



DOAJ Introduction and Overview

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AJOL, ASSAf, DOAJ, EIFL, LIBSENSE and UCT initiative for
African journal editors and publishers
Webinar series 2022



Overview

- Introduction to DOAJ
- Why is it important to be indexed in DOAJ?
- Basic criteria for inclusion
- Applying for inclusion in DOAJ
- The application and review process
- Common reasons for rejection
- Help available

Introduction to DOAJ



About DOAJ - Directory of Open Access Journals

- Founded in 2003 to support the growing global OA community
- Independent, not-for-profit service
- Aim to raise profile, visibility and impact of OA journals
- Standards that journals must meet for inclusion
- Services provided completely **free of charge**

Worldwide coverage

17,432

JOURNALS

12,281

JOURNALS WITHOUT APCs

130

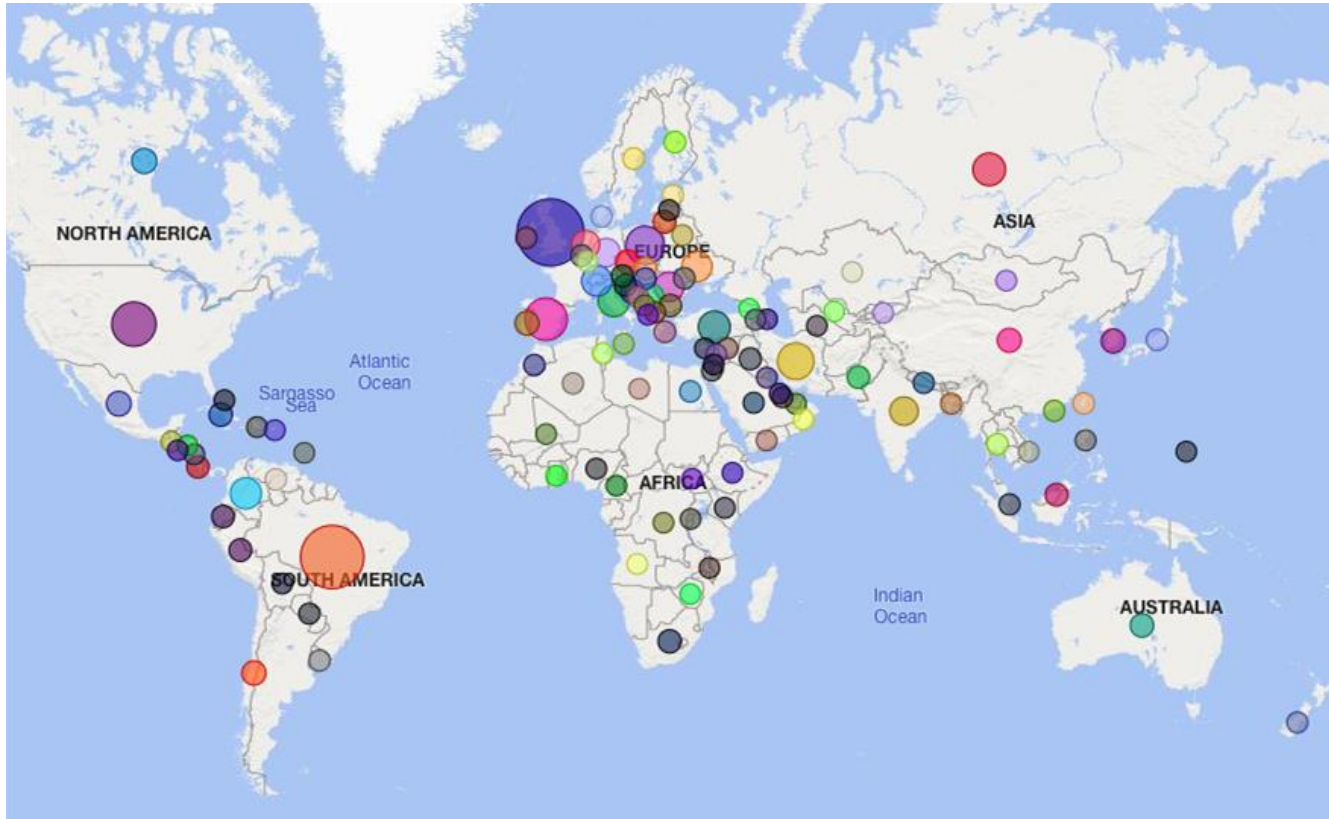
COUNTRIES

80

LANGUAGES

7,133,718

ARTICLE RECORDS



Geographic spread of journals in DOAJ

African journal coverage in DOAJ

- **African journals in DOAJ = 268 (1.5%)**
- Over 100 journals indexed: South Africa
- 20-50 journals: Egypt, Morocco, Algeria
- 6-20 journals: Nigeria, Ethiopia, Ghana
- 2-5 journals: Kenya, Libya, Angola, Tunisia, Cote d'Ivoire
- 1 journal: Cameroon, DR Congo, Gambia, Malawi, Mali, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda, Zimbabwe

DOAJ is working with Africa

- DOAJ recognised by governments in South Africa and Ethiopia
- Working with AJOL, ASSAf, DOAJ, EIFL, LIBSENSE, WACREN and UCT (University of Cape Town) on projects in Africa
- Our priorities:
 - Highlight open access best practice for publishers
 - Increase DOAJ's coverage of good African journals
- Remember we cover journals in French, English, Portuguese and all major local languages!

DOAJ in Africa

- Ambassadors
 - Ina Smith - South Africa
 - Melkamu Beyene - East Africa
 - Kamel Belhamel - North Africa
 - Mahmoud Khalifa - Egypt/Middle East
 - Thomas Herve Mboa Nkoudou - West/Central Africa
- Volunteer editors
 - Algeria, Kenya, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria, Tunisia

**Why is it important to
be indexed in DOAJ?**



Benefits of DOAJ indexing

- Demonstrate your journal meets good publishing standards
- Increase visibility of your journal in search engines and indexing services
- Attract more authors and readers from around the world
- Enhance the reputation and impact of your journal
- First step to inclusion in Scopus or Web of Science

Basic criteria for inclusion in DOAJ



