

Open Access journals:
Promoting best publishing practice and
increasing the dissemination and visibility –
what the Directory of Open Access Journals
(DOAJ) does to help!

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It's all about...

- Changing an unsustainable scholarly communication system in ways that it can **serve science, our societies and the people**
- Bits and pieces of the transformation towards **open**:
 - Open Access Journals (and Monographs)
 - Research funder and institutional policies and mandates
 - Research evaluation and rewards systems

Open Access has got momentum

- **steady growth** can be recorded in the proportion of new research papers being published in open access journals or made freely available via repositories
- more than 10.000 open access **journals**, thousands of **repositories**
- more than thousand institutions and research funders have signed the various **OA declarations**
- hundreds of open access **policies and mandates** in place

- But.....
- OA still is not the default

What is needed is ...

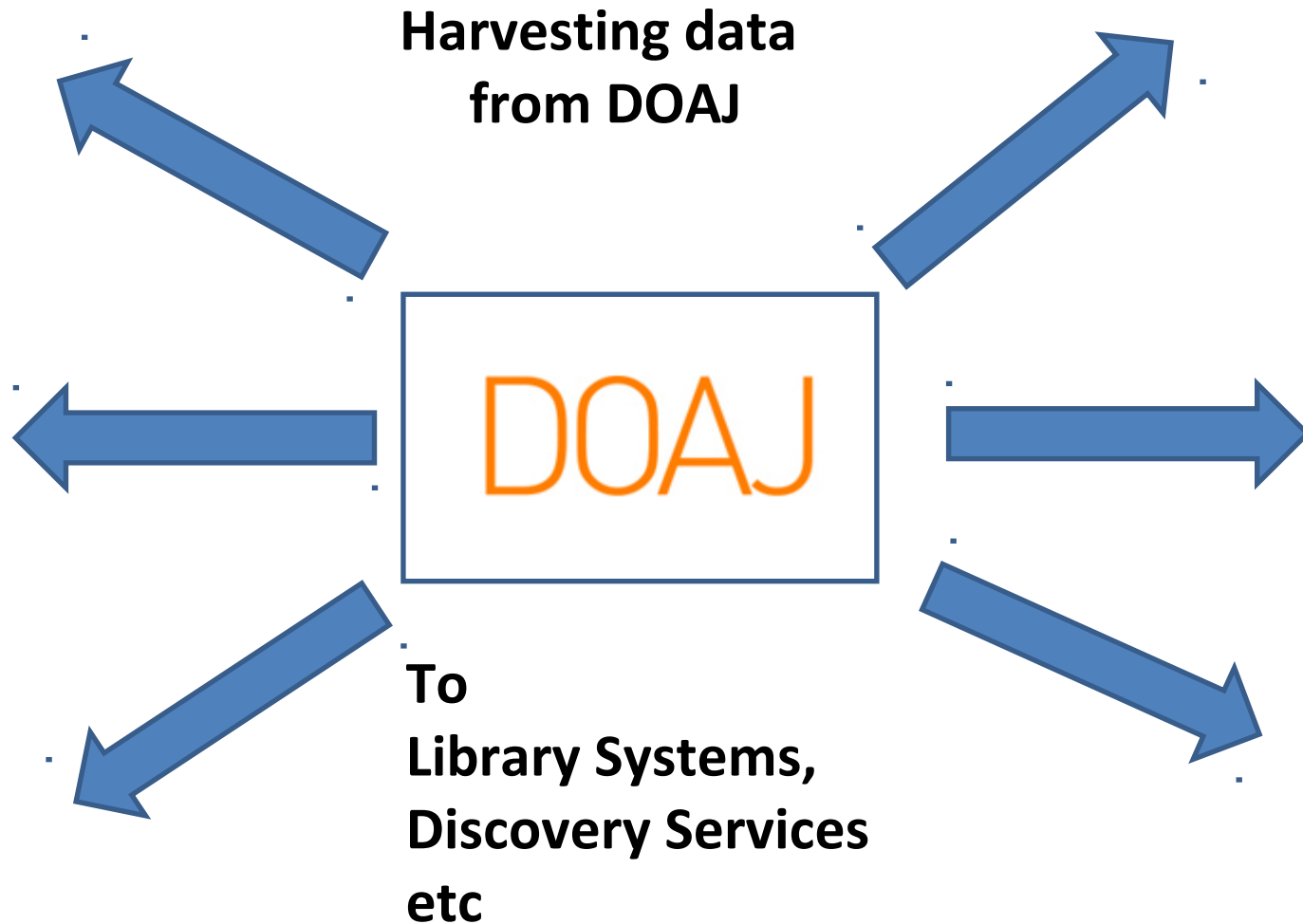
- More and much **stronger** funder and institutional **mandates**
- **Radical changes** in the research **evaluation system** and incentives for researchers to publish in the open!
 - Today researchers are rewarded based on **where** they publish.
 - Not based on **what** they publish and **how** they publish
- Fostering of **competition** in scholarly publishing
- Development of new **attractive publishing channels**
- That's where the **open access journals** comes into the picture.

