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Shivanand D. Kamble

Senior Research Fellow, Dept of Library and Information Science, Karnatak University Dharwad, Karnataka , India 580003, shivuks59@gmail.com

Rohit R. Patil

Senior Research Fellow, Dept of Library and Information Science, Karnatak University Dharwad, Karnataka , India 580003

B D. Kumbar

Professor, Dept of Library and Information Science, Karnatak University Dharwad, Karnataka , India 580003

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Contribution of G7 Countries to the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ): An Analytical Study

Shivanand D. Kamble
Senior Research Fellow (RGNF)
Department of Library and Information Science
Karnatak University Dharwad – 580003
e-mail: shivuks59@gmail.com

Rohit R. Patil
Senior Research Fellow
Department of Library and Information Science
Karnatak University Dharwad – 580003

B. D. Kumbar
Professor
Department of Library and Information Science
Karnatak University Dharwad – 580003

Abstract

The Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) provide list of high quality open access journals. In this paper, the authors consolidates the e-journals originated from G7 member countries and analyses them based on country, trend, subject, language and top level domain. It assesses the current scenario of open access publishing trend in G7 member countries during 2002-2017. The data has been tabulated and analyzed as per the defined objectives of study.

Key Words: Open Access, ICT, Journals, DOAJ, G7 Countries and Library.

Introduction

The Open Access (OA) Movement is a benefaction of ICT to the researchers and academicians at the global level. It provides an easy access to information to users by getting rid of constraints such as, space, time and money. The evolving of electronic information resources has drastically changed the status of all the libraries and information centers across the world during the last two decades. Open access has not only removed price and permission barrier but also helped in bridging the gap between information rich and information poor. In other words it is a great boon for developing and under developed countries. In a changed scenario the user

community is expecting more and more freely accessible resources online. Today major problems of academic libraries are shrinking budget, inadequate information resources and inadequate manpower etc. Thus academic libraries are trying to acquire quality Information and resources in the most competent and cost effective means possible. Hence open access directories like DOAJ are very much helpful in this critical time for libraries.

Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)

DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals) is an open access platform, which contains 10,862 open access journals are scattered in more than twenty major disciplines viz., medical, engineering, technology, agriculture and social sciences etc., These journals are being published in many languages by 122 countries. It contains 2,824,318 articles covering all the subjects, including the articles published in bilingual languages. DOAJ covers all open access resources, which can access, download and handout e-print to the users. DOAJ covers 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. (DOAJ 2018)

Group of Seven (G7)

Group of Seven (G7) is an organization of the highly industrialized countries of the United States (US), Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United Kingdom (UK). The G7 countries possess 64% of the world's wealth and have a very high human development index. These countries also represent 46% of the global GDP. The G7 was formed in 1975 by the six countries of US, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the UK with the exception country. Canada was invited the following year making membership to seven G7 countries. The representatives of the G7 countries meet annually to discuss international economic and monetary issues. The president of the G7 rotates among the member states every year. (Benjamin 2017)

Review of Literature

Singh (2014) Study aims to analyze the role of Brazil, Russian Federation, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS) in open access movement with respect to DOAJ and Open DOAR. Singh (2014) evaluates the contribution of SAARC nations to DOAJ. Patil, Kamble & Kumbar (2016) paper evaluates and presents the contribution of BRICS Nations to DOAJ. Bansal (2016)

Paper attempts to examine the contribution of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Countries to Open DOAR by size, language, subject, content and software used. Mondal (2016) paper consolidates the e-journal originated from SAARC member countries and analyses them based on country, trend, subject, language and top level domain.

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the present study is to analyze the Contribution of G7 Countries to Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ).. The other objectives of study are to evaluate country wise, year wise, Article processing charges (APCs) wise, License wise, Review wise and subject wise contributions of G7 Countries to the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ).

Methods of the Study

The Directory of open access journals database has been used to carry out the present study, to get required data for evaluating the contribution of G7 Countries to open access literature. The data were extracted/ imported from the website in excel format and analysis was carried out on the basis of different parameters viz subject coverage, decade and year, country of origin, publisher, language and License of G7 Countries contribution to OA journals. Statistical data attained was put to excel worksheet for better analysis and understanding the desired objectives set for the study.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

Table 1: Country - Wise Contribution and World Share

Sl. No	Name of the Country	No. of Journals added in DOAJ	Percentage (%)	World Rank and Share (%)
1	United Kingdom	978	40.11	3 (9.18)
2	United States	556	22.81	6 (5.22)
3	Italy	290	11.89	9 (2.72)
4	Germany	278	11.40	11 (2.61)
5	France	197	8.08	17 (1.85)
6	Canada	122	5.00	22 (1.15)
7	Japan	17	0.70	55 (0.16)
	Total	2438	100	Total Share 22.89

Table – 1: Shows that the G7 country –wise distribution of journals added to DOAJ. From the data it is clear that United Kingdom has contributed highest number of journals i.e. 978(40.11%) out of total 2438 journals contributed by all G7 countries to DOAJ. The United States of America has contributed 556 (22.81%) journals whereas Italy has contributed 290 (11.89%) journals followed by Germany 278 (11.40%), France 197 (8.08%), Canada 122 (5.00%) and Japan 17 (0.70 %). The data also shows that these G7 countries contributed 22.89 %.

