

# Open Access Journals an Advanced modes of Publishing Research: How much Social Science subjects have adopted

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## ABSTRACT

Internet has activated the progress of scholarly publications process in every discipline or subject field which caused continuous development in the scholarly arcade. Open Access (OA), the product of Internet has also captured the global disciplines. The field of Social Science, is also perceiving an intense growth in the open access mode of publishing. The present study measures quantitatively the current position and growth of open access archives, at the first stage it gives a quantitative overview of open access archives published from different developing and developed countries in different subject fields. Further it discovers the status of open access journal titles in the field of Social Science. The study comprehensively highlights different features of open access titles in Social Science subject field. Open access journals indexed in Scopus database are being surveyed for this study. The study is based on the data collected from the Scopus database upto Oct 2017, which shows that the total number of journals indexed are 36832 in which 64% of journals are active and about 36% are in-active.

**Keywords:** *Open Access Scholarly Publishing-Developed Nations; Open Access journals; Open Access-USA; Open Access-UK; Scopus Indexing Open Access Journals*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Internet is continuously making diverse changes in every facet of our humanity, it keeps reshaping the whole process of scholarly communication cycle in numerous ways. Open Access movement is one of the recent revolution in scholarly communication process, which encourages access to all scholarly information free of cost, without any access barrier and copyright restriction over the Internet.

Open Access are transforming the processes and institutions of research, knowledge creation and dissemination globally: enabling new forms of collaboration, allowing researchers to be seen and heard in new ways and reshaping

relationships between stakeholders across the global academic publishing system. Open access to scholarly information has been a hot topic for debate among scholarly community over the last few years. Work published in Open Access mode might be seen, read & used by everyone who is interested, thus allowing academic research to have a greater impact on the world. Open access Journals exist at a promising platform all across the globe.

Universities and Colleges throughout the Globe are appreciating the obligation on the part of organizing their education, research and resources in an operational approach. OA publishing like Institutional Repositories (IR) and OA Journals are the premium technique through which the institutional research outcomes will be available to the entire world, irrespective of cast, colour, creed and religion. OA publishing mode is having the ability to maximize the visibility, accessibility, impact, of the research output throughout globe which results in permitting and inspiring interdisciplinary style of research. It is because of those diverse benefits of OA publishing, numerous institutions are evolving in developing their own OA Journals and institutional repositories.

Numerous librarians around the world are voiced and dynamic supporters of OA and consider it as capacities to eliminate the problem of serial crises with the help of providing the scholarly information without any cost and copyright restriction. Open access is also considered to be the future of educational institution' library interactions all over the globe. Increasing rate of contributors in the form of academic libraries in open access publishing mode not only has transformed the mode of traditional scholarly communication process and fetched a price free process of communication of academic research output, at the same time OA, also endures to influence on the services, products, role and collections development technology of academic libraries. Several OA promoters consider that national support will play a very important role in reacting to OA commands from organisational funders.

## **II. LITERATURE REVIEW**

Open access to scholarly information is a burning issue in web based education and research nowadays. Open access has become an increasingly important and potentially divisive issue in recent years as journal inflation rates have increased. Not only governmental funding agencies but also learned societies, associations and publishers have taken a step towards open access movement in a right direction. For many librarians and scholars, journal price inflation is itself the central problem and open access is the solution [1].

[2] A study on, 'status of India in publishing Open Access content'. A survey of the open access journals indexed in the Directory of Open access Journals (DOAJ) and the repositories indexed in the Open DOAR were followed for the study. They concluded their study as, there is an essential need for a proper mechanism in order to promote and coordinate open-access publishing systems and to improve awareness for open access in India. Study also shows a growth of 15 fold of the open access journal output within a year by India.

[3] Study gives an overview of the growth and development of institutional repositories in Asia in the field of Library & Information Science with the data from the Open-DOAR database. Researcher found that the growth and diversity of open access repositories in Asia in the field of Library & information Science show that throughout the

world people are trying to disseminate their research work or institutional holdings with the help of Internet to a large group of people. Still, the number is very few.