Publishing best practice

- All journals are expected to follow best practices in publishing
- **Principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing**
 - Developed by DOAJ with COPE, OASPA and WAME
 - <https://doaj.org/apply/transparency/>

Openness

- All online journal content must be **free** and open access
 - A paid-for print version is allowed
- **Immediate** access
 - No delay or embargo
- **No registration** requirement
- Journals must display an open access statement and adhere to DOAJ's definition of open access

Open access - DOAJ definition

- A journal where the copyright holder of a scholarly work grants usage rights to others using an **open license** (Creative Commons or equivalent) allowing for immediate free access to the work and permitting any user to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of articles, crawl them for indexing, pass them as data to software, or use them for any other lawful purpose.

Coverage and currency

- Journals must be **actively** publishing scholarly research
 - At least 5 research articles per year
- Any scholarly research area
- Any language (**no English needed on the journal website**)
- Uninterrupted publishing history
- New or flipped journals need to publish at least 10 OA articles before applying

Journal website 1

- Dedicated homepage for journal
- Full text articles downloadable individually
- Registered and confirmed **ISSN**
- No misleading metrics or other information
- No intrusive advertising (pop-ups etc)
- Secure website (https) recommended

Journal website 2

- Information must be available and easily findable on:
 - Aims and scope
 - Open access policy
 - **Author charges (even if zero)**
 - Instructions for authors
 - Contact details
 - Editorial board, with affiliations for all members

Editorial process

- Journals must apply a rigorous review process
- **Peer review** by at least two independent reviewers
 - Editorial review allowed only for journals in arts and humanities
 - Faculty oversight required for student journals
- Plagiarism checking **recommended** but not required for inclusion in DOAJ
 - State name of checking service or protocol used
- Describe your review process on the journal website



7 Common types of peer review

1 Single Blind Peer Review

Authors don't know who the reviewers are. But the reviewers are aware of the authors' identity when they decide to accept or reject the document for review as well as throughout the review process.



