

Towards a transparent and open scholarly communication system

Presentation at the Conference “Scientific
Publications in the Scientometric Assessment
System”, Warsaw, May 14th 2015

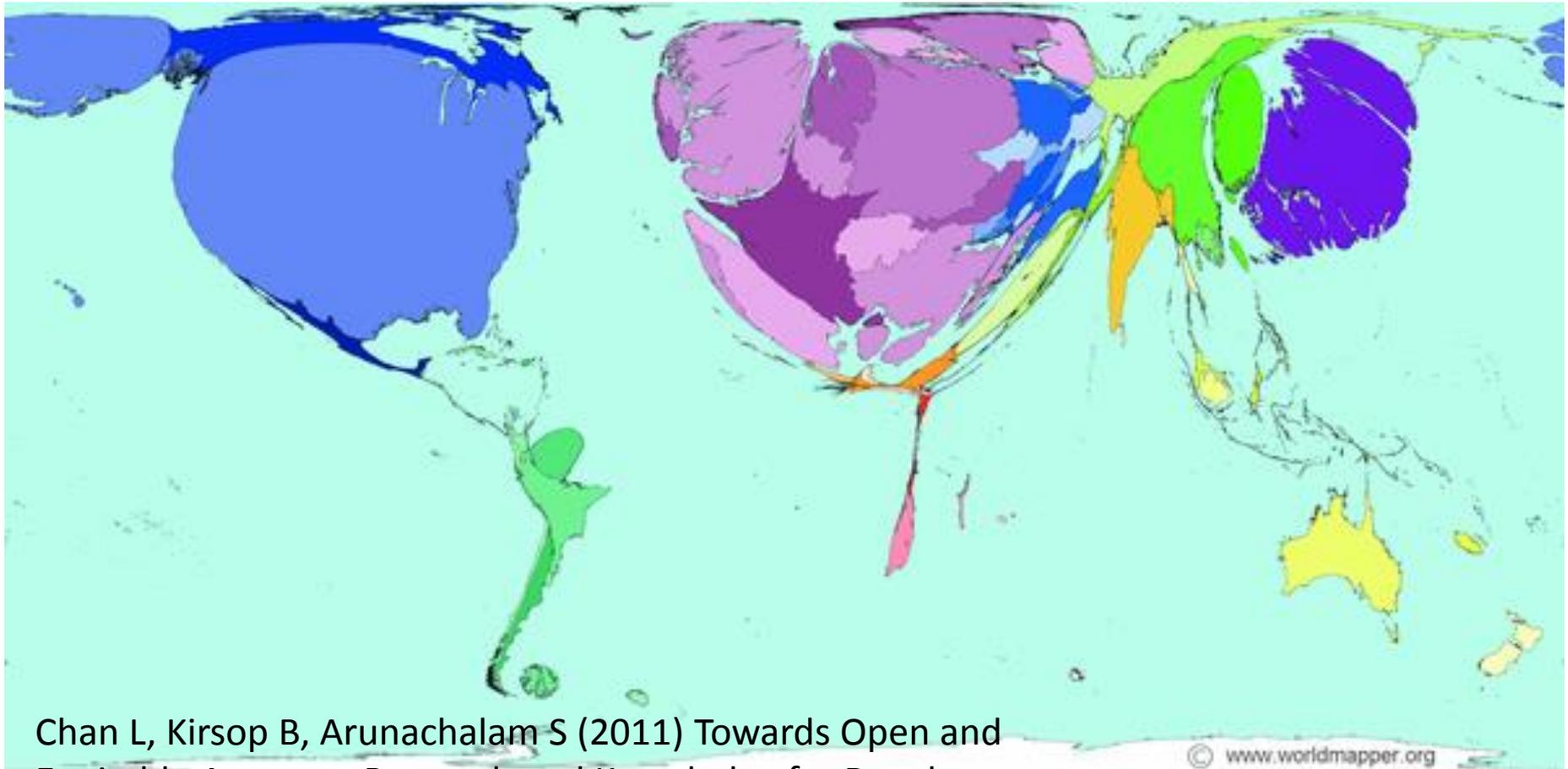
Lars Bjørnshauge

lars@doaj.org

Science – a global enterprise!



