

# Multilingualism in the Open Access ecosystem

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Helsinki Initiative Webinar  
April 2024



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# About DOAJ - Directory of Open Access Journals

**1**

The most diverse and extensive global index of peer-reviewed open access journals.

**2**

A community-led and -supported open scholarly infrastructure

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## About DOAJ - Directory of Open Access Journals

**3**

Our criteria are an unofficial gold standard for open access journal publishing, trusted across the scholarly community.

**4**

Commitment to bibliodiversity, and a signatory of the Helsinki Initiative



80

languages

134

countries

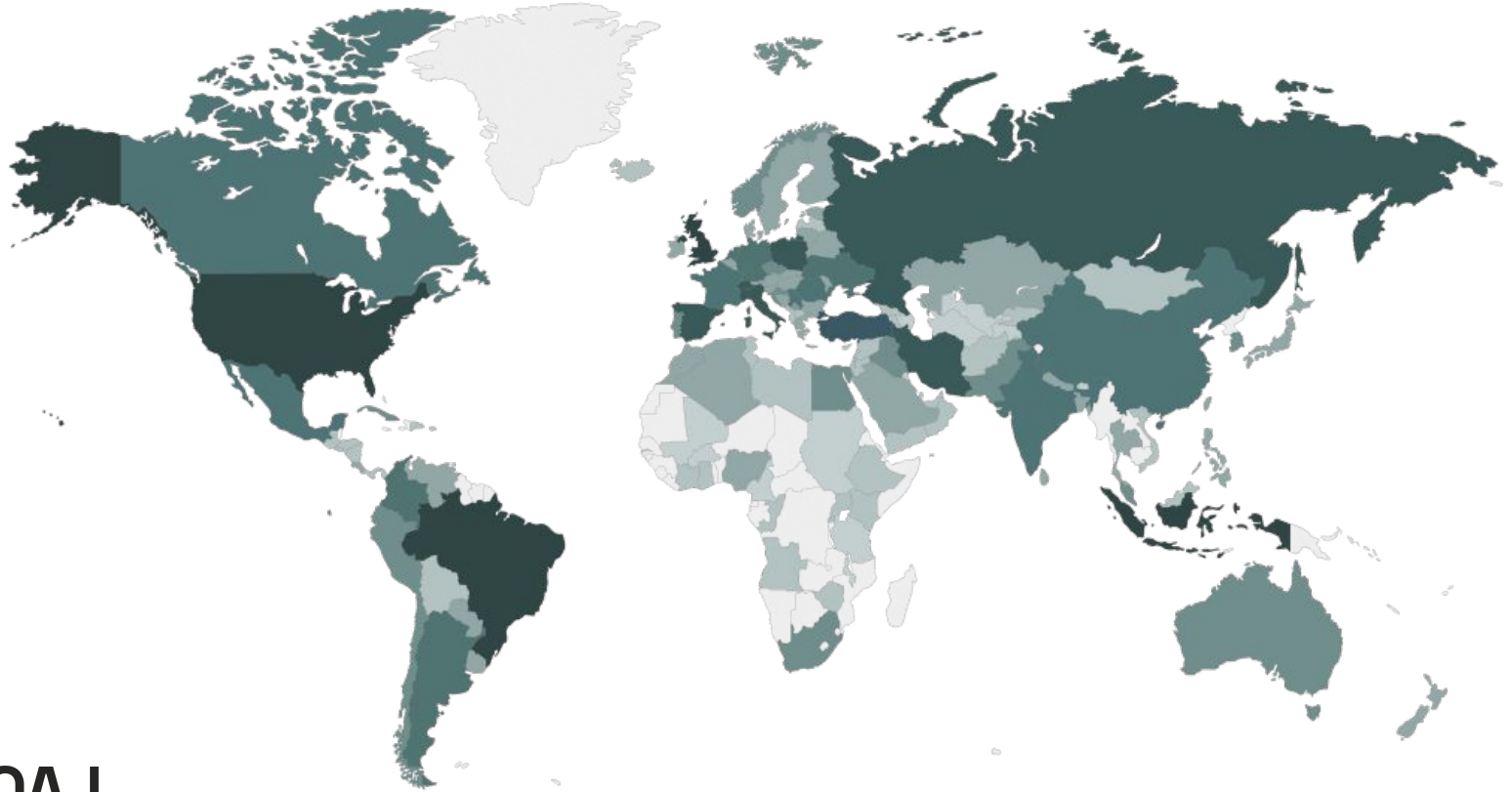
More than  
**20,000**  
journals

