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The One Stop Shop to Open Access Journals - DOAJ

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THE ONE STOP SHOP TO OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS - DOAJ

Anna-Lena Johansson. Ingela Wahlgren

Introduction

The initiative to start the project Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) was taken in 2002 at the first Nordic Conference on Scholarly Communication (NCSC). The idea was to develop a one stop shop service which made it easier for libraries and aggregators to integrate OA-journals data in their services, for OA-publishers to get their journals visible and for readers to find OA-material. Initially Open Society Institute and SPARC funded the project which was launched in 2003 containing around 300 journals.

Today, the Directory has become the authoritative source for open access journals, with close to 3800 journals in the Directory and over 200 000 searchable articles. In this article we will tell you more about how the service is operated, its current status and some plans for the future.

What is DOAJ

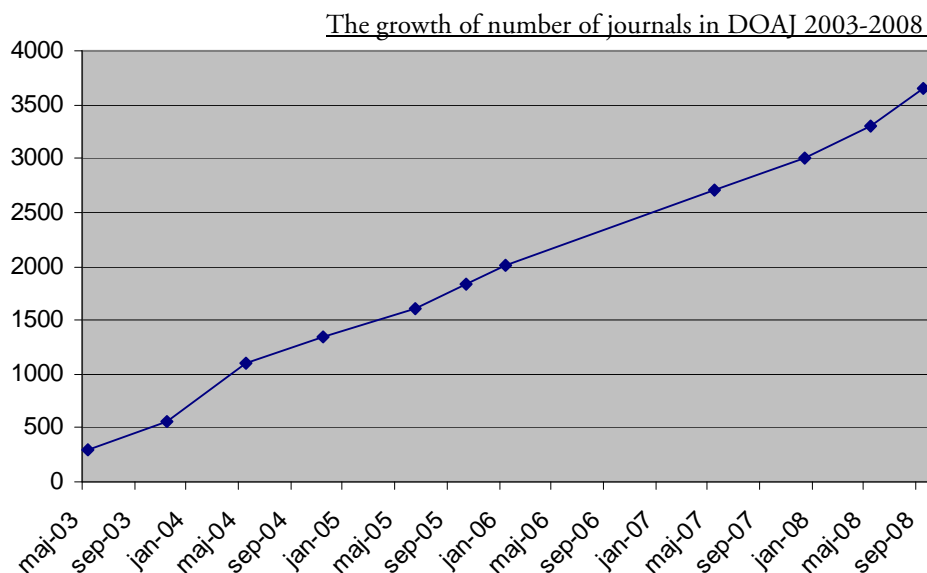
Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) is a service listing scientific, quality controlled, full text open access journals. The aim of the directory is to increase the visibility and ease of use of open access journals and thereby promoting their increased usage and impact.

All scientific subjects and languages are aimed to be covered.

What are the selection criteria for journals to be included in the directory?

To be indexed in DOAJ the journal has to live up to the following criteria:

- be open access according to the BOAI definition, which allows the user to “read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of these articles”
- exercise peer-review or editorial control
- report primary results of research or overviews of research results to a scholarly community
- have an ongoing publication (publish at least one issue per year)
- no embargo, i.e the online version has to be published simultaneously (or before) the printed version
- all content should be available in full text
- have an ISSN



As shown in the diagram, the average growth has been about 1000 journals per year.

During the years the selection of journals has become more and more strict as the staff has learned from working with selecting journals. Paired with the fact that there is also an ongoing review of the currently included journals, this means that the quality of the Directory has increased since the start and is still increasing.

Membership

DOAJ is hosted by Lund University Libraries, Head Office in Lund, Sweden but is externally funded by sponsors and members. In February 2007, a membership program was launched in order to create a sustainable financial foundation for the continuing development and operation of DOAJ. As of November 2008 DOAJ has around 60 libraries, 10 library consortia, 3 aggregators and a number of individuals as members. We are happy for that but we still need more support. Reads more about membership at:

<http://www.doaj.org/doaj?func=membership>.

