

The Presence of Algerian OA Journals in The Global Research Directories: Bibliometric Study of The Indexed journals in DOAJ**Received date: 17/07/2022 Accepted date:27/11/2022Published date: 31/12/2022****Mohammed Zeghdani¹ Nadjia Gamouh²**

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Abstract:

This article examines the presence of Algerian journals in the global OA directories by conducting a bibliometric study to identify the Algerian journals indexed in the directory of open access journals (DOAJ) and highlight their various characteristics and objectives based on the indicators and data available in the Directory of (DOAJ). One of the most important findings is the inadequate presence of Algerian journals in DOAJ compared to those published in the open access environment. The Researchers recommend to take the initiative to index the Algerian journals that meet the conditions for joining the DOAJ to value their research and increase their visibility.

Keywords: Open Access; Journals; Research Directories; DOAJ; Algeria.

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1. Introduction:

The recent developments in academic publishing methods caused a radical change in scientific communication concepts among scholars, where the Open Access model exists as the most famous method of scientific publishing, as it allows the possibility of storing and retrieving scientific research for free without any restrictions, which ensures the visibility and widespread of research. Scientific journals are the most prominent channels of scientific publishing in an environment of Open Access because they provide many characteristics that confirm the credibility of research, relying primarily on peer review in the arbitration of its articles, in addition to the free availability of those journals in most global databases. There are many indexes and synthesis guides to list this type of journal, the most famous of which is the DOAJ Directory of Journals.

Like most Arab countries, Algeria is one of the most prominent supporters of the Open Access movement. Still, it does not adopt a clear strategy to implement it on the ground. One of the manifestations of the Open Access movement in Algeria is the Algerian platform for scientific journals ASJP. This platform supervises the management of the scientific publishing process in Algerian journals. All articles published through this platform are free of charge and not subject to any financial or legal restrictions as they are usually funded by a governmental institution that oversees its management. Algeria provides the platform's website on the Internet to search for these journals at the level of national scope. However, the visibility of these journals is relatively low, although these researches are free and published within the environment of Open Access, which raises doubt and suspicion about the reality of the availability of these journals at the global scope.

This study investigates the presence of Algerian journals in the international scope by searching in the global research directories trying to answer the following question: What is the extent of the existence of Algerian OA journals in the DOAJ research directory?

Many scholars dealt with the topic of scientific journals published in an environment of free access by introducing their various characteristics or conducting various statistical studies that investigate the general orientation of these journals, as well as the rates of their use among researchers.

The researchers Amna Bahloul and Zineb ben Tayeb published an article entitled “The ASJP’s platform periodicals and its preparations to register within the DOAJ’s free access periodicals manual.” Where the two researchers aimed, through the study, to determine the extent of conformity of the humanities and social sciences journals classified within the class -C-, available on the Algerian scientific journals’ platform ASJP to the standards of the DOAJ directory and its predisposition for being indexed on it. The most prominent finding of this study is that all the studied periodicals fulfill the criteria and specifications to be indexed in DOAJ, Where the researchers recommend the necessity of applying to join the directory (Bahloul & Bentayeb, 2021).

Furthermore, The researchers Bouafia Said and Ounisi Nadia conducted a research entitled “Open Access Journals in Library Science through Global Guides: Analytical Reading in the Light of DOAJ Indicators.” The study aimed to identify the presence of OA periodicals in the field of library science in DOAJ through an analytical reading of the directory indicators. The most prominent finding is the importance of DOAJ as one of the OA sources with more than 177 periodicals specialized in library science and The lack of visibility of Arab periodicals, the researchers proposes to increase the efforts to enhance the presence and visibility of periodicals in

library science at the level of global directories (Bouafia & Ounissi, 2021).

Our study shares interests with other studies in concerns of OA journals and the directory of DOAJ. However, our study focusses on Algerian OA journals indexed in DOAJ regardless the scientific field of those journals, while the other studies are more specified in the scientific field of the studied journals.