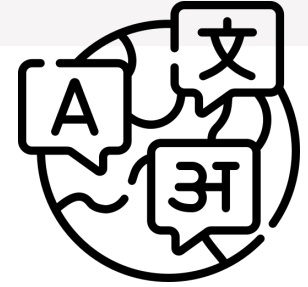


67% of journals in DOAJ are  
**without APCs**



# Overview of publisher countries indexed in DOAJ





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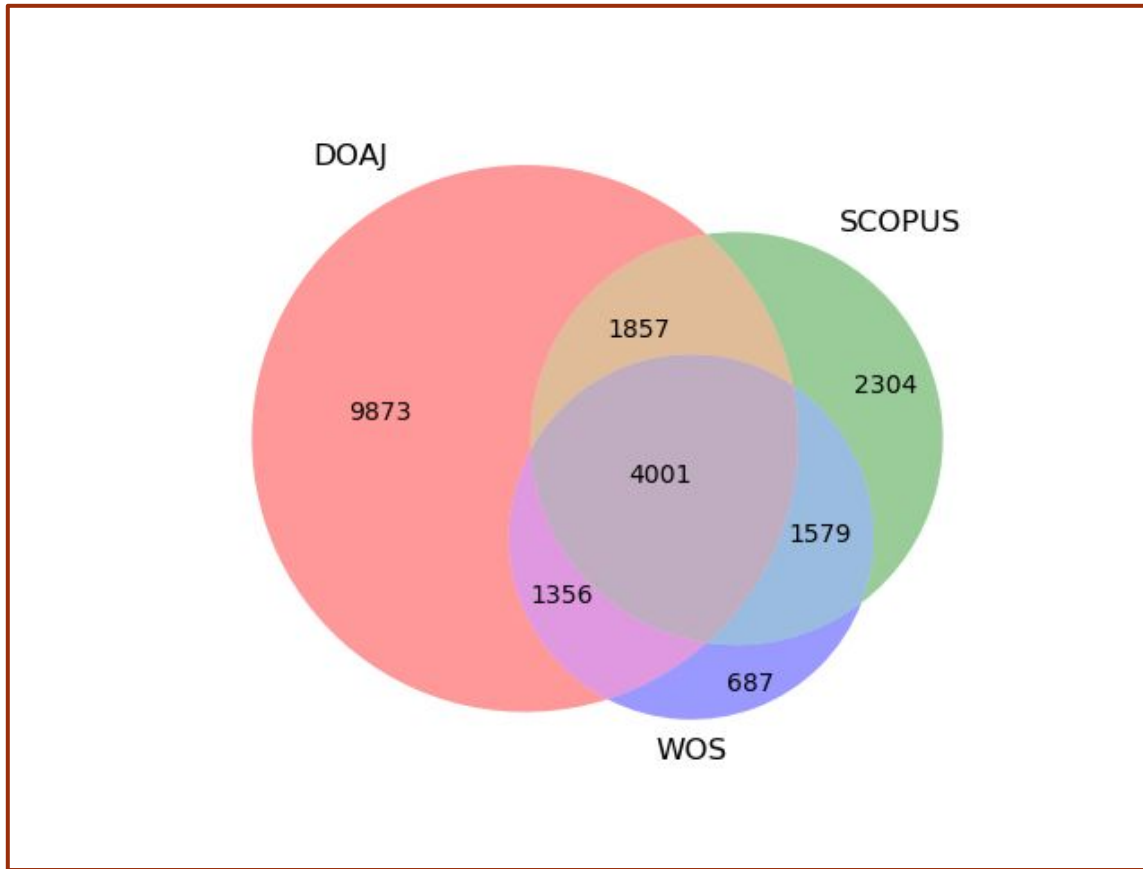
## Why does DOAJ support multilingualism?

Multilingualism is an essential element of **bibliodiversity**

It advances **knowledge equity** and enables communities to address global challenges

Promotes **meaningful collaborations** and avoids “helicopter research”

Multilingual journals are often **not indexed** by commercial databases



<https://blog.doaj.org/2023/07/06/doaj-is-confirmed-as-a-unique-platform-for-many-open-access-journals-and-a-key-index-for-african-journals/>





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# The open access ecosystem is larger than DOAJ

