



## A Study of Scholarly Open Access Journals in DOAJ with Special Reference to Business and Management

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### **Abstract :**

Open access (OA) journals in 'Business and Management' have grown in number over a period and analysis of it provides an insight and understanding of the factors, which led to such growth. The study using quantitative records method analyses downloaded metadata of publications from 'Directory of Open Access Journals' (DOAJ). From the analysis of data, it reports 427 Business and Management journals indexed in the directory reflecting impressive year wise growth rate, which has jumped to 92.27% from 2011. Results and discussions indicate about cent percent peer review process followed by these journals, with 78.69% journals not levying any Article Processing Charges (APC) and more than 99% of these, publishing articles under Creative Commons (CC) license. Further, the study confirms quantitative analysis of various factors such as country of origin, language, ranking, inclusion in citation indexes and UGC CARE list, digital archiving, etc.

### **Keywords :**

Author Processing Charges (APCs), Business and Management, DOAJ, Open Access, Open Access Journals, Open Access Licensing, Scopus, Web of Science

### **1. Introduction :**

Open access has heralded a new era in the dissemination of scholarly content. It is evident from its availability in various forms on the Internet, at no cost and distributed with open license by publishers, scholarly societies, and individuals. Its growth is phenomenal with umpteen numbers of scholarly journals, repositories, books, theses, dissertations, and others (Morrison, 2020). As per one estimate,

today, more than 47% of the scholarly literature available is OA through Gold, Green and Bronze models of OA (Piwowar et al., 2018). This to a greater extent because of the embracement of OA models by scholarly publishers and authors. Secondly, hybrid model of publications by publishers such as Elsevier, Wiley, and Springer including scholarly societies has also corroborated to this development. DOAJ, a platform for OA journals currently lists 16600+ OA titles, 6.3+ million articles in all fields of knowledge representing 126 countries (DOAJ, 2021) considered as one of the authoritative sources to find out such journals. The present study focuses on the status of 427 OA journals in 'Business and Management' indexed in this directory based on various parameters.

## 2. Review of literature :

Over a period, the number of OA journals published has multi-folded across the disciplines, barring the predatory OA journals. Innumerable numbers of studies have highlighted the growth of OA journals. In a study, Falk (2004) has observed the steady increase in the number of OA journals, from 5 in 1992 to 1200 in 2004. Similarly, a systematic quantitative study of growth during a period 1993-2009 has showed that average annual growth of OA journals is at 18% from 2000 (Laakso et al., 2011). A trend in growth of open access journals for a period 2002 to 2018 revealed 12065 journals indexed in DOAJ covering all fields of study and a major contribution coming from Indonesia and United Kingdom (Hugar, 2019). In respect to growth of OA journals in social sciences, Mishra and Maharana (2020) have discussed OA journals in social sciences in DOAJ and reported highest increase in their numbers i.e., 22.17% in the year 2013. In another study a comparative analysis of growth of OA journals in Natural and Social sciences based on Web of Science found growth in both the disciplines, but more so in natural sciences (Liu & Li, 2018).

In terms of indexing of OA journals in directories and indexes, McVeigh (2004) pointed out their growing coverage to the extent of 20% in Science, Social Science and Humanities citation indexes brought out by Thomson Reuters. Similarly, Gul, Vani and Majeed (2008) have elaborated on the increase of OA journals across the continents in 'Scopus' database. The status of OA journals in DOAJ in terms of number of publications, their coverage in JCR (Web of Science) and Scopus published from D8 countries has been studied in yet another study (Ghane & Niazmand, 2016). They found that, 13.8% of the journals indexed in DOAJ published from D8 countries and their coverage in JCR stands at 11.7% and in Scopus at 29%. Rodrigues and Abadal (2014) have also explored the number of Ibero American OA journals covered in Scopus and Web of Science databases and found that, out



of 879 journals indexed, 82% are open access. It has been found from the review that, the growth of OA journals across the domains is remarkable and their indexing in citation indexes may encourage authors to consider these journals for publication.

### 3. Objectives of the study :

The core objectives of this study are as follows:

- To find out the existent position of OA journals in Business and Management;
- To explore the number of OA journals covered in indexing and abstracting databases like, Scopus, Web of Science and UGC-CARE list;
- To discover the SJR rankings of OA journals;
- To comprehend the OA journals digital archiving policy;
- To study the 'Licensing' model adopted by publishers for dissemination of OA Journals; and
- To know the publication fees (APC) applied for publication in journals

### 4. Scope and limitations of the study :

The scope of the study is confined to only journals in the areas of 'Business and Management' indexed in DOAJ and excludes journals indexed by any other sources or single titles hosted on the Internet.

