

TIPS FOR PLANNING YOUR RESEARCH CAREER

- Make sure that you have a focus in your research.
- Publish consistently (there should not be too many “dry” years in your publication outputs).
- Make sure that the journals in which you publish, are on the ISI or IBSS or DoHET lists.
- It is sometimes necessary to rather publish in a high impact journal rather than to publish in an accredited journal.
- Don't waste your time on publishing text books. The target group of your book should be fellow scholars (peers) and not students.
- Publish a monograph. This will establish you as a researcher.
- Make sure what the criteria are to have your book accredited. With a little bit of extra trouble, you can meet all the criteria and ensure that your book is accredited.
- Don't always publish in the same journal. Publish in different (high impact) journals.
- Don't publish in local journals only. Publish in international journals.
- Publish with other renowned scholars, but make sure that you also have single-authored outputs.
- Attend conferences because that is a way to discipline yourself to write articles.
- When you read a paper at a conference, don't publish it in the conference proceedings. Rework the paper and send it to an accredited journal.
- Make sure that you don't have many more conference papers than published articles. You will be asked why you read papers which are not published. Is the quality of your papers not good enough to be published?
- Don't publish in a journal if you are the editor of that journal, or if you are on the editorial board of that journal.
- Make sure that your post-graduate students also work in your research area.
- Invite Research Fellows to join you. It will enhance your publication outputs.

Compiled by Hennie Stander 19 Sep 2011