An evaluative study of Directories of open access Journals with special reference to Social Science Journals

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The cost of scholarly journals has been increasing at a rate faster than the inflation rate for several decades. This chronic inflation is caused by several factors. Each journal title publishes unique research findings and as a result is a unique commodity and as a result cannot be replaced in an academic library collection by another less expensive journal on the same subject as one could with many commodities. The publisher thus has the ability to act as a monopolist. The highest quality journals are often expected and demanded by scholars to include in their institution's library collections. This leads to price inelasticity for these higher quality journals.

An additional problem is a dramatic increase in the volume of research literature and increasing specialization of that research, academic subfields. This includes a growth the number of scholar and increases potential demand for these journals. Currency Exchange rates can serve to increase the unpredictability of serial prices throughout the world. For example, many of the publishers of scientific journals are in Europe and the United States dollar the prices of scholarly journals varying in relation to this fluctuation.

At the same time funds available to purchase journals are often decreasing in real terms. Libraries have seen collections budgets decline in real terms compared to the United States Periodical Price index. As well as other library expenditures such as computers and networking equipment.

During the last few years free online digital information sources like e- journal, e- books, and e- databases have increased considerably. The traditional library systems are going to transform into Digital Library Systems. Digital Library and services through electronic document is the basic & important issue of modern library concept.

WHY OPEN ACCESS

The so-called serials crisis has acted as a catalyst for the development of the OA movement and its spread beyond the scientific sector. The prices of scholarly and research journals has been increasing at a faster rate for several decades. University libraries were forced to cancel subscriptions which considerably reduced access to relevant scientific and scholarly knowledge and information. The untenable multiple subsidization of scientific publications by the public sector was a further catalyst for the OA paradigm. This subsidization is referred to as multiple "because the salaries and the editing work are paid for by the State. In addition, as a rule printing costs are also subsidized by public funders. And finally the publications are bought back by libraries at sometimes astronomical prices so that they can be made available to scholars and scientists in their own institutions" (Mruck, Gradmann & Mey 2004; cf. also Graf 2003). The promotion of OA overcomes these structures by making research results freely available for all to access online.

To contain costs, while maintaining access to the latest scholarly research for their users, libraries are joining in co-operative Consortia purchase model for E-journals. They are canceling subscriptions to the least used or least cost-effective journals and encouraging various schemes for obtaining free access to journals. Open Access is a good alternative of above problems. On the one hand, OA supports the information supply technically because, by facilitating direct access to literature, it saves time, money and effort. On the other hand, the growing number of freely accessible documents means that it is becoming increasingly easy quickly to obtain comprehensive and authentic information on the current state of research. Information, which is made openly accessible online can be located easily and is immediately available to scholars, scientists, students and the interested public. It can be comfortably accessed from any workplace, which has an Internet connection. The fact that these journals are completely digital expedites the editing, reviewing and publishing process.

Open access journals where the reader of a journal or the library at their institution does not need to pay a subscription or pay per view charge to read the articles published in that journal. This free access is achieved through a number of basic models:

1   First, is the publication fee model in which a funding agency, university, or the author(s) of an article pays a publication fee per article to ensure that it will be available to readers free of charge.

2   Second, some open access journals receive institutional subsidies or are grant funded so as to make it unnecessary for the journal to charge publication or subscription fees.

3   Third, publications funded by advertisements. Clearly a solution for high profile journals - though it is unclear whether a scientist would want branding splashed all over their scholarly paper - but not a solution for smaller society journals who could not attract enough advertising to cover costs.

HISTORY OF THE OPEN ACCESS

In 1991, when Paul Ginsparg set up the server ArXiv at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LAN-L) to make physics preprints freely accessible, he laid the foundation stone for the Open Access (OA) movement. Other leading activists and co-founders of the movement include Peter Suber, Research Professor of Philosophy at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana, who is the author of the *Weblog Open Access News* and the *SPARC alliance's Newsletter,* and the Hungarian born cognitive scientist Stevan Harnad, the founder and editor of the Cognitive Sciences Eprint Archive (Cogprints) and the mailing list American-Scientist-Open-Access-Forum, to name but two of his many projects.