2. Research Questions

- Are there any Algerian journals indexed in DOAJ?
- What are the scientific fields for these journals?
- What are the publishing languages allowed in the indexed journals?
- What are the licenses approved by the indexed journals?
- What are the classifications of Algerian journals indexed in DOAJ?

3. Aims of the Study

This study aims to identify the extent of Algerian Open Access journal's presence in the international research directories by discovering the various characteristics of these journals in terms of the scientific fields in which they are published, the languages they support, the conditions and licenses for publication, and classification of these journals. It also aims to investigate The extent to which the characteristics of these journals match the publication requirements in an Open Access environment.

4. Terminology and Concepts

4.1 Open Access (OA)

The transition from paper to digital text and the shift from isolated computers to a global network of connected computers allows us to share perfect copies of our work with a worldwide audience at no charge (Suber, 2012, p1). The scholars implement the information technologies to serve their scientific purposes by publishing and

sharing their works to ensure visibility on the one hand and to overcome the publisher's exploitation on the other hand. In addition to the high prices of journal subscriptions, it limits the research spread and makes it hard to access. Hence the first beginnings of the Open Access movement, whose principles are based mainly on the freedom of knowledge for all and the removal of all restrictions that prevent access to it. Therefore, Open Access (OA) is defined in its simple sense as "digital, online, free of charge, and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions" (Suber, 2012, p4).

Open Access to documents is available via two main pathways: the Gold and Green routes (Harnad, Brody, Vallières, & Hitchcock, 2008). The Gold route refers to freely accessible research articles at publication. This route is often accompanied by article processing charges (APCs). While the Green route refers to author self-archiving, in which peer-reviewed articles and not peer-reviewed pre-prints are posted online to an institutional or subject repository or a personal website. This route often depends on journal or publisher policies on self-archiving (Tennant, Waldner, Jacques, & Masuzzo, 2016). OA journals and repositories differ in their relationship to peer review. OA journals perform their peer review just like conventional journals. Repositories generally don't perform peer review, although they host and disseminate articles peer-reviewed elsewhere. As a result, gold and green OA differ in their support costs and in the roles they can play in scholarly communications (Suber, 2012, p51).

4.2 Open Access License and Copyright

Open Access is compatible with copyright, and except for instances where OA works happen to be public domain, most OA works are protected by copyright. However, Open Access is not the same as public domain. Works in the public domain are not protected by copyright (Duquesne, 2021). Open Access is published under

Creative Commons license (Bahloul & Bentayeb, 2021).

4.2.1 The Creative Commons elements

- BY – Credit must be given to the creator
- NC – Only noncommercial uses of the work are permitted
- SA – Adaptations must be shared under the same terms
- ND – No derivatives or adaptations of the work are permitted

4.2.2 The Creative Commons License Options

There are six different license types, listed from most to least permissive, as stated on the official website of the Creative Commons (CreativeCommons(CC), 2022):

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CC0 (CC Zero) is a public dedication tool that allows creators to give up their copyright and put their works into the worldwide public domain. CC0 enables reusers to distribute, remix, adapt, and build upon the material in any medium or format, with no conditions (CreativeCommons(CC), 2022).

4.3 OpenAccess Journals

The OA movement uses the term gold for OA delivered by journals, regardless of the journal's business model (Suber, 2012, p53). Open Access Journals are peer-reviewed journals that anyone can access their articles online without paying any fees. Some of these Journals, especially those published by academic departments in universities, do not charge fees; authors must pay for publication, while others charge a fee for publication that they may pay by the authors or sponsors of the research. This model meets with commercial publishing because the researcher must pay a sum of money to the publisher to make the article available electronically for free access immediately after its publication (Aouda, 2013). The quality of an OA journal is based on the same criteria as a

subscription-based journal like peer review, editorial reputation, discipline relevance, etc.

4.3.1 Article Processing Charge (APC).

Some journals charge authors to cover the costs of peer review and publication for articles. This is known as Article Processing Charge (APC). Sometimes the journal will drop this charge if the author cannot handle the cost.

Some commercial publishers allow authors to pay for Open Access. Once the fee has been paid, the article is made freely available on the publisher's website and included in the journal's print and online versions that are available to subscribers. Some Open Access journals are published by institutions that subsidize the operation and do not require the author to pay (libguides, 2022).