.. Or is it really??



Chan L, Kirsop B, Arunachalam S (2011) Towards Open and Equitable Access to Research and Knowledge for Development. PLoS Med 8(3): e1001016. doi:10.1371/journal.pmed.1001016 <http://127.0.0.1:8081/plosmedicine/article?id=info:doi/10.1371/journal.pmed.1001016>

Changes are coming!

- The journey towards “open” is inevitable!
- What should give “points” in the new environment:
- Share your work/publications
- Allow widest possible reuse
- Curate and share your data and software
- This is responsible researcher behavior!

Quality & Prestige

Quality is often understood to mean prestige

But

Quality is something separate from prestige

A journal can be of high quality without being prestigious (as it is traditionally measured)

Good news for new or small journals because while prestige takes a long time to achieve, quality can be achieved immediately.

We need to redefine what we mean by quality

(credits to Caroline Sutton)

Quality & Prestige

Publishers provide a service to authors
Part of that service is to do what they can, so
the work can achieve its fullest impact.

What is impact then?

How can it be measured?

(credits to Caroline Sutton)

Quality & Prestige

- **Impact** begins with dissemination and discoverability.
- Publisher services:
 - Indexing, persistent identifiers, metadata provision, archiving, marketing etc.
- **Measuring** impact:
 - Usage statistics, citations, media coverage, social media coverage, storytelling about application of the work, marketing etc.
- **The digital environment has changed what can be measured and this ought to have implications for our understanding of impact**

Quality & Prestige

Reach and impact are related to the quality of the journal.

But maybe not in the way that we traditionally have thought about this

Achieving prestige, impact and reach begins with assuring quality

(credits to Caroline Sutton)

Open Access, then...

- The promises of open access
- OA can:
- remove access barriers
- reduce participation barriers
- create a truly global scholarly communication system
- reduce the total costs
- increase the impact of research on research, societies and the people!

- This is not to say that OA is problem free:
- Many (OA-)journals do not live up to reasonable
 - editorial standards
 - technical standards
 - ethical standards
- Many (OA) journals are underperforming in terms the service they provide to their authors
- Some business models can exclude some researchers.

October 2013

NEWS

Who's Afraid of Peer Review?

John Bohannon

Dozens of open-access journals targeted in an elaborate *Science* sting accepted a spoof research article, raising questions about peer-review practices in much of the open-access world.

February 2014

NATURE | NEWS



Publishers withdraw more than 120 gibberish papers

Conference proceedings removed from subscription databases after scientist reveals that they were computer-generated.

- Should be much more transparent regarding
 - The editorial process
 - The peer-review process
 - Rights (reader rights, reuse rights, remixing rights etc.)
 - The **services they provide** to the author, such as
 - Archiving
 - Identifiers
 - Discoverability

- COPE, OASPA, WAME & DOAJ:

Principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing

Introduction

The Committee on Publication Ethics, the Directory of Open Access Journals, the Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association, and the World Association of Medical Editors are scholarly organizations that have seen an increase in the number of membership applications from both legitimate and non-legitimate publishers and journals. Our organizations have collaborated in an effort to identify principles of transparency and best practice that set apart legitimate journals and publishers from non-legitimate ones and to clarify that these principles form part of the criteria on which membership applications will be evaluated.

These criteria are largely derived from those developed by the Directory of Open Access Journals. Note that additional membership criteria may also be used by each of the scholarly organizations. The organizations intend to share information in order to develop lists of legitimate journals and publishers. We do not intend to develop or publish a list of publishers or journals that failed to demonstrate they met the criteria for transparency and best practice.

