

## **A Study on Open Access Journals in Library and Information Science: With reference to DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals)**

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### **Abstract**

The paper examines the Open Access journals which are listed in DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals) under Library and Information Science. The objectives of this study are to analysis the open access journals published in various years, languages, countries and multidisciplinary subjects. The majority of journals are published by USA; the large numbers of journals are published in English language. It is further found that during 1996-2005, more number of open access journals have been published and less numbers of journals were published in multilingual languages. It is recommended that developing countries like India should create an awareness to publish open access journals.

**KEYWORDS:** Open access journals(Z6944.S3), DOAJ(Z6944.S3), Library and Information Science (Z665-718.8), Directory of Open Access Journals (Z6944.S3), LIS Professionals(Z682-682.4).

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Traditionally, information is published in print and non- print forms. The user has to collect information from the various sources available in different libraries for learning and research processes. At present, this traditional setup has entirely been changed due to advancement of ICT. The journals are also published in digital form to provide quick access to information. The libraries have to subscribe to these e-journals and provide access to users through intranet or internet. But, these scenarios are also slowly replaced by Open Access (OA) movement. The open access journals provide access to

the full text articles at global level. It publishes not only social science subjects but also engineering, science, and medical science. Another encouraging factor is that publishers are now interested to promote open access journals. The open access movement helps the entire academic community to promote teaching, learning and research activities.

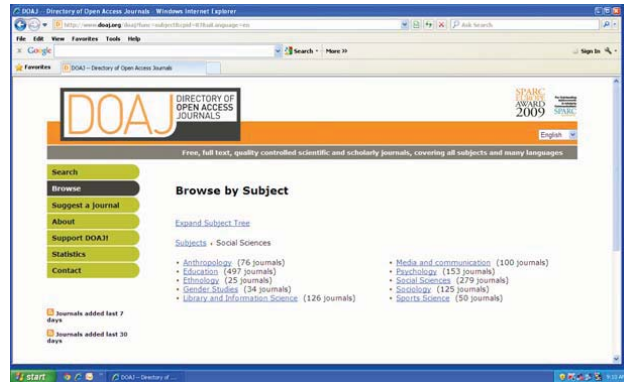
## **2. DIRECTORY OF OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS (DOAJ)**

The project of creating a comprehensive directory of Open Access Journals was discussed in the Nordic Conference on Scholarly Communication in Lund/Copenhagen (<http://www.lub.lu.se/ncsc2002>) to provide a valuable service for the global research and education community. Initially, it was supported by Open Society Institutes. DOAJ covers journals in various disciplines like engineering, technology, law, social sciences, pure science, medical sciences, etc. It provides free access to the articles published in the open access journals. The users can download the full text articles for the academic purposes. The aims of the Directory of Open Access Journals are

- To increase the visibility and ease of use of open access scientific and scholarly journals by promoting their increased usage and impact.
- To cover all open access scientific and scholarly journals that uses a quality control system to guarantee the content.

## **3. LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE JOURNALS IN DOAJ**

DOAJ provides free access to 127 journals in Library and Information Science. These journals are publishing articles in various themes of library and information science. In addition to that, the journals are also publishing articles in multiple subjects like computer science, law, geography, sociology etc. Some of the journals are publishing articles in multilingual languages. The users can also download the full text articles.



Source: <http://www.doaj.org/>

#### 4. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

According to Kling ,R and Callhan ,E (2003) <sup>1</sup> , in early 1990 <sup>s</sup> most of the peer –reviewed e-journals like Psychology(established in 1990), Postmodern Culture(established in 1993) and the Journal of Artificial Intelligence Research (established 1993) were free to the authors and readers. Hitchcock, C.L and Hall,W (2007) <sup>2</sup> found that 47 out of 83 STM titles were free and planned to stay freely accessible. Dotinga,R(2007) <sup>3</sup> estimates that atleast 1,525 journals provide free access , making up 5 to 10 percentage of the world’s journals and also found that making journals into open access by the most of publishers are steadily growing. Mathew (2011) <sup>4</sup> described that the Open access is must to improve the economic development of the countries and to ensure a complete scientific record, the scholarly research must be made freely accessible.Shunbo and Weina (2011) <sup>5</sup> found that LIS OA journals have become significant component of the scholarly communication system. Crawford (2011) <sup>6</sup> explained the key issues relating to unrestricted online open access to scholarly publications and it also discusses the creation of the Open access Scholarly Publishers Association. Wallace (2011) <sup>7</sup> identified an increasing general awareness of open access, but also found lower awareness of institutional and subject repositories. Yuan and Dong (2010) <sup>8</sup> indicated that LIS open access journals had become significant component of scholarly communication. Mukherjee (2008) <sup>9</sup> found that most of Open access journals are published in English languages and further suggested that the authors should deposit their articles in institutional repositories and make them free access in the university websites. He also expects that LIS journals in open access domain would be published in large number by other countries.

