Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) and its Application in Academic Libraries

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Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) and its Application in Academic Libraries

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ABSTRACT

The Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) is a community-curated online directory that indexes and makes open access, peer-reviewed journals available to the public. The Directory of Open Access Journals contains a wide range of journals in the fields of science, agriculture, social science, and other multidisciplinary areas. The study focuses on how librarians may utilize the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) to redistribute high-quality open-access journals to their patrons by integrating and linking these journals to Web-portals that cater to their academic and research needs.

Keywords: Open access resources, Open educational resources, Directory of open access journals, Information dissemination, Open access regime, Academic libraries, etc.

INTRODUCTION

The Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) is a service that compiles a list of scientific, peer-reviewed, full-text open access journals. The directory’s goal is to raise the awareness and accessibility of open access journals, resulting in increased consumption and impact. The goal of DOAJ is to cover all scientific areas and languages.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Over the last three decades, the publishing of scientific peer-reviewed journal articles has gone through a revolution triggered by the technical possibilities offered by the internet. Researchers have reviewed a few of researches that establish connection towards use/usability towards open access journals and DOAJ.

Solomon and Björk (2012) compares the scientific impact of open access with subscription journals and finds that open access journals are nearing the same scientific impact and quality as subscription-based publications.

Okamoto (2013) concludes in conclusion remarks- Academic libraries are already skilled at and steeped in advocacy work for fair and

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open access. They promote, evaluate, preserve, curate, and maintain access to collections.


Bi (2017) concludes that DOAJ is the best window to find open access journals by authors and readers. Along with researcher suggests to all open access society journal editors and publishers especially in Asia Quality open access publishing to DOAJ to register their journals in DOAJ. Research from Open Collections of the University of British Columbia

Morrison (2008) describes DOAJ As a free resource, researchers strongly recommend DOAJ for all libraries. Furthermore, DOAJ is a very popular service among libraries, with a solid reputation for excellence; membership or sponsorship is likely to be extremely helpful to library service providers.

After several previous literature studies, it is found that researchers and academicians highly recommended the use of Open Access journals or Aggregators like DOAJ but there is no such technical writing that can practically show the application of Open Access journals to the librarians or knowledge managers, this paper will elaborate to it and will explain in simple steps that, how one can apply DOAJ within Academic libraries to cater their user needs.

**OPEN ACCESS RESOURCES**

Data and datasets, books and articles, especially academic research publications, are examples of open-access research resources that have been made freely available to the public. This is not the same as public domain works or goods that have lost their copyright protection; open access writers have decided to share their work freely, allowing anybody to use it lawfully without asking permission or paying a price (da Silva et al., 2018).

The term “open access” refers to unlimited access to information. It entails the following major elements:

- Providing free and open access to academic papers and research data in electronic formats without regard to financial, legal, or technical constraints.
- Ensure that writers retain the exploitation rights to their work and only transfer a non-exclusive exploitation right to the publisher for publishing.
- Quality control, is usually accomplished through the peer review process.

**Open Access Resources have the following Advantages**

- Open access accelerates the publishing process, allowing for quicker access to academic papers and the utilization of research findings.
- Open access makes publicly funded academic papers and research data more accessible. This enables the reuse of research findings.
The exposure and effect of research work are increased when it is made openly available. This enhances the frequency with which a publication is mentioned, resulting in a citation impact advantage (Solomon et al., 2013). The capacity to swiftly share research results through social networks can amplify this influence.

- Open access encourages multidisciplinary study and collaboration.
- Publications are made available indefinitely and without regard to the publisher.
- Open access supports and increases information sharing across the academic and research communities, as well as society at large.
- It allows other researchers to double-check and validate study findings.
- It avoids duplication of effort (the same work being done twice). As a result, researchers may build on previous work to further their study and take advantage of new funding opportunities.
- The ability to aggregate data expands the possibilities for learning and discovering new information.

**TYPES OF OPEN ACCESS**

There are three main types of Open Access for research communications.

**a) Gold Open Access:** “Gold” open access journals are those in which all articles and information are freely accessible to anybody on the internet without the need for a subscription or sign-in. These publications are either sponsored by their organizations or by fees levied to the author/institution to cover the expenses of organizing, reviewing, formatting, and archiving.