This is a work in progress and we welcome feedback on the general principles and the specific criteria. Background on the organizations is below.

- <http://oaspa.org/principles-of-transparency-and-best-practice-in-scholarly-publishing/>

The Principles

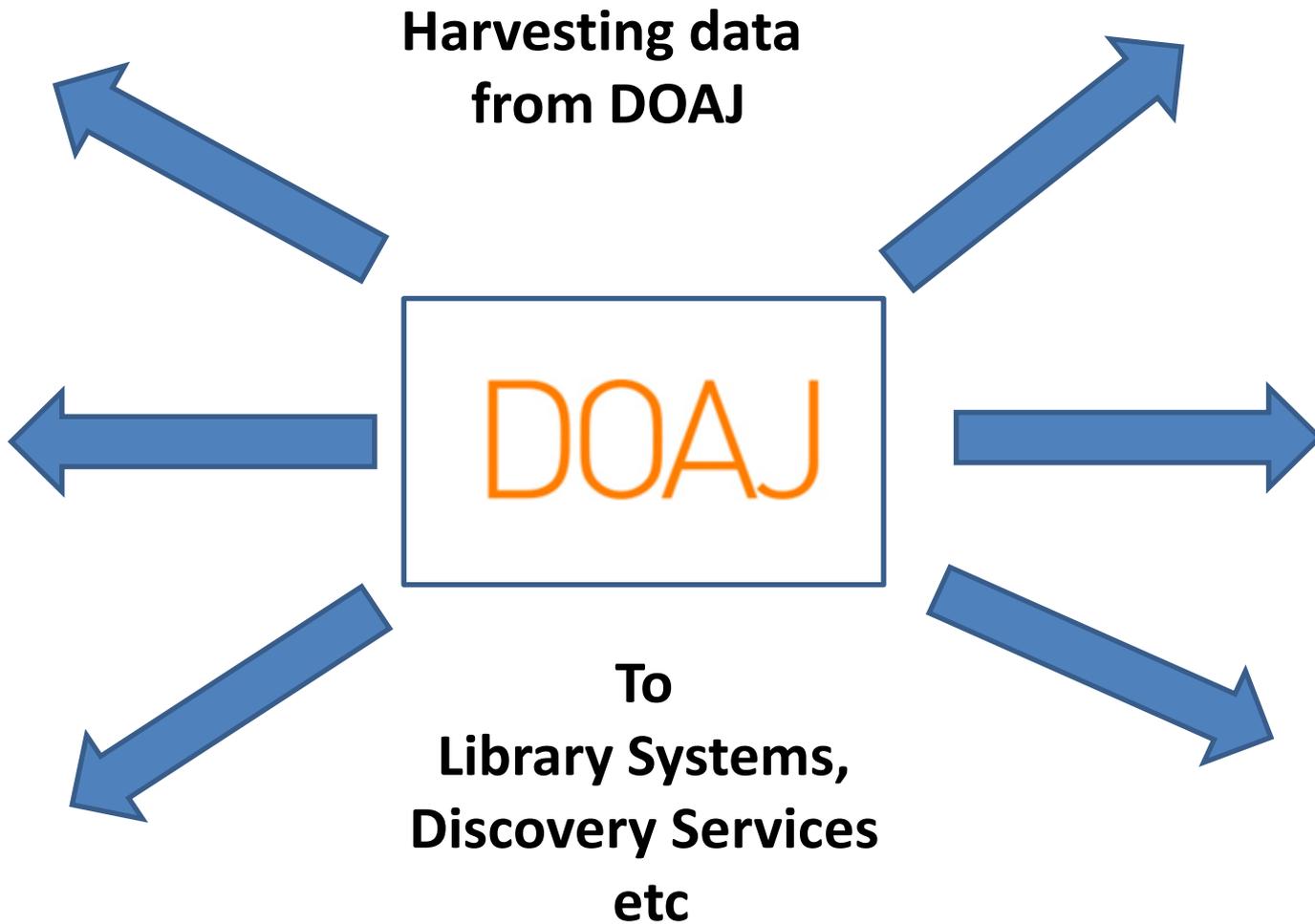
1. **Peer review process**
2. **Governing Body**
3. **Editorial team/contact**
4. **Author fees**
5. **Copyright**
6. **Identification of and dealing with allegations of research misconduct**
7. **Ownership and management**
8. **Web site.**
9. **Name of journal**
10. **Conflicts of interest**
11. **Access**
12. **Revenue sources**
13. **Advertising**
14. **Publishing schedule**
15. **Archiving**
16. **Direct marketing**