### 5. Methodology :

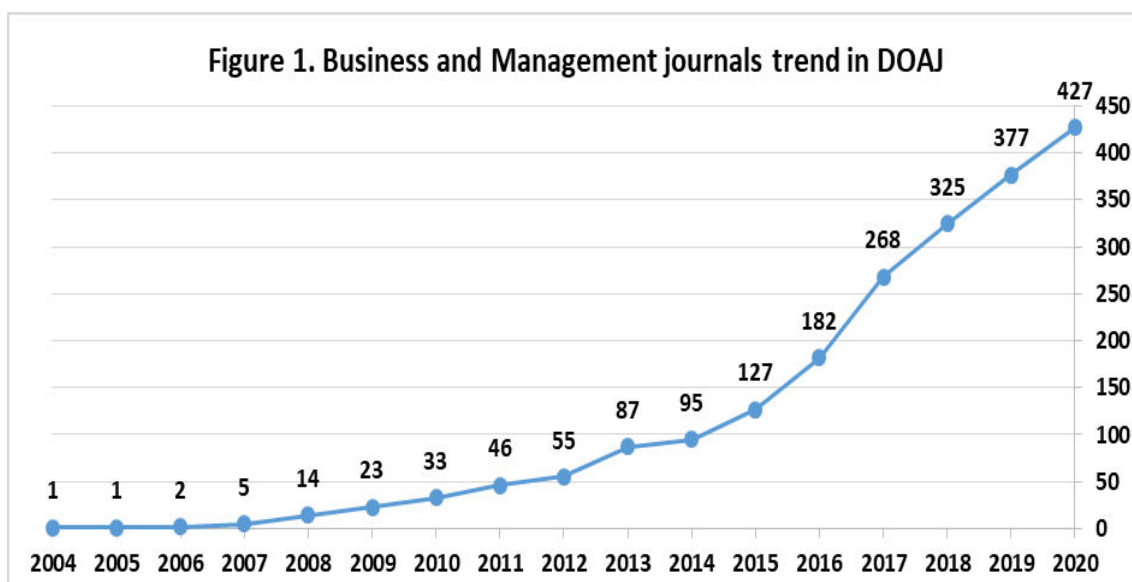
The study using quantitative records method analyses OA journals in 'Business and Management' identified from the downloaded metadata of journals from DOAJ (<https://doaj.org/csv>) using a subject filter 'Social Sciences: Commerce: Business\*'. From the data, it is evident that a total of 427 titles belong to the field of Business and Management (2004-2020). Further, the data was segregated by applying a filter formula on the respective fields and was analysed using Microsoft Excel. The list of journals was also compared with data of UGC-CARE list (<https://ugccare.unipune.ac.in/Apps1/Home/Index>), Scopus (<https://www.scopus.com/sources.uri>), and Web of Science (<https://mjl.clarivate.com/home>). To identify the Journal rankings, SciMago (<https://www.scimagojr.com>) database has also been consulted.



## 6. Discussion and analysis :

### 6.1 Business and Management journals trend in DOAJ

The growth of Business and Management journals in DOAJ database is progressively increasing over the years. The first Business & Management journal was being added into the DOAJ in the year 2004 and as of 2020 it has 427 titles. The data confirms that year-wise growth of journal titles in Business & Management is impressive, recording 92.27% increase in number of titles from 2011 due to OA initiatives. The Figure 1 portrays the journals trend in DOAJ from 2004 to 2020.



### 6.2 Current of OA publications:

**Table 1 : Current of OA journals - 2016-2020 :**

Published in the year	No. of journals	Percentage
2020	160	37.47
2019	65	15.22
2018	68	15.93
2017	93	21.78
2016	41	9.60
<b>Total</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>100.00</b>



Though new journals keep getting added every year, the continuity of the existing journals and the currency of the publication is an issue. It has been observed (Table 1) that, out of 427 journals 160 (37.47%) journals are current as their last updated date is in 2020. However, delay in publication has been observed in the case of 65 (15.22%) journals by a year (publication year 2019) and in the case of 68 (15.93%) delay in publication has been observed by 2 years (publication year 2018), furthermore, 134 (31.38%) journals are delayed between 3 and 4 years (publication years 2016 and 2017).

