

Unit 2: Open Journals

Objective: This unit briefly discusses:

- the different types of Open Access journals and their contribution to improving access to peer reviewed information.
- focus on how librarians can start OA journals to assist their patrons.

Learning Outcomes

After going through this topic, the participants are expected to be able to:

- Explain the concept of open access journals;
- Identify the types of OA journals;
- List different types of software available for hosting open journal system;
- List the criteria for choosing open journal system;
- Carryout needs analysis for OA journal and prepare a business plan for deployment of appropriate software; and
- Take appropriate steps to install and manage OA Journal system

Areas of focus

- What is Open Access Journal?
- Types of Open Access Journals
- Open Source Journal Software
 - Open Source Journal Systems
 - Criteria for the evaluation of Open Journal Software
 - Open Access Journal Business Models
- Deployment and Implementation
 - Business Plan: Open Access Journal Service
 - Business Plan: Individual Open Access Journal Title
- Software installation, management and services
 - Setting up a journal hosting service
 - Setting up an individual journal title

What is an open access journal?

- Open Access journals as journals that use a funding model that does not charge readers or their institutions for access – DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals).
- To be included as part of the directory, it needs to adhere to the BOAI (Budapest OA Initiative) definition of Open Access: users should have the right to "read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of these articles"

Criteria for OAJ to be included in DOAJ

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- The journal must exercise peer-review or editorial quality control.
- The journal must report primary results of research or overviews of research results to a scholarly community.
- Subject coverage: all scientific and scholarly subjects are covered.
- Types of resource: scientific and scholarly periodicals that publish research or review papers in full text are accepted.
- Acceptable sources: academic, government, commercial, non-profit private sources are all acceptable.
- Level: the target group for included journals should primarily be researchers.
- Content: a substantive part of the journal should consist of research papers and all content should be available in full text.
- Journals in all languages are included.
- All content must be made freely available.
- Free user registration online is allowed.
- Open Access without delay will apply (e.g. no embargo period).
- Online journals should have an eISSN.

Types of OAJs

- General journals: multidisciplinary, broadly focused, and accepting contributions from many fields of research.
- Specialized journals: more narrowly-defined focus, and is often disciplinespecific.
- Regional journals: covering research from a particular geographic area, whether national or international.
- Institutional journals: centred on an individual institution.
- Annual Reviews: published once a year.

Factors to consider when deciding on a choice for an OAJ

- research interests
- the size of the potential audience for the new journal
- the absence of an existing journal covering an area of interest
- any institutional requirements that may need consideration.

OAJ Software and key functionalities

- Online guide to Open Access journal publishing - <http://www.doaj.org/bpguide/> the system should allow:
- the management and tracking of the submission of manuscripts,
- the peer review process, and once peer review is finalized,
- the finalizing of the material through copyediting,

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- layout editing/ typesetting and
- finally actual publication.
- It is also useful to maintain a database of reviewers, submitting authors, and other key information.

Examples of OSJS (Open Source Journal Systems) software/ applications

http://oad.simmons.edu/oadwiki/Free_and_open-source_journal_management_software

- Ambra - Formerly part of Topaz (below), but forked., <http://www.ambraproject.org/>
- CLEO - <http://cleo.cnrs.fr/> - In French.
- DiVA - <http://www.diva-portal.org/about.xsq> - From the Electronic Publishing Centre at Uppsala University Library.
- DPubS - <http://dpubs.org/> - From Cornell University Library and Pennsylvania State University Libraries and Press.
- E-Journal - <http://drupal.org/project/ejournal> - From Drupal.
- ePublishing Toolkit - <https://dev.livingreviews.org/projects/epubtk/> - From the Max Planck Gesellschaft.
- GAPworks - <http://developer.berlios.de/projects/gapworks/> - From German Academic Publishers (GAP).
- HyperJournal - <http://www.hjournal.org/download> - From the University of Pisa.
- Lodel - <http://www.lodel.org/> - Lo del is the publishing software behind Revues.org.
- OpenACS - <http://openacs.org/>
- Open Journal Systems - <http://pkp.sfu.ca/ojs/> - From the Public Knowledge Project.
- SOPS - <http://www.scix.net/sops.htm> - From SciX.
- Topaz - <http://www.topazproject.org/trac/wiki> - From the Public Library of Science. Also see Ambra, above.

Activity: Review the materials below”

- Most prevalent journal publishing platforms pp. 57
- Open Access journal launch services are available to help launching new Open Access journals (Open Access Directory (OAD) pp. 57
- Criteria for the evaluation of Open Journal Software pp. 58
- OAJ functionalities pp. 58 – 59
- OAJ Business Models – 60 – 69
- Software Installation, management and services pp. 69 – 74
- Setting up an individual journal title pp. 74 - 84

Activity: Review final unit questions – check progress

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