



2026/27 CALL FOR MANUSCRIPTS · GUIDELINE FOR DSAC PUBLISHING HUB

submission

Please read the guidelines carefully before you complete the application form and submit your manuscript.

1. BACKGROUND

The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture (DSAC) in collaboration with the Academic and Non-Fiction Authors Association of South Africa (ANFASA) announces the **2026/27 Open Call** for the submission of manuscripts for the DSAC Publishing Hub.

This is an industry stimulus project to support authors and revitalise the books and publishing industry, encourage the creation of new literature telling our stories and preserving our heritage, and sustain the creation of significant literature including that written in the previously marginalised official languages.

The project will impact the cultural and economic development of the creative sector by encouraging the creation of new works, building a market for books, fostering literacy and cultural appreciation, and nurturing a vibrant book culture.

The overall impact of the programme on the creative economy will be:

- Raising the profile of South African literature.
- Stimulating economic development.
- Positioning the publishing sector as a valuable contributor to economic growth and job creation.
- Promoting sustainability.
- Stimulating intellectual capital.

2. ABOUT ANFASA

ANFASA was formed as a national association for authors of general non-fiction, textbooks and academic works, but does not exclude authors of fiction from membership. ANFASA is dedicated to defending intellectual property rights, promoting authors' works, sharing information, and offering advice and expertise on writing and publishing.

ANFASA's vision is to be a member-driven association aiming to uphold and enhance the profile and status of authors in South Africa, through advocating for the recognition of their works and protection of their rights, in collaboration with other stakeholders in the book value chain such as publishers, booksellers and libraries.

ANFASA is a member of the Network for African Academic and Non-Fiction Authors (NAANA) and of the International Authors Forum (IAF). For more information: www.anfasa.org.za

3. ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

Vision: An active, creative, winning and socially cohesive nation.

Mission: To provide an enabling environment for the sport, arts and culture (SAC) sector to foster an active, creative, winning and socially cohesive nation.

Values: Batho Pele (putting people first); Equality; Innovation; Responsiveness; Integrity; Professionalism; Accountability.

For more information: www.dsac.gov.za

4. CRITERIA

The selection process is reviewed annually to ensure relevance. Emphasis is placed on established and emerging authors with exceptional manuscripts. The selection panel ensures that the final recommended list is fair and



balanced in terms of language, gender, and geographic location, and ethnicity is, as far as possible, broadly representative of the population demographics of the country.

The following focus areas will be considered:

- New and original works.
- Manuscripts of national interest.
- Manuscripts with a strong South African theme or topic, not largely explored so far.
- Manuscripts that have high selling potential.

5. RULES FOR SUBMISSION

- The Manuscript must be unpublished and not translated into or from other languages.
- The Manuscript must be an original idea, and the author must have full copyright.
- Applicants are allowed to submit ONLY one manuscript per financial year.
- Applicants currently receiving funding from DSAC are not eligible.
- Previous DSAC Publishing Hub beneficiaries will not be eligible for at least three years.
- Only South African citizens are eligible.
- Women, youth, and people with disabilities are encouraged to submit.
- Parents or legal guardians of applicants under the age of 18 must sign the declaration on their behalf.

Applicants must note that plagiarism and use of other authors' ideas shall result in exclusion of a manuscript. Plagiarism is a criminal offence.

The selection panel will consider manuscripts written in any of the official South African languages, in the following categories: Novels, Poetry Anthologies, Short Stories and Short Story Anthologies, Drama Book, Narrative non-fiction (politics, current affairs, history, military history, sport, true crime, biographies and autobiographies, health and well-being, humour, business and personal finance), Children's and Young Adult books (without illustrations).

Submissions not considered: Religion; Television and Film Scripts; Novelette and Novellas; Self Help or motivational scripts.

6. SUBMISSION FORMATS

- Complete the online application form on www.anfasa.org.za or www.dsac.gov.za.
- Upload your manuscript, identity document and curriculum vitae once you have finalised your application form.
- Manuscripts sent via email, WhatsApp, fax, post or hand-delivered will NOT be accepted.
- Manuscripts must be typed. Handwritten submissions are not accepted.
- Manuscripts must be in Microsoft Word format only. Files saved in WordPad, PDF or links will not be accepted.
- Manuscripts must be between **80 000 and 120 000 words**. Exceptions apply to children's books and poetry anthologies.
- Font type: Arial. Font size: 12. Page size: A4. Paragraphs: 1.5 line spacing.
- File must be saved by author name and surname followed by manuscript title (e.g., Samukelisiwe Mfuphi – Kwasekuqaleni).
- Manuscripts must not have printing functionality disabled. If watermarks are included, the text behind the watermark must remain readable.

Automatic disqualification will result from:

- ✗ Provision of dishonest or inaccurate information.
- ✗ Incomplete Application Form.
- ✗ Submissions that do not adhere to the format and length guidelines.
- ✗ Incomplete manuscripts.
- ✗ Failure to disclose any conflicts of interest.
- ✗ Late submission of any documentation.
- ✗ Applications from government employees.
- ✗ Applications from non-South African citizens.
- ✗ Projects falling outside the stipulated domains and genres.

7. POST-SELECTION PROCESS

- Applicants will be informed of the outcome.
- In case of unsuccessful results, reasons will be provided.



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Department of
Sports, Arts and Culture
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Inspiring A Nation Of Winners



- The decision of the selection panel is final; no appeals will be entertained.
- Shortlisted manuscripts will advance to developmental editing.
- Manuscripts then proceed to the appointed publisher for production through to final book.

PLEASE NOTE

DSAC and ANFASA do not sell application forms, guidelines, or any application-related documentation. Applicants should not pay any person or organisation for these documents. Applications that do not meet the mandatory requirements will not be accepted. DSAC and ANFASA reserve the right to decline applications if funds are depleted.

CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION

26 June 2026 at midnight

[apply at anfasa.org.za](https://anfasa.org.za) →



www.dsac.gov.za



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