

# A STUDY OF SCHOLARLY OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS IN EDUCATION

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## ABSTRACT

*OA journals provide an easier route for individuals who lack access to scholarly journal literature to write and publish their work. In this paper, an extensive analysis is conducted on scholarly open-access journals within the education field. The research investigates the distinguishing features of these journals, including their publication methods, fees charged for processing articles, and the nations and languages in which articles are published. A substantial number of these journals are published in Indonesia (28.42%), and many of them are written in English (861). The study reveals a significant increase in the number of journals published between 2010 and 2019. The findings suggest that developing countries like India can boost the visibility and accessibility of their research by promoting open-access publishing.*

**Keywords:** *Open access journals, DOAJ, education*

## Introduction

The Budapest Open Access Initiative (BOAI) is a significant effort to promote and accelerate the open access movement. It was launched in 2002 in Budapest, Hungary, as an international effort to encourage the dissemination of scholarly research and support its availability to anyone with an internet connection, free of charge. Open access (OA) refers to unrestricted, online access to scholarly research publications, including articles, books, and other materials. The main idea behind open access is to make research findings freely available to the public, without any financial or legal barriers. Today, more than 47% of the scholarly literature available is OA through the Gold, Green, and Bronze models of OA (Piwowar et al., 2018).

The ever-increasing subscription cost of print and online journals has forced the scientific community to move towards less expensive or open-access journals for getting their monographs published. In most cases, open-access works are given under a Creative Commons license, which specifies how the writers should use the articles and other resources. It occasionally allows for the reusing of scholarly work.

## About DOAJ

The Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) is a digital directory that provides free, open access to superior, peer-reviewed scholarly journals. DOAJ was launched in 2003 as a non-profit initiative with the aim of

promoting open-access publishing and increasing the visibility and accessibility of scholarly research.

DOAJ is considered one of the most important sources of information for researchers, librarians, and the academic community as a whole. The database currently indexes over 18,736 journals from around the world, covering a wide range of disciplines including science, technology, medicine, social sciences, and humanities. The journals indexed in DOAJ must meet strict criteria to ensure the quality and reliability of the published research.

## Review of Literature

Sheikh, Zahra & Richardson (2022) presented a quantitative study of open-access journals indexed in DOAJ in the field of medicine. It was found that 3627 open-access journals were present in medicine. Most medical journals (51.7%) did not charge authors any Author Processing Charges (APC), and 878 (24%) open-access journal titles were published in the United Kingdom. At the same time, English is the primary language of publication in medicine, with 3149 (86.8%) OA publications.

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Bansode, S. Y., & Pujar, S. (2021) analyzed 427 Business and Management journals listed in DOAJ and observed a remarkable yearly growth rate of 92.27% since 2011. The study reveals that these journals adhere to a peer review process, with nearly all (99%) publishing articles under Creative Commons (CC) licenses. Additionally, the majority (78.69%) of journals do not charge Article Processing Charges (APC), according to the results and discussions presented.

Vinay & Shalini (2018) examined open-access journals regarding the year of publication, languages, nations, and subjects. Indonesia publishes most journals (25.00%), with many journals published in English (119). It was also found that between 2012 and 2017, a more significant number of articles were published. It was suggested that developing countries, such as India, must raise awareness about publishing open-access journals.

Erfanmanesh (2017) conducted a study to evaluate the quality and status of Open Access (OA) journals in Scopus. The study compared the quality of OA and non-OA journals indexed in Scopus using four parameters: Cite Score, SJR, SNIP, and fitness rate. The analysis revealed that in 2015, OA journals constituted almost 17% of all Scopus-indexed journals. The study also found a disproportionate distribution of OA publications across various fields, varying from 5.5% to 28.7%.

**Objectives**

The study aims to identify OA journals in Education listed in the DOAJ. The objectives of the present study are to:

- (i) Find out the distribution of OA journals in Education
- (ii) Know the overall growth of OA journals in Education
- (iii) Identify the leading countries in terms of publishing a number of OA journals in Education
- (iv) Analyze the language-wise distribution of OA journals in Education
- (v) Understand the publishing trends of OA journals in Education

**Methodology**

To achieve the objectives of the present study, data were extracted from the Directory of Open Access Journals

(DOAJ: <https://doaj.org/>). The DOAJ is an independent index containing 18736 open-access journals. The public data dump was exported from the website of the DOAJ as a CSV file, of which 1664 (8.88%) journals (as of the date of export, i.e., 20 December 2022) were listed under the subject heading 'Education'. Further analysis was made regarding the number of journals, publishing country, language, licenses, etc.

