanding, resulting in a more consistent level of understanding among participants.</i> Pengelolaan jurnal ilmiah yang berkualitas masih banyak menghadapi berbagai kendala. Kegiatan pengabdian masyarakat ini bertujuan untuk mengevaluasi efektivitas program pelatihan yang dirancang untuk meningkatkan pemahaman peserta mengenai standar DOAJ dan akreditasi jurnal nasional. Kegiatan pengabdian kepada masyarakat ini menggunakan desain pre-experimental <i>one-group pretest–posttest design</i>. Pada tahap awal, 16 peserta diberikan pretest untuk mengidentifikasi tingkat pengetahuan awal selanjutnya, peserta mengikuti kegiatan pelatihan yang meliputi penyampaian materi dan diskusi interaktif. Setelah kegiatan selesai, dilakukan <i>posttest</i> untuk mengukur peningkatan pemahaman peserta. Analisis data untuk menguji signifikansi perbedaan sebelum dan sesudah pelatihan menggunakan uji <i>Wilcoxon</i>. Hasil analisis deskriptif menunjukkan adanya peningkatan skor rata-rata dari 112.5 menjadi 146.3 pada tes pengetahuan akhir. Berdasarkan uji <i>Wilcoxon Signed-Rank Test</i> diperoleh nilai $Z = -3.237$ dengan $p = 0.001$ ($p < 0.05$), yang menunjukkan bahwa pelatihan pengelolaan jurnal ilmiah berbasis standar DOAJ dan akreditasi nasional secara signifikan meningkatkan pemahaman peserta. Selain itu, nilai effect size yang ditunjukkan oleh <i>matched rank biserial correlation</i> sebesar -0.950 mengindikasikan bahwa pengaruh pelatihan berada pada kategori sangat besar. Pelatihan tidak hanya meningkatkan pengetahuan peserta terkait prinsip open access, transparansi kebijakan, dan tata kelola editorial, tetapi juga mampu menyamakan tingkat pemahaman peserta menjadi lebih homogen. Copyright © 2026, Lestarina et al. This is an open access article under the CC–BY-SA license 
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INTRODUCTION

The transformation of scientific journal management toward international standards has become an urgent necessity for universities, particularly to enhance academic visibility and reputation. In Indonesia, the accreditation of scientific journals managed through national systems such as ARJUNA serves as a key indicator of journal governance quality, encompassing aspects of article content, editorial management, and open access (Kementerian Riset, 2018). In line with this, international standards, such as those established by the Directory of Open Access Journals, emphasize

transparency, unimpeded open access, clarity of editorial policies, and integrity in the peer-review process ([Directory of Open Access Journals, 2023](#)). However, in practice, many journal managers at the institutional level still face various challenges, including limited understanding of the core principles of open access, a lack of transparency about article processing charges (APCs), and suboptimal implementation of independent and diverse editorial governance.

The ideal management of scientific journals must be based on the principles of integrity, transparency, and accountability, as recommended by the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) ([Kretser et al., 2019](#)). COPE emphasizes that every journal must have clear editorial policies, an objective peer-review process free of conflicts of interest, and mechanisms to address violations of publication ethics, such as plagiarism, data manipulation, and redundant publication ([Committee on Publication Ethics, 2019](#)). Additionally, editors are required to maintain independence in editorial decision-making without external interference ([Teixeira da Silva, 2021](#); [van Drunen & Fechner, 2023](#)), while ensuring that the entire publication process is conducted fairly, transparently, and well-documented. Best practices also include transparency regarding policies on ethics, corrections, and retractions, thereby enhancing the trust of authors, reviewers, and readers in the journal's credibility. Thus, implementing COPE guidelines serves as a crucial foundation for achieving professional, internationally reputable scientific journal governance.