Institutions across the United States are actively creating institutional repositories (IRs) and an array of field-specific online collections, especially in the biological sciences. The 20 earth and biological scientists interviewed for this article embrace online resources for use in their research, teaching, and creative activities and, although previously unaware of the functions of an IR, unanimously support the development of one at the University of Oklahoma. The ability to share scholarly information across campus and to securely archive data are seen as valuable attributes of an IR [4].

[5] conducted a study on Community Engagement in Indian Open Access Repositories: A Deposit Activity Profile, on the bases of the data retrieved from ROAR (Registry of Open Access Repository) which provides automatic deposit activity of the repositories by taking data from Celestial, an OAI-PMH (Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting) compliant harvesting proxy. The results suggest that only a few repositories are active and the rest being mostly static including the largest repository of IISc (Indian Institute of Science).

[6] Threw light on the growth and development of open access repositories throughout the world. The study further emphasizes deeply into the Asian contributions and brings to light detailed profiles of Asia. They concluded their study as, OA movement is going to set new standards for information sharing and management. The trend to set up OA repositories worldwide is inevitable and needs to be encouraged as well, particularly in the emerging world like Asia, which has every reason to excel, given the strong ICT background and mushrooming of quality academic and research institutions with high research output

[7] States that although Open Access started with developed countries, it is appealing to developing countries and is spreading throughout the world quickly. Based on a comprehensive literature review, this paper outlines the concept of OA, various OA operational models, and key stakeholders, major OA projects in the developing countries with focused discussions on major issues in OA development in China. In addition, this paper evaluates the similarities and differences of OA development by using the developed countries as best practice benchmark. This paper concludes, that OA was initiated in the developed countries, and now it has become an international movement.

[8] Discussed two components of open access publishing in Indian context. At first instance study focuses on the relevance of open access publishing in developing countries, the potential for open access publishing in India and few current open access initiatives in India. Then second component of study proposes a possible technical model to organize open access publishing in India.

[9] Reveled that open access journals show a promising growth across nations and in different fields. Developing nations are at very initial stage of publishing scholarly journals through open access. India is in a prominent situation with other developing nations in the publishing open access scholarly works.

### III. OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the study were to:

1. Determine the total indexed open access resources of Scopus.
2. Discover Subject wise contribution of Open Access Journals according to Active and In-Active Journals.
3. Determine the total no. of Open Access Journals available in Social Science
4. Ascertain Open Access Journals in Social Science subject through different parameters like sub-subject, status, language, rank and source type

### IV. METHODOLOGY

A systematic method for characterizing the open access titles in the field of Social Science was carried out by extracting the data from an online survey. Where the list of Scopus indexing open access journals were collected and then evaluated through different parameters by using MS Excel spread sheet software.

### V. SCOPE OF STUDY

The study was conducted and restricted to the Open Access archives, with full, immediate, free access to users, including Journals, Trade Journals, and Book Series indexed by Scopus upto Oct 2017. Study also encompasses the various features like status, language, rank etc.

### VI. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

**Table I: open access journals of scopus**

<b>Total no of Journals = 36832</b>	
Active = 23507	In-active = 13325

\*Source- Scopus

Table I, reveals the total no of open access journals indexed by Scopus submitted throughout the globe, in which 63.88% of journals are active updating in regular interval of time. While as about 36.22% of journals are inactive or have been ceased to publish.