**5. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

- To find out the year wise productivity of Open Access Journals
- To find out the journals published by various countries
- To study the journals published in single and multilingual languages
- To ascertain the journals published in multidisciplinary subjects

**6. METHODOLOGY**

The study was carried out to analyze the journals listed in DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journal) under the subject "Library and Information Science" only. It is found that 126 journals have been listed under Library and Information Science. It also provides a brief information/data about each journal. The study is also aimed to analyze year, country, language, multilingual, multidiscipline wise publications of journal. The data/Information was extracted from the DOAJ for this study. The collected data were converted into SPSS for analysis purpose.

**7. DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS**

**7.1. Year wise distribution of Open Access Journals**

The study is ascertained to find out the journals published in various years and the same is given in Table 1.

**Table 1**  
**YEAR WISE DISTRIBUTION OF OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS**

S. I	Years	No. of Jour	Percenta
1	Before 1990	5	4.0%
2	1990-1995	8	6.3%
3	1996-2000	38	30.2%
4	2001-2005	38	30.2%
5	2006-2011	37	29.4%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>100%</b>

It is found from table 1 that majority of open access journals 38(30.2%) were published in DOAJ during 1996-2000 and 2001-2005 each, followed by 37 (29.4%) of journals were published during the year 2006-2011. It is further found that 8(6.3%) of journals published during 1990-1995 and very few journals 5(4%) were published before 1990.

**7.2. Distribution of Publication by Country wise**

The Open Access (OA) journals are being published by the various countries. The study is also aimed to analysis the journals published by various countries and the same given in Table 2.

**Table 2**

**JOURNALS PUBLISHED BY COUNTRY**

S	Name of the Country	No. of Journals	%
	US	35	27.8
	Brazil	15	11.9
	Spain	10	7.9
	Canada	7	5.6
	UK	7	5.6
	Germany	6	4.8
	Taiwan	4	3.2
	Italy	3	2.4
	Netherlands	3	2.4
	Argentina	2	1.6
	Croatia	2	1.6
	Cuba	2	1.6
	Denmark	2	1.6
	France	2	1.6
	India	2	1.6
	Lithuania	2	1.6
	Sweden	2	1.6
	Turkey	2	1.6

19.	Australia	1	.8
20.	Australia	1	.8
21.	Bulgaria	1	.8
22.	Colombia	1	.8
23.	Czech Republic	1	.8
24.	Egypt	1	.8
25.	Indonesia	1	.8
26.	Iran	1	.8
27.	New Zealand	1	.8
28.	Pakistan	1	.8
29.	Peru	1	.8
30.	Poland	1	.8
31.	Puerto Rico	1	.8
32.	Romania	1	.8
33.	Slovenia	1	.8
34.	South Africa	1	.8
35.	Switzerland	1	.8
36.	Venezuela	1	.8
		<b>126</b>	<b>100</b>

It is found from table 2 that US have secured first place in publishing Open Access Journals (35, 27.8%) in DOAJ, it is followed by Brazil 15(11.9%) and Spain 10(7.9%). It is also found that 7(5.6%) of journals are published by Canada and UK. Nextly, Germany has published 6(4.8%) of journals and Taiwan has published 4(3.2%) in DOAJ and very few journals are published by the rest of countries in DOAJ.

**7.3. Distribution of Journals by Individual Language**

Some of the journals available in DOAJ are being published in various languages. The study is also aimed to find out the journals published in various languages and the same is given in table 2.