The management of high-quality scientific journals, both at the international and national levels, continues to face complex, multidimensional challenges. At the international level, key issues include pressure to increase visibility and citations ([Majhi et al., 2023](#); [Norman, 2012](#); [Ramesh, 2024](#)), the emergence of predatory publishing practices ([Masic, 2021](#)), and the challenge of maintaining the integrity of the peer review process amid increasing publication demands and a shortage of qualified reviewers ([Misra et al., 2018](#)). Additionally, demands for transparency in editorial policies, clarity in licensing, and open access in accordance with Directory of Open Access Journals standards pose unique challenges, particularly for journals transitioning to international standards ([Directory of Open Access Journals, 2023](#)). Meanwhile, in the Indonesian national context, common obstacles include a shortage of human resources with professional expertise in journal governance, inconsistent application of accreditation standards, and technical challenges in managing electronic journal systems such as Open Journal Systems (OJS) ([Kementerian Riset, 2018](#)). Research by [Hanief & Kurniasari \(2026\)](#) found that the greatest obstacles in journal management stem from limitations in human resources and manuscript management, including high editor workload, a shortage of reviewers, and inconsistent manuscript quality. Furthermore, technical challenges in managing the Open Journal System (OJS) are not solely due to the technology platform. However, they are also influenced by weak system governance and a lack of ongoing training for the editorial team. These findings indicate that improving the quality of scientific journals requires an integrated strategy that strengthens editorial competencies, institutional support, and sustainable journal governance.

This combination of challenges indicates that strengthening journal editors' capacity through ongoing training and mentoring is a strategic necessity to improve the quality and global competitiveness of scientific journals. A study involving editors of Scopus- and Web of Science-indexed journals in the field of Library and Information Science indicates that future trends in scientific publishing will increasingly shift toward the open-access model, with institutional support serving as the primary funding source ([Ollé Castellà et al., 2016](#)). The peer review process is generally intended to take less than two months, although it still faces major challenges, such as low manuscript quality and difficulties finding competent reviewers. Additionally, various publication features—including mobile versions, social media integration, research data policies, and altmetrics—are considered underutilized. Future developments are also expected to be marked by increasing interdisciplinarity, driving the adoption of these innovations, particularly through contributions from communication, management, and computer science. Among the various existing aspects, research data management is expected to be the area undergoing the most significant changes within the scientific publishing ecosystem.

Several studies have shown that enhancing journal editors' capacity through training and mentoring is an effective strategy for improving the quality of scientific journals ([Munawar et al., 2026](#); [Silitonga et al., 2023](#); [Sucipto, 2021](#)). Structured capacity-building programs have proven effective in improving editors' understanding of indexing and accreditation standards and fostering continuous improvement in editorial practices. Additionally, the literature emphasizes the importance of implementing principles of good editorial governance—including policy transparency, editorial board diversity, and consistency in the peer review process—as key factors in enhancing journal credibility ([Teixeira da Silva & Dobránszki, 2015](#); [DOAJ, 2023](#)). Nevertheless, most previous studies have focused primarily on general evaluations of journal quality and have not specifically examined the effectiveness of training interventions based on DOAJ standards and national accreditation, using quantitative approaches such as pretest–posttest designs.

Based on initial observations, journal editors at STIKES Vincentius A Paulo Surabaya still need to strengthen their understanding of crucial aspects of journal management, particularly those related to DOAJ Best Practices and national accreditation criteria. These limitations have the potential to hinder improvements in journal quality and opportunities to gain national and international recognition. Therefore, this community service activity was designed as scientific journal management training focused on meeting DOAJ and national accreditation standards, supplemented by pretest and posttest evaluations to assess participants' increased understanding.

Thus, the objective of this activity is to analyze the effectiveness of scientific journal management training in enhancing journal managers' understanding of DOAJ standards and national accreditation at STIKES Vincentius A Paulo Surabaya. The scientific contribution of this activity lies in providing empirical evidence on the effectiveness of training approaches aligned with international and national standards in enhancing the capacity of journal managers, which is expected to serve as a model for similar competency development initiatives at other institutions.

