

## Enhancing Lecturers' Skills for Reputable International Publication through a Mentoring Program: The Case of the Management Study Program, Janabadra University

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### ABSTRACT

This community service initiative represents an initial step to strengthen the capacity of lecturers from the Management Study Program, Janabadra University, to produce internationally reputable scientific publications. The main challenges identified were the difficulty in developing research topics with sufficient novelty and global relevance and limited skills in utilizing reputable databases such as Scopus. The mentoring was conducted through interactive presentations, participatory discussions, and hands-on practice focusing on research topic selection strategies and literature search techniques. Evaluation results showed significant improvement in participants' confidence and understanding of formulating globally relevant topics and using Scopus and Google Scholar effectively. The activity underscores the need for continuous, practice-oriented mentoring and strong institutional support to prepare lecturers for sustainable engagement in international publication.

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Publications in reputable international journals, particularly those indexed by Scopus, have become one of the key indicators of the academic quality of university lecturers in Indonesia (Mangelep et al., 2025). Such publications are not only associated with individual career advancement through academic rank promotion but are also closely linked to the institutional reputation of universities at both national and global levels (Kurniawati et al., 2021). Government regulations that position reputable scientific journals as a key indicator for accreditation and university ranking have further reinforced this urgency (BAN-PT, 2023). Within this framework, the ability of lecturers to publish in international journals is not merely a personal achievement but also represents an institutional contribution to strengthening the university's academic image and global competitiveness.

The current academic reality shows that achieving reputable scientific journals remains a challenge. One of the most prominent obstacles lies in identifying research topics with novelty and relevance to global scientific discourse (Andika et al., 2025). Many studies tend to revolve around similar local issues without offering new perspectives, thereby limiting their contribution to the advancement of knowledge (Ryan & Daly, 2019). Another major challenge concerns utilizing reputable databases such as Scopus effectively. Some researchers rely heavily on local literature or non-indexed journals, whereas international publications require a strong theoretical foundation, up-to-date references, and a clearly articulated research gap (Hakami, 2023). Consequently, the resulting articles often remain disconnected from the latest research developments, reducing their likelihood of acceptance in reputable international journals.

A similar situation is experienced by lecturers at Janabadra University, particularly within the Management Study Program. Observations indicate the motivation to contribute through international publications is relatively high; however, conceptual and technical limitations remain significant barriers. The research topics chosen often focus on local issues without sufficient connection to global academic discourse, making them less relevant to the international scholarly community. In addition, the ability to search for and manage literature from reputable databases such as Scopus has not been fully developed, resulting in weak theoretical foundations in the articles produced.

In response to these challenges, a systematic and continuous mentoring program is essential for lecturers at Janabadra University, particularly those in the Management Study Program. This program focuses on two main aspects: enhancing the ability to identify and develop research topics that are both novel and globally relevant, and improving technical competence in conducting literature searches using reputable databases such as Scopus. Through this initiative, lecturers are expected to strengthen the quality of their scientific work, become more prepared to publish in reputable international journals, and contribute to enhancing Janabadra University's academic capacity and global reputation. Accordingly, this community service activity aims to build lecturers'

capacity for international research publication through structured mentoring, interactive learning, and practical training.

## IMPLEMENTATION AND METHODS

The Management Study Program of Janabadra University organized a community service activity through mentoring for a reputable scientific publication. This initiative originated from the Head of the Study Program, who appointed two lecturers as facilitators to guide their colleagues in enhancing their publication skills. Most lecturers already have experience writing and publishing articles in national journals; however, challenges persist when meeting the standards of international publications. The most common difficulties involve determining research topics with novelty and global relevance, as well as limited skills in searching for and utilizing literature from reputable databases such as Scopus. Therefore, the mentoring activities were designed to strengthen conceptual understanding and practical skills through a participatory approach closely related to the participants' academic context.

The mentoring program was structured into four phases to ensure systematic implementation and measurable outcomes.