4.3 OpenAccess Directories

4.3.1 Directories of OA Repositories

4.3.1.1 OpenDOAR

OpenDOAR is the quality-assured, global Directory of Open Access Repositories. It hosts repositories that provide free and open access to academic outputs and resources. Each repository record within OpenDOAR has been carefully reviewed and processed by an editorial team member, enabling the directory to offer trusted service to the community (DOAR, 2022).

4.3.1.2 Registry of Open Access Repositories (ROAR)

ROAR Promotes open access to the research literature, pre, and post-peer-review, through author self-archiving in institutional e-print archives. The directory has two functions (libguides, 2022):

- Overall monitor growth in the number of e-print archives.
- Maintain a list of E-Prints sites.

4.3.2 Directory of OA Journals (DOAJ)

DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals) was launched in 2003 with 300 open access journals. Today, this independent index contains almost 17 500 peer-reviewed, Open Access journals covering all areas of science, technology, medicine, social sciences, arts and humanities. Open access journals from all countries and in all languages are accepted for indexing (DOAJ, 2022). Most Algerian Open Access journals meet the requirements to be indexed in DOAJ (Bahloul & Bentayeb, 2021).

5. Research Methode

5.1 Research approach

According to the nature of this study and the goals it seeks to achieve, the study takes the bibliometric approach, as these studies depend mainly on preparing lists that limit the Algerian free access journals indexed in the DOAJ directory on the one hand, and studying the numerical and qualitative trends of these journals on the other hand, that is, it depends on The quantitative approach that transforms the studied journals' characteristics into numbers that are easy to count, count and compare, and thus extract objective indicators for them.

5.2 Research Procedures

5.2.1 Data Collection

The bibliographic list is the main tool for applying the bibliometric approach, so the researchers prepared a list of Arab Open Access journals based on the indicators of (DOAJ). Algerian free access journals were selected and the rest of the journals were excluded. Then collecting various data related to the characteristics of

the selected journals, depending on the Algerian platform for scientific journals ASJP.

5.2.2 Data Analysis

The researchers analyzed the Algerian OA journals indexed in DOAJ, by studying the numerical and qualitative trends and identifying the different features in terms of language of publication, publishing costs, scientific field, and classification of journals using the inferential statistical method in extracting the results of the study.

6. Results and Discussion

6.1 General statistics about DOAJ

Table 1. Statistics of DOAJ

Description	Statistics 2021	Statistics 2022
Journals	16.523	17.882
Article Records	6.230.643	7.639.657
Countries Represented	126	130
Languages	80	80

The statistics shown in the above table indicate that the total number of journals indexed in the DOAJ in 2022 is 17,882, representing an increase of 08.20% compared to the previous year, 2021, when it was 16.523 (Bouafia & Ounissi, 2021). This increment is somewhat acceptable compared to the rates of increase in the last years due to the spread of the Open Access movement, which is mainly based on the principle of knowledge freedom for all, as well as the desire to increase the visibility and valuation of scientific



research. The table also shows that the DOAJ directory contains about 7,639,657 articles in 80 languages worldwide, including English, French, Spanish, Russian, and German. In addition to the contribution of 130 out of 195 countries to the directory.

These statistics prove the extent of the Open Access movement’s success in influencing the foundations of scientific communication in shifting from the traditional paid publishing methods that limit the visibility of research to modern Open Access methods that ensure the spread of research, its accessibility to the broadest range, and its availability in an accessible manner without any restrictions that limit its visibility. This necessarily reflects the success of DOAJ in attracting various journals as an international directory that contributes to facilitating scientific communication in open access environment.