This community service initiative is also strongly aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure). Through training in scientific journal management, this initiative contributes to improving the quality of higher education by strengthening academics' capacity to produce and manage high-quality, reputable scientific publications. Furthermore, strengthening journal governance in line with DOAJ standards and national accreditation standards supports the development of research and innovation infrastructure, particularly within an open, transparent, and integrity-driven scientific publication ecosystem. Thus, this initiative not only enhances the competencies of individual journal managers but also contributes more broadly to strengthening a sustainable system of knowledge and scientific dissemination.

METHODS

The methodology for implementing this community service activity employed a quantitative approach with a pre-experimental design, specifically a one-group pretest–posttest design. This design was used to measure changes in participants' understanding before and after training in scientific journal management, based on DOAJ standards and national accreditation. In the initial stage, participants took a pretest to assess their baseline knowledge regarding open access principles, editorial governance, and publication policies. Subsequently, participants took part in a training session that included lectures and interactive discussions. After the session concluded, a posttest was administered to assess participants' understanding. The pretest and posttest results were analyzed to determine the effectiveness of the training.

Based on participant data, approximately 16 journal managers from STIKES Vincentius A Paulo Surabaya attended this training session. The majority of participants were female, with only one male participant, indicating the dominance of women in journal management at the institution. In terms of experience, most participants were still considered beginners, with the majority having less than 1 year of experience in journal management. Meanwhile, several other participants had between one and two years of experience, and only a small number had three to four years of experience.

The instrument used in this activity consists of an objective, multiple-choice test designed to assess understanding of scientific journal management, in accordance with DOAJ standards and national accreditation requirements. The same instrument was used for both the pretest and posttest to measure changes in participants' knowledge levels consistently. The test items cover important aspects such as the principles of open access, transparency in editorial policy, editorial governance, peer review, publication ethics, and national scientific journal accreditation requirements. Before use, the instrument was carefully designed to ensure alignment of indicators and training objectives.

Data obtained from the pretest and posttest results were analyzed quantitatively to determine the training's effectiveness. The analysis involved comparing participants' average pretest and posttest scores and calculating the increase in understanding using the normalized gain (N-gain) value. Additionally, to test the significance of differences before and after the training, a paired-samples t-test was used when the data were normally distributed, or the Wilcoxon test as a nonparametric alternative. The results of this analysis were used to describe the training's success in improving participants' understanding of scientific journal management in accordance with DOAJ standards and national accreditation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The event was attended by 16 journal editors from STIKES Vincentius A Paulo Surabaya, most of whom are faculty members and women (Figure 1). They have an average of one year of experience managing journals.



Figure 1. Documentation of the Training Program on Enhancing Editorial Competence and Scientific Journal Management

This section presents the results of a training program on scientific journal management, based on DOAJ standards and national accreditation, attended by journal editors at STIKES Vincentius A Paulo Surabaya. The results presented include a descriptive analysis (Table 1) of the characteristics of the pre- and post-test data, a normality test to assess the data distribution, and a difference test using the Wilcoxon Signed-Rank Test to assess the significance of the increase in participants' understanding. In addition, the effect size is presented as an indicator of the strength of the training's influence on participants' competency improvement. The presentation of these results aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the effectiveness of the training conducted.

Table 1. Descriptive Statistics from the Pre- and Post-Tests

	Pretest	Posttest
Valid	16	16
Missing	0	0
Mean	112,5	146,3
Std. Deviation	22,06	6,191
Minimum	70,00	130,0
Maximum	150,0	150,0

Table 2. Testing Data Normality with the Shapiro-Wilk Test

	Pretest	Posttest
Shapiro-Wilk	0,970	0,648
P-value of Shapiro-Wilk	0,846	< 0,001

The descriptive analysis shows an increase in the mean score from 112.5 on the pretest to 146.3 on the posttest, indicating an improvement in participants' understanding after completing the training (Table 1). The Shapiro-Wilk normality test (Table 2) indicated that the pretest scores were normally distributed, whereas the posttest scores were not. Therefore, the Wilcoxon Signed-Rank Test was used to evaluate differences between pretest and posttest scores (Table 3).