In the year 2000, in an open letter circulated via the Internet, the *Public Library of Science* (PLoS) called on scientific publishers to make research reports that appeared in their journals openly accessible in an online public library within six months of the initial publication date. The Budapest Open Access Initiative (BOAI) was launched in the Hungarian capital in December 2001 at a meeting of the Open Society Institute (OSI).

In June 2003 representatives of funding agencies, libraries, publishers and scholarly societies issued the Bethesda Statement on Open Access Publishing. Four months later, at the Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities conference organized by the Max Planck Society, the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities was launched. It has since been signed by representatives of leading European and U.S. research institutes and universities. The signatories pledge to promote the OA paradigm, for example by encouraging researchers to make their findings openly accessible.

DEFINITIONS

The *Budapest Open Access Initiative* defines OA as: 'There are many degrees and kinds of wider and easier access to this literature. By "open access" to this literature, we mean *its free availability on the public internet, permitting any users 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.'

Budapest Open Access Initiative definition agree that OA removes both price and permission barriers. Free online access isn't enough. Permission barriers are more difficult to discuss than price barriers.

1 First, there are many kinds of them, some arising from statute (copyright law), some from contracts (licenses), and some from hardware and software (DRM). They are not like prices, which differ only in magnitude.
2 Second, their details are harder to discover and understand.
3 Third, different users in different times, places, institutions, and situations can face very different permission barriers for the same work.
4 Fourth, authors who deposit their articles in open-access archives bypass permission barriers even if they also publish the same articles in conventional journals protected by copyright, licenses, and DRM.

5   Finally, some rights may be retained by authors without interfering with open access, such as the right to block distribution of a mangled or misattributed copy of the work. So permission barriers do not arise from retaining rights as such but only from retaining some rights rather than others. For all these reasons, the literature on open access is rarely as clear and careful on permission barriers as it is on price barriers.

All definitions of open access say something about bypassing or removing permission barriers, although they use very different language. Journalists who cover open-access issues would do us all a favour if they could describe permission barriers, and the damage they cause, with roughly the same clarity, detail, and fervour they use when describing price barriers.

OPEN ACCESS STRATEGIES

There are two complementary roads to Open Access (OA): the *Golden road* and the *Green road*. A third road, the *Grey road*, is also discussed. There will undoubtedly be many more in the future.

The golden road

The golden road refers to the primary publication of scholarly and scientific articles in Open Access journals. (In principle, it also refers to the OA publication of other original contributions such as monographs, collective volumes etc.) Typically, these texts go through the same quality assurance process – usually peer review – as texts submitted to print journals.

The green road

The green road to OA refers to the self-archiving of digital documents in an openly accessible institutional or subject-based server either in parallel with or after publication in a toll-access journal etc. or retrospectively. Self-archived texts mainly include preprints and postprints. However, archive content also comprises monographs, research reports, conference proceedings etc.

A preprint is the version of the manuscript which the author submits for consideration to a journal etc. In other words, the preprint has not yet been peer-reviewed and recommended for publication. As a rule, the copyright is still held by the author at this stage, so that there are usually no legal barriers to self-archiving preprints.

A postprint is the peer-reviewed version of a manuscript, which has been accepted for publication. Journals and publishers differ considerably with regard to their willingness to allow postprints to be self-archived. Hence legal problems can arise.

A list of OA repositories can be found at *OpenDOAR* and in the Registry of *Open Access Repositories (ROAR).*

The grey road

The term grey literature covers a range of materials, which are not distributed through conventional channels such as publishers and booksellers. The grey road refers to making grey literature openly accessible. In contrast to the golden road and the green road, the grey road entails making documents available online free of charge without the involvement of publishers and journals and it is not accompanied by concomitant or retrospective publication by a publisher or a journal.

If one accepts that there are three strategies, then dissertations deposited usually in institutional repositories can be considered an example of the grey road. The practice of depositing preprints of scientific and scholarly output in subject-specific repositories which dates back to the early days of the Internet can also be considered an example of the grey road. Despite the *print* in *preprint*, a large number of these preprints are never published elsewhere.