2 Double Blind Peer Review

The journal editor does not reveal the reviewers' credentials to the authors and vice-versa. So both parties are not aware of each other's identity. All indicators of identity such as names, affiliations, etc. are removed.



3 Open Peer Review

The authors and peer reviewers both know each other's identities. This system allows the peer reviewers' comments as well as the authors' responses to be published along with the final manuscript.



4 Collaborative Peer Review

This type of peer review occurs on a platform provided by the journal where authors & reviewers can discuss how the paper can be improved. Often, reviewers' identities are concealed from authors but may be revealed at the time of publication.



5 Third-Party Peer Review

Authors get their manuscripts reviewed by an independent peer review service before they approach any journal. Based on the reviews, they make changes to the paper and then submit it to the journal.



6 Post-Publication Peer Review

The journal provides a platform such as a discussion forum for the post-publication commenting. Once the published paper is available on the platform, anyone who reads it can post their comments or views about the paper.



7 Cascading Peer Review

When a manuscript is rejected after review because it is of low priority for the journal at the moment or because it is not interesting for the journal's target readers, the journal may suggest that the author/s submit the manuscript to an alternate journal along with the reviews. Often, the new journal is part of the publisher's portfolio.



Licensing

- Use licensing to:
 - Inform readers how they may reuse content
 - Inform readers of any reuse that is not allowed
 - Protect the author and journal against unauthorised use
- DOAJ recommends use of **Creative Commons** licenses (or equivalent)
 - **No charge** for using CC licenses
- State your licensing terms on the journal website

LICENSES



TERMS



BY

Attribution

Others can copy, distribute, display, perform and remix your work if they credit your name as requested by you



ND

No Derivative Works

Others can only copy, distribute, display or perform verbatim copies of your work



SA

Share Alike

Others can distribute your work only under a license identical to the one you have chosen for your work



NC

Non-Commercial

Others can copy, distribute, display, perform or remix your work but for non-commercial purposes only.

Copyright

- Copyright of a published work can be held by the author or publisher
- Best practice in open access is for authors to retain copyright
 - But DOAJ will accept journals where copyright is transferred
- State your copyright policy on the journal website
- We recommend to provide a link to author agreement

Applying for inclusion in DOAJ



How to apply

- DOAJ only includes journals that apply for inclusion!
- Apply using the online application form
 - <https://doaj.org/apply/>
- **New form** designed to make the process easier and quicker
- But all journals must meet the same quality standards