### 6.3 Country wise distribution of journals :

**Table 2: Distribution of Business and Management journals by country**

SN	Country-wise Publishers	No. of Journals	Percentage
1	Indonesia	115	26.93
2	Brazil	61	14.29
3	Romania	29	6.79
4	Colombia	25	5.85
5	Poland	23	5.39
6	Ukraine	18	4.22
7	United Kingdom	13	3.04
8	Iran, Islamic Republic of	11	2.58
9	Serbia	10	2.34
10	Turkey	9	2.11
11	Spain	8	1.87
12	United States & Slovenia (7 each)	14	3.28
13	Czechia	6	1.41
14	South Africa / Croatia / Ecuador/ Korea, Republic of/ Lithuania/ Peru (5 each)	30	7.03
15	Argentina/ Greece / Malaysia / Mexico (4 each)	16	3.75
16	Chile / Russian Federation / Netherlands / Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of (3 each)	12	2.81
17	Australia / Canada / Costa Rica / Pakistan (2 each)	8	1.87
18	Sweden / Austria / Belarus / Belgium/ Bolivia, Plurinational State of/ Bosnia and Herzegovina/ China / Cuba / Denmark/ India/ Iraq / Ireland / Italy / Kyrgyzstan / Morocco / New Zealand / Puerto Rico / Slovakia / Switzerland (1 each)	19	4.45
	<b>Total</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>100</b>

The country wise distribution of Business and Management journals given in Table 2 is spread across 51 countries. The data indicates that Indonesia is the leading country publishing 115 (26.93%) OA journals, followed by 61 (14.29%) from Brazil, 29 (6.79%) from Romania and rest from other countries. It is interesting to observe that, more OA journals are getting published from the developing countries. This trend may be due to limited access to international journals owing to costs associated towards their subscription. Secondly, it might be due to the support from the national governments in establishing OA platforms, thus making knowledge free for all. For instance, since 1970s the Indonesian “publication system adopted non-profit principles, which has stimulated the OA publications” (Irawan, 2021).

#### 6.4 Language of publications:

**Table 3: Distribution of journals by language**

SN	Language	No. of Journals	Percentage
1	English	139	32.55
2	Indonesian	43	10.07
3	Spanish	35	8.2
4	Portuguese	26	6.09
5	Persian	7	1.64
6	Russian	3	0.7
7	Turkish	4	0.94
8	Ukrainian	2	0.47
9	French	1	0.23
10	Serbian	1	0.23
11	Journals in more than one language	166	38.88
	<b>Total</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>100</b>

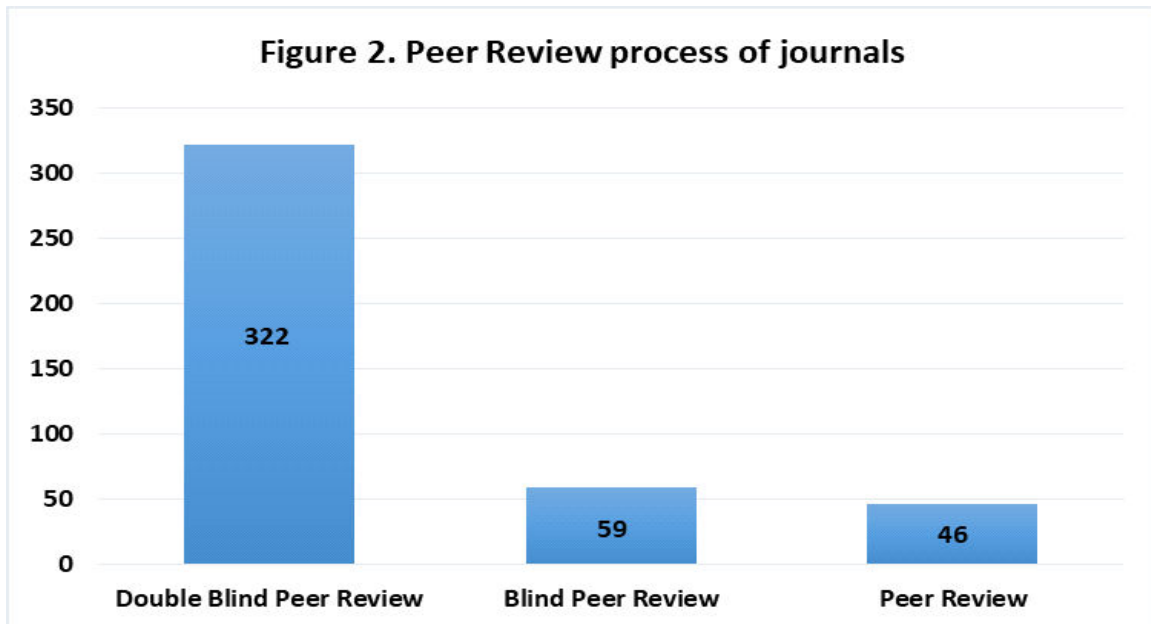
Language-wise distribution of journals (Table 3) spread across 10 specific languages and around 166 journals (38.88%) publishing in more than one language. It is unsurprising that, the English language (32.55%) dominates as a single language, which is the case with most of the subjects including Business and Management.