OBJECTIVES

Objectives of the study are as follows:

1   To find the Open source Electronic Journals databases in Social Sciences.
2   Rating the Open Source Electronic Journals (Authority, Coverage, Currency etc.)
3   To find the highly accessed Open Source Electronic Journals (in particular branch).
4   To find how the users can get better access to the Open Source Electronic Journals.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

(Antelman 2004) opined that many authors believe that their work has a greater research impact if it is freely available, studies to demonstrate that impact are few. This study looks at articles—to see whether they have a greater impact as measured by citations in the ISI Web of Science database when their authors make them freely available on the Internet. The finding is that, across all four disciplines, freely available articles do have a greater research impact. Shedding light on this category of open access reveals that scholars in diverse disciplines are adopting open-access practices and being rewarded for it.

(Armbruster 2008) states that open access is the superior model for scholarly communication. Open access enjoys a comparative advantage across the science and humanities and it is therefore only logical that functional innovation and structural improvements should be similar in the natural and social sciences. Open access is technologically feasible and economically efficient. It may be expected that public and philanthropic funding will flow in the future only if public visibility and academic impact of the research results can be demonstrated.

(Arunachalam 2008) said that the open access movement, well known in the domain of journal articles, came about because of several reasons. The paper discusses two ways of achieving open access (OA) and argues that sharing knowledge and building partnerships have been recognised as the best and most optimal means of creating and benefiting from knowledge. It focuses on various fronts where OA is making good progress, and also deliberates on issues like OA endeavours in India, OA and sustainable development and what needs to be done in India to promote OA activities.

(Bergman 2006) has reviewed Key elements which have created pressures for change in the scholarly communication system the development and expansion of the Internet and networked technologies, and rapidly increasing journal costs due to consolidation, pricing structures and title aggregating in the commercial journal publishing industry. Effects of these pressures on libraries, citing Bowdoin College as an illustrative case, and examples of OA and affordably priced journal publishing models and OA principles and infrastructure are presented. It is predicted that commercial journals, OA journals and digital repositories will continue to co-exist as information resources for the scholarly community for the foreseeable future.

(Boice 2008) Running scholarly presses as profit centers is becoming increasingly unsustainable, as many are barely able to stay solvent in today's market economy. Under increasing financial pressures university presses are creating a bottleneck for the publishing of scholarly articles, making less of it available more slowly. This paper looks at what it would mean to reconfigure scholarly publishing away from commerce and toward an open access model, and the potential role of libraries within an open access publishing system.

(Ghosh and Das 2007) Open access facilitates the availability and distribution of scholarly communication freely, as a means and effort to solve the problem of inaccessibility, primarily due to financial constraints, particularly in the developing countries. In India there has been a gradual realization of the usefulness of open access among various institutions. Various open access initiatives have been undertaken and are operational. The future of open access in India is dependent upon a proper policy and developing a proper framework. The paper provides an overview about the present state of open access initiatives by various institutions of the country.

OPEN SOURCE ELECTRONIC JOURNALS DATA BASES

Open Access (OA) Journals aim to achieve maximum dissemination of the articles they publish so that as many scientists and scholars as possible can have access to them. By making electronically published research results available free of charge, their visibility and accessibility is increased. This leads to higher citation rates that, in turn, increase the respective journal's impact factor and, thus, its reputation.

Contributions in OA journals are original publications. Before publication they go through a peer-review process. In addition to toll-free access for users, a further advantage of OA journals is the fact that the publication process is usually more cost- effective. Nonetheless, the tasks in the various publication stages in an OA journal cannot be performed free of charge. This means that new business models are called for. An overview of peer-reviewed OA journals can be found in the *Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)*. The Web portal *Journal Info* provides information on all types of journal, including details of reader accessibility and cost as well as quality indicators.

OPEN ACCESS IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

In contrast to its standing in the natural sciences, OA has not played an important role in the social sciences up to now. Peter Weingart, director of the *Institute for Science and Technology Studies (IWT)* at Bielefeld University, suspects that this is due in part to the fact that OA publications are not very well known and that they still lack reputation.

