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## Open Access Social Science Journals Indexed in DOAJ: A Critical Analysis

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### Abstract

*The primary purpose of this study is to provide a comprehensive view of social science open access journals indexed in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). DOAJ is the most recognized and most authoritative list of scholarly open access social science journals indexed in DOAJ. Data is based on open access social science journals indexed on Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). A total of 955 social science journals were selected from DOAJ database available online at <http://www.doaj.org>. This study found Indonesia is the highest productive country; 2012-16 is most productive year and most of the journals published under CC-BY license from last ten years.*

**Keywords:** *Open access journals, Social science journals, DOAJ, Scholarly communication, Journal license.*

### Introduction

Open access (OA) is a best way of providing access to the scholarly journal literature through the Internet gaining momentum in the recent years. In the context of scholarly publishing, Open Access is a term that refers to unrestricted online access to articles published in scholarly journals. Generally, Open Access (OA) journals are freely available online. Open access (OA) has extended the possibilities for disseminating own research and accessing other's research work.

The Directory of Open Access Journals was launched in 2003 at Lund University, Sweden with 300 open access journals and presently contains more than 14000 open access journals covering all areas of science, social science, medicine, technology, and humanities. DOAJ is well organized list of most effectible open access journals. It aims to increase visibility, accessibility usage and starting point for all information searches for quality, peer reviewed open access journals. To assist libraries and indexers keep their lists up-to-date, we make public a list of journals that have been accepted into or removed from DOAJ. However, we will not discuss the details of an application with anyone apart from the applicant. Neither will we discuss individual publishers or applications with members of the public unless we believe that, by doing so, we

will be making a positive contribution to the open access community. The open access journal publishers are want to provide access to the internet users freely. Authors felt that publishing through the traditional publishing house gets many hurdles like publishing, paying pay per page charges, reprint charges, copy rights, etc. The research work can be access by giving the opportunities to many by open access. Open access publications are not free of cost or cheaper than traditional scholarly communication.

## **Review of Literature**

Maharana and Mishra (2020) this study presents the Open access social science journals indexes in Directory of open access journals (DOAJ). A total of 1069 social science journals were selected from DOAJ database available online at <http://www.doaj.org>. This study found that there are 630 social science journals out of 1069 were added during the period 2010-13 and year wise distribution of Social Science journals from India added on DOAJ. Firstly, the highest number of social science journals from India distributed in 2011(29.1) the highest 7 number of journals.

Sahoo, Mohanty and Sahoo (2017) study on Indian contribution to open access scholarly publishing in DOAJ and this study is to provide a comprehensive view of Indian contribution towards open access journal movement, particularly the journals indexed in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) - a service from Lund University. This study found that 318 Indian journals in the database is an encouraging factor and it is positive sign for the open access movement in India. However, many publishers of India have not yet widely adopted open access initiatives as only 95% of the publishers contribute only 46.9% of total submissions in DOAJ.

Muruli (2018) study on agriculture journals covered by DOAJ. The present study analyses the status of 497 OAJs in Agriculture indexed in Directory of Open Access Journals. Results indicated the dominance of De Gruyter Open as a publisher with highest number of OAJs, English as a content language, Indonesia with highest number of OAJs, Google scholar with highest journals indexed. In addition, the study observes the increasing migration of journals from commercial practice to OA Frontiers in Plant Science found with highest Impact Factor among OAJs in Agriculture

Nashipudi and Ravi (2015) in their study attempted to measure quantitatively the scholarly journals contributed to the universe of knowledge which were produced with full immediate Open Access (OA) from 2003 to 2013. A survey of the open access journals indexed in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) was carried out for this study. India has reached to about 197 journals which show a growth of 15 times the amount of scholarly literature published from India in a year.