- A global list of peer-reviewed Open Access journals – all subjects and languages
 - journals undergo evaluation based on a set of criteria
 - + 10.600 titles
- An aggregation of article level metadata
 - Publishers upload article metadata into DOAJ
 - 60% of the journals do so
 - Currently 1.900.000 records



**Publisher upload
article metadata**





INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES FOR OPEN ACCESS

www.is4oa.org



Founded by
Caroline Sutton,
Alma Swan &
Lars Bjørnshauge



INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES FOR OPEN ACCESS

A not-for-profit Community Interest Company (C.I.C.), registered in the United Kingdom.

- IS4OA took over DOAJ January 1st 2013.
- We said we would:
 - Respond to demands and expectations by **developing new tighter criteria** for inclusion
 - **Reengineer the editorial back office work**
 - **Invite “associate editors”** to contribute to evaluation of journals to be listed

Why tighter criteria?

- To create better opportunities for funders, universities, libraries and authors to **determine** whether a journal lives up to standards – **transparency!**
- Enable the community to **monitor compliance**
- Addressing the issue of **questionable** publishers or publishers not living up to reasonable standards both in terms of **content** and of **business behavior**.

Why tighter criteria?

- To motivate and encourage OA-journals to
 - be more explicit on **editorial quality issues**
 - be more explicit on **rights and reuse issues**
 - **improve their “technical” quality** fostering improved **dissemination and discoverability**
- To promote standards and best practice
- It is all about Good OA-journals!

- Lack of transparency and credibility hurts **all** publishers!

New criteria

- New tighter criteria address:
- **“Quality”**
- **“Openness”**
- **“The delivery” or “Technical quality”**
- They are much more detailed
- Publishers will have to do more to be included
- Criteria will be **binary** (either in or not in!)

- The new application form:
- <http://doaj.org/application/new>

DOAJ Journal Application Form

All the information provided will help our Editorial Team with their assessment, to help them make an informed decision based on the information that you provide.

If you know a journal that should be in DOAJ, please contact the publisher and ask them to complete this form.

BEFORE YOU START, please remember that **all** the content of the journal you are applying about **must** be available **immediately** upon publication.

Basic Journal Information

1) Journal Title *

2) URL *

3) Alternative Title

4) Journal ISSN (print version) *

Only provide the print ISSN if your journal has one, otherwise leave this field blank. Write the ISSN with the hyphen "-" e.g. 1234-4321.

5) Journal ISSN (online version) *

Write the EISSN with the hyphen "-" e.g. 1234-4321.

6) Publisher *

Quality and Transparency of the Editorial Process

34) What is the URL for the Editorial Board page? *

The journal must have either an editor or an editorial board with at least 5 clearly identifiable members and affiliation information. We may ask for affiliation information and email addresses as part of our checks.

35) Please select the review process for papers *

36) Enter the URL where this information can be found *

This field is optional if you have selected "None" above.