6.2 Statistics of Arab World Indexed Journals in DOAJ

Table 2. Statistics of Arab World OA Journals Indexed in DOAJ

Country	Indexed Journals	
	Freq	%
Algeria	25	9.1
Egypt	65	23.6
Saudi Arabia	18	6.5
Tunisia	05	1.8
Morocco	28	10.1

Jordan	01	0.4
Iraq	78	28.3
The Syrian Arab Republic	11	4.0
Qatar	12	4.3
Kuwait	02	0.7
Libya	05	1.8
United Arab Emirates	10	3.6
Bahrain	01	0.4
Lebanon	02	0.7
Sudan	02	0.7
Palestine	02	0.7
Omen	09	3.3
Total	276	100%

The above table represents the statistics of the Arab world's OA journals indexed in the DOAJ. It shows that 17 of 22 Arab countries contribute to DOAJ, with 276 journals representing 01.54% of the total indexed OA journals in the Directory. This low rate is due to many reasons. The most notable is the weakness of scientific research in the Arab countries regarding quantity and quality. In addition, the adherence to traditional publishing methods and the excessive caution of openness and participation in global databases, even though some of these countries have many journals publishing in an OA environment. Most of these journals may not meet the sufficient conditions for indexing in DOAJ.


Among the Arab world, Iraq occupies the first place with 78 journals indexed in a directory out of 363 Iraqi journals published in

the OA environment (IASJ, 2022), meaning that 21.50% of OA Iraqi journals are indexed in the DOAJ. Iraq is the country that contributes the most, with 28.30% of the total Arab contribution. While Egypt comes in second place with a total of 65 journals indexed in the Directory out of 820 Egyptian journals (EKB, 2022), representing 08% of the Egyptian journals indexed in the Directory. Egypt contributes 23.06% of the total Arab contribution. Morocco occupies third place with 28 indexed journals out of 187 Moroccan journals published in the OA environment (IMIST, 2022), representing 15% of the total Moroccan journals and representing 10.10% of the whole Arab contribution to the Directory. In fourth place, Algeria contributes 25 indexed journals out of 758 (ASJP, 2022), representing 03.30% of the Algerian journals and 09.10% of the Arab contributions to the Directory.

As for the rest of the Arab countries, Saudi Arabia contributes 18 journals, followed by Qatar with 12 journals, Syria with 11 journals, the UAE with ten journals, and Oman with nine journals. Tunisia and Libya contribute five journals. Kuwait, Lebanon, Sudan, and Palestine contribute with two journals. Jordan and Bahrain each Late ranking by contributing one journal to the Directory.

6.3 List of Algerian Open Access Journals Indexed in DOAJ

Table 3. List of Algerian OA Journals Indexed in DOAJ

Journal	Publishing	License	Publishing	Rank
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences				
Biskra University , Algeria				
EISSN: 2602-781X		ISSN: 2253-0347		

	Charges	Languages		
El Khitab	No charges	CC BY	En, Fr, Ar	C
Revue des Lettres et Sciences Sociales	No charges	CC BY-NC-ND	En, Fr, Ar	C
Annales du Patrimoine	No charges	CC BY-NC-ND	En, Fr, Ar	NR
Algerian Journal of Health Sciences (AJHS)	No charges	CC BY-NC	En, Fr, Ar	NR
Algerian Journal of Natural Products	No charges	CC BY	En, Fr	NR
Afak For Sciences	No charges	CC BY-NC-ND	En, Fr, Ar	C
Journal of Fundamental and Applied Sciences	No charges	CC BY-NC	En, Fr	NR
Journal of Materials and Engineering Structures (JMES)	No charges	CC BY-SA	En, Fr	B
Nutrition & Santé	No charges	CC BY	En, Fr	B
Journal de la Faculté de Médecine d'Oran (JFMO)	No charges	CC BY-NC-ND	En, Fr	NR
Journal of Renewable Energies	No charges	CC BY-SA	En, Fr	NR
International Journal of Energetica	No charges	CC BY-NC	En	NR
Synthèse	No charges	CC BY	En, Fr	NR
Journal of New Technology and Materials	No charges	CC BY	En	B
Batna Journal of Medical Sciences	No charges	CC BY	En, Fr, Ar	NR
Algerian Journal of Renewable Energy and Sustainable Development	No charges	CC BY-NC-ND	En	NR
ENP Engineering Science Journal	No charges	CC BY-NC-SA	En	NR
IJTIHALD Journal of Legal and Economic Studies	No charges	CC BY-NC	En, Fr, Ar	C
Agrobiologia	No charges	CC BY-NC	En, Fr	B