Table 3. Results of the Wilcoxon Signed-Rank Test

Measure 1	Measure 2	Test	W	z	p	Effect Size
Pretest	Posttest	Wilcoxon	3.000	-3.237	.001	.950

The analysis indicates a significant difference between participants' pre-test and post-test knowledge scores. Based on the Wilcoxon Signed-Rank Test, a Z-value of -3.237 was obtained with $p = 0.001$ ($p < 0.05$) (Table 3), indicating that training in scientific journal management based on DOAJ standards and national accreditation significantly improved participants' understanding. Furthermore, the matched-pairs rank biserial correlation coefficient ($r = 0.950$) indicated a very large effect size, suggesting that the training had a substantial impact on participants' understanding of scientific journal management. These findings suggest that the training had both statistically significant and practically meaningful effects on participants' competencies.

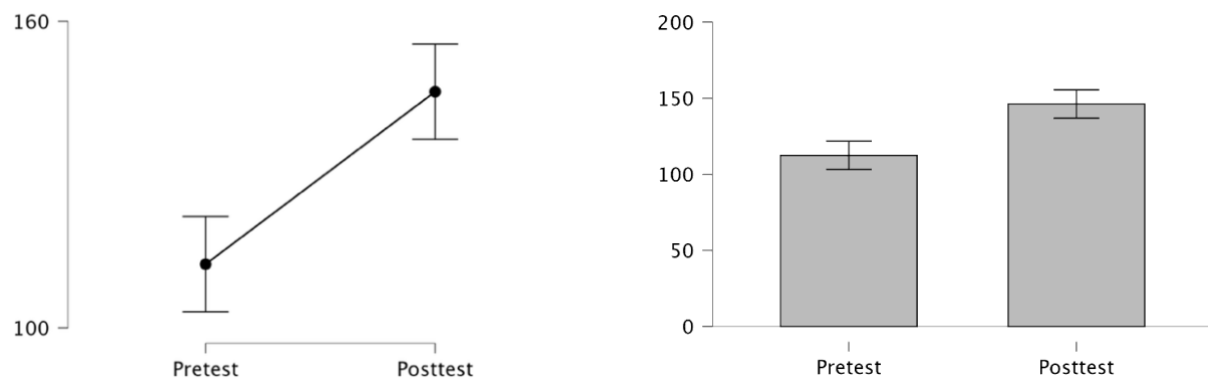


Figure 2. Comparison of Participants' Pretest and Posttest Scores

Figure 2 shows a clear increase in the participants' pre- and posttest knowledge scores. The participants' average scores increased significantly after the training, indicating improved understanding of the management of scientific journals in line with DOAJ standards and national accreditation requirements. Additionally, the variation in posttest scores was smaller than that on the pretest, suggesting that participants' understanding became more consistent after the training. This indicates that the training material not only improved overall scores but also helped align participants' levels of understanding toward a higher standard. This finding aligns with statistical tests showing a significant difference between the pretest and posttest, thereby reinforcing that the training provided was effective in enhancing participants' competencies.

The results of the community service activity indicate that training in scientific journal management, based on DOAJ standards and national accreditation, significantly improved participants' understanding. This is evidenced by an increase in the average score from the pretest to the posttest, as well as the results of the Wilcoxon Signed-Rank Test, which showed a significant difference ($p < 0.05$) with a large effect size. In practical terms, this improvement indicates that the training strengthened participants' understanding of the principles of open access, policy transparency, and editorial governance in line with international standards. These findings align with the principles of the Directory of Open Access Journals, which emphasize transparency, unimpeded open access, and clarity in editorial policies to improve the quality of scientific journals.

The results of this study are consistent with various previous studies indicating that training and mentoring in journal management are effective strategies for improving the quality of journal governance (Munawar et al., 2026; Silitonga et al., 2023; Sucipto, 2021). Studies in the field of journal management indicate that enhancing editors' capacity through training can improve editorial practices, expedite the review process, and increase a journal's readiness for international indexing. Furthermore, the implementation of transparency principles and best practices developed by COPE, DOAJ, OASPA, and WAME has proven to be a crucial framework for enhancing the quality and credibility of scientific journals globally. Thus, the training activities conducted in this study reinforce the finding that interventions focused on enhancing human resource competencies are a key factor in transforming journal management toward international standards.