- 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
 - 64% of the journals do so
 - Currently 2.100.000 records



**Publisher upload
article metadata**





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:
 - 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)

Publishers provide services to authors
Part of those services 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)

- Quality is about the services that the publisher provides to the author
- Elements in quality
 - Editorial "quality"
 - Peer-review process
 - Openness/licensing
 - "Technical quality"
 - "Dissemination" quality

- 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
- Many so-called "publishers" are exploiting the publish and perish pressure on 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

- COPF OASPA WAMEF & 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**

Stronger criteria!

- DOAJ is responding to the demands and expectations by **implementing stronger criteria** for inclusion
 - To create better opportunities for funders, universities, libraries and authors to **determine** whether a journal lives up to standards – **transparency!**
 - To enable the community to **monitor compliance**
 - To address 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:
- **“Editorial Quality”**
- **“Openness”**
- **“Technical quality”**
- **“Dissemination 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	Quality and Transparency of the Editorial Process
1) Journal Title *	34) What is the URL for the Editorial Board page? *
2) URL *	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.
3) Alternative Title	35) Please select the review process for papers *
4) Journal ISSN (print version) *	36) Enter the URL where this information can be found *
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.	This field is optional if you have selected "None" above.
5) Journal ISSN (online version) *	37) What is the URL for the journal's Aims & Scope *
Write the EISSN with the hyphen "-" e.g. 1234-4321.	Capture a Rectangul...
6) Publisher *	

We are asking about...

- The editorial board
- The peer review process
- Archiving/preservation
- Plagiarism
- Openness
 - Licensing and copyright
 - Re-use rights
- Charges
- ... and much more

And we check it...

- Current staff:
 - Managing Director (part time)
 - Community Manager (part time)
 - Editor-in-chief
 - two Managing Editors (part time)
 - 100+ Volunteers, working unpaid a few hours per week
- Now adding two part-time paid publication specialists!

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

Transparency!

- Much more detailed information about the journals

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](#)

- Much more detailed information about the journals
- DOAJ SEAL for best practice in OA publishing
- Publicly available lists of:
 - Recently added journals
 - Recently removed journals
 - Journals who say they are indexed in DOAJ but are not

- Recent technical developments:
 - OAI-PMH
 - API
 - CSV-file
 - ATOM feed of new journals added
 - DOAJ SEAL
- Underway
 - Metadata harvester

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
- We want to help publishers do a better job!

Funding

- 120+ University libraries from 26 countries
- 16 Library Consortia from 13 Countries
- 30 smaller publishers
- 28 Sponsors (larger (OA)) publishers & aggregators)

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!

- The new application criteria have improved 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

DOAJ DIRECTORY OF OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS

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 the opportunity and for your attention

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Want to support the work we
do??

<http://doaj.org/membership>

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