37) What is the URL for the journal's Aims & Scope *

Capture a Rectangul

- Archiving is important – too many OA-journals do not have an archiving arrangement

23) What digital archiving policy does the journal use? *

- No policy in place
- LOCKSS
- CLOCKSS
- Portico
- PMC/Europe PMC/PMC Canada
- A national library
- Other

Select all that apply. Institutional archives and publishers' own online archives are not valid

24) Enter the URL where this information can be found *

This field is optional if you have only selected "No policy in place" above

25) Does the journal allow anyone to crawl the full-text of the journal? *

- Yes
- No

- **QUALITY AND TRANSPARENCY OF THE EDITORIAL PROCESS**
- The journal must have an editor or an editorial board, all members must be easily identified
- Specification of the review process
 - Editorial review, Peer review., Blind peer review, Double blind peer review, **Open Peer Review**, Other
- Statements about aims & scope clearly visible
- Instructions to authors shall be available and easily located
- Screening for plagiarism?
- Time from submission to publication

Quality and Transparency of the Editorial Process

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The journal must have either an editor or an editorial board with at least 5 clearly identifiable members including affiliation information and email addresses.

35) Please select the review process for papers *

36) Enter the URL where this information can be found *

This field is optional if you have selected "None" above.

Specify what kind of review process is applied: Editorial review, Peer Review, Blind Peer Review, Double Blind Peer Review, Open Peer Review

Plagiarism etc

- 39) Does the journal have a policy of screening for plagiarism? *

Yes
 No

If "No" proceed to question below

- 40) Enter the URL where this information can be found *

- 41) What is the average number of weeks between submission and publication? *

- Openness, Reuse & Remixing rights, Licensing, Copyrights and Permissions!

How Open is the Journal?

Please remember that **all** the content of the journal you are applying about **must** be available **immediately** upon publication.

42) What is the URL for the journal's Open Access statement? *

Reuse/remix

45) Does the journal allow reuse and remixing of its content, in accordance with a CC license? *

- CC-BY
- CC-BY-NC
- CC-BY-NC-ND
- CC-BY-ND
- CC-BY-SA
- No

Other

For more information go to

<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/>

46) Which of the following does the content require? (Tick all that apply.)

- Attribution
- No Commercial Usage
- No Derivatives
- Share Alike

47) Enter the URL on your site where your license terms are stated

47) Enter the URL on your site
where your license terms are
stated

48) Does the journal allow readers
to 'read, download, copy,
distribute, print, search, or link to
the full texts' of its articles? *

- Yes
 No

From the [Budapest Open Access Initiative's definition of Open Access](#)

Copyright and Permissions

50) Does the journal allow the author(s) to hold the copyright without restrictions? *

Yes

No

Other

51) Enter the URL where this information can be found *

52) Will the journal allow the author(s) to retain publishing rights without restrictions? *

Yes

No

Other

Deposit policy

49) With which deposit policy directory does the journal have a registered deposit policy? *

- None
- Sherpa/Romeo
- Dulcinea
- OAKlist
- Héloïse
- Diadorum
- Other

Select all that apply.

Charges

13) Does the journal have article processing charges (APCs)? *

- Yes
 No

If "No" proceed to question below

14) Amount *

15) Currency *

16) Does the journal have article submission charges? *

- Yes
 No

If "No" proceed to question below

21) Does the journal have a waiver policy (for developing country authors etc)? *

- Yes
 No

22) Enter the URL where this information can be found *

A delicate balance!

- Respecting different publishing cultures and traditions
- Not primarily exclude, but rather facilitate and assist the smaller journals to come into the flow
- **While at the same time** promoting standards, transparency and best practice

Staff and resources

- Managing Director (part time)
- Community Manager (part time)
- 3 Managing Editors (two full time and two part time)
- Yearly income 2014: £ 200.000

Funding

- 100+ University libraries from 26 countries
 - [Bibliothèque Cantonale et Universitaire Lausanne](#), [ETH-Library](#), Novartis
- 16 Library Consortia from 13 Countries
- 30 smaller publishers
- 23 Sponsors (larger (OA) publishers & aggregators)

So!!