Kuri, R. (2014) study on Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) analysis of DOAJ provides access to quality controlled Open Access Journals. The Directory aims to increase the visibility and ease of use of open access scientific and scholarly journals thereby promoting their increased

usage and impact. The DOAJ which lists the open access scientific and scholarly journals in various subject disciplines, was selected to analyze the open access availability of the Library and Information Science discipline.

### **Objectives:**

The objectives of the present study are as follows:

- To examine the decade and year wise growth of OA social science journals
- To ascertain the country wise distribution of journals
- To identify the OA Social Science Journals with author holding copyright without restrictions
- To analyze the OA Social Science Journals with publishing rights without restrictions
- To identify the distribution of social science Journals as per Licensing in DOAJ.
- To discover deposit policy directory of OA social science journal on DOAJ

### **Methodology:**

Some methods or techniques are most important for successful conduct of any social investigation. Hence, method/techniques have used by the researchers in performing research operations. Research methodology is a way to solve the research problem systematically. In present study, a quantitative observation of secondary data has been taken. In order to have an in-depth study, the researcher found the survey method suitable to analyse the growth and status of open access journals. To fulfill the objectives laid down above, the data was collected from online directory of open access journals, i.e. DOAJ. Notably, the directory till 10th May, 2020 has listed 955 journals across 80 countries in the subject "Social Science". The data were imported from the website in excel format and analysis was done on the basis of different parameters viz subject coverage, decade and year, country of origin, publisher, language, format and Indian contribution to OA journals.

### **Growth of Social Science Journals in DOAJ**

Open Access to social science journals across the globe has slowly increased which is reflected from DOAJ. The following table presents the growth of these journals over the years since 2010.

**Table- 1: Year wise analysis social science journals added on DOAJ**

Year	Total number of Journals	Percentage of journals
2010	106	10.47
2011	92	9.63
2012	111	11.62
2013	114	11.93
2014	101	10.57
2015	129	13.50
2016	120	12.56
2017	99	10.36
2018	59	6.17
2019	23	2.40
2020	1	0.10
Total	955	100

Table-1 revealed that the highest numbers of social science journals were added in DOAJ during 2012-16 in which 575 (60.20%) out of 955 journals were added. The most productive year in terms of populating journals in DOAJ was 2015 when 129 (13.50%) journals were included. The second highest number of social science journal added in the year 2016(12.56%) followed by 2013 (11.95%) and 2011 (11.62%).

#### **Country wise distribution of OA Social Science Journals**

It has already perceived that OA has been practiced differently in different countries. On the other hand, Some countries have shown much faith in OA and participating highly in the transaction of open access scholarly content. In the present study, an account of OA journals contributed by different nations has been assessed.

**Table -2: Country wise distribution of OA Journals in Social Science indexed in DOAJ**

S.L. No	Countries	No. of Publishers	% of Publishers
1.	Indonesia	75	7.85
2.	Poland	73	7.64
3.	Brazil	65	6.80
4.	Colombia	55	5.75
5.	Russian Federation	45	4.71

6.	United Kingdom	40	4.18
7.	Spain	39	4.08
8.	Romania	39	4.08
9.	Turkey	36	3.76
10.	Canada	33	3.45
11.	United state	30	3.14
12.	Ukraine	30	3.14
13.	Iran	30	3.14
14.	Germany	28	2.93
15.	Argentina	24	2.51
16.	Serbia	19	1.98
17.	Lithuania	15	1.57
18.	Italy	14	1.46
19.	Ecuador	13	1.36
20.	Mexico	13	1.36
21.	Switzerland	13	1.36
22.	Netherlands	10	1.04
23.	France	12	1.25
24.	Venezuela	10	1.04
25.	Czechia	9	0.94
26.	Croatia	9	0.94
27.	Portugal	9	0.94
28.	Australia	8	0.83
29.	Slovenia	07	0.73
30.	Norway	7	0.73
31.	China	7	0.73
32.	Cuba	7	0.73
33.	South Africa	6	0.62
34.	Bolivia, State of	6	0.62
35.	Denmark	6	0.62
36.	Chile	5	0.52
37.	Pakistan	5	0.52
38.	Costa Rica	5	0.52
39.	Korea	5	0.52
40.	Austria	4	0.41
41.	India	4	0.41
42.	Bulgaria	4	0.41
43.	Peru	4	0.41
44.	Greece	4	0.41
45.	Moldova	4	0.41
46.	Singapore	4	0.41
47.	Zimbabwe	4	0.41
48.	Malaysia	3	0.31
49.	Sweden	3	0.31