 34,000+ PKP titles (as at December 2023)\*

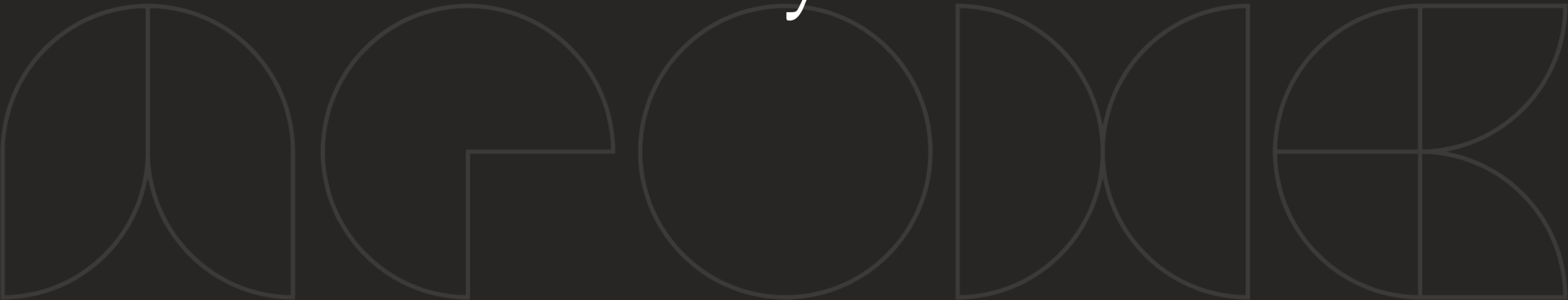
 OA Diamond Journals Study estimated up to 29k titles\*\*

 Many journals from outside the global north not listed

 But... the community uses DOAJ as the primary index for Open Access journals

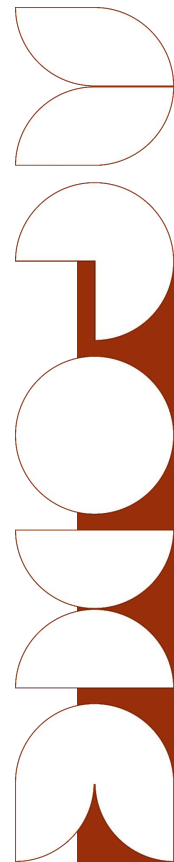
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What do the journals in DOAJ  
tell us about multilingualism  
in the OA ecosystem?

