

Analysis of Open Access Journals on Social Science in DOAJ: A Study

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Abstract

This paper examines the journals available on Social Science in DOAJ. It is found that 50 journals related to Social Science are available. Majority of the journals are published by USA, many of them are being published in English language and only few journals are charging publication fees from the author. Some of the institutions like DESIDOC, NISCARE are publishing their journals in the open access domain to increase the accessibility. Based on the results of the study, it is suggested that the open access journals should be covered multiple subjects to increase accessibility at global level.

Keywords: DOAJ, Open Access, Social Science

1. Introduction

Open access journals are freely available to access, copy, download and distribute to the users. It does not charge any amount from the users or institutions to access the journals. “Open Access” is a method of accessing to research articles by any user without any permission from the author and the user can also customize for any purpose. It is a key for providing universal access to information and knowledge. The open access journals help to increase the accessibility around the world.

2. DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals)

DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals) is an open access platform, which contains 10,291 open access journals in various fields like medical, engineering, technology, and social sciences. These journal are being published in many languages by 136 countries. It contains 18, 46, 434 articles covering all the subjects, including the articles published in bilingual languages. DOAJ covers all open access resources, which can access, download and distribute electronically to the users. DOAJ has more than 10 percent of the world’s peer-reviewed journals, making this directory

among the world’s largest collections of peer-reviewed scholarly journals.

3. Review of Literature

European Research Council [3] found that “62% of journal articles from ERC funded projects are available in open access, but 70% in Life Sciences, 65% in Physical Sciences and Engineering and approximately 50% in Social Sciences and Humanities in open access varies across different research domains”. Sivakumaren et al. [7], indicated that “majority of open access journals in Library and Information Science are being published from USA and also found that only five journals of library science are published from India”. Husain and Nazim [5] analyzed that “106 open access journals available in DOAJ under the subject “Media and Communication”. It is further indicated the journals are published from 34 countries, in 13 different languages. It is revealed that more than 80% of open access journals are being published by academic institutions and universities. It is further revealed that no open access journal is published in media and communication from India”. Nisha and Ahmad [4] investigated that open access journals published by 33 countries in the world which are appeared in DOAJ. It is found that Egypt (17.68%) has produced majority of the journals, it is followed by India (14.63%) and United States (10.36%). It is also studied that majority of these journals are published in English language”. Ajay,

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Shalini and Ramdas [1] analyzed that “48 journals were listed on Business and Management in DOAJ, which further analyzed based on country, languages, subject headings and accessibility of archives of E-journals”. Chauhan [2] studied and evaluated that “open access e-journals in LIS available on DOAJ provides access to quality open access journals. It also provides guidance for the users to access the scientific and scholarly journals in Library and information science, which are available in DOAJ.

4. Objectives of the Study

1. To investigate the open access journals of social science published by various countries and available in DOAJ,
2. To analysis the journals published in multiple languages,
3. To find out the coverage of various subjects, and
4. To ascertain the publication charges.

5. Methodology

The data were extracted from the DOAJ database during March 2015. There are 50 journals listed under the subject “Social Science”. The relevant data were extracted and analyzed in respect countries, languages, multiple subject coverage and publication fees only.

6. Data Analysis

The data related to social science subject were extracted and analyzed by using SPSS.

6.1 Country Wise Publication

The journal published by the various countries was analyzed and the same is given in Table 1.

Table 1 shows that USA has published more number of journals 10(20%) on social science, which are available in DOAJ database. It is followed by Canada 6 (12%) and Spain 5(10%) journals. It is inferred that many of the countries have published less than five journals in open access platform of DOAJ and it ranges from 3 to 1(6% to 1%).

6.2 Language Wise Publication

The journal published in various languages was also analyzed and the same is given in Table 2.

Table 1. Country wise Publication

S. No.	Country	Number of Journals	Percentage
1	USA	10	20%
2	India	3	6%
3	Germany	2	4%
4	UK	2	4%
5	Spain	5	10%
6	France	3	6%
7	Puerto Rico	1	2%
8	Argentina	2	4%
9	Canada	6	12%
10	Macedonia	1	2%
11	Australia	2	4%
12	Japan	1	2%
13	Brazil	3	6%
14	Chile	1	2%
15	Finland	1	2%
16	Iran	1	2%
17	Italy	2	4%
18	Croatia	2	4%
19	Egypt	1	2%
20	Mexico	1	2%
Total		50	100%

Table 2. Language wise Publication

S. No.	Language	Number of Journals	Percentage
1	English	35	49%
2	Spanish	13	18%
3	Italian	2	2.82%
4	French	5	7.04%
5	Portuguese	4	6.33%
6	Basque	1	1.40%
7	Catalan	1	1.40%
8	Macedonian	1	1.40%
9	Japanese	1	1.40%
10	Croatian	2	2.80%
11	No Information	6	8.45%
Total		71	100%

Table 2 describes that majority of the journals 35(49%) are published in English, which is followed by Spanish 13 (18%), French 5(7.04%) and Portuguese 4(6.33%). It is further found that less number of journals is published in

other languages and it ranges from 1 to 2 (2.80% to 1.40%). It is inferred that there is a vast difference between journals in respect of language of publications.

6.3 Multiple Subjects

The study further ascertained the journals, which cover multiple subjects and the same is given in Table 3.

Table 3. Multiple Subjects

S. No.	Description	Number of Journals	Percentage
1	Multiple subjects	5	10%
2	Single subject	45	90%
Total		50	100%

Table 3 shows that majority of the journals 45 (90%) published under Social Science are covered single subject, whereas only 5(10%) of the journals are covered multiple subjects.

6.4 Publication Fees

The study was analyzed the journals, which charge the publication fees and the same is given Table 4.

Table 4. Publication Fees

S. No.	Description	Publication Fee	
		Number of Journals	Percentage
1	Yes	4	8%
2	No	41	82%
3	No Information Available	5	10%
Total		50	100%

Table 4 explains that majority of the journals 41(82%) are not charged the publication fees to publish the articles, whereas only few journals 4(8%) are charged the publication fees. It is inferred that the authors can contribute their research output to publish in the open access journals to make more accessibility and visibility.

7. Conclusion and Recommendations

Open Access (OA) journal is widely used for teaching, learning and research. It provides global access to the literature at free of cost. The users can access, download and distribute in the digital forms. Perhaps, the content in the open access platforms makes visibility and increase the citations. A study by Sivakumaren et al. [7] recommended that awareness should be created among the academicians to publish the articles in the open access journals. It is also suggested that the journals especially, in open access journals should have multiple subject contents. Therefore, the content would be highly used by the users for learning, teaching and research.

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