Multilingualism in the Open Access ecosystem

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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.
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

Data collected 20th February 2024
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 |
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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*Saurabh Khanna, Jon Ball, Juan Pablo Alperin, John Willinsky; Recalibrating the scope of scholarly publishing: A modest step in a vast decolonization process. Quantitative Science Studies 2022; 3 (4): 912–930. doi: https://doi.org/10.1162/qss_a_00228

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
Multilingual vs monolingual journals

- Multilingual: 37%
- Monolingual: 63%
Multilingual journals

- One language: 12935 (63%)
- Two languages: 4577 (22%)
- Three languages: 1757 (9%)
- Four or more languages: 1169 (6%)
Languages

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portuguese</td>
<td>1078</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indonesian</td>
<td>1058</td>
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<td>Russian</td>
<td>455</td>
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<tr>
<td>Persian</td>
<td>433</td>
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<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>398</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>226</td>
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<tr>
<td>Italian</td>
<td>199</td>
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<td>Polish</td>
<td>162</td>
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<tr>
<td>German</td>
<td>141</td>
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<tr>
<td>Catalan</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Countries with 100+ multilingual journals
Multilingual journals by business model

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>APC</strong></td>
<td>1208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>No APC</strong></td>
<td>6295</td>
</tr>
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Multilingual journals by business model

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>5595</td>
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</table>
Multilingual journals by discipline

- SS&H, 5546, 74%
- STEM, 1957, 26%
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
...and growing in others

National platforms based on PKP’s OJS
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
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.

Report of the 2nd Diamond Open Access Conference 10.5281/ZENODO.10683098
Questions?

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