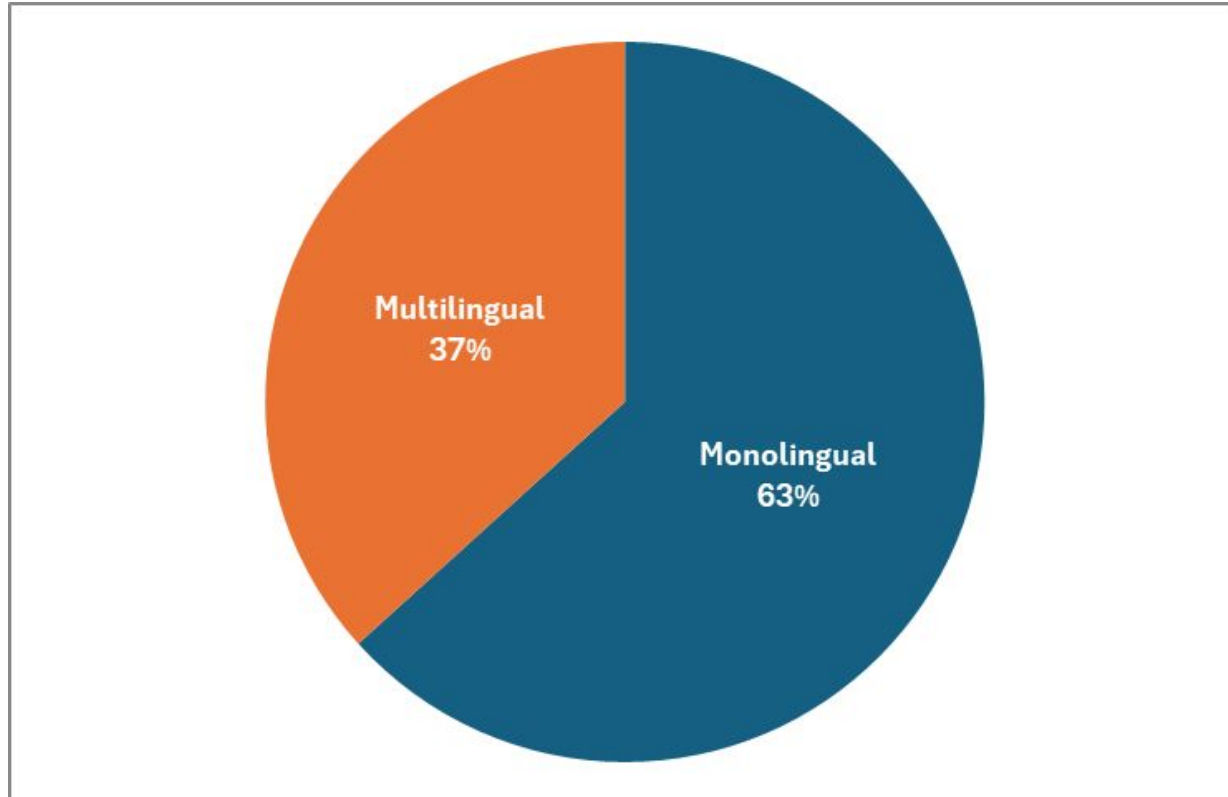


## Analysis of DOAJ journal list (20,438 titles)

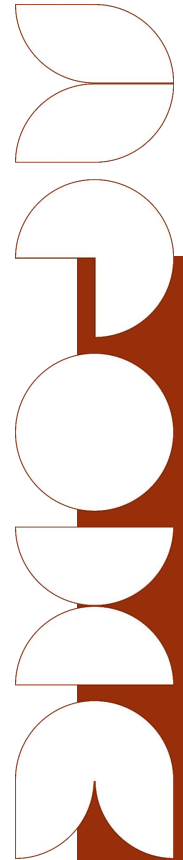
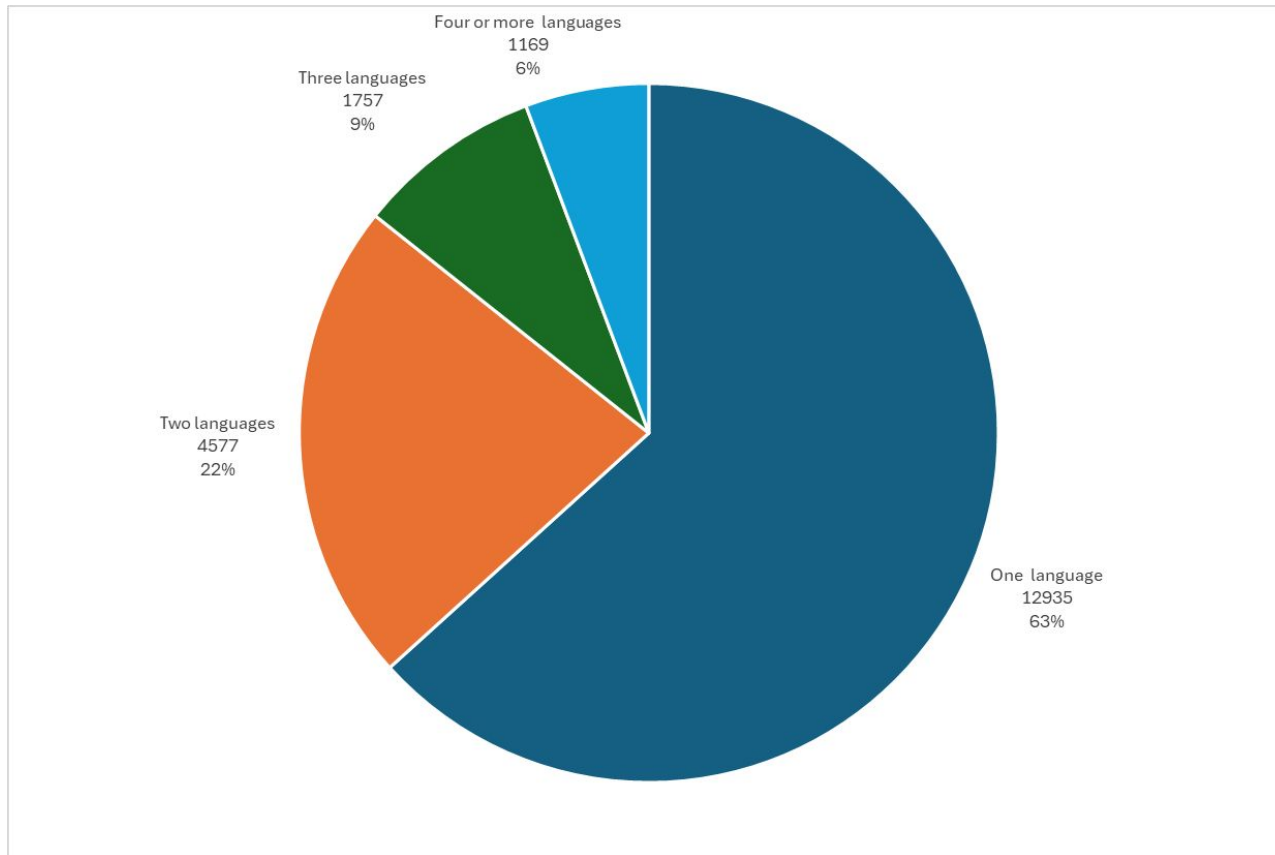
- **March 2024:** Ivonne Lujano, DOAJ Community Manager and Ambassador to Latin America.
  - Builds on research done by Ivonne and Gimena del Rio Riande: *How balanced is multilingualism in scholarly journals? A global analysis using the DOAJ database*
  - [10.5281/zenodo.7506238](https://10.5281/zenodo.7506238)