However, 2007 saw the launch in Germany of a subject-based full-text server for the social sciences. The *Social Science Open Access Repository (SSOAR)* is open to all scholars, learned societies and research organizations who conduct research in the social sciences in the broadest sense.

While *SSOAR* mainly targets postprints of journal articles, its content also includes contributions from collective volumes and conference proceedings as well as peer-reviewed research/working reports. Persistent citability and long-term availability is assured for all documents. Moreover, the entire content is findable in other subject-based and inter-disciplinary repositories and via search engines.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study has covered to "Open Source Electronic data bases covering Journals in the all branches of Social Sciences" for detailed analysis and study. Provide list of reliable and widely used Open Source Electronic Journals databases in the field of social science.

Various Electronic Resources are there in the form of Websites, Bibliographic Databases, Electronic Books, Full Text Databases, Electronic Journals, Online Biographical sources, Online Thesaurus, Subject Gateways etc.

General lists of Open Access Journals databases/Directories covered under the study

- Directory of Open Access Journals (http://www.doaj.org)

- Electronic Journals Library (http://rzblx1.uni-regensburg.de/ezeit/index.phtml)

- Journal Info - The service currently covers about 18,000 journals. (http://jinfo.lub.lu.se)

- SearchPigeon - a search engine for English-language OA journals in the humanities and the social sciences. (http://www.searchpigeon.org)

- Open J- Gate- It is an electronic gateway to global journal literature in open access domain. Launched in 2006, Open J-Gate is the contribution of Informatics (India) Ltd to promote OAI. Open J-Gate provides seamless access to 4811 open access journals, with links to full text at Publisher sites. (http://www.openjgate.com/Browse/BySubject.aspx)

COLLECTION & ANALYSIS OF DATA

Basic data related to the objective of the study was collected through Check List. After evaluating the Check List comprehensive table was prepared which proved to very helpful for further analysis. Analysis of the question has been done in the same order as given in the Check List. Separate table were prepared for different aspects, which were further, supported by textual presentation.

Data on awareness about Open Access publications has been collected from the users of institute named Jawahar Lal Nehru University, Delhi. User's checklist filled up by 60 users under my observation and the results have found are following.

1. In your own field, approximately how many Open Access journals are you aware of?

   45.0% users said that they don't know about Open Access journals, and 21.0% users little bit know about Open Access Journals, followed by 16.0% and 10.0% are aware of more than four OA Journals

2. For how many years have you been aware of Open Access publishing?
   I'm not aware of OA publishing….. 45.0%   Less than one year.... 20.0%
   Two years………………….... 15.0%   Three years……….... 12.0%
   More than three years……….....   8.0%

3. Are you aware of any initiatives in your country to promote Open Access publishing? [These may include, for example, grant-awarding bodies, university/ library consortia, national university bodies (such as JISC in the UK), and Government-sponsored bodies]

Only 51.0% users are aware with Open Access publishing initiatives.

4. In the past year has your own institution brought to your attention any Open Access or Institutional Repository publishing initiatives?
Yes……………56.0%   No…………..40.0%   *If so, which one? (Please name)*

56.0% users said yes to take initiatives regarding the Open Access and Institutional repository over the past year.

5. Are you aware about the following OA Journals sites? *(If yes please mark)*
                Yes…………..48.0%   No…………52.0%

48.0% users tick OA Journals sites from given list and some of them suggest some other OA Journals sites.
Thus by the results It is found that there is very less number of users those aware about Open Access publications.

Authority:

Authority is considered as one of the most important criteria for evaluation purpose. Authors and Publisher of the Electronic Journal should be identified. Authority is the organization, which has hosted the site and is responsible for content generation and the analysis of the Authorities is given in the tables below.