### 1. Problem Identification Phase

The initial stage began with a needs assessment conducted through direct observation and informal discussions with the Head of the Study Program and several lecturers. This process identified two main challenges: the difficulty in determining research topics with novelty and international relevance and the limited access to and ability to utilize literature from the Scopus database. These findings served as the foundation for designing a mentoring program that addressed the lecturers' needs.

### 2. Preparation Phase

Based on the assessment results, the facilitators developed materials focusing on two key aspects: (a) strategies for identifying research topics that are novel and globally relevant, and (b) techniques for conducting literature searches using the Scopus database. The materials were designed in a practical, case-based format to bridge the participants' experience in publishing in national journals with the standards required for international publications. At this stage, coordination with the Head and Secretary of the Management Study Program was also carried out to finalize the schedule, determine participants, and prepare the venue.

### 3. Mentoring Implementation Phase

The mentoring session was conducted on June 25, 2025, from 09:00 to 12:00 WIB, in the lecturers' transit room at the Faculty of Economics and Business. The method combined interactive presentations, participatory discussions, and hands-on case-based practice. This approach ensured that the materials were not only delivered conceptually but also linked to the participants' real experiences and challenges in developing publishable research.

#### 4. Evaluation and Reflection Phase

The evaluation phase was conducted at the end of the program through reflective discussions and participant feedback. The focus of the evaluation was to assess the extent to which participants' understanding improved in identifying research topics with novelty and global relevance, as well as in developing basic skills for searching literature through Scopus. The evaluation results served as input for future improvements and as a foundation for designing follow-up mentoring activities that are more practical, particularly in supporting the process of manuscript development and submission to reputable international journals.



**Figure 1. Stages of Implementation of the Scientific Publication Mentoring Program**

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Two lecturers, Andika, S.E., M.M., and Tiara Nur Anisah, S.E., M.M., appointed by the Head of the Management Study Program, facilitated the international publication mentoring activity. Seven participants, including the Head and Secretary of the Management Study Program, attended the session. All participants were active lecturers with prior experience writing for national journals, contributing to dynamic discussions throughout the session. However, experience in national publications did not necessarily translate into readiness to meet international publication standards.



**Figure 2. Mentoring Facilitators**

From the beginning of the activity, observations and informal interviews revealed a high enthusiasm among participants regarding opportunities for international publication. Nevertheless, several challenges remained evident, particularly in determining research topics that demonstrate novelty and global relevance. Most of the proposed ideas still focused on local issues that were not sufficiently connected to international academic discourse. This finding aligns with Sitompul dan Anditasari (2022), who emphasized that many Indonesian lecturers face difficulties in identifying topics that make a meaningful contribution to the advancement of global scholarship.

Another challenge emerged in the aspect of literature utilization. The pre-test results indicated that most participants rarely used Scopus as their primary database. They tended to rely on national journals or non-indexed sources, affecting the strength of their manuscripts' theoretical foundation. As highlighted by Divecha et al. (2023), international publications require a solid academic foundation supported by up-to-date references drawn from reputable databases.

The facilitators administered four pre-test questions to systematically map participants' initial conditions. Table 1 summarizes participants' responses.

**Table 1. Pre-test Results of the Reputable Scientific Publication Mentoring Participants**

No	Question	Majority of Participants' Responses (n=7)
1	Have you ever written an article for a reputable international (Scopus-indexed) journal?	5 participants had submitted as co-authors; 2 had never submitted to a Scopus journal.
2	How do you determine your research topic?	4 participants chose topics based on local issues; 3 attempted to align with global trends.
3	How often do you use the Scopus database?	5 participants rarely or never used it; 2 had limited experience.
4	Main challenges in preparing an international article	4 participants struggled to find novel topics; 3 had difficulty searching Scopus literature.