# Multilingual vs monolingual journals



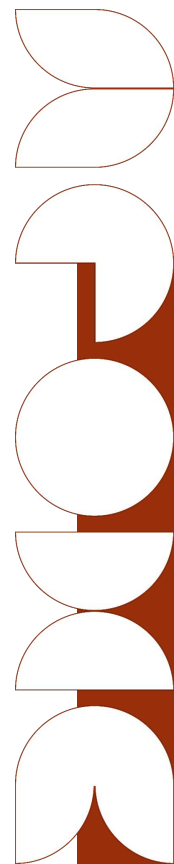
# Multilingual journals



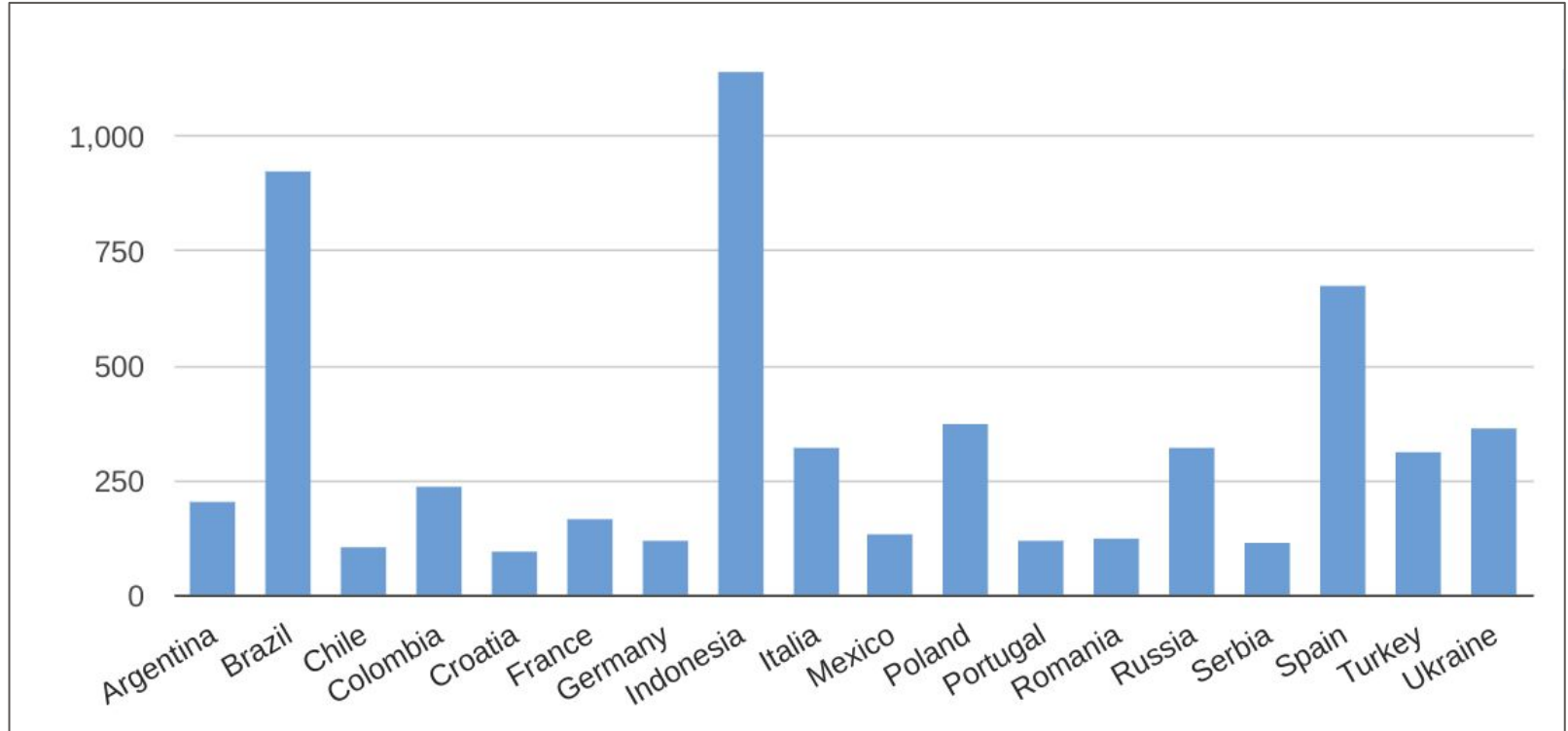
# Languages

**Ten most frequent languages of publication other than English by the main/first