#### 6.5 Journal peer review process :

From the data as given in Figure 2, it is observed that cent percent of the OA



journals in Business and Management have a strong peer review process to ensure the quality of publications and to support good editorial practices. Further, it is noticed that 239 (55.97%) have a journal plagiarism vetting policy to ensure academic integrity and ethics in publication.



## 6.6 Digital archives :

Digital archiving of journals enables continued access to the content of journals in case the journals cease to exist. The data revealed that, out of 427 journals, 87 (20.37%) journals are providing preservation services, in which, 70 (16.39%) are archiving content either in 'Lots of Copies to Keep Stuff Safe' (LOCKSS), 'Controlled LOCKSS' (CLOCKSS), 'Portico' and 'Public Knowledge Project Preservation Network' (PKP PN) services, and rest 17 (3.98%) journals are archiving in other platforms/portals/national libraries like, Portal Garuda, Cariniana Network, etc.

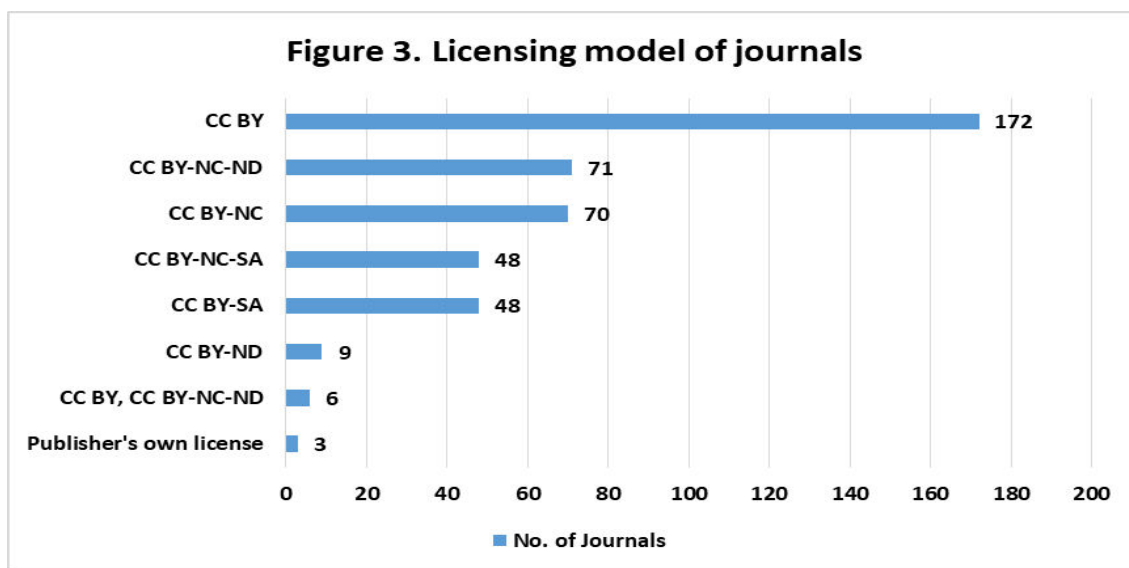
## 6.7 Persistent article identifiers / Permanent Universal Resource Locator :

Document Object Identifier (DOI) or Permanent Universal Resource Locator (PURL) has become a de-facto standard for journal articles for providing continued access to articles in case of change of Internet domain names of publishers. It was observed that, 248 (58.08%) journals have permanent article identifiers like DOI, PURL Handles and ARK.