**b) Green Open Access:** When the publisher of a subscription publication enables the author to preserve the non-commercial rights to his or her work so that it may be archived on the internet, this is known as “green” open access. Institutional repositories, such as any Institutional Repository, or discipline-specific archives maintained by academic societies, are examples of archives. The publisher may ask that free access to the archives be delayed for 6 to 12 months in specific situations.

**c) Hybrid Open Access:** “Hybrid” open access refers to when one or more articles in a subscription publication are freely accessible online but the remainder of the material is exclusively available to persons and institutions that have paid subscriptions. These open access papers are available to anybody who can find them. This is preferable to a closed subscription publication, but it found it challenging for staff and students to learn about the openly available papers. These magazines often provide writers with the option of paying a fee to make their work openly available or keeping it behind a subscription barrier. For example, The Electrochemical Society (ECS) has a program called “Author’s Choice.” (McCabe and Snyder, 2004).

**DIRECTORY OF OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS: BRIEF INTRODUCTION**

The Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) is a website managed by Infrastructure Services for Open Access that contains a community-curated list of open access journals (IS4OA). Open access journals, according to the initiative, are scientific and academic publications that make all of their material accessible for free, without delay or user registration, and that fulfill high-quality criteria, such as via peer review or editorial quality control. DOAJ describes these as open access journals with an open license that
allows any user to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the complete contents of [the] articles, or use them for any other legal purpose. DOAJ’s purpose is to “improve the exposure, accessibility, reputation, use, and impact of high-quality, open-access academic research journals.” (Morrison, 2008).

SCOPE OF THE DIRECTORY OF OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS (DOAJ)

All scientific and academic areas are covered in this database of open-access publications. Mostly used to find open access journal titles, with 40% of them searchable up to the article level. You may search for journals by title or broad topic area. Articles may be found by searching for the author or title of the article, the ISSN, the journal title, the abstract, or key terms. The full-text version is not searchable, but it is completely accessible. To be considered for inclusion in the DOAJ, journals must have a financing mechanism that does not charge readers or their institutions for access, as well as peer-review or editorial quality standards (Okamoto, 2013).

DOAJ is one of the biggest open-access resource websites on the internet. In the categories, there are 300 Open Access journals and 17500 articles, as well as the partnership with 128 nations and 9021 searchable articles level categories. DOAJ covers articles on a variety of topics, including science, technology, health, social sciences, arts, and humanities. In comparison to other languages, the majority of documents are released in English.

APPLICATION OF DOAJ JOURNALS ON LIBRARY WEB-PORTAL

In this section, the researcher reports the application of DOAJ indexed open access journals to the library web-portal by aggregating them under a dedicated field/subject.

Steps to Aggregate and Link-up DOAJ Journal to Library Web-Portal

a) Discover Journal through DOAJ
b) Selection of Journal
c) Locate URL of Selected Journal
d) Collect, Aggregate, or Enlist
e) Create/Make availability of CMS
f) Update aggregated List to CMS

da) Discovering particular Journals: Librarians or web admin can discover and enlist the DOAJ journals using the search panel on DOAJ Homepage (Figure 1).

Search for a specific subject/topic using a refine filter as the English language of the journal. Results will bring you a subject-based journals list under search terms. (Here- Agriculture search string has got a total of 679 indexed journals in DOAJ.)

Figure 1: Steps to Aggregate and Link-up DOAJ Journal to Library Web-Portal
b) Selection of Journal: Select a specific journal to enlist: Here we got Molecular Horticulture from results. Librarians or knowledge resource managers have to identify a dedicated journal for specific subjects (Figure 2) that it can found useful to their patrons accordingly. Librarians can explore, surf through journals to find coverage of topics under particular journals’ aims and scopes section.

c) Locate URL: Library resource managers have to collect the URL (Universal Resource Locator) Link for providing (Figure 3) it through the web content management system. This step consists of open website tab on the DOAJ page of the selected journal page for directing towards the website link within. And copy the URL of the opened homepage of the particular journal through the URL pane.