Table 2: Year -Wise Contribution

Sl. No.	Year	United Kingdom	United States	Italy	Germany	France	Canada	Japan	Total	Percentage (%)
1	2002	6	2	0	2	0	0	1	11	0.45
2	2003	88	35	1	5	3	3	0	135	5.54
3	2004	32	8	4	10	3	5	1	63	2.58
4	2005	19	18	8	12	7	4	1	69	2.83
5	2006	27	10	10	6	4	4	0	61	2.50
6	2007	28	16	4	7	4	4	0	63	2.58
7	2008	27	16	6	9	10	8	1	77	3.16
8	2009	50	15	20	14	6	6	0	111	4.55
9	2010	64	27	25	13	24	12	2	167	6.85
10	2011	43	26	16	15	22	11	0	133	5.46
11	2012	69	30	29	12	30	8	0	178	7.30
12	2013	96	58	44	44	17	12	2	273	11.20
13	2014	58	43	14	11	1	5	0	132	5.41
14	2015	116	63	35	60	5	7	3	289	11.85
15	2016	128	101	29	36	39	10	1	344	14.11
16	2017	127	88	45	22	22	23	5	332	13.62
Total	16 Years	978	556	290	278	197	122	17	2438	100

Table – 2: Reveals year wise contribution of journals by G7 countries to DOAJ. From the above table it can be noticed that there is gradual growth of journals added to DOAJ by G7 Countries in last 16 years. The highest number of journals were added in 2016 i. e. 344 (14.11%) whereas the lowest number of journals i.e. 11 (0.45%) were added in 2002. The data in the above table clearly indicates that there is a lot of variation among the G7 countries in terms of contribution to DOAJ.

Table 3: Article Processing Charges (APCs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Country	Yes	No	No Information	Total
1	United Kingdom	794	182	2	978
2	United States	191	360	5	556
3	Italy	46	242	2	290
4	Germany	103	171	4	278
5	France	20	175	2	197
6	Canada	15	104	3	122
7	Japan	10	7	0	17
	Total	1179(48.36%)	1241(50.90%)	18(0.74%)	2438

Table – 3: makes it clear that in the total 2438 journals contributed by G7 countries to DOAJ. 1179 journals are collecting article processing charges (charged to either author, or funder, institution or employer). 1241 journals do not have any APCs. Whereas, information of 18 journals are not found. It is evident from the table that 48.35% of journals are having APCs.

Table 4: Journal License Wise Distribution

Sl. No	Name of the Country	CC BY	CC BY-NC	CC BY-NC-ND	CC BY-NC-SA	Publisher's Own License	CC BY-ND	CC BY-SA	Not Found	Total
1	United Kingdom	559	308	97	5	3	3	1	2	978
2	United States	222	81	151	18	68	6	6	4	556
3	Italy	85	78	83	6	27	1	8	2	290
4	Germany	210	5	31	2	9	9	8	4	278
5	France	33	18	125	12	4	2	1	2	197
6	Canada	54	14	27	4	12	4	4	3	122
7	Japan	8	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	17
	Total	1171	509	518	47	123	25	28	17	2438

Table 4 depicts license wise contribution of journals by G7 countries to DOAJ. It clearly shows that out of 2438 journals 2298 journals are having Creative Common (CC) under different types of license. Whereas 123 journals are having publishers own licenses. Information of 17 journals were not found.

Table 5: Review Wise Distribution

Sl. No	Name of the Country	Double Blind Peer Review	Blind Peer Review	Peer Review	Editorial Review	Open Peer Review	Not Found	Total
1	United Kingdom	180	588	117	9	82	2	978
2	United States	217	177	135	16	7	4	556
3	Italy	158	82	42	5	1	2	290
4	Germany	81	97	85	7	4	4	278
5	France	113	16	48	18	0	2	197
6	Canada	56	19	41	2	1	3	122
7	Japan	4	10	3	0	0	0	17
	Total	809	989	471	57	95	17	2438

Table - 5: depicts that out of 2438 journal contributed to the DOAJ by G7 countries 809 journals are Double Blind peer reviewed, 989 journals are Blind peer reviewed, 471 journals as peer reviewed, 57 journals are editorial reviewed, 95 journals are open peer reviewed whereas information of 17 journals were can not be traced. From the table it is clear that most of these journals are very rich, trustworthy and maintaining quality also.