Photochem & BioSub Journal	No charges	CC BY-NC	En, Fr	NR
Journal of Building Materials and Structures	No charges	CC BY	En	NR
Management & Economics Research Journal	No charges	CC BY-NC	En, Ar	NR
Altralang Journal	No charges	CC BY-NC	En,Fr,Ar,Es,Gr	NR
African Journal of Political Sciences	No charges	CC BY	En, Fr, Ar	C
Al Bashar Economic Journal	No charges	CC BY-ND	En, Fr, Ar	C

Note. En = English, Fr = French, Ar = Arabic, Es = Spanish

Table .3 lists the Algerian open access journals indexed in DOAJ. The table shows the characteristics of each journal in terms of publishing charges, licenses for creative commons, and the offered publishing languages, in addition to the journal's classification.

6.4 Scientific Fields

Table 4. Algerian OA Journals Indexed in DOAJ According to Scientific Field


Scientific Field	Indexed Journals	
	Freq	%
Agriculture	02	8.0
Language and Literature	02	8.0
Law	02	8.0
Medicine	06	24.0
Philosophy. Psychology. Religion	01	4.0
Political science	01	4.0
Science	06	24.0
Social Sciences and economics	06	24.0
Technology	06	24.0

The above table shows the statistics of Algerian journals indexed in DOAJ and their classification according to scientific fields and specializations. As it appears, there are six journals in each of the areas of medicine, science, technology, social sciences, and economics, as each of the fields above represents 24% of the total indexed Algerian journals. While we find two journals in each area of agriculture, literature, languages, and law, each of these fields represents 08% of the total indexed journals. At the same time, there is only one journal in each area of political science, philosophy, and psychology, with a rate of 04% of the indexed journals.

The statistics show that most journals indexed in the Directory are published in natural sciences, medical sciences, and technology. At the same time, we find a lesser presence of journals published in the literary and human sciences fields, as this is likely to the objectivity of natural and medical sciences, as such areas are not subjected to cultural or geographical determinants or characteristics, unlike the humanities and literature, which differ according to different cultures, religions, and societies. Some of these journals are published in more than one field or scientific field; for example, the Journal of Ijtihad for Legal and Economic Studies is published in the area of law and the social sciences and economics.

6.5 Publishing Languages

Table 5. Algerian OA Journals Indexed in DOAJ According to Publishing Languages

Publishing language	Indexed Journals
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div>Journal of Human Sciences and Societ y _____ Vol : 11 N°:04 -December-Year:2022</div> <div style="text-align: right;">  </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center; margin-top: 5px;"> <div>EISSN: 2602-781X _____</div> <div>ISSN: 2253-0347</div> </div>	

	Freq	%
Arabic	11	44
French	19	76
English	25	100
German	01	4
Spanish	01	4
Other Languages	00	0

According to Table 5, Algerian journals indexed in DOAJ allow publication in only five languages. In addition, all journals allow publication in the English language, 19 journals allow publication in French, 11 journals allow publication in Arabic, and one journal offers publication in Spanish and German.

Arabic is considered the mother tongue or the first language (L1) in Algeria, followed by French as a second language (L2), as some believe the Algerian society is bilingual. Still, it is noted from Table 5 that all journals allow publication in English, while there are journals that do not allow publication in Arabic or the French language. Although they are the two languages spoken in Algeria, this is due to the objective bases for adopting the language of publication in Algerian journals, where scientific production is the main criterion for accrediting the language of publication in the journal. If we review some international statistics, we will find that the academic digital content published on the internet in English exceeds 72%. In comparison, the Arabic content does not exceed 01.50%. Therefore, the standards adopted by the journals in choosing the language of

publication are objective standards that aim to reach the range of these journals to the most significant possible number of beneficiaries. In other words, scientific publishing in English provides greater visibility and a wider spread of scientific research compared to scientific publishing in other languages.

