

Is sciELO.org.za legit? TrustSniffer's high-trust assessment: 90/100

sciELO.org.za

Verdict

90

OUT OF 100

HIGH TRUST

sciELO.org.za appears legitimate.

Our checks found nothing pointing to fraud. Ordinary care still applies when you pay or sign in.

Not Scam

Safe for Login

Low Risk

Assessed 2026-08-11 by automated analysis. Classification confidence 75%.

What this site appears to be

SciELO (Scientific Electronic Library Online) South Africa: an established open-access, searchable full-text journal database focused on South African scholarly journals, managed with institutional and government support and providing bibliometric services.

Evidence status and limitations

Evidence completeness: UNKNOWN

- The real-world operator identity was not independently verified.
- Module-level completeness metadata is unavailable for this legacy report.

At a glance

The checks that decide most of this verdict.

Malware engines	None flagged it VirusTotal	CLEAR
Google Safe Browsing	Not listed Google	CLEAR
Abuse reports on the host	0 reports AbuseIPDB; shared hosting inflates this count	NOTED
Domain age	17 years old Registered history	CLEAR
Web archive	Archived since 2010 5000 snapshots	CLEAR
Certificate	Encrypted connection Issued by Go Daddy Secure Certificate Authority - G2	NOTED

The page as captured

No screenshot is retained for this report.

Key findings

- Automated classification: Not Scam.
- Domain age: more than 10 years (registration continuity).
- Public web-archive history exists since 2010.
- No flags from the reputation services TrustSniffer consulted at assessment time.

Full analysis

Overview

SciELO South Africa is an established open-access scholarly repository providing searchable full-text access to selected South African peer-reviewed journals, journal evaluation resources, bibliometric services, and academic publishing information. Its apparent operating model is informational and publicly or institutionally supported rather than based on direct user payments.

Scam/Impersonation Risk

No phishing, impersonation, conflicting legal identities, or other contradictions were observed. The homepage presents a coherent academic-library purpose, contains no login or sensitive-data form, and does not exhibit payment, cryptocurrency, or high-pressure commercial mechanics. External reputation checks were clean, and the domain has an established global traffic footprint. Interaction telemetry did record substantial external request activity and post-interaction page changes, but these observations were not accompanied by cloaking, hidden forms, credential capture, wallet activity, or other abuse indicators; they do not establish fraudulent behavior.

EVIDENCE

- Homepage: presents SciELO South Africa as a searchable open-access journal database and bibliometric resource, with no sensitive form detected.
- Domain registration: registered 2009-05-20; approximately 17.24 years old.
- Web archive: 5,000 snapshots spanning 2010–2024, covering 15 tracked years.
- Interaction behavior: 26 external XHR requests, 4 external POST requests, 83 console errors, and a maximum post-interaction DOM difference of 12,557; no cloaking, hidden forms, wallet runs, or clipboard-hijacking activity was detected.

Regulatory Verification Notes

The homepage identifies SciELO South Africa as managed by the Academy of Science of South Africa, funded by the South African Department of Science and Technology, and endorsed by the Department of Higher Education and Training. It also describes integration with the broader SciELO project and academic publishing partners. The site is an informational scholarly repository rather than a financial-service provider; no financial license claim or license number is presented, which is a limited disclosure point but not evidence of deception. The available evidence is consistent with an established, apparently legitimate institutionally supported site, while the real-world operator connection remains independently unverified.

EVIDENCE

- Homepage: names the Academy of Science of South Africa, the South African Department of Science and Technology, and the Department of Higher Education and Training in connection with SciELO South Africa.
- Domain registration record: registrar identified as eNetworks PTY Ltd (Tech).
- Hosting: served from AS32653, eNetworks cc - eNetworks cc, ZA.
- Transport encryption: TLS certificate issued by Go Daddy Secure Certificate Authority - G2, DV validation, valid to 2026-10-25.

What to Verify Next

Before any credential or payment interaction, an enterprise or institutional user should independently confirm the stated SciELO South Africa affiliation through official Academy of Science of South Africa or government channels, rather than relying solely on the website's own assertions. Official support and contact channels should likewise be confirmed through an independently sourced institutional directory. If the service scope changes to include paid offerings, licensing and payment-protection terms should be reviewed before use.

EVIDENCE

- Identity control: independent confirmation of the site's stated institutional affiliation remains the appropriate outstanding verification step.
- Contact control: official support channels should be matched against independently sourced institutional information.
- Transaction control: any future paid or credentialed workflow should be assessed separately from the site's current informational-repository function.

Summary Verdict

Available evidence supports a high-trust, low-risk posture consistent with an established, apparently legitimate website. No scam or impersonation contradictions were observed, although the real-world operator identity is not independently proven.

Infrastructure Integrity

The site resolves to a single identified host on AS32653 operated by eNetworks cc in South Africa, with no CDN or WAF detected and a likely direct origin address. The hosting arrangement is technically coherent and provides a clear network attribution, while the valid mainstream TLS certificate is a mitigating control rather than proof of institutional identity.

Closing Assessment

Routine informational use is proportionate to the available evidence; any future credential or payment activity should follow ordinary independent identity, service-term, and payment-protection checks.

Written analysis generated 2026-08-11 by the TrustSniffer Analysis Engine from the evidence in this report.

What the analysis found

No rule findings contributed to this verdict.

Identity verification

Status	UNVERIFIED
Identity score	30/100
Identity verification confidence	50%

- No on-site identity signals detected

Identity verification measures whether the site can be independently connected to a real-world brand or person. It is separate from the classification confidence.

What TrustSniffer observed

First-party facts recorded during the assessment of sciELO.org.za.

- The request stayed on sciELO.org.za. It was not redirected to another domain. CLEAR
- Registration is published under eNetworks PTY Ltd (Tech). CLEAR
- DNS for this domain is served by co.za, across 4 name servers. NOTED
- The registration is paid up to 2026-09-07. NOTED
- The earliest public archive of this site is from 2010-05-25. CLEAR
- It is hosted on eNetworks cc, from a server in ZA. NOTED

Domain intelligence

Registrar	eNetworks PTY Ltd (Tech)
Hosting	eNetworks cc - eNetworks cc, ZA
Country	ZA
Server IP	45.220.164.163
Name servers	ns1.enetworks.co.za, ns2.enetworks.net, ns3.enetworks.co.za, ns4.enetworks.net
SSL issuer	Go Daddy Secure Certificate Authority - G2
SSL expiry	2026-10-25
Domain age	17.24 years (continuous registration)
Domain expiry	2026-09-07
Archive first seen	2010-05-25
Archive snapshots	5000
Reputation	VirusTotal: 0 flagged AbuseIPDB: 0 reports Google Safe Browsing: 0 matches

About this assessment

A trust score summarises the evidence TrustSniffer could collect about sciELO.org.za at assessment time. It is a starting point for your own judgement, not a guarantee: a high score means the signals were consistent with a

legitimately operated site, a low or critical score means several risk patterns were present.

TrustSniffer assesses a website from the evidence it can collect at a point in time: domain registration and age, hosting and certificate, the content the site served, and third-party reputation feeds. A score is a summary of that evidence, not a guarantee and not a legal finding. There is no human rating and no user review in it. A site can change after it is assessed.

This report online: <https://trustsniffer.com/report/scielo.org.za> · assessed 2026-08-11