d) Collect, Aggregate or Enlist resources and their URLs: After copying the web URL enlist all the URLs in one word sheet to add this list to web CMS of web portal of the Library. Further one can add (Figure 4 and 5) different open journals from particular as per requirement (For example standard peer reviewed journals from Springer Open, Taylor and Francis, ICAR
For example: **Journal-URL List**

e) **Create/Mak availability of CMS:** A content management system, often abbreviated as CMS, is software that helps users create, manage, and modify content on a website without the need for specialized technical knowledge. Library resource managers have to make availability of CMS like WordPress, Joomla, or any other to publish their collected resources through making use of it. WordPress is easy to use and can be used without much technical or coding knowledge. Library resource managers should gain knowledge to handle such CMS to handle web portals of the services provided through their information centre or library.

Library resource manager can use various CMS page editing tools like Elementor, Oxygen or Gutenberg like block editors for creation of web content pages of Library Portal.

f) **Update Resources:** Enlist all the collected resource lists in the CMS of the website and update them from time to time (Figure 6 and 7) as per requirement. Library resource managers can add more categories along with journals, - Like OA books from DOAB, and OA databases of particular subject fields that can find helpful
## Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) and its Application in Academic Libraries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Journal Name</th>
<th>Uniform Resource Locator (URL Link)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Molecular Horticulture</td>
<td><a href="https://molhort.biomedcentral.com/">https://molhort.biomedcentral.com/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smart Agricultural Technology</td>
<td><a href="https://www.journals.elsevier.com/smart-agricultural-technology">https://www.journals.elsevier.com/smart-agricultural-technology</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Journal of Fruit Science</td>
<td><a href="https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/wsfr20/current">https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/wsfr20/current</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horticulturae</td>
<td><a href="https://www.mdpi.com/journal/horticulturae">https://www.mdpi.com/journal/horticulturae</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal of Pathology Informatics</td>
<td><a href="https://www.jpathinformatics.org/">https://www.jpathinformatics.org/</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Figure 6: CMS (Content Management System) for adding resource pages

![CMS (Content Management System) for adding resource pages](image1.png)

### Figure 7: CMS page editor (Elementor-block editor)

![CMS page editor (Elementor-block editor)](image2.png)
for user target groups of the institution. Moreover, Library resource managers have to provide accurate information to the patron within a little timespan so its recommended that Library resource manager should acquire the necessary knowledge to information retrieval and dissemination skills necessary in the information-driven era (Figure 8).

CONCLUSIVE REMARKS

The following are some concluding observations on the significance of the Directory of Open Access Journals and Its Application in academic libraries:

1. **Accessibility:** The Directory of Open Access Journals makes publicly funded academic journals more freely accessible. This facilitates the reuse of research findings. Open access journal systems accelerate the publishing process, allowing for quicker access to academic papers and the utilization of research findings.

2. **Availability and Sustainability:** The directory of Open Access Journals promotes an interdisciplinary focus on research and cooperation within. Publications are made freely accessible on the publisher’s websites indefinitely and without regard to the publisher.
3. **Visibility/Exposure:** The open-access journal system boosts the visibility and impact of academic research papers. This enhances the frequency with which a publication is cited, resulting in a citation impact advantage. The capacity to promptly distribute research findings via the research society may amplify this influence.

4. **Removing Paywalls:** In addition to subscription-based journal aggregators or discovery tools, DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals) is another alternative. There is no cryptic repository for storing data, and retrieval methods do not require users to pay for access.

5. **Information Transmission:** The DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals) supports and increases knowledge transfer between the academic and research communities, as well as society as a whole.

6. **Prevents Duplication:** Paywalls make it difficult to see the structure and nature of research published, but the DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals) makes it possible to see the structure and nature of research published. This allows researchers to build on previous work to advance their research and make better use of available resources.

7. **Access to everyone:** The DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals) provides access to all-in-one location, including knowledge managers, research and development academia, and the learner society.

In concluding remarks,

The use of DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals) unquestionably facilitates and accelerates the process of research and dissemination without the need for paywalls. Academic libraries should gather and combine necessary materials and lists on their web pages/web portals to better support their patron audiences via this ICT-based referral system.

**REFERENCES**