language listed in DOAJ)**

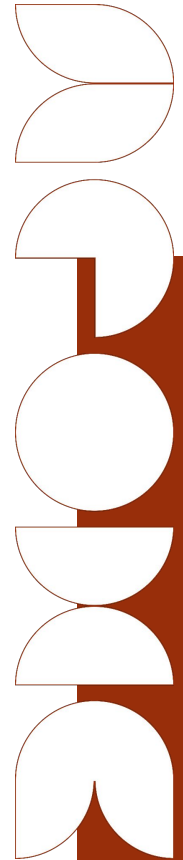
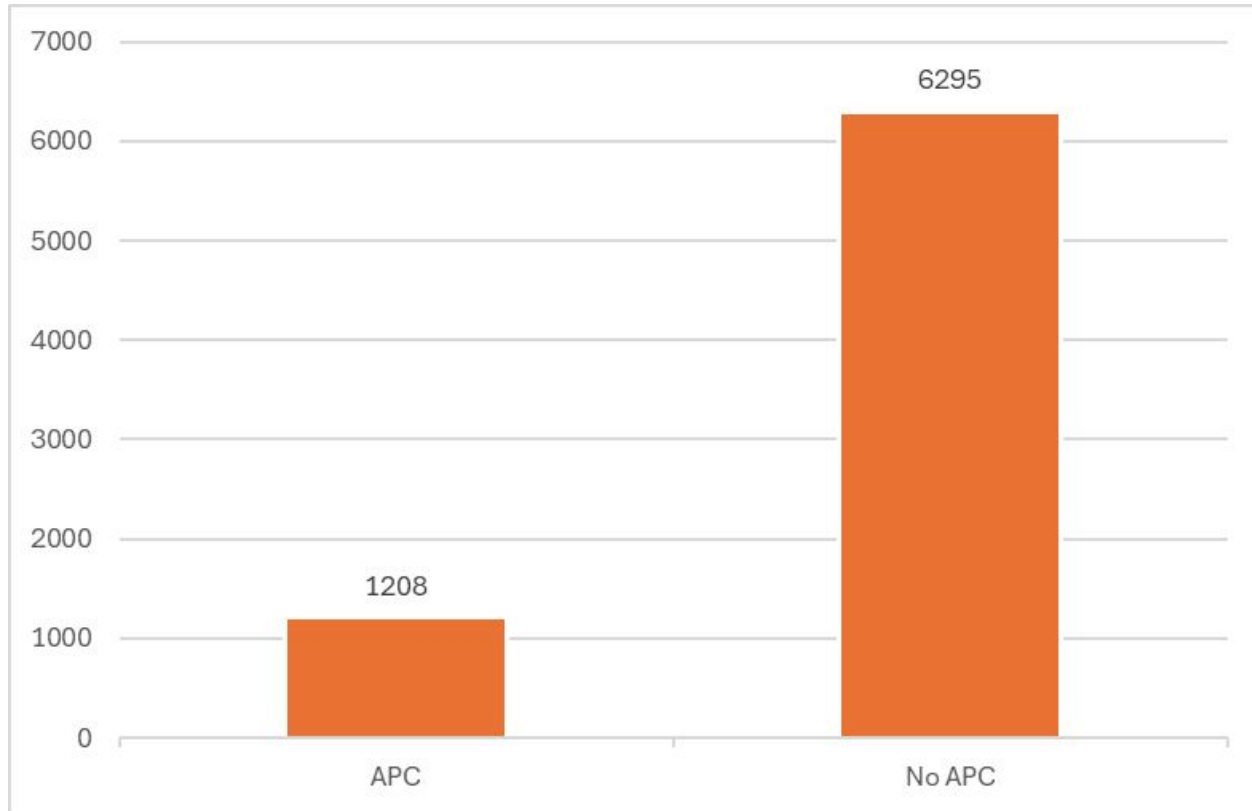
Spanish	2050
Portuguese	1078
Indonesian	1058
Russian	455
Persian	433
French	398
Arabic	226
Italian	199
Polish	162
German	141
Catalan	93