1. Are journals peer reviewed and updated frequently?

S No.	Open Access Journals Directory & Databases	Peer reviewed		Frequently updated	
		Yes	No	Yes	No
1.	Directory of Open Access Journals	Yes		Yes	
2.	Electronic Journals Library		No	Yes	
3.	Journal Info		No	Yes	
4.	Open Science Directory	Yes			No
5.	Open J-Gate	Yes		Yes	
6.	WWW Virtual Library	Yes			No
7.	EconPapers	Yes		Yes	
8.	Digital Information in the Information Research Field		No	Yes	
9.	Highwire Press free content	Yes		Yes	

2. Can the author be contacted for clarification?

S No.	Open Access Journals Directory & Databases	Yes	No	S No.	Open Access Journals Directory & Databases	Yes	No
1.	Directory of Open Access Journals	Yes		7.	Open J-Gate	Yes	
2.	Electronic Journals Library	Yes		8.	WWW Virtual Library	Yes	
3.	Journal Info	Yes		9.	EconPapers	Yes	
4.	Highwire Press free content	Yes					
5.	Open Science Directory	Yes					
6.	Digital Information in the Information Research Field	Yes					

3. Does the resource have a reputable organization or expert behind it?

S No.	Open Access Journals Directory & Databases	Yes	No	S No.	Open Access Journals Directory & Databases	Yes	No
1.	Directory of Open Access Journals	Yes		7.	Open J-Gate	Yes	
2.	Electronic Journals Library	Yes		8.	WWW Virtual Library	Yes	
3.	Journal Info	Yes		9.	EconPapers	Yes	
4.	Digital Information in the Information Research Field	Yes					
5.	Open Science Directory	Yes					
6.	Highwire Press free content	Yes					

4. Whether the resources offer comprehensive coverage of the topic? *Rate on a scale from 1-5*

	Comprehensive 1	2	Adequate 3	4	Poor 5

S No.	Open Access Journals Directory & Databases	Rate on a scale	S No.	Open Access Journals Directory & Databases	Rate on a scale from 1-5
1.	Directory of Open Access Journals	1	7.	Open J-Gate	1
2.	Electronic Journals Library	2	8.	WWW Virtual Library	4
3.	Journal Info	2	9.	EconPapers	1

4.	Highwire Press free content	1			
5.	Open Science Directory	1			
6.	Digital Information in the Information Research Field	2			

The above figure revels that most of the Directories of Open Access E- Journals are have Comprehensive coverage in the field of Social sciences as following sub-subjects Geography, History, Anthropology, Political Science, Sociology, Social work, Library science, Economics and Business & Management.

Accessibility and Organization:

1. Whether registration is necessary before accessing the journal?

S No.	Open Access Journals Directory & Databases	Yes	No	S No.	Open Access Journals Directory & Databases	Yes	No
1.	Directory of Open Access Journals		no	7.	Open J-Gate		no
2.	Electronic Journals Library		no	8.	WWW Virtual Library		no
3.	Journal Info	Sometime		9.	EconPapers		no
4.	Highwire Press free content		yes				
5.	Open Science Directory		no				
6.	Digital Information in the Information Research Field	Yes					

The above figure presents that most (70.0%) of the Directories of Open Access E- Journals have registration option but registration is not compulsory for access the journals. 22.0% OA Journals Directories made registration compulsory.

2. Is the resource organized in a logical manner? *Rate on a scale from 1-5*

Very logical		Adequate		Poor
1	2	3	4	5

S No.	Open Access Journals Directory & Databases	Rate on a scale	S No.	Open Access Journals Directory & Databases	Rate on a scale
1.	Directory of Open Access Journals	1	7.	Open J-Gate	1
2.	Electronic Journals Library	2	8.	WWW Virtual Library	3
3.	Journal Info	1	9.	EconPapers	2
4.	Highwire Press free content	2			
5.	Open Science Directory	2			
6.	Digital Information in the Information Research Field	2			

This table shows that most of the Directories of Open Access E- Journals are arrange subjects in a logical order (Subject wise, further within it alphabetically) but few number of the Directories of Open Access E- Journals are not have good arrangement.

