Balancing common language and multilingualism as drivers for equity, diversity and inclusion

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Panellists: Cissi Askwall, Marin Dacos, Johan Rooryck, Laura Rovelli

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The Helsinki Initiative on Multilingualism in Scholarly Communication was launched in 2019 to foster an environment that values multilingual scholarly communication, science communication and open access to scholarly publications in all languages.

The long-term goal of the Helsinki Initiative is to ensure the continued availability of high-quality research published in all languages needed across the world for effective communication of research knowledge within and beyond academia.

Signatories from over 70 countries agree that multilingualism in scholarly communication is an international, not just national or local concern.
ACKNOWLEDGES that in order to accelerate the implementation and the impact of Open Science policies and practices across Europe, action has to be taken to... encourage where appropriate, the use of multilingualism for the purpose of wider communication of European research results.

ACKNOWLEDGES the important role of multilingualism in the context of science communication with society, in particular on the national and regional levels; in this respect, WELCOMES initiatives to promote multilingualism, such as the Helsinki initiative on multilingualism in scholarly communication.
RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Support dissemination of research results for the full benefit of the society.
   • Make sure researchers are merited for disseminating research results beyond academia and for interacting with heritage, culture, and society.
   • Make sure equal access to researched knowledge is provided in a variety of languages.

2. Protect national infrastructures for publishing locally relevant research.
   • Make sure not-for-profit journals and book publishers have both sufficient resources and the support needed to maintain high standards of quality control and research integrity.
   • Make sure national journals and book publishers are safeguarded in their transition to open access.

3. Promote language diversity in research assessment, evaluation, and funding systems.
   • Make sure that in the process of expert-based evaluation, high quality research is valued regardless of the publishing language or publication channel.
   • Make sure that when metrics-based systems are utilized, journal and book publications in all languages are adequately taken into account.
Cissi Askwall
How multilingualism supports broad interaction with society?

- Science in the Limelight more than ever
- Open Science a key tool
- Know and listen to your Target Groups
- Foster Science Capital and Source Criticism
- Counter Mis- and Disinformation

→ Strengthen Democracy!
Marin Dacos
How can translations and new technology support multilingualism?

Measures
1. Generalize the obligation to publish in open access
2. Support open access economic publishing model
3. Encourage multilingualism

Extend the global influence of French research publications
➔ Develop tools to support multilingualism using semi-automatic translation
➔ Issue an international call for research into automatic translation
➔ Encourage the use of findings from French research in the global collaborative Wikipedia encyclopaedia.

Towards a shared platform for semi-automatic translation of research texts
● A shared platform at the service of the ecosystem
● Accessible to authors, publishers and platforms
● Disciplinary learning bases
● Room for post-editing by a publishing / translation professional
● Validated results would improve the learning base

Phase 1 - 2021: a working group and a first report
Phase 2 - 2022: Prefiguration case studies (budget 500K€)
Phase 3 - 2023: The big project?
What funders can do to promote multilingualism?

- In line with Principle 10 of Plan S, funders can stress that they value the intrinsic merit of the research output and not the prestige of (English language) journals.

- National funders can stress that publication in the national language is valued in the same way as publication in English.

- Books and bibliodiversity: cOAlition S academic books statement, Recommendation 5: “cOAlition S funders should financially support Open Access of academic books via their funding schemes and open access publishing business models via dedicated arrangements.”

- National funders can promote multilingual bibliodiversity of academic books via funding schemes for Open Access books.
Johan Rooryck
What funders can do to promote multilingualism?

Funders can support national Diamond Open Access initiatives that are most often multilingual:

- HRČAK Portal (507 Croatian OA Journals)
- OpenEdition (France, 567 journals)
- *Calidad revistas científicas españolas* project (FECYT, seal of quality)
- Journal.fi (110 Finnish scholarly journals, Federation of Finnish Learned Societies)
- Openjournals.nl (Dutch platform for OA journals, founded by KNAW, NWO and the OPUS Foundation.)

The Diamond Open Access study has shown that most Diamond journals are multilingual while serving an international readership. cOAlition S is participating in the DIAMAS project to federate and align Diamond Open Access journals in Europe. This project will pay attention to multilingual publishing of full texts and abstracts, discoverability of content, human translation services, and machine translation tools.
Laura Rovelli
How multilingualism fits in responsible research assessment?

- CLACSO-FOLEC Declaration of Principles on Research Assessment supports
  - Multilingualism and locally relevant research, Impact and interaction with society, beyond academia, the Helsinki Initiative
- Growing trend of Portugal and Brazil to publish in English
  - In 2020 (Web of Science), 95% of the total articles in scientific journals were in English, and 1% in Spanish or Portuguese.
  - In LAC, Spanish and Portuguese subsist as languages of publication,
    - regional infrastructure with its own indexing system (Latindex, SciELO, Redalyc), including thousands of predominantly university-based journals managed by the community itself with diamond or platinum open access.
- Ranking systems and accreditation of institutions use heteronomous assessment indicators
  - These indicators, based on international commercial services such as WoS and Scopus, only reflect a small percentage of quality publications in our region.
- New bibliodiverse assessment indicators must be created to support responsible assessment and the diversity of research outputs in the region
  - Successful case: the resolution (Res. 2249) for the Social and Human Sciences from the National Council for Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET, Argentina).
Multilingualism is integral to Open Science

- It is important to communicate research results to international expert audiences according to the best practices and traditions of each discipline.
- However, if research is communicated exclusively in English, academia risks not fully meeting all its missions and responsibilities toward society.
- Broad access to scientific knowledge and interaction between science and society is possible only if scientific knowledge is produced, communicated and used in multiple languages.
Academic publishing in France is increasingly monolingual

Number of articles published in 2020 by language
France. Source: French Open Science Monitor

https://frenchopensciencemonitor.esr.gouv.fr/publications/general?id=general.langues-ouverture
Warning: only publications with a DOI.
Students, professional and personal use are important

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<th>Type of Reach!</th>
<th>Approximate Proportion¹</th>
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<tr>
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<td>SciELO!</td>
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<td>Students!</td>
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¹ This table represents a composite of the results derived from my interpretations of all the responses and data collected in my dissertation study. As such, the numbers should be treated only as approximations, and the percentages should not be expected to add to 100%.