Where DOAJ is now

- about 40 languages are represented
- journals from 80 different countries
- members from all over the world
- an authority in the Open Access community
- numbers are growing every day (see below)
- service for authors to find journals to publish in OA

On the DOAJ site you are able to see, in more detail, which countries have journals included in DOAJ, how many journals and what the titles of these journals are. Based on year this is presented in two lists, showing:

- which journals have been included during a specific year and when (the date)
- the total number of journals included so far from a specific country

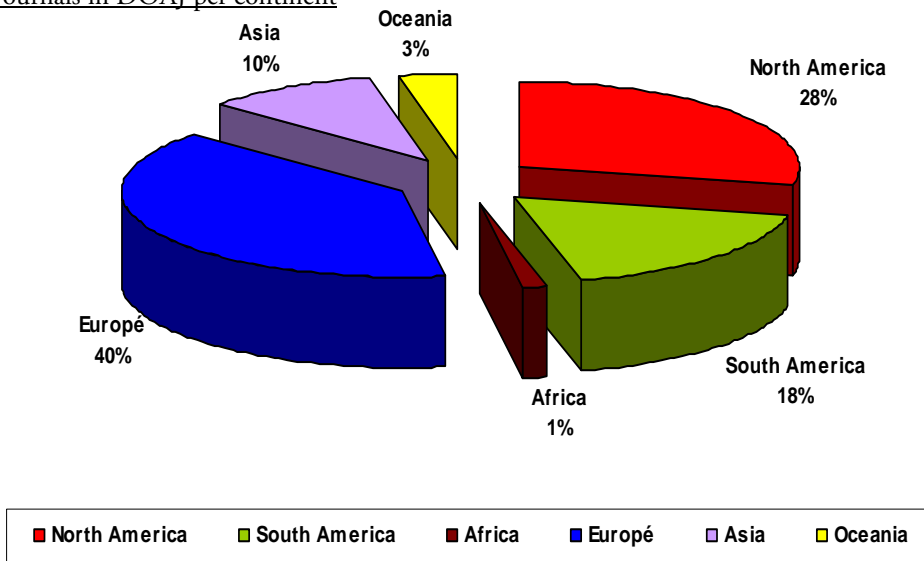
To see the presentation, please visit:

<http://www.doaj.org/doaj?func=byCountry>

Included in many other services

A number of big aggregators and service providers like EBSCO, Proquest and Ovid are continuously harvesting the content of DOAJ. Recently SUNCAT (Serials Union CATalogue for the UK research community) included the entire DOAJ in their listing alongside the subscription journals of the participating libraries. The journals in DOAJ are also automatically included in the ELIN@lund service, which is the electronic resources catalogue for Lund University. Apart from these big aggregators, DOAJ journals are also included in hundreds, possibly thousands, of library catalogues around the world thanks to the OAI metadata harvesting protocol, which enables libraries and other services, like the ones mentioned above, to harvest and include journal metadata from DOAJ. This is of course also part of the mission of DOAJ and its founders, to disseminate open access journals to the widest possible audience.

Journals in DOAJ per continent



Open Access Journals are published all over the world.

SPARC Europe Seal for Open Access Journals

In a mutual project to give open access journals a Seal if they live up to a set of standards, SPARC Europe and Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) launched SPARC Europe Seal for Open Access Journals in April 2008.

The idea behind the Seal is to promote clear licensing of the content of the open access journals in DOAJ and also to encourage journals to provide DOAJ with metadata on article level. The Seal is rewarded to journals which have chosen the Creative Commons Attributions license and make that visible in DOAJ, and that also upload metadata on article level to DOAJ, from the start year of the journal in DOAJ until the present. So far 327 journals have earned the Seal and a total of 450 journals have chosen a CC license. We are pleased with the results, but are of course hoping that the numbers will increase further. We are hoping to be able to soon have a counter at the DOAJ web site, showing the current number of journals that have earned the Seal. A positive, but maybe not anticipated, outcome of the Seal has been the awakening of many journals when it comes to copyright and licensing, something we have noticed also through the feedback we have received since the launch.

If you want to learn more about the Seal, please visit: <http://www.doaj.org/doaj?func=loadTempl&templ=faq#seal>



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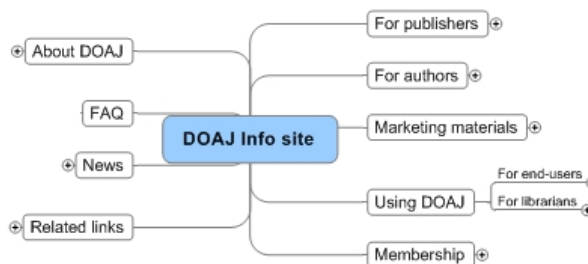


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Future developments

There are a number of plans, projects and development activities to come, e.g.

- DOAJ Info site – a publicly accessible information site covering all about DOAJ, how to start an OA journal, how to publish in OA, development plans etc.



- Work to increase the growth rate of the directory.
- Usage statistic functionality to be developed - there is frequently feedback asking for this kind of service so we are well aware of the demand. However, deciding what statistics to provide, and how to present them are not easy tasks and also time consuming.

Stay tuned for more information