**Table 3**

**JOURNALS PUBLISHED IN VARIOUS LANGUAGES**

S.N	Language	Q	%
1	English	9	73.8
2	Spanish	2	20.6
3	Portuguese	2	15.9
4	French	1	7.9
5	German	1	6.3

6	Italian	4	3.2
7	Chinese	4	3.2
8	Catalan	2	1.6
9	Turkish	2	1.6
10	Lithuania	2	1.6
11	Swedish	2	1.6

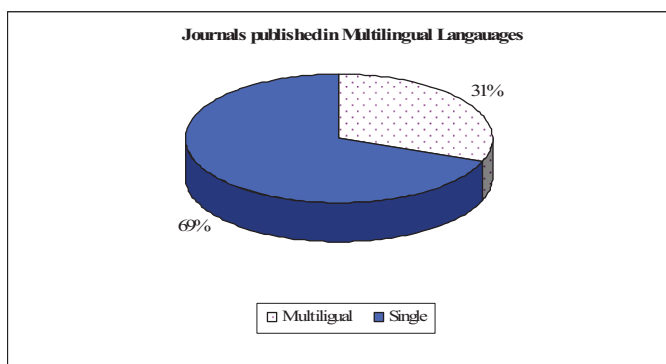
14	Danish	2	1.6%
14	Bulgaria	1	.8%
14	Arabic	1	.8%
14	Polish	1	.8%
14	Romania	1	.8%
11	Slovene	1	.8%

14	Czech	1	.8%
14	Slovak	1	.8%
20	Indonesian	1	.8%
20	Norwegian	1	.8%
20	Croatian	1	.8%

It is found from the table 3 that majority of 93(73.8%) journals are published in English, 26(20.6%) are published in Spanish. It is followed by 20(15.95%) journals are published in Portuguese. Nextly, a good number of journals are published in French 10(7.9%) and German 8(6.3%). It is further found that 4(3.2%) are published each in Italian and Chinese languages and very few journals are published in rest of the languages.

**7.4. Journals Published in Single and Multilingual Languages**

Some of the journals available in DOAJ are being published in multilingual languages. The study is also focused to find out the journals published in multilingual languages and the same is given in figure 1.



**Figure 1. Journals Published in Single and Multilingual Languages**

It is found from figure 1 that majority of journals (69%) are published in single language and only 31% of journals are published in multilingual languages.

**7.5. Journals published in Multidisciplinary Subjects**

Some of the journals available in DOAJ are being published in multidisciplinary subjects also. The study is also focused to find out the journals which cover multidisciplinary subjects and the same is given in figure 2.

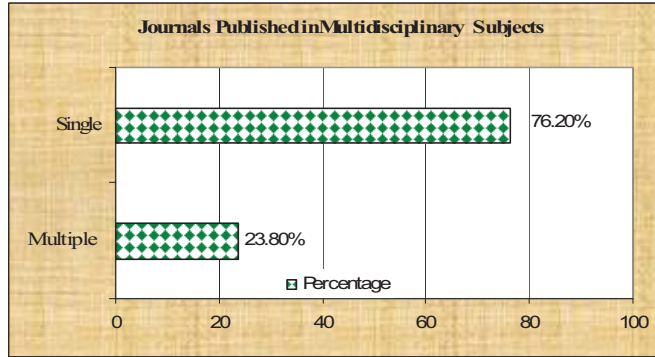


Figure 2. Journals published in Multidisciplinary subjects

It is found from figure 2 that majority of journals (76.20%) are published in single subject and only very few number of journals (23.80%) are published in multidisciplinary subjects.

## 8. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Open Access (OA) journals are growing gradually in all the disciplines. The study carried out by Mukherjee was found that only 112 Open Access journals (as December 2007) were published, but at present, there are 127 journals are listed under Library and Information Science in DOAJ. It is a very useful service initiated by DOAJ for academic and research communities at global level. It provides access to the scholarly published articles easily. DOAJ also creates awareness among professionals to publish their articles in open access journals. The study recommends the following

- It is found that most of LIS journals (27.8%) are being published by USA. The other developing countries like India shall take initiatives to publish more OA journals in LIS.
- The academic publishers and Library Associations should joint together to produce more Open Access journals.
- It is also found that 73.8% of journals are published in English language only, but, the growth of publishing in multilingual language should be increased.
- The LIS professional should contribute their research works to be published in the Open Access Journals.
- The publishers also should permit the authors to deposit their articles in the institutional repositories after publishing in the journals by removing copy right restriction if any.

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