50.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	3	0.31
51.	Belgium	3	0.31
52.	New Zealand	3	0.31
53.	Estonia	3	0.31
54.	Iraq	3	0.31
55.	Slovakia	2	0.20
56.	Finland	2	0.20
57.	Hungary	2	0.20
58.	Japan	2	0.20
59.	Guatemala	2	0.20
60.	Albania	2	0.20
61.	Morocco	2	0.20
62.	Oman	2	0.20
63.	Sri Lanka	2	0.20
64.	Tunisia	2	0.20
65.	Macedonia	1	0.10
66.	Nigeria	1	0.10
67.	Philippines	1	0.10
68.	United Arab Emirates	1	0.10
69.	Egypt	1	0.10
70.	Ireland	1	0.10
71.	North Macedonia	1	0.10
72.	Azerbaijan	1	0.10
73.	Taiwan	1	0.10
74.	Thailand	1	0.10
75.	Uruguay	1	0.10
76.	Malta	1	0.10
77.	Hong Kong	1	0.10
78.	Iceland	1	0.10
79.	Israel	1	0.10
80.	Kyrgyzstan	1	0.10
81.	Luxembourg	1	0.10
82.	Montenegro	1	0.10
83.	Puerto Rico	1	0.10
84.	Ghana	1	0.10
Total	84	955	100

Table-2 reveals that 84 countries have contributed OA social science journals to DOAJ platform. The top five countries alone contribute more than 33% of these journals. Indonesia contributes highest number of 71 (7.85%) journals followed by Poland 73 (7.64%), and Brazil 65 (6.80%). India is placed at 17th rank with only 4 journals.

### Authors holding copyright without restrictions

Copyright becomes a crucial issue in case of open accessibility of the content is concerned. The publishers of the commercial journals usually impose copyright as a device to restrict the usage of the content freely by the people. In contrast, many of the OA journals permit authors to hold complete copyright of the journal articles without transferring the same to the publishers. This would promote the free accessibility of the journal content