**Table II: top 10 contributing countries**

S. No.	Name of Country	No. of Journals	Active Journals	In-Active Journals
1	United States of America	10141	5927	4214
2	United Kingdom	7431	5260	2171

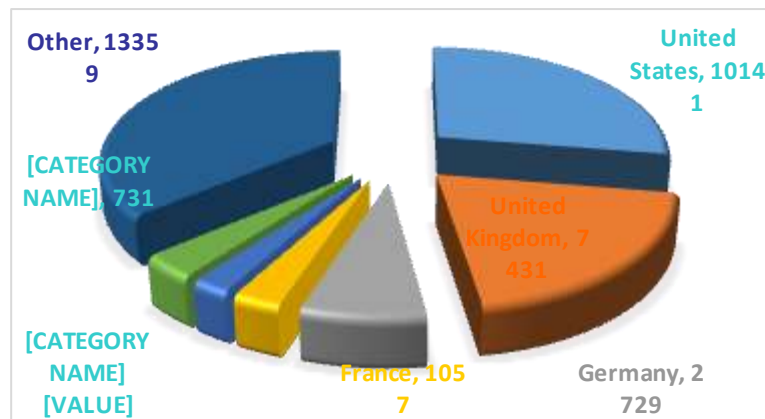
3	Germany	2729	1623	1106
4	France	1057	515	542
5	Italy	857	415	442
6	China	840	584	256
7	Switzerland	799	433	366
8	Japan	761	419	342
9	Spain	692	479	213
10	India	593	375	218

In Table II, top 10 countries which are publishing their research output in open access mode and are indexed by Scopus is represented. USA is leading at the top by contributing 10141 journals (28%) of total no of journals indexed by Scopus, followed by UK by contributing 7431 journals (20%) of total no of journals indexed by Scopus, while as no country of SAARC nations other than India is categorized under top 10 country list, in fact India is still at the last number. While accessing the journals as active and inactive type only 51% of total no of journals published by USA are active and 49% are in-active and about 71% of total number of journals published by UK are active and 29% are in-active. On the other extreme 52% of total no. of journals published by Italy are in-active while as only 48% of Journals are active. Same is the case with the France, only 48% of journals are active while as; 52% of journals are in-active.

**Table III: Top 10 actively contributing countries to open access**

S. No.	Name of Country	Active Journals
1	United States of America	5927
2	United Kingdom	5260
3	Germany	1623
4	China	584
5	France	515
6	Spain	479
7	Switzerland	433
8	Japan	419
9	Italy	415
10	India	375

Access Table III shows the top ten Countries which are having the highest no. of active journals indexed in Scopus. USA is leading at the top followed by UK, India is still at the last. While as some changes have been occurred in positions in comparison to the table II and table III with some countries like France was on the 4th position, in this table that came on 5th place, same is the case with Italy was on 5th position and now that is on 9th position while as China was on 6th place but now that is on 4th place



**Fig. 1.1: Country wise percentage of contribution of journals into Scopus**

Fig. 1.1 drafts the comparison between US & UK with the other countries of world with reference to the percentage of contribution of open access journals into Scopus to the total no of open access journals indexed in Scopus. Hence it shows that about 28% of Journals are published by USA and about 21% of Journals are from UK and about 13% of journals are from three next top countries like Germany, France & China and only 02% of journals are form SAARC Nations rest 36% are from other countries of the world

**Table IV: Top Five Contributed Subjects**

S. No	Subject	No. of Journals	Active Journals	In-Active Journals
1	Health Sciences	13712	7133	6579
2	Medical Science	12922	6546	6376
3	Physical Sciences	12114	7441	4673
4	Social Sciences	10905	9044	1861
5	Life Sciences	6708	4601	2107

Table IV, reveals the top level journals in total subjects available or indexed by Scopus, according to the ranking style adopted by the Scopus, where Health Science is at the top followed by Medical Science then by Physical Science with a little gap then by Social Science and then by Life Science. On the other side if we took Active journals into consideration, it is found that Social Science is leading at the top followed by Physical Science then by Health Science with a34 little gap then by Medical Science and then by Life Science.

**Table V: Total no of open access journals in social science**

<b>Total no of Journals = 10905</b>	
Active = 9044	In-active = 1861

Table V, shows the total indexed Open access journals in the field of Social Science is 10905 (29.70% of total no of journals in Scopus). It is also reflected from Table V, that among 10905 OA Journals, 83% are active and 17% are inactive in Social Science subject.