In the context of strengthening the quality of journal management at the national level, several strategies can be implemented by journal editors. First, increasing transparency of journal information, such as open-access policies, peer review, licensing, and publication fees (Templier & Parè, 2018). Second, strengthening editorial governance by diversifying the editorial board and improving the quality of reviewers (Wu et al., 2020). Third, optimizing the use of technology-based journal management systems, such as Open Journal Systems (OJS), that support a systematic, integrated editorial workflow. Additionally, journal managers must ensure that all editorial processes adhere to the publication ethics principles established by COPE, including in the handling of plagiarism, conflicts of interest, and other ethical violations (O'Donohue, 2020). These efforts are crucial for enhancing the journal's credibility and supporting success in the national accreditation process.

One strategy that can be implemented to improve the quality and competitiveness of a journal is through a journal benchmarking approach, which is an ongoing analytical process to monitor and compare a journal's performance with that of other journals in the same field, as well as to adopt best practices to enhance the journal's standing in reputable indexes (M et al., 2014). This approach can be operationalized through the development of a journal scoreboard—a matrix of journal performance indicators that enables comparative analysis and the prediction of metrics such as the impact factor—thereby serving as a foundation for formulating policies and strategies to advance the journal toward international indexing (M et al., 2014).

However, the management of scientific journals also faces increasingly complex challenges, particularly as the publication output of students and faculty members continues to rise. This trend is not always accompanied by sufficient manuscript quality. Phenomena such as salami publication and paper mills pose a serious threat to the integrity of scientific publications (Santos-d'Amorim et al., 2024). Therefore, journal editors need to implement preventive measures, such as tightening the initial selection process (desk review), enhancing the quality and integrity of the peer review process, and using plagiarism-detection tools and manuscript authenticity analysis. Furthermore, applying transparency principles and best practices in scientific publishing is key to preventing unethical practices.

On the other hand, the Indonesian government has also sought to improve the quality of scientific publications through a journal accreditation system, strengthened open-access policies, and the development of national journal infrastructure. Meanwhile, journal publishers are expected to continue improving the professionalism of their management, strengthening editorial systems, and adopting international standards in journal governance. Collaboration between journal managers, the government, and publishers is a critical factor in building a scientific publication ecosystem that is high-quality, integrity-driven, and globally competitive.

CONCLUSION

The training program on scientific journal management based on DOAJ standards and national accreditation effectively improved participants' understanding of journal governance, open-access principles, and editorial best practices. The significant increase in posttest scores indicates that the program successfully strengthened participants' competencies and readiness to manage journals in accordance with national and international standards. This initiative demonstrates the value of structured capacity-building programs in supporting the quality improvement and accreditation of institutional scientific journals. Continued mentoring and follow-up activities are recommended to ensure the sustainable implementation of the knowledge and skills acquired during the training.

Ethical approval

Ethical approval was not required for this community service activity because it involved an educational training program with non-invasive pretest–posttest assessments conducted to evaluate participants' learning outcomes. No clinical intervention or collection of sensitive personal data was involved.

Informed consent statement

All participants voluntarily participated in the training program and provided informed consent before completing the pretest, posttest, and other evaluation activities.

Disclosure statement

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Author Contributions

Ni Nyoman Wahyu Lestarina conceived and coordinated the community service program, supervised the implementation of the training activities, developed the training materials, and led the manuscript preparation. Nora Ekawati contributed to the study design, statistical analysis, interpretation of the findings, and manuscript drafting. Veronica Silalahi assisted in organizing the training program, participant coordination, data collection, and educational activities. Gabriel Wanda Sinawang contributed to the preparation of training materials, implementation of the workshop sessions, and documentation of the community service activities. Selly Omega Dila Teju supported questionnaire administration, data management, literature review, and manuscript revision. All authors critically reviewed, revised, and approved the final version of the manuscript.

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Data availability statement

The data supporting the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

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