6.6 Publishing Charges

Table 6. Algerian OA Journals Indexed in DOAJ According to Publishing Charges

Publishing charges	Indexed Journals	
	Freq	%
No charges	25	100
Charged	00	00
Hybrid Charge	00	00
Total	25	100

It is known that publishing in OA journals is free of charge and paid by the author in the case of APC journals. The above table shows that all Algerian OA journals indexed in DOAJ do not impose costs or publication fees on authors, whether they are Algerian or non-Algerian. All journals are governmental and affiliated with a university, laboratory, or research center. Therefore, they receive full support from the supervising body. The free publication in these journals is due to the main objective of their establishment, as these journals were not created for commercial purposes but were established to support and promote Algerian scientific research.

6.7 Publishing License

Table 7. Algerian OA Journals Indexed in DOAJ According to Publishing License

Publishing License	Indexed Journals	
	Freq	%
Creative Commons (CC)	25	100
Attribution (BY)	25	100
Share-alike (SA)	03	12
Non-commercial (NC)	14	56
Non-derivative works (ND)	06	24

The table above shows that all journals indexed in DOAJ are published in an OA environment and support the Creative Commons license. As all journals allow copying, publishing, and reuse of their content provided copyright is preserved, 12% of journals require publication under a similar license. In comparison, 56M of journals obliges publication under a non-commercial exploitation license, and 24% of journals adopt publication under a no derivation license. Considering that these journals may require more than one license to publish, Table 3 shows in detail the Creative Commons license each indexed journal requires.

It is noted from these data that all the indexed journals support publishing in open access environment and allow free accessing, using, and copying of its content. However, the journals limit the commercial exploitation of their content, for it is directed to serve scientific research purposes.

6.8 Journal Rank

Table 8. Algerian OA Journals Indexed in DOAJ According to Classification

Classification	Indexed Journals	
	Freq	%
A+	00	00
A	00	00
B	04	16
C	06	24
NR	15	60
Total	25	100

It is noted from the above table, which shows the division of journals indexed in the DOAJ according to the local classification standard adopted by the General Directorate of Scientific Research and Technological Development in Algeria, that there is no journal classified with the rank A + and A, while it represents 16% of the journals classified in B. The proportion of 24% of the journals is classified in C. On the other hand, it is noted that 60% of the number of journals is not classified.

It is generally noted in the table that most journals are not classified, which reflects the quality of the content provided by these journals. We also report that the directory representation rate increases whenever the journal's classification decreases. The reason for this low rating is likely the bad reputation of the OA journals in terms of content, as it appears that the journals published for free have poor content that is not subject to systematic and objective arbitration to

enhance its quality, and OA journals are published randomly without taking into account the quality of scientific research.

7. Conclusion

By analyzing the previous data, which shows the characteristics of the Algerian journals indexed in DOAJ, we reached the following findings:

- The impact of the open access movement among researchers has led to the success of DOAJ in attracting many journals annually.
- The Arab world's presence in the DOAJ directory is minimal compared to the number of journals published in Arab countries.
- Algeria ranks fourth in the Arab world in terms of the number of journals indexed in the DOAJ directory, after Iraq, Egypt, and Morocco.
- Journals published in the areas of technology and natural sciences are more present in the DOAJ than those published in the areas of arts and social sciences.
- Algerian journals, indexed in DOAJ, support publishing in English and other languages to ensure that their articles are spread as widely as possible.

- Publishing in Algerian journals is free, and the author does not afford publishing charges.
- The journals are published under Creative Commons licenses and focus on not using the research for commercial purposes.
- Most Algerian journals indexed in the DOAJ are not classified because of their weak impact factor.
- The Algerian presence in journals in the DOAJ is modest compared to the number of Algerian journals published in an open-access environment.

Based on the previous results that clearly show the weak presence of Algerian journals in the DOAJ, it is recommended to take the initiative to index the Algerian journals that meet the conditions for joining the DOAJ to value their research and increase their visibility. Also, it promotes scientific communication between researchers and consolidates the culture of freedom of knowledge by contributing to the spread of the open access movement through global research Directories.

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