Application form

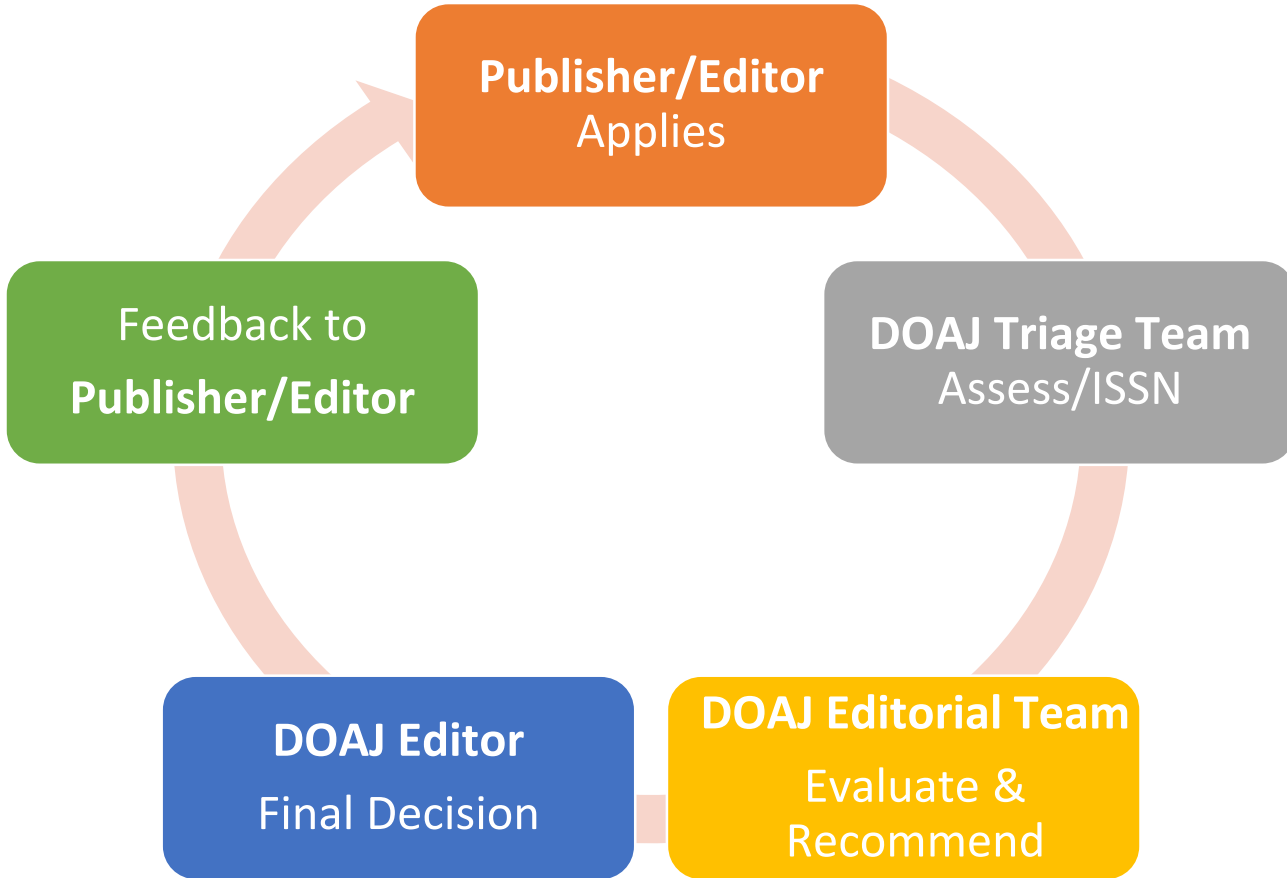
1. Open access compliance
2. About the journal
3. Copyright and licensing
4. Editorial information
5. Business model
6. Best practice
7. Review your answers

Best practice

- **Recommended** but not required for inclusion
 - Digital preservation
 - Repository policy (self-archiving)
 - Persistent identifiers (for example, DOI)
 - ORCID IDs
 - I4OC standards for open citations

Application and review process





DOAJ statistics 2021

>10,000

APPLICATIONS & UPDATES

35%

ACCEPTANCE RATE

<3 months

AVERAGE REVIEW TIME

>120

EDITORIAL STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

Common reasons for rejection



Rejection at triage stage

- Journal is not fully open access
- ISSN is not fully registered at issn.org
- Not enough research content has been published
- Individual full text articles are not available
- URLs in application don't lead to the information required
- No licensing information

Rejection after full review

- Incorrect information is given in application
- Required information is unclear or missing from website
- Information is not the same in all languages used on website
- Peer review process is inadequate
- Licensing/copyright policy is unclear
- Journal makes false claims to be indexed in DOAJ or other services
- Journal does not employ good publishing practices

Help available



Help and documentation

- Guide to applying
 - <https://doaj.org/apply/guide/>
- Reference version of the application form
 - <https://doaj.org/static/doaj/docs/2021-02-17-DOAJQuestions.pdf>
- DOAJ application guide for OJS journals
 - <https://docs.pkp.sfu.ca/doaj/en/>
- DOAJ helpdesk
 - helpdesk@doaj.org



Thank you!

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