**Data Analysis and Interpretation**

**Table 1**  
**Contribution of OA Journals in DOAJ by Top 10 Countries**

S.No.	Countries	No. of Journals	Percentage
1	Indonesia	473	28.42
2	Brazil	250	15.02
3	Spain	113	6.79
4	United States	107	6.43
5	United Kingdom	58	3.48
6	Turkey	51	3.06
7	Columbia	44	2.64
8	Canada	39	2.34
9	Ukraine	38	2.28
10	Poland	37	2.22

Table 1 shows the contribution of OA journals to DOAJ by the top 10 countries. Most journals were published in Indonesia (28.42%), followed by Brazil (15.02%) and only 3 journals were published in India.

**Table 2**  
**Top 10 Language-wise OA Journals**

S.No.	Language	No. of Journals	Percentage
1	English	861	51.74
2	Indonesian	238	14.3
3	Portuguese	196	11.77
4	Spanish	182	10.93
5	Arabic	26	1.56
6	Persian	18	1.08
7	French	17	1.02
8	Russian	17	1.02
9	Polish	11	0.66
10	Ukrainian	11	0.66

English is the most widely used language for publishing open-access journals in Education (Table 2). Out of 1664 OA journals, 861 are in English, followed by Indonesian (238), Portuguese (196), and Spanish (182). The open-access journals in Education are published in thirty-four languages. This list demonstrates a broader cultural diversity, but non-western representation is still weak. Another notable conclusion of the study is that half of the open-access journals in Education are published in two or more languages.

**Table 3**  
**Growth of OA Journals**

Decade	No. of Journals	Percentage
1970s	5	0.3
1980s	16	0.96
1990s	68	4.08
2000s	362	21.75
2010s	1118	67.18
2020s	95	5.7

The number of open-access journals published during the last 50 years was examined. The majority of the journals in Education are very new. According to DOAJ data, five journals were found in the 1970s, 16 in the 1980s, 68 in the 1990s, 362 in the 2000s, 1118 in the 2010s, and 95 in the 2020s. It is important to note that the year a journal first appeared in DOAJ isn't always the same as the year it was found, as older journals frequently have back issues that haven't yet been digitized and made available online. Table 3 presents the year-wise growth of OA journals in Education. According to the year-wise analysis of open-access journals, there were many OA journals in Education towards the end of the 2000s, but this number climbed to 1118 between 2010 to 2019. There was a profusion of open-access journals in Education in the twenty-first century.

**Table 4**  
**Journal License**

S.No.	Type of License	No. of Journals	Percentage
1	CC BY	621	37.31
2	CC BY SA	274	16.46
3	CC BY-ND	22	1.32
4	CC BY-NC	254	15.26
5	CC BY-NC-SA	189	11.35
6	CC BY-NC-ND	271	16.28
7	Publisher's own License	33	1.98

Table 4 lists the open-access journals that use Creative Commons Licensing in various formats. The CC Licenses contain BY, SA, ND, and NC attributes. The maximum number of journals (37.31%) use CC BY licensing, followed by CC BY SA (16.46%), CC BY-NC-ND (16.28%), and CC BY-NC (15.26%). Few publishers have framed their licenses as well (1.98%)

**Table 5**  
**Publication Fee**

S.No.	Publication Fee	No. of Journals	Percentage
1	No	1315	79.02
2	Yes	349	20.97

Table 5 shows the publication fee-wise journal distribution of OA Journals in Education. In DOAJ, 79.02% of journals do not charge an article processing fee to their authors, which is a positive indicator since it may encourage authors to publish in open-access journals.

**Table 6**  
**Peer Review Process**

S.No.	Type of License	No. of Journals	Percentage
1	Blind Peer Review	308	18.5
2	Double-Blind Peer Review	1115	67
3	Editorial Review	14	0.84
4	Peer Review	216	12.98
5	Open Peer Review	11	0.66

Peer-reviewed journals are those in which experts in the same field review the articles before publication. Table 6 shows the distribution of the peer-review process in OA journals in Education. In the present study, the highest number of journals (67%) are "Double-Blind Peer-Reviewed," followed by "Blind Peer Review (18.50%)" and "Peer Review" (12.98%), and "Editorial Review" (0.84%) respectively.

### Conclusion

Open-access journals are now widely acknowledged as an essential vehicle for digital scholarship. The continued growth of open-access journals in several disciplines worldwide demonstrates this. The OA journals in Education

mainly were new journals started during the late 2010s, where Indonesia tops the rank, followed by Brazil and Spain. Academic institutions, primarily universities, currently produce the most open-access journals. India's contribution to open-access journals in Education is very low. It is now time for Indian universities to take the lead in the publication of open-access publications. OA journals must also persuade academics, lecturers, and practitioners within institutions of their significance and enormous potential. Most of India's publicly funded research organizations have begun to make their journals available online for free. OA journals may continue to increase in the coming years, as several of the world's most prestigious publishers have expressed interest in launching OA journals.

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