- Starting out in 2003 with some 300 journals the DOAJ has developed into an important service with some 10.000 journals.
- The new application form and the fact that **all** journals currently listed have to re-apply to stay listed **multiplies the workload with a factor ten** at least!
- We needed more people to do the editorial evaluations!
- We got 250 applications.

So!!

- We have developed our back office systems, and
- We introduce a **three-tier evaluation** process
- We are now enrolling dozens of associate editors from all over the world to help us.

three-tier evaluation proces



Associate Editors: reviewing applications, communicate with publishers, recommend inclusion/rejection

Editors: allocating applications to Associate Editors, recommend inclusion/rejection

Managing Editors: allocate applications to Editors & decide on inclusion/rejection

Editorial Teams

Current teams

- English (3 teams)
- Spanish (3 teams)
- Portuguese
- Russian
- Turkish
- Chinese
- Indonesian
- Ukranian
- Italian
- Polish
- Farsi
- German
- French
- Arabic (2 teams)
- French
- German
- Hindi
- Korean
- 180 librarians, PhD's, researchers, professors are working unpaid a few hours per week

Organic Photonics and Photovoltaics

2299-3177 (Online)



[Homepage](#)

Publisher: De Gruyter Open

Country of publisher: Poland

Platform/Host/Aggregator: De Gruyter Online

Date added to DOAJ: 14 Apr 2015

LCC Subject Category: Technology: Engineering (General). Civil engineering (General): Applied optics. Photonics

Publisher's keywords: organic materials synthesis, fundamental opto-electronic properties, photonic devices, organic semiconductors and conductors, interfacial materials

Language of fulltext: English

Full-text formats available: PDF

PUBLICATION CHARGES

Article Processing Charges (APCs): [No](#).

Submission Charges: [No](#).

Waiver policy for charges? [No](#).

[Less](#)

EDITORIAL INFORMATION

[Blind peer review](#)

[Editorial Board](#)

[Aims and scope](#)

[Instructions for authors](#)

Time From Submission to Publication: 16 weeks

OPEN ACCESS & LICENSING

Type of License: CC BY-NC-ND

[License terms](#)

[Open Access Statement](#)

Year Open Access Content Began: 2013

Does the author retain copyright? [Yes](#)

Does the author retain publishing rights? [De Gruyter Open allows authors the use of the final published](#)

BEST PRACTICE POLICIES

Permanent article identifier: DOI

Checks for plagiarism: [Yes](#)

Content digitally archived in: [Portico](#)

Deposit policy registered in: [Sherpa/Romeo](#)

Electronically embedded licenses? [Yes](#)

Benefits of being listed!

- Important/extremely important benefits of being listed:
- Increased visibility : 97%
- Increased traffic : 85%
- Prestige : 86%
- Certification : 87%
- Eligibility for support from OA-publication funds: 64%
- Better promotion : 80%
- Increased submissions : 72%

To conclude!

- We believe that the new application criteria will improve the transparency and credibility of OA-journals
- We will continue to contribute to the momentum of open access publishing by
 - carefully promoting **standards, transparency and best practice**
 - without losing the **global** view
 - collaborating
- This will benefit **all** open access publishers!



New Science Europe Principles on Open Access Publisher Services

1. Indexing

Journals have to be listed in standard databases like Directory of Open Access Journals / DOAJ (<http://doaj.org/>), Web of Science (<http://ip-science.thomsonreuters.com/mjl/>), Scopus or PubMed (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nlmcatalog/journals>).¹

Our ambition: DOAJ to be **the**
white list!

and make other lists superfluous –
that is:

if a journal is in the DOAJ it complies
with accepted standards

Thanks to
all the Library Consortia, Universities and Publishers
and our Sponsors for the financial support to DOAJ!



DOAJ DIRECTORY OF OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS

Thank you for your attention!

lars@doaj.org



Want to support the work we
do??

<http://doaj.org/membership>

lars@doaj.org