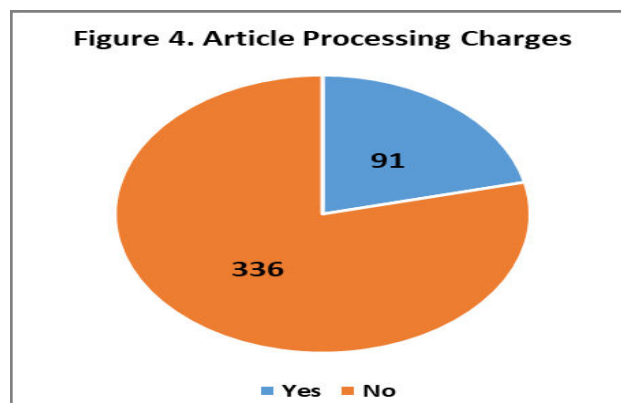
### 6.8 Licensing model of journals :

Interestingly, almost all the Business and Management journals in DOAJ (Figure 3) have adopted open licensing for publishing the content. The analysis revealed that, 99.30% have adopted Creative Commons (CC) license and rest 0.70% have publisher's own license. Greater implementation of CC license is seen as a forward step towards distributing content free from copyright and allowing reuse of the content as per the type of CC license adopted by journals



### 6.9 Article Processing Charges (APC) :

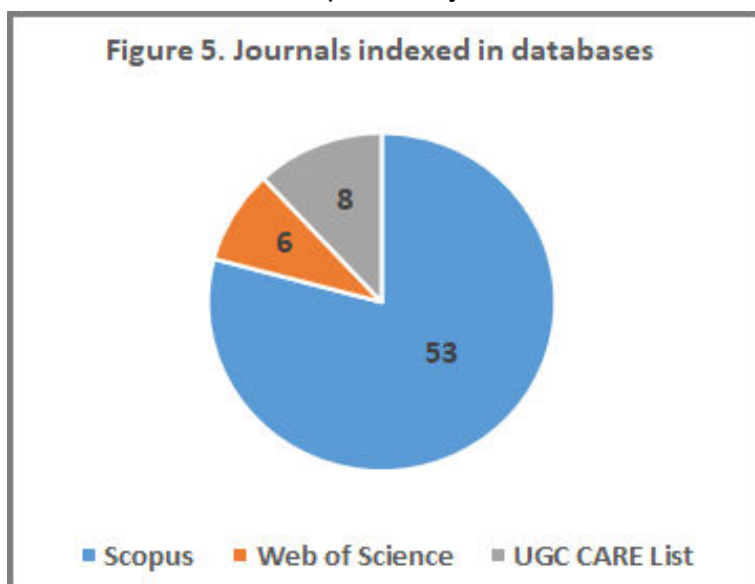
APC imposed on authors helps in mitigating the costs associated with OA publishing. This is one of the models (Gold OA) adopted by many publishers. However, interestingly analysis revealed that (Figure 4), 336 (78.69%) journals are not charging any APC to authors and only 91 (21.31%) are found to be charging APC. It is a delight for authors in Business and Management to publish their articles without any APC and to make the publication OA for the benefit of all.





### 6.10 Journals covered in citation databases (Scopus and Web of Science) and UGC-CARE list :

While comparing the list of journals in Business and Management covered in DOAJ with the list of journals indexed in 'Scopus', 'Web of Science' and UGC-CARE list, it has been observed that 53 (12.41%) journals have been indexed in 'Scopus', 6 (1.41%) in 'Web of Science' and 8 (1.87%) journals have been covered in UGC-CARE list (Figure 5). The list of journals covered in Scopus, Web of Science and UGC-CARE list is given in Appendix-I, which can be accessed at: <https://bit.ly/3nBao3Q>



### 6.11 Journal Ranking

**Table 4 : Scimago Journal Ranking (SJR)**

Rank	Title	ISSN	SJR	SJR Best Quartile
1	European Research on Management and Business Economics	24448834	10.24	Q1
2	Spanish Journal of Marketing – ESIC	24449709, 24449695	7.96	Q2
3	Asian Journal of Shipping and Logistics	20925212	6.96	Q1
4	European Journal of Management and Business Economics	24448451	6.91	Q2
5	Business Research	21983402, 21982627	6.81	Q1



