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Editorial

Introducing *Journal of Materials & Environmental Sustainability Research* and the expanding discipline of sustainability science

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For over 50 years, the subject of sustainability has continually evolved and has been integrated into many disciplines of scientific inquiry. However, the practice of sustainability has been part of ancient histories of different tribes of the world under different forms (Kuhlman & Farrington, 2010). It has been difficult to provide a clear definition of the term "sustainability." Many authors claimed that the term has been used to mean different things or grossly misinterpreted, wrongly applied, overexaggerated or used ambiguously (Costanza & Patten, 1995; Keiner, 2006; Kuhlman & Farrington, 2010; Salas-Zapata & Ortiz-Muñoz, 2019; Scoones, 2007; White, 2013). Although there is a common notion that the study of sustainability revolves around three factors which include social, economic and environmental goals or the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) (Purvis, 2019), the term connotes broader interdisciplinary application or interpretation (Schoolman et al. 2012). For this reason, sustainability can mean different things in different research disciplines. Nevertheless, analysis of words and phrases associated with sustainability reveals a possible scope of closest description of the term. For instance, White (2013) reports that words such as environment, economic, human, community, development, etc, are among top 25 words/phrases used in the definition of sustainability.

As at 2010, about 29,616 articles were published in the field of sustainability, out of which about 46 were on materials utilization (waste minimization) (Goni et al. 2015). At that time, the authors considered only five journals that published on topics related to sustainability research. By 2016, about 20 top source journals were identified that published sustainability research papers (Olawumi & Chan, 2018). With focus on materials and environment research, a recent search on Scopus database reveals few (1 – 6) source journals publish articles in the area of materials and environmental sustainability (Table 1). This implies that scopes of journals are generally skewed with respect to the broad consequence of the term "sustainability."

The exponential growth of the discipline of sustainable science portends new research trends that requires dedicated dissemination channels. It is based on this information that the Centre for Energy and Environmental Sustainability Research (CEESR), University of Uyo, Nigeria has decided to launch the *Journal of Materials & Environmental Sustainability Research*. The aim is to publish high quality multidisciplinary research and review papers on materials and environmental sustainability research.

We are excited to have diverse and excellent scientists on our first editorial board (Table 2). We are hopeful that this editorial team will help shape our take-off and lead the journal to great accomplishments in the future. We encourage experts in the field and policy makers to submit their most interesting manuscripts for consideration.

Table 1: Title search results showing the number of source journals indexed in Scopus database (www.scopus.com)*

Keywords searched	Number of source journals in search results
Sustainable	72
Sustainability	31
Sustainable environment	6
Environmental sustainability	3
Sustainable materials	3
Materials sustainability	1

*Data accessed on June 20, 2021

Table 2: List of pioneer members of editorial advisory board

Name	Affiliation
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Conflict of interests

None.

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