3. Can the resource be book-marked?

S No.	Open Access Journals Directory & Databases	Yes	No	S No.	Open Access Journals Directory & Databases	Yes	No
1.	Directory of Open Access Journals		No	7.	Open J-Gate		No
2.	Electronic Journals Library		No	8.	WWW Virtual Library		No
3.	Journal Info	Yes		9.	EconPapers	Yes	
4.	Digital Information in the Information Research Field	no					
5.	Open Science Directory		No				
6.	Highwire Press free content		No				

The above figure presents that most (66.6%) of the Open Access E- Journals Directories are not have Bookmark option, only (33.3%) have this type of facility.

Connectivity:

1. Are the resources regularly accessible and response times within acceptable limits?

S No.	Open Access Journals Directory & Databases	Accessibility		Response times	
		Yes	No	Yes	No
1.	Directory of Open Access Journals	Yes		Yes	
2.	Electronic Journals Library	Yes		Yes	
3.	Journal Info	Yes			No
4.	Digital Information in the Information Research Field	Yes		Yes	
5.	Open Science Directory	Yes			No
6.	Highwire Press free content	Yes			No
7.	Open J-Gate	Yes		Yes	
8.	WWW Virtual Library		No		No
9.	EconPapers	Yes			No

The figure shows that maximum numbers of OA Directory are regularly accessible and have good connectivity to main sources. And 65.0% of Open Access E- Journals Directories are response times within acceptable limits.

Format:

1. Whether resources are hyperlinked properly?

S No.	Open Access Journals Directory & Databases	Yes	No	S No.	Open Access Journals Directory & Databases	Yes	No
1.	Directory of Open Access Journals	Yes		7.	Open J-Gate	Yes	
2.	Electronic Journals Library	Yes		8.	WWW Virtual Library		No
3.	Journal Info		No	9.	EconPapers	Yes	
4.	Digital Information in the Information Research Field	Yes					
5.	Open Science Directory	Yes					
6.	Highwire Press free content	Yes					

The Table presents that 80.0% Open Access Journals Directory hyperlinked properly to given links of OA journals' home page and other links.

2. Is it relatively easy to print the text in one or more of the following formats?
PDF _____ HTML _____ XML _____ Rich Text _____

S No.	Open Access Journals Directory & Databases	Formats	S No.	Open Access Journals Directory & Databases	Formats
1.	Directory of Open Access Journals	PDF, HTML, RTF	7.	Open J-Gate	PDF
2.	Electronic Journals Library	PDF, HTML	8.	WWW Virtual Library	HTML
3.	Journal Info	PDF, HTML	9.	EconPapers	PDF
4.	Highwire Press free content	PDF			
5.	Open Science Directory	PDF,			
6.	Digital Information in the Information Research Field	PDF			

The above figure presents that all of Open Access Journals Directories are publish articles in PDF format as well as HTML; both have print option for easy print the text.

Graphic and multimedia design *(if applicable):*

1. Are the visual effects appropriate?

S No.	Open Access Journals Directory & Databases	Yes	No	S No.	Open Access Journals Directory & Databases	Yes	No
1.	Directory of Open Access Journals		No	7.	Open J-Gate		No
2.	Electronic Journals Library		No	8.	WWW Virtual Library		No
3.	Journal Info		No	9.	EconPapers		No
4.	Digital Information in the Information Research Field		yes				
5.	Open Science Directory		No				
6.	Highwire Press free content		No				

The above figure: 16 shows that 98.0% of all Open Access Journals Directories are not have visual effects, only 2.0% have visual effects/ interactive features.

2. What is the quality of the graphics?
_____ Good _____ Adequate _____ Unacceptable

S No.	Open Access Journals Directory & Databases	Quality	S No.	Open Access Journals Directory & Databases	Quality
1.	Directory of Open Access Journals	Good	7.	Open J-Gate	Good
2.	Electronic Journals Library	Good	8.	WWW Virtual Library	Adequate
3.	Journal Info	Good	9.	EconPapers	Good
4.	Digital Information in the Information Research Field	Good			
5.	Open Science Directory	Adequate			
6.	Highwire Press free content	Good			

Table indicate that most of all Open Access journals Directories have good quality of illustrations (figures and tables), some of O A Journals have Zoom feature illustrations.

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