6	China Journal of Accounting Research	17553091	6.15	Q2
7	International Journal of Innovation Studies	20962487, 25892975	5.57	Q2
8	Journal of Small Business Strategy	10818510, 23801751	5.48	Q2
9	Journal of Business Economics and Management	20294433, 16111699	4.85	Q2
10	Journal of Innovation and Entrepreneurship	21925372	4.80	Q2
11	IIMB Management Review	09703896	4.25	Q2
12	Revista de Contabilidad-Spanish Accounting Review	19884672, 11384891	3.78	Q3
13	Business: Theory and Practice	16480627, 18224202	3.69	Q3
14	Journal of Asian Finance, Economics and Business	22884645, 22884637	3.69	Q2
15	Cogent Business and Management	23311975	3.45	Q2
16	BAR - Brazilian Administration Review	18077692	2.42	Q3
17	Contaduria y Administracion	01861042	2.36	Q3
18	RAUSP Management Journal	25310488	2.35	Q3
19	Asian Academy of Management Journal	21804184, 13942603	2.34	Q3
20	Business Systems Research	18479375	2.31	Q3
21	Trziste	03534790	2.29	Q3
22	Journal of Eastern European and Central Asian Research	23288280, 23288272	2.23	Q3
23	Revista Contabilidade e Financas	1808057X, 15197077	2.23	Q4
24	Global Business and Finance Review	23841648, 10886931	2.06	Q3
25	Logforum	1734459X, 18952038	2.00	Q3
26	Gadjah Mada International Journal of Business	14111128, 23387238	1.92	Q3
27	SA Journal of Human Resource Management	2071078X, 16837584	1.88	Q4
28	Journal of Transport and Supply Chain Management	19955235, 23108789	1.84	Q4
29	RAE Revista de Administracao de Empresas	2178938X, 00347590	1.83	Q3
30	Electronic Journal of Business Research Methods	14777029	1.81	Q4
31	Accounting	23697407, 23697393	1.75	Q4
32	UCJC Business and Society Review	26593270	1.73	Q3



33	Innovar	01215051	1.56	Q4
34	International Journal of Business Science and Applied Management	17530296	1.50	Q4
35	Estudios Gerenciales	01235923, 26656744	1.44	Q4
36	Studies in Business and Economics	23445416, 18424120	1.32	Q4
37	International Journal of Management and Business Research	22287019, 22287027	1.25	Q4
38	ACRN Journal of Finance and Risk Perspectives	23057394	1.22	Q4
39	International Journal of Construction Supply Chain Management	11790776	1.18	Q4
40	Dynamic Relationships Management Journal	2350367X, 22325867	1.02	Q4

SciMago journal rankings (SJR) were obtained to assess the quality of a Business and Management journals indexed in DOAJ. It was found from the 'SciMago' database that, 40 (9.37%) journals have rankings, which has been given in Table 4. SJR is a measure calculated by dividing number of weighted citations (from prestigious journals in the field) received during a given year to papers published in the last three years with total number of papers published in those three years. Similarly, SJR best quartile is a measure, which is based on the ranking of journals in each field of research. The top 25% of the journals are grouped into Q1, 25% to 50% into Q2, 50% to 75% into Q3 and 75% to 100% into Q4 (Kumar, 2020).

## 7. Conclusion :

The scholarly OA journals in Business and Management are steady in number in DOAJ. The data demonstrates that an estimated 93,079+ articles were published from 427 journals indexed in DOAJ since 2004. It also revealed that, their share is more among the developing countries, 115 being published from Indonesia and 61 from Brazil followed by other countries. India's contribution stands at only one journal, may be owing to factors such as not many open access journals getting published in the field or journals are mostly publishing in print, journals not fitting into the inclusion criteria fixed by the DOAJ or awareness of the directory may be limited among the Indian publishers. In a way, it is in line with India's overall contribution to DOAJ, which stands at meagre 2% covering all fields of study (Panda, 2021). The inclusion of 67 journals in 'Scopus', 'Web of Science' and 'UGC-CARE

List' and 336 journals not charging APC may encourage publications from researchers. The cent percent peer review process followed by these journals seems to maintain the quality of publications in terms of originality. That makes DOAJ a most authoritative source for OA journals. However, to promote OA publishing further, greater support from government, universities and researchers is needed. Owing to recent developments like PlanS, a coalition of research councils in Europe, this may become reality in the days to come, as it has made compulsory for researchers to publish or make available all the funded research open access from 2021 (Coalition-s, 2021). Also, an effort from the publishers to adopt new ways of promoting the content and getting journals indexed in citation databases may result in wider acceptance and usage.

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