**Figure-1: OA Social Science Journals with author holding copyright without restrictions**

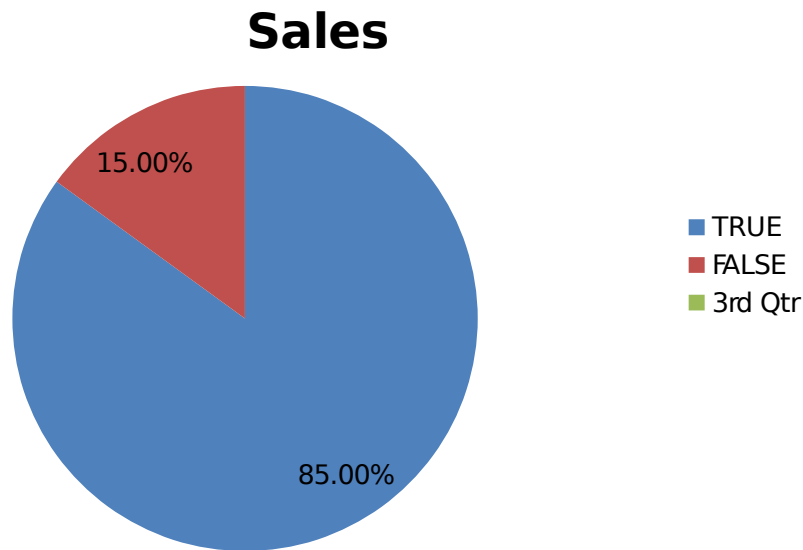


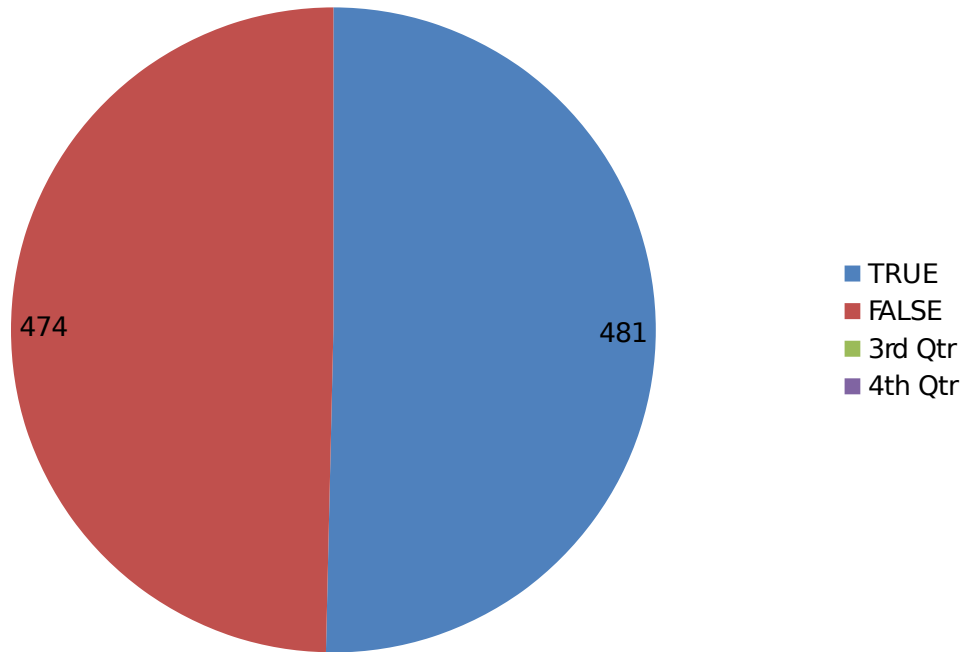
Figure-1 reflects that 85% of OA social science journals have the best-owed copy right with the authors, while on the other hand, only 15% of journals do not have the copyright of the author.

### Publishing rights without restrictions:

Publishing right permits the journals to be reproduced without any restriction. For example, below figure-2 reveals that 50.37% of journals are have publishing right without any restriction from the publisher side; also, 49.63% indicated not to have publishing rights.



**Figure-2: OA Social Science Journals with publishing rights without restrictions**



**License terms of OA Social Science Journals**

The current version of DOAJ allows publishers to supply license information at the journal level. Because some journals have different licenses from one article to another, the publishers were asked to supply only the most restrictive license. However, DOAJ management is working to provide further granularity to license information. In the present study, the analysis present that out of 955 journals and 942 journals have indicated their creative common licensing types and others 13 journals have publishers own license as given in the following table-3.

**Table- 3: License terms of OA Social Science Journals on DOAJ**

Types of license	No. of journals	% of journals
CC BY	411	43.03
CC BY-NC	136	14.24
CC BY-NC-ND	193	20.20
CC-BY-NC-SA	96	10.05
CC-BY-ND	13	1.36
CC-BY-SA	93	9.73
Publisher’s own license	13	1.36
Total	955	100

Table- 3 shows that 942 numbers of journals carry different license terms. Out of 942 journals 411 (43.03%) carry CC BY (Attribution only), 136 (14.24%) are carry CC BY-NC (attribution-Non Commercial), 193(20.20%) carry CC BY-NC-ND (attribution-Non Commercial-Non

Derivative), 96(10.05%) are coming under CC BY-NC-SA (attribution-Non Commercial-Non Derivative-Share Alike) types License, 13(1.36%) numbers of journals carry CC BY-ND,93(1.5%) are carry CC BY-SA and rest 13 (1.36) have publishers own license.

