

Chapter 10

Open Access Literature Productivity of Library and Information Science: A DOAJ Perspective

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ABSTRACT

DOAJ is an online directory that indexes and provides access to quality open access, peer-reviewed journals. This chapter shows that open Access literature productivity of Library and Information Science in DOAJ perspective. Totally in DOAJ 124 journals in general library science i.e. 56.12%. In the subject digital library there are 17 journals which is in the second position i.e. 11.80%. There are 3 journals (2.08%) in the subject bibliometrics. There are 40 countries who contributed journals in DOAJ in library science subject. USA is the top most country with 37 (25.69%) journals published. Second position is for Spain with 13 (9.039%) journals. Third and fourth positions are for Brazil, United Kingdom and India with 13 (9.03%), 6(4.17) and 6 (4.17%) journals respectively. For the countries like China, Germany and Canada there are 5 (3.47%) journals at their credit. The study shows that out of the 144 journals, 51 journals are having both print and electronic versions, while 93 journals are having only the electronic versions. The study also shows that academic institutions are the major contributors to OA in DOAJ in library science and second position is owned by commercial. The societies contribute about 7 journals. Many R & D organizations and Institutes are contributing to OA journals. Here 15 journals are contributed by other Organizations. The government organizations are contributing 5 journals which are less compared to others.

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INTRODUCTION

Shifting from ink on paper to digital text suddenly allows us to make perfect copies of our work. Shifting from isolated computers to a globe-spanning network of connected computers suddenly allows us to share perfect copies of our work with a worldwide audience at essentially no cost. About thirty years ago this kind of free global sharing became something new under the sun. Before that, it would have sounded like a quixotic dream. Digital technologies have created more than one revolution. Let's call this one the access revolution. Why don't more authors take advantage of the access revolution to reach more readers? The answer is pretty clear. Authors who share their works in this way aren't selling them, and even authors with purposes higher than money depend on sales to make a living. Or at least they appreciate sales. Let's sharpen the question, then, by putting to one side authors who want to sell their work. We can even acknowledge that we're putting aside the vast majority of authors.

Imagine a tribe of authors who write serious and useful work, and who follow a centuries-old custom of giving it away without charge. I don't mean a group of rich authors who don't need money. I mean a group of authors defined by their topics, genres, purposes, incentives, and institutional circumstances, not by their wealth. In fact, very few are wealthy. For now, it doesn't matter who these authors are, how rare they are, what they write, or why they follow this peculiar custom. It's enough to know that their employers pay them salaries, freeing them to give away their work, that they write for impact rather than money, and that they score career points when they make the kind of impact they hoped to make. Suppose that selling their work would actually harm their interests by shrinking their audience, reducing their impact, and distorting their professional goals by steering them toward popular topics and away from the specialized questions on which they are experts.

These lucky authors are scholars, and the works they customarily write and publish without payment are peer reviewed articles in scholarly journals. Open access is the name of the revolutionary kind of access these authors, unencumbered by a motive of financial gain, are free to provide to their readers.

Open access (OA) literature is digital, online, free of charge, and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions. We could call it "barrier-free" access, but that would emphasize the negative rather than the positive. In any case, we can be more specific about which access barriers OA removes.

WHAT IS OSS?

Open source is a software development model as well as a software distribution model. In this model the source code of programs is made freely available with the software itself so that anyone can see, change, and distribute it provided they abide by the accompanying license. In this sense, Open Source is similar to peer review, which is used to strengthen the progress of scholarly communication. The open source software differs from the closed source or proprietary software which may only be obtained by some form of payment, either by purchase or by leasing. The primary difference between the two is the freedom to modify the software.

An open system is a design philosophy antithetical to solutions designed to be proprietary. The idea behind it is that institutions, such as libraries, can build a combination of components and deliver services that include several vendors' offerings. Thus, for instance, a library might use an integrated library system from one of the major vendors in combination with an open source product developed by another library or by itself in order to better meet its internal or users' requirements.

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