# Countries with 100+ multilingual journals

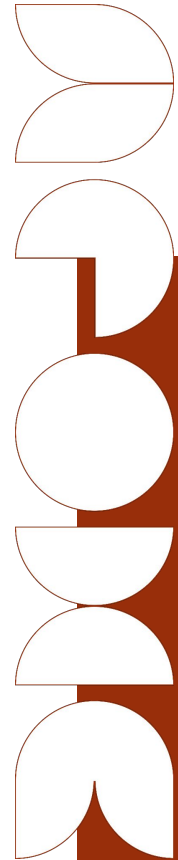
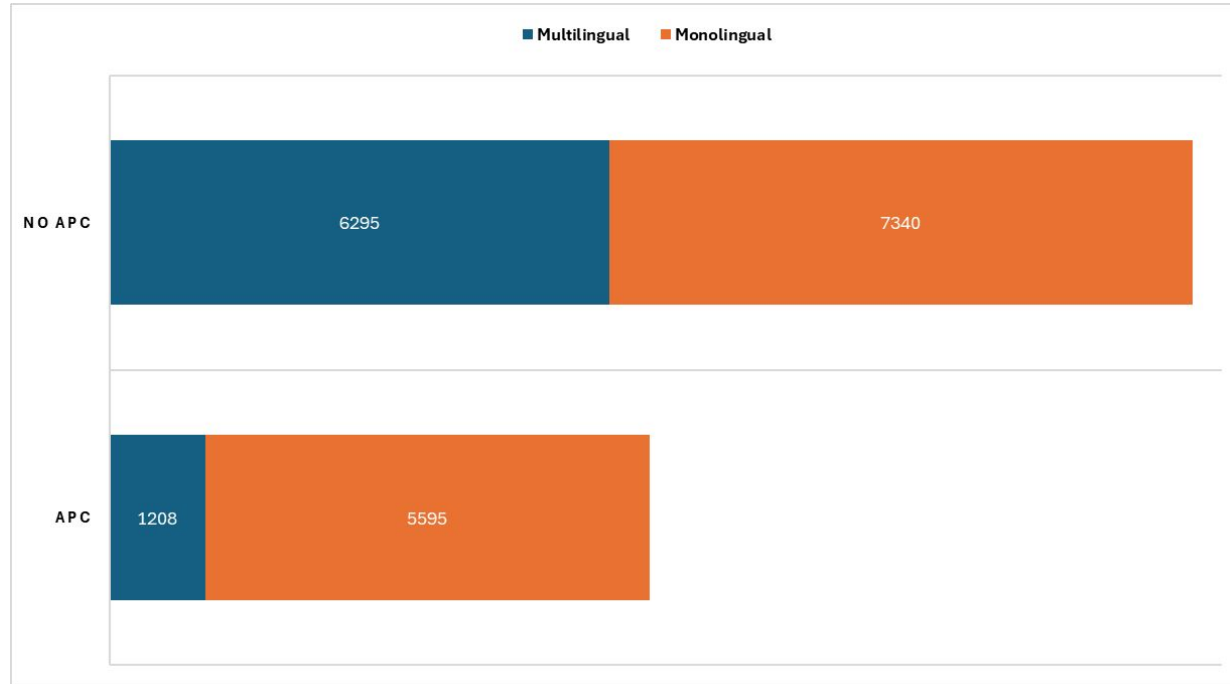