**Deposit policy of OA social science journals on DOAJ:**

The fundamental function of OA policy directory is to inform authors about whether or not a journal to which they are regarding submitting a paper has given its green light to make their peer-reviewed final draft OA immediately. However, the primary purpose of such a directory is to inform authors on whether and when they have a given journals green light to make a peer-reviewed deposit OA. Unfortunately, the present study show, only 231 out of 955 social science journals identify their deposit policy directory and others are not mention anything against their deposit policy.

**Table-4: Deposit policy of OA social science journals on DOAJ**

<b>Deposit policy directory</b>	<b>No. of journals</b>	<b>% of journals</b>
Sherpa/Romeo	158	16.54
Ducinea	37	3.87
Diadorim	27	2.82
Sherpa/Romeo, Ducinea	6	0.62
Sherpa/Romeo, Diadorim	3	0.31
NA	724	75.81
<b>Total</b>	<b>955</b>	<b>100</b>

Table-4 reveals that 231 numbers of journals mention their deposit policy out of 955 journals, 158(16.54%) carry Sherpa/Romeo, 37 (3.87%) carry Ducinea, 27. (2.82%) carry Diadorim, 6 (0.62) carry Sherpa/Romeo, Ducinea and 3 (0.31%) carry Sherpa/Romeo, Diadorim and rest 75.81% of journals not mention their deposit policy.

**Findings**

As a result in the above systematic analysis of data, the researcher found the following findings about the Open Access Social science Journals Indexed in DOAJ: A Critical Analysis.

1. Year wise analysis of social science journals added on DOAJ, highest numbers of social science journals were added in DOAJ during 2012-16 in which 575 (60.20%) out of 955 journals were added. The most productive year in terms of publishing journals in DOAJ was 2015 when 129 (13.50%) journals were included. The second highest social science journal added in the year 2016(12.56%) followed by 2013 (11.95%) and 2011 (11.62%).

2. Highest number of Open access social science journals indexed in DOAJ are from Indonesia 71 (7.85%) followed by Poland 73 (7.64%), Brazil 65 (6.80%), Colombia 55 (5.75%) respectively. And India is placed at 17th rank with only 4 journals.

3. OA Social Science Journals with publishing rights without restrictions that 481 (50.37%) of journals have publishing right without any restriction from the publisher side, also 474 (49.63%) indicated not to have publishing rights.

4. OA Social science journals with author holding copyright without restrictions 85% of OA social science journals have best-owed copyright with the authors. On the other hand, only 15% of journals do not have a copyright of the author.

5. OA Social science journals with deposit policy directory that 231 numbers of journals mention their deposit policy out of 955 journals, 158(16.54%) carry Sherpa/Romeo, 37 (3.87%) carry DUCINEA, 27 (2.82%) carry Diadorim, 6 (0.62%) carry Sherpa/Romeo, DUCINEA and 3 (0.31%) carry Sherpa/Romeo, Diadorim and rest 75.81% of journals not mention their deposit policy.

### **Conclusion**

The Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) provides open access to scientific and scholarly journals that reach high quality standard by exercising peer review and is free for all from the time of publication based on the Budapest open access initiative. DOAJ has developed a well deserved reputation for quality, and is the world's most authoritative list of Open Access, peer-reviewed titles. The title list of DOAJ is awe-inspiring and compares positively with others commercial options. DOAJ is increases the visibility of open access scientific and scholarly journals by promoting their increased usage and impact. Research scholars, Researchers, and Professionals would browse the DOAJ site and access the free online journals for their subject areas. It has also recommended that scientists and Research scholars publish their research work in online open access journals for increase their visibility of research work and increase their impact factor and citation index.

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