

Open Access Scholarly E-Journals in DOAJ

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Abstract

Purpose of this study is to evaluate and provide a comprehensive view towards open access e-journals available in DOAJ. Directory of Open Access Journals is a service that provides access to quality controlled Open Access Journals. DOAJ is an effective source of information for the present day. This paper is an effort as a reference tool to guide for scholarly community, students, researchers, scholars about open access full text, quality controlled scientific and scholarly journals available in DOAJ in the disciplines of Medical Sciences, Basic Sciences, Technology, Social Sciences etc.

Keywords: E-Resources; E-Journals; Free E-Resources; Open Access E-Journals.

INTRODUCTION

The emergence of electronic resources has drastically revamped the status of all the libraries and information centers across the world during the last decade (Grogg, Jill E).¹ Open Access is an innovative way of providing unrestricted online access to articles published in scholarly journals. Open Access (OA) journals are freely available online. The Budapest Open Access Initiative (2002) defines that “By “open access” to this literature, we mean its’ free availability on the public Internet, permitting any user to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of these articles, crawl them for indexing, pass them as data to software, or use them for any

other lawful purpose, without financial, legal, or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the internet itself. The only constraint on reproduction and distribution, and the only role for copyright in this domain, should be to give authors control over the integrity of their work and the right to be properly acknowledged and cited. The coming of the www has propelled this vigorous growth of the E-Resources. The way of scholarly communication and information dissemination throughout the world has totally altered. Open Access online information sources and service can be access on internet without paying any subscription charges to the publishers and users do not need to have any membership in the organization. DOAJ aims to be comprehensive and cover all open access scientific and scholarly journals that use an appropriate quality control system.

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DIRECTORY OF OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS

DOAJ (Directory of open access Journals www.doaj.org) is a website that hosts a community-curated list of open access journals, maintained by

Infrastructure Services for Open Access. The idea for the DOAJ came out of discussions at the first Nordic Conference on Scholarly Communication in 2002. Lund University became the organization to set up and maintain the DOAJ. It was launched in 2003 with 300 open access journals. It is an online directory that provides high quality open access peer reviewed journals. All DOAJ Journals are free of cost including being indexed and it is not be limited to particular languages or subject areas. Open access journals from all countries and in all languages are accepted for indexing. There are now 17576 journals, 12256 Journals without APCs (Article Processing Charges) in the directory. 130 countries represented in 80 languages. As of today 7439766 articles are included in the DOAJ service. DOAJ is an independent, non-profit organization managed by Infrastructure Services for Open Access C.I.C. (IS4OA), a community interest company registered in the United Kingdom and with a branch in Denmark.

Objectives:

- To spread awareness about scholarly open access journals available in DOAJ
- To assess the subject category of journal in DOAJ
- To provide information about usage pattern of DOAJ for users
- To draw attention towards benefits of journals indexed in DOAJ
- To provide suggestions for vital usage of Scholarly Journals available in DOAJ

DOAJ Subject Converge

All scientific and scholarly subjects are covered. Today DOAJ is covering almost all areas of science, technology, medicine, social sciences, arts and humanities. Scientific and scholarly periodicals that publish research or review papers are found in full text and open access.

Use of DOAJ Database

DOAJ is librarians, publishers, researchers, students, journal owners and everyone. Impartiality plays a huge role in the progress that DOAJ has made over the last 5 years and the DOAJ Team works hard to ensure that impartiality is foremost in everything we do. This is one of the reasons that DOAJ adheres to, and encourages other to adhere to transparency, best practice and standards.

- **Signing up and logging in:** Only publishers

and volunteers need to have an account; therefore, there is no need for normal users to log in to use the system.

- **Searching journals or articles in DOAJ:** The DOAJ search screen is highly functional, well organized and it provides the search results by sorting and filtering through various search options. Articles and journals can be searched using the various assigned categories. Publishers also often assign their own keywords as well. Articles are searchable by article author or title, ISSN, journal title, abstract, or key words. Full-text is not searchable but is fully accessible. Using logical keywords within the subject category will help you find what you need.
- **Classification and Categorization of Journals:** DOAJ uses the Library of Congress Classification system. DOAJ's editorial team classifies each journal and metadata, which then appears in the subject categories and sub-categories.
- **DOAJ License:** DOAJ has a strong preference for the use of Creative Commons Licenses, especially the least restrictive one: the Creative Commons CC-BY License (Attribution). DOAJ allows publishers to supply license information at the journal level. Licensing a journal with a Creative Commons (CC) License is an optimum way of showing exactly the type of attribution of journal in Open Access. Such licensing is very beneficial for authors as it reflects clearly limitations exist in creating the derivative works.

BENEFITS TO SCHOLARLY JOURNALS INDEXED IN DOAJ

DOAJ is the most important community-driven, open access service in the world and has a reputation for advocating best practices and standards in open access. By indexing your journal in DOAJ, its reputation and prominence will be enhanced. DOAJ metadata is free for anyone to collect and use, which means it is easily incorporated into search engines and discovery services. Indexing your journal in DOAJ is likely to increase traffic to your website and give greater exposure to your published content. DOAJ Database includes more open access journals from a diverse list of countries than any of the other major indexing services. Information about the journals is seen around the

world.

Suggestions

- The LIS professionals have to create more awareness of open access-journals available in DOAJ. Libraries webpage should provide links E-Journals available in DOAJ to its users and users should be informed regularly about these scholarly E-Journals.
- DOAJ indexes and promotes quality, peer-reviewed open access journals from around the world. We see open access as the only truly sustainable model for the future of scholarly publishing. DOAJ strives to achieve an equitable global transition to open access by raising the reputation and visibility of peer-reviewed open access journals from any country or discipline.
- In most of the developing countries especially like India where most of the research and academic institutions do not have adequate budget to subscribe to most of the journals in any field of knowledge, the visibility and accessibility of open access journals will certainly and potentially benefit the entire scholarly community.

CONCLUSION

DOAJ is an authoritative choice for the scholarly community in need of immediate access to peer-reviewed articles. The number of scholarly journals in DOAJ has been increasing over the years and

taken momentum in countries like Brazil, UK, USA, Egypt, Spain, Indonesia, Poland, Germany, and India. There has been a rapid urge of the user community to get more and more Information Online. Academic libraries facing shrinking budgets and trying to acquire quality Information Resources in the most efficient and effective means possible. This coupled with the positive attitudes. Open Access E-Journals are available in DOAJ with accepted standards for users. DOAJ provide most high profile and heavily used Open Access E-Resources in the entire subjects.

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