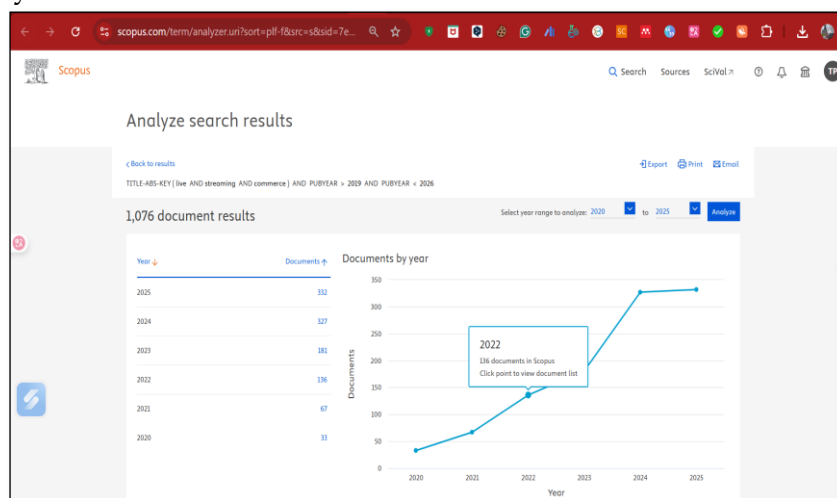
The table clearly illustrates that while most participants had prior exposure to international publication, they lacked comprehensive experience preparing and submitting manuscripts to reputable journals. Four out of seven participants remained oriented toward local issues, and Scopus had not yet become a consistent part of their academic practice. The main obstacles appeared in two key areas: identifying topics with novelty and conducting sufficient literature searches. This finding reinforces that transitioning from national to international publishing requires strengthening specific conceptual and technical skills. As Verma and Sharma (2024) emphasized, the true value of research lies not merely in the quantity of publications but in its capacity to open new avenues of discussion within the global scholarly community.

In response to these initial findings, the facilitators developed mentoring materials focusing on two essential aspects: strategies for selecting research topics that embody novelty and global relevance, and techniques for exploring literature through the Scopus database. The materials were delivered interactively through lectures, discussions, and case-based practice. Tiara Nur Anisah led the session on research topic selection strategies, while Andika focused on the technical aspects of Scopus utilization.



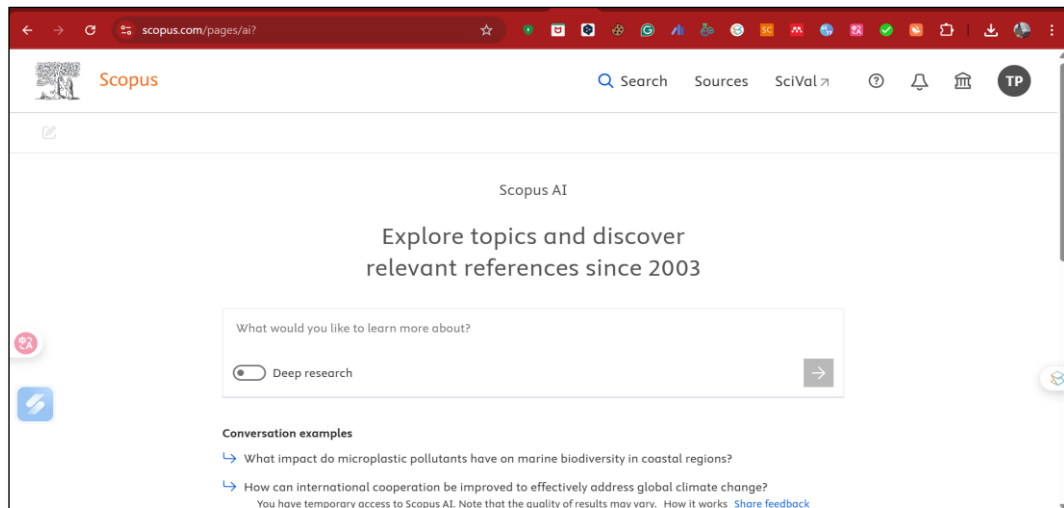
**Figure 3. Presentation by Tiara Nur Anisah, S.E., M.M.**

In her presentation, Tiara explained that a well-formulated research topic should meet several essential criteria. It must align with the researcher's expertise, be personally engaging to sustain motivation, and be clearly defined to ensure a focused research direction. Moreover, the topic should provide meaningful contributions both to the development of scientific knowledge and to addressing practical issues in society or industry. A strong theoretical foundation is also required, supported by valid data and methods that can be tested empirically. Tiara further emphasized that topic selection should not rely solely on personal interest but also reflect global academic trends. Reputable journals are more likely to accept research aligned with contemporary issues, as it resonates with the ongoing discourse within the international scholarly community.



