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It was a privilege to attend the above conference, and to meet authors and editors from a number of different African countries, universities and institutions concerned with publications. I presented a paper entitled: “Challenges of being an editor for the newly-accredited Africa Journal of Nursing and Midwifery” at this conference hosted by the Africa Institute of South Africa.

The conference focused on diverse challenges of publishing in Africa as becomes evident from the following topics addressed during this two-day conference: policy research and scholarly publishing in the Cameroon; South Africa’s Academy of Science’s initiatives, university publishing in South Africa and the role of the student, the assessment of and crisis in scholarly publishing in Africa, the challenges of book distributions in Africa, the impact of information and communication technologies on publication in Africa, African published scholarly journals, open access and alternative publication modes and intellectual property rights, challenges of publishing in indigenous African languages, the influence of South Africa’s rating system on academic journals, the politics of peer review, and evaluating the impact of South Africa’s state funded research bill on scholarly publishing.

Selected papers presented during the conference (including my paper) will be published as chapters of a book. It was also a learning curve to have my work edited and re-edited by other editors, renewing my sympathies for all authors who need to revise their manuscripts prior to publication. More details about this book (to be published during 2009DV) and about the Africa institute of South Africa can be obtained at www.ai.org.za

Participating in this conference was a unique enriching experience, and one that filled me with pride considering the inputs of the AJNM’s authors, reviewers, editors and publisher. A number of conference delegates congratulated me on the quality of articles in the AJNM copies that I distributed during the conference. Let us keep up the good work.