**Table VI: Year Wise Contribution of OA Journals of Social Science**

<b>Years</b>	<b>No. of Journals</b>
1824-1890	07
1891-1920	23
1921-1950	100
1951-1980	894
1981-2000	4529
2001-2017	5352

Journal which were already been published from the year 1824-1980 in social science subject 1024 (9.40%) are available as open access journals in Scopus, while as during 1981-2000 there are 4529 (41.53%) Journals and for the period of 2001-2017 there are 5352 (49.1%) open access journals in the field of Social Science.

**Table VII: Language wise contribution of OA Journals in Social Science subject**

<b>Language</b>	<b>No. of Journals</b>
English	8011
French	995
Germany	889



Italian	520
Polish	350
Other	140

Open access journals publishing in Social Science are available in more than ten languages. 8011(73.47%) of OA Journals of Social Science are available in English language followed by French 995(9.12%) then by Germany 889(8.15%) and so on.

**Table VIII: Source type of Open Access Resources in Social Science**

<i>Source Type</i>	<i>No. of Resources</i>
Journals	10010
Book Series	640
Trade Journals	255

While going through layout of open access sources it was found that Scopus have categorised open access sources of information into three types of layout i.e. Journals, Trade Journals and Book Series.

Open access sources publishing in Social Science are available in both the three layouts in which 10010 (91%) is in the form of Journals, 640 (6.77%) in the form of Book Series and other 255 (2.33%) is in the form of Trade Journals.

**Table VI: Journal Raking Range till 2016**

<i>Raking Type</i>	<i>Ranking</i>
CiteScore	0.000-9.350
SNIP	0.000-9.171
SJR	0.100-9.095

Three styles of journal ranking had been applied on Open access journals of Scopus database these are Scimago Journal Ranking (SJR), Cite Score and Source Normalized Impact per Paper (SNIP).

Journals publishing in Social Science subject field are having high ranking status in the year 2016 of its ranking parameters these are in CiteScore journals are ranked under range (0.000-9.350) while as in SNIP Journals ranking under the range (0.000-9.171) and in SJR OA Journals of Social Science are ranked between range (0.100-9.095)



## **VII. CONCLUSION**

Open Access is achieving reputation day by day. Like in the past revolution in the process of preservation and dissemination of information and knowledge was brought by the invention of paper and Gutenberg printing press, the open access movement, is going to set innovative principles for knowledge management and dissemination. In the implementation part of open access, Library information science authorities must need to perform an active part in developing and managing open access journals and repositories in their respective institutions. Academia, of some of the developing countries is however, under the vigorous involvement of government authorities and publishers, has booked a leading step in this direction. Researchers of these countries realizes the significance of Open Access journals and archives particularly in the increased visibility of information, the higher citation rate of articles, and the potential for knowledge to become usable more quickly.

There are only 731 journals i.e about 02% of total no of open access journals indexed in Scopus. With a limited number of open access Journals, SAARC nations are far behind in publishing the open access journals in comparison to other countries of the globe and there is still a long way to consolidation. But it is also obvious that no country of SAARC nations other than India is categorized under top 10 country list which are leading in the production of the scholarly literature which is open accessed.

As per the interpretation of the data on the availability of OA Journals in the field of Social Science. Study can easily be concluded that, with 10905 (29.70% of total no of journals in Scopus) Open access journals in the field of Social Science is in a projecting situation with respect to other subject fields. Journal which were already been published from the year 1824 in social science subject are available as open access journals in Scopus. Social Science subject is at the Fourth position of top five subject wise contribution of journals even followed by Life science subject. Social science as developing subject field, has an extensive way to go, but the foundation is encouraging and it is expected that the user standpoint may be a contributing factor to the establishment of open access initiatives in the subject field in near future.

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