**Figure 4. Identification of Research Trends Using the Paid Version of Scopus**

During the practical session, participants were introduced to using Scopus through subscription-based and limited-access accounts. For instance, the Analyze Results feature enables researchers to identify emerging research trends, the most productive journals, and influential authors in a specific field. Participants were also introduced to Scopus AI, an advanced artificial intelligence feature designed to assist researchers by providing comprehensive summaries. This tool analyzes research trends, highlights the most cited articles, identifies leading journals, and lists prominent authors within particular disciplines.



**Figure 5. Scopus AI Interface**

The next session, led by Andika, focused on efficient techniques for locating open-access articles on Scopus, including using the Scopus Download Extension, which allows users to download dozens of articles simultaneously. For participants without subscription access, an alternative method using Google Scholar with the Rapid Journal Quality Check extension was introduced. This tool helps researchers quickly verify a journal's indexing status without visiting each publisher's website. Thus, researchers can maintain reference accuracy and adhere to international publication standards even when relying on open-access sources.



**Figure 6. Material Presentation by Andika, S.E., M.M.**

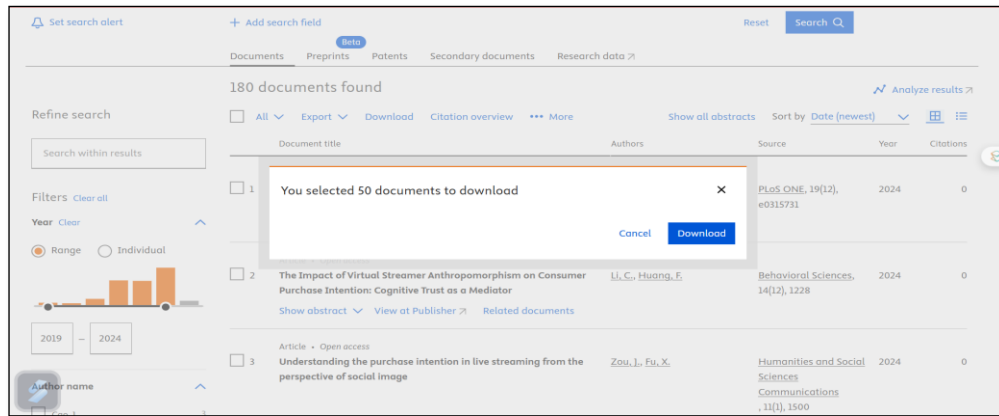


Figure 7. Downloading 50 Articles Using the Scopus Download Extension

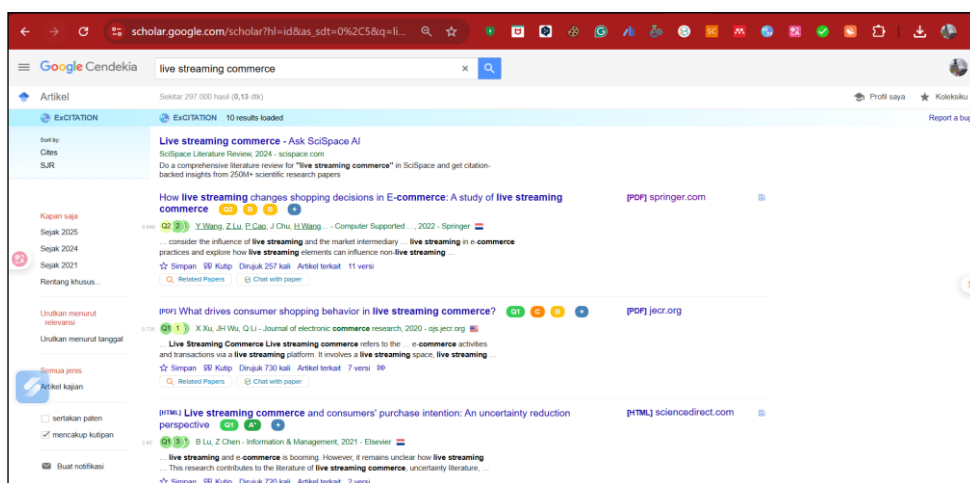


Figure 8. Search Results on Google Scholar Using the Rapid Journal Quality Check Extension

After all materials were delivered, the question-and-answer session was engaging and interactive. Participants raised various questions, ranging from contextualizing local issues to achieve global relevance, ensuring the novelty of a research topic, and distinguishing between predatory and reputable journals. In response, the facilitators emphasized that local issues can be framed within universal theoretical perspectives to gain global significance; novelty can be identified by analyzing research trends over the past five years in Scopus; and to avoid predatory journals, researchers should refer to Scopus' official journal list. The discussion reflected the participants' active engagement in seeking solutions to their challenges while deepening their understanding of the presented material.

An evaluation was conducted at the end of the activity to assess learning outcomes. Facilitators asked participants to reflect on three main aspects: (1) strategies for selecting research topics with novelty, (2) techniques for conducting literature searches using Scopus, and (3) the use of Google Scholar combined with the Rapid Journal Quality Check extension as an alternative when Scopus subscription access is unavailable. The results of the evaluation are summarized in Table 2 below.

**Table 2. Participants' Understanding Evaluation Results**

Evaluated Aspect	Understand	Fairly Understand	Not Yet Understand	Brief Description
Strategy for selecting research topics with novelty	5	2	0	Most participants understood the importance of global relevance.
Literature search techniques using Scopus	4	3	0	Some still required additional technical practice.