# Multilingual journals by business model

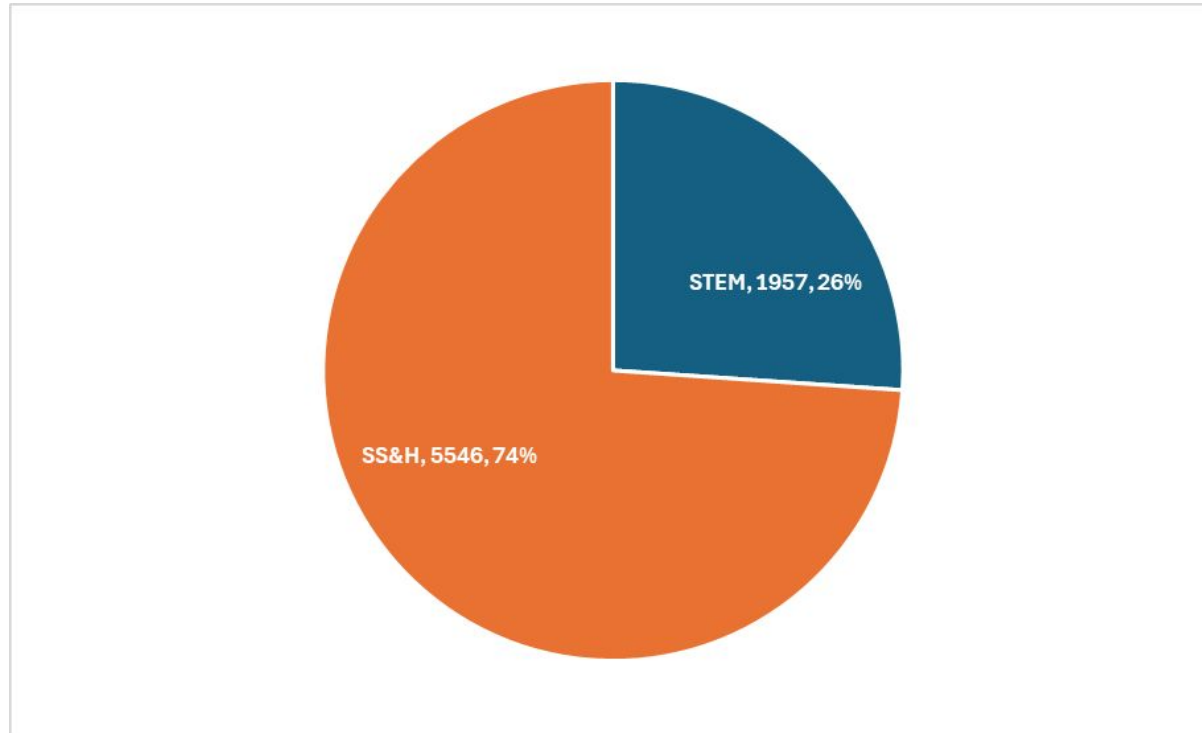




# Multilingual journals by business model

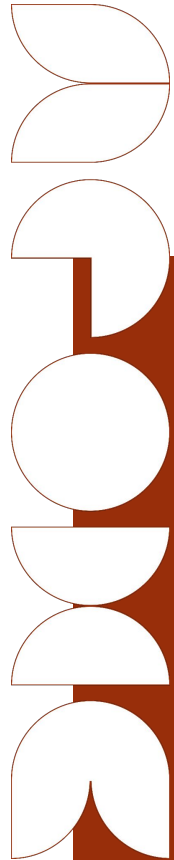


# Multilingual journals by discipline



## Other trends

- Editors know that DOAJ-indexing helps journals to achieve greater international visibility
- They believe that English increases the journal's profile and prestige
- Therefore: article abstracts are translated into English for DOAJ



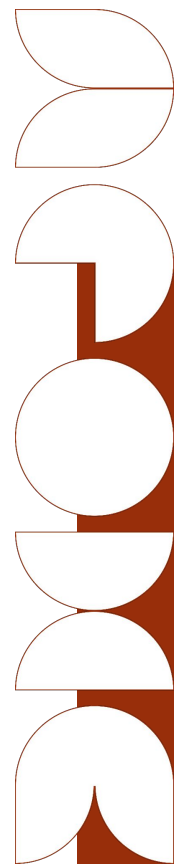
# Challenges for multilingual journals



Only 28% of multilingual journals in DOAJ report having **adequate preservation** in place.

26% multilingual journals in DOAJ do not use **DOIs or other persistent identifiers** to aid discovery.

19% of multilingual journals have submitted **no article metadata** to DOAJ in the last year.



Multilingual diamond journals are thriving in some areas of the world



 redalyc.org UAEM

 SciELO

 OpenEdition

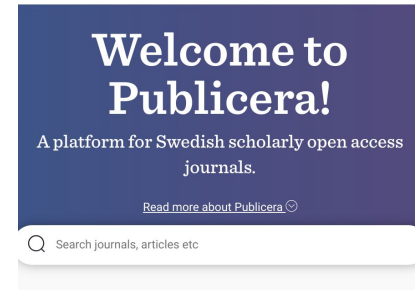
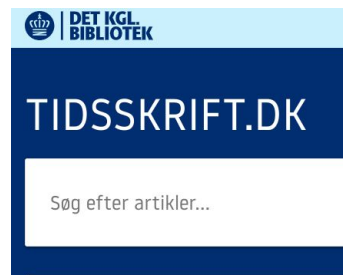
 DOAJ



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## ...and growing in others

National platforms based on PKP's OJS



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## PKP's OJS and multilingualism

- 42% journals within DOAJ use PKP's Open Journal Systems software, and half of these are multilingual
- PKP has excellent support for multilingual content: [Using PKP software in multiple languages](#)
- Increased focus on technical support for institutional publishing through CRAFT-OA project includes enhanced support for multilingual journals



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## Summary

Multilingualism is widespread throughout the OA ecosystem and thriving in national platforms.

Multilingualism is closely related to the diamond model, and so faces the same challenges due to lack of resource.

The current focus and investment in diamond publishing and infrastructures will strengthen support for multilingualism.



Diversity is the recognition of the plurality of voices as well as economic, political, societal and cultural contexts. Its preservation is one of the conditions for globalisation, democratic access to research and for the common good.

**Multilingualism** is a constitutive part of diversity.



# Questions?

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