@juancommander
Private companies also read open access HSS

Thanks to open access, OpenEdition (Humanities and social sciences platform). For the bank Crédit Mutuel, for example, 99,003 accesses are identified over the period 2017-mid 2019, mainly covering 18,000 different articles. This is similar to the consultation of the University of Lausanne. Source: OpenEdition Lab research programme, Appropriation of open knowledge, funded by the IDEX of Aix-Marseille University. Publication to come.

More: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nqHsyXgWap8&t=46s
Case study: the audience of four open access journals

French speaking journal

26% French speaking and 65% Spanish speaking

Spanish-language journal

94% French speaking
Traffic by browser language for 4 journals

Fréquentation par langue du navigateur pour 4 revues
Octobre 2019

Spanish-language journal
OpenEdition's top 25 journals and their languages.

In page views (2021 extrapolated)
Multilingualism is not only a question for Humanities and Social Sciences

https://www.cochranelibrary.com/
How lingua franca and multilingualism promote open science to bridge over existing barriers for knowledge transfer across disciplinary, geographical or societal borders in order to create resilient societies?

Academics publish in a monolingual world. This deprives us of an important audience.

Research should be accessible to everyone. To accomplish that, lingua franca and multilingualism are complementary.

The 17 SDGs need both international knowledge in English and local knowledge in their own language. Multilingualism facilitator of cultural diversity and social relevant research.

Multilingualism promotes equity: the knowledge of perfect academic English should not be a pre-condition for participating in the scholarly debate.
The COVID-19 pandemic saw a widespread need for multilingual communication between researchers, decision-makers, professionals and citizens.

At its broadest, the impact of research can be global, but impact is always realized locally in societies where different languages are written and spoken.

To cope with grand challenges and to meet sustainable development goals, we need both globalized and localized research communicated in various languages and formats.
How digital technologies, artificial intelligence, machine learning and virtual reality foster multilingualism in creating translations?

While we await more significant results in machine translation and artificial intelligence applied to translation, LAC is gradually advancing by adding metadata reflected in some repositories.

Authors and journal editors can help by providing lingua franca translations of the abstracts of their articles: abstracts in lingua franca can serve as a portal to the article.

The cost of translation is tremendous. We don’t have a choice than to explore automatic and semi-automatic translation as opportunities for multilingualism.

New technologies help a lot, but to be useful beyond academia manual fine tuning is also necessary.
Diamond OA is practically the only option for non-profit journals publishing in languages other than English.

- Article processing charges (APC) work mainly for international English language journals.
- Resources are needed also for supporting national language Diamond OA publishing as a common good.
What institutional structures need to be changed to foster and create the benefits from multilingual research in order to ensure diversity, equity and inclusion?

The incentives and reward systems must reflect the importance of multilingual research.

Johan Rooryck

Funders and universities should value multilingual publication in the same way as publication in English. Publication in English should not be associated with prestige.

Cissi Askwall

At this stage, multilingualism is considered by many as a threat to the publications in English. And this creates fears concerning visibility and impact.

Laura Rovelli

Multilingualism recognition in RA; interoperable and federated OS infrastructures to nourish evaluation systems; financial support for the openness of publications and research data; necessary infrastructure and training of skilled human resources.

Marin Dacos
Including Multilingualism in Research Assessment Reform

Multilingualism is integral to accessibility and should be part of European research assessment reform.

- Intended or unintended language priorities in assessment may
  - Compromise equal opportunities for individual researchers and institutions
  - Endanger locally relevant research and knowledge transfer beyond academia
  - Result in systemic undervaluation of SSH research compared to STEM fields in assessments and funding

- Ensuring that high quality research is valued regardless of the publishing language entails e.g.:
  - Taking into account publications outside the Web of Science and Scopus databases.
  - Engaging sufficiently diverse pool of experts and linguistic skills in the assessment panels.
How multilingualism as an essential part of academic culture must be incorporated in behaviours, values, expectations, attitudes and norms?

Authors should take pride in and be rewarded for publishing multilingually. Multilingualism is an individual and societal asset. There are more multilingual than monolingual people in the world: why not scientists?

Money talks!

Initiatives: "ES-CIENCIA ; International Alliance of Independent Publishers; Asociación Latinoamericana de Editores Científicos - ALAEC; CLACSO RA proposal: - reward percentage of publications in Spanish/Portuguese with respect to the total output - encourage at least 1 publication in an indigenous language.

This question is central. The transformation of the research assessment culture ambition to recognize the diversity of research outputs and activities. We talk about data and software, for example, but should also recognize translations. In the end, multilingualism will be recognized if it is able to demonstrate true impact.
To ensure the availability and vitality of multilingual scientific knowledge in all researchers’ and citizens’ main languages, following actions are needed from the international and national stakeholders:

1. In science policy, recognize the value of multilingualism and balance international excellence with local relevance of research.

2. In the public funding of Open Access, prioritize scholar-led non-profit Diamond OA publishers of journals and books in local languages.

3. In research assessment reform, recognize and reward research published in all languages and address language biases in metrics and expert-assessment.
Helsinki Initiative on Multilingualism

Hi!

MORE INFORMATION

Read and sign:
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Hashtag:
#InAllLanguages