Utilization of Google Scholar + Rapid Journal Quality Check	7	0	0	All participants understood how to use it effectively.

The evaluation results indicated a significant improvement compared to the initial condition. Most participants reported feeling more confident in selecting research topics with novelty and global relevance, and had begun to develop greater familiarity with literature searches using Scopus. However, several lecturers still required further technical reinforcement, particularly in utilizing advanced search features and integrating relevant literature into their conceptual research frameworks. Meanwhile, using Google Scholar combined with the Rapid Journal Quality Check extension proved highly beneficial, especially for those without paid access to Scopus.

This activity demonstrated tangible impact, even though it is still considered an initial step. Both facilitators and participants agreed on the importance of continued and more practice-oriented mentoring to ensure that lecturers not only understand the concepts but are also capable of producing solid manuscripts ready for submission to reputable international journals.

As a closing moment, all participants and facilitators captured a group photo together. This documentation not only marked the successful completion of the mentoring activity but also symbolized a shared spirit and commitment to continuously strengthening international publication capacity within the Management Study Program of Janabadra University.



Figure 9. Group Photo as the Closing of the Activity

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This international publication mentoring activity revealed that participating lecturers, although already experienced in writing for national journals, still face significant challenges when adapting to the standards of reputable international publications. The main difficulties lie in identifying novelty and global relevance research topics and effectively utilizing reputable databases such as Scopus. Through the mentoring sessions, participants gained new insights into strategies for developing globally contextualized research topics and techniques for literature exploration using Scopus and Google Scholar, supported by the Rapid Journal Quality Check extension. The final evaluation showed a marked increase in participants' confidence to design research aligned with international publication standards, even though further technical mastery remains necessary.

Based on these findings, it is recommended that mentoring programs be continued on a regular and sustained basis, with a stronger focus on practical manuscript development up to the submission stage in reputable journals. Institutional support should also be strengthened by providing access to international databases such as Scopus and fostering a community of academic writers within the study program. With continued hands-on mentoring, improved access to research resources, and collaborative writing initiatives among lecturers, the international publication capacity of Janabadra University's academic staff is expected to grow meaningfully and sustainably.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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