Table 6: Subject -Wise Contribution

Sl. No	Subject	United Kingdom	United States	Italy	Germany	France	Canada	Japan	Total
1	Medicine	516	154	54	39	5	19	7	794
2	Science	139	65	29	55	15	10	0	313
3	Technology	96	35	9	57	19	10	4	230
4	Language and Literature	24	33	41	14	51	14	1	178
5	Education	29	61	11	16	8	22	1	148
6	Social Sciences	30	35	19	23	21	14	1	143
7	Geography, Anthropology, Recreation	31	30	17	17	22	4	2	123
8	Philosophy: Psychology, Religion	15	33	18	16	2	9	1	94
9	History	6	15	17	8	32	3	0	81
10	Fine Arts	17	13	26	3	12	4	0	75
11	Agriculture	29	15	9	13	3	2	0	71
12	Law	15	8	14	3	3	2	0	45

13	Bibliography, Library Science, Information Resources	7	26	2	3	0	3	0	41
14	Political Science	11	9	7	6	2	1	0	36
15	General Works	5	13	4	3	1	4	0	30
16	Auxiliary Science of History	8	2	10	1	1	1	0	23
17	Music	0	7	3	0	0	0	0	10
18	Military Science	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
19	Naval Science	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
	Total	978	556	290	278	197	122	17	2438

Table 6 reflects subject wise distribution of journals contributed by G7 countries to DOAJ. Out of 2438 Journals highest i.e. 794 (32.52%) are contributed in the field of medicine only followed by science 313 (12.84%), Technology 230 (9.43%), Language and Literature 178 (7.30%), Education 148 (6.07%), Social Sciences 143 (5.83%) Geography, Anthropology, Recreation 123(5.05%) and so on. Lowest number of contribution in Military Science 2 (0.08%) and Naval Science 1(0.04%). Data shows that G7 Countries contributed more journals in the field of medicine, Science and Technology to DOAJ.

Major Findings

- There are 10650 journals available through DOAJ at global level, out which, the G7 countries contributed total 2438 (22.89 %) journals to DOAJ.
- It is found from the study that, there is gradual growth in number journals added to DOAJ by G7 Countries during last 16 years.
- Majority i.e. 2298 (94.25%) journals are having Creative Common licenses and 123 (5.04%) journals are having publishers own licenses.
- The present study indicates that the journals available through DOAJ are of good quality as most journals are double blind peer reviewed i.e. 809, blind peer reviewed i.e. 989 and 471 journals are peer reviewed.
- Majority of journals contributed by G7 countries are belongs to the field of medicine i.e. 794 (32.52%), science i.e. 313 (12.84%) and Technology 230 (9.43%).

Suggestions

- Looking at potential that G7 countries have in terms funding and infrastructure facilities they are far better as compared to rest of the world. Hence, it is suggested to these countries to contribute more quality journals to DOAJ.
- The data reveals that G7 countries contributed most of the journals in the field of medicine, science and technology. Hence it is suggested to the G7 countries to contribute more journals in other subject fields like social sciences and arts etc. as it will help researchers of these fields.
- The study identified that, there are only 10650 journals available through DOAJ as compared to total number of journals available at global level. Hence it is suggested to G7 countries in general and rest of the world in particular to contribute more and more number of quality journals to DOAJ on priority basis.
- It is suggested to the G7 countries to take lead and create more open access directories like DOAJ to promote open access as it is great boon to the researches and academicians especially working in third world countries.

Conclusion

The open access movement is growing fast in all directions overcoming all the barriers and surpassing the disciplinary boundaries. Open access e- Journals, e-books etc have been started to flourish in all fields of knowledge. The open access movement has attracted all stakeholders involved in scholarly communication. Open access has benefitted academicians and researchers by increasing their visibility and enhancing their academic and research impact and it has enabled users to access information from all corners of the world. The open access seeks to return scholarly publishing to its original purpose to spread knowledge and allow that knowledge to be built upon. The open access is the huge step taken up at the global to promote knowledge based society. In other words open access initiatives attempted to abridge this information gap among information have's and have not's.

G7 countries are model for other countries in the research and development activities. Given the progress that G7 countries have achieved in every field hence, it is quite natural that open access movement started and got importance in these countries. Thus G7 countries should

set an example for rest of the world by contributing more scholarly and quality journals to DOAJ and other open access platforms.

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