

# **A Bibliometric Study of Open Access Sociology Journals in DOAJ**

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## **ABSTRACT**

*The present study reports the findings of bibliometric analysis of open access journals available in the subject of 'Sociology' indexed in directory of open access journals (DOAJ). The present Bibliometric study covers total 146 e-journals of Sociology journals available in DOAJ. These Sociology journals are analyzed and tabulated according to objectives of the study. Highest 20 with (18.49%) journals were added in 2018, maximum 95 journals are published in English language and (62.33%) journals belong to sociology and (37.67%) of journals are allied subjects of sociology.*

**Keywords:** Bibliometrics, Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), Sociology journals.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The study of scientific literature is important component of academic and industrial research, teaching and learning. The information explosion and revolution in information and communication technology has built the platform for publishers, organizations, academic institutions and researchers to showcase their research output in the form of open access journals and articles. The open access literature published in journals, supplements and compliments the scientific literature available in archives and currently published printed journals. The ever-increasing subscription cost of print and online journals has forced scientific community to move towards less expensive or open access journals for getting their monographs published. The open access journals not only give ease to researchers but also relieve the financial pressure on the libraries. Open access journal can also reduce the cost structure of the entire scholarly publishing enterprise.

Whereas the Bibliometric analysis is one type of research method and widely using area of research in the Library and Information Science field. The quantitative analysis and statistics to describe patterns of publication within a given field of literature are utilized. Researchers use bibliometric methods of evaluation to determine the influence of a single author or to describe the relationship between two or more authors or works. Bibliometric studies can also be used to study the regional patterns of research, the extent of cooperation between research groups and national research profiles. The main attributes of bibliometrics are: publication counts, citation counts, co-citation

analysis, co-word analysis, scientific ‘mapping’ and citations in patents. The word ‘bibliometric’ has been derived from the Latin and Greek words ‘biblio’ and ‘metrics’ which refer to the application of mathematics to the study of bibliography. The present study is a bibliometric study of all journals in the field of sociology indexed in DOAJ database.

The director of open access journals (DOAJ) is a significant platform built for the research professionals in the field of research and development. It provides access to significant scientific and scholarly open access journals covering nearly all subject fields of human knowledge. The directory is an initiative of Lund University, Sweden and based on the Budapest open access initiative program. DOAJ aims to strengthen the ease of use of open access scholarly literature published in journals, thereby promoting the usage of and impact of open access journals.

## **PREVIOUS STUDIES**

Other studies have been carried out previously that may be useful supplementary analysis for the study presented here.

**Kotti Thavamani (2013)** did bibliometric study of library science journals available in DOAJ. A total of 151 library and information science journals were examined related to a number of issues: subject-specific distribution of library journals, interdisciplinary aspects, country of origin, language-used and other language characteristics, numbers of titles first appearing in given years, publication fees, the existence of license agreements, and the types of organizations having journals in the Directory that focus on libraries or librarianship.

**Parveen Kumar (2013)** studied library science journal on DOAJ and Analyzed based on country, keywords, frequency, etc. he identifies that there was only one open access journal i.e. Bulletin of the Medical Library Association was available before 1990 in the field of library and information science (LIS). Only (19.04%) journals have their EISSN. Almost one fourth journals were publishing on half yearly basis.

**Shipra Awasthi and Babita Jaiswal (2015)** did bibliometric study of 72 LIS journals available in DOAJ. He identified that till 2013 87.06% journals are archived and found that 66.6% journals published in English language are archived in DOAJ. In other languages very fewer journals are openly accessible to the users.

**Jatinder Kumar (2016)** analysed 556 journals in mathematics. He finds in his study that maximum number of journals were added in year 2013, maximum number of journals are published in ‘print’ format and India is leading contributor for mathematical journals

**Veerabasavaiah and Muthuraja (2018)** analysed 108 political science journals in DOAJ. They identified examine year wise addition of journals and Maximum 24 (22.22%) of e journals were added in 2017. Followed by 2015 with 21 (19.44%), 2016 with 20 (18.52%), 2010 with 10 (9.26%), 2013 with 8 (7.41%). Out of 108 Journals, Spain and Brazil leading with 16 (14.81%) and 14 (12.96%) and Colombia, Poland and Romania with 7 (6.48%) each. Indonesia with 6 (5.56%). Germany, Mexico and Turkey with 5 each with (4.63%).

**Negi Dheeraj Singh (2019)** analysed LIS journals in DOAJ from 2003 to 2019. He identified that total number of published journals during the period of study was 140. He analysed using different parameters like country wise distribution, language wise distribution, etc. It was found that 32 journals were published as on 2017. The United States of America publishes 25 LIS journals included in DOAJ (17.5%).

### **Scope and limitations of the study**

The present study is limited to sociology journals available in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). A total of 146 e-Journals were identified in the directory in the discipline of Sociology will be undertaken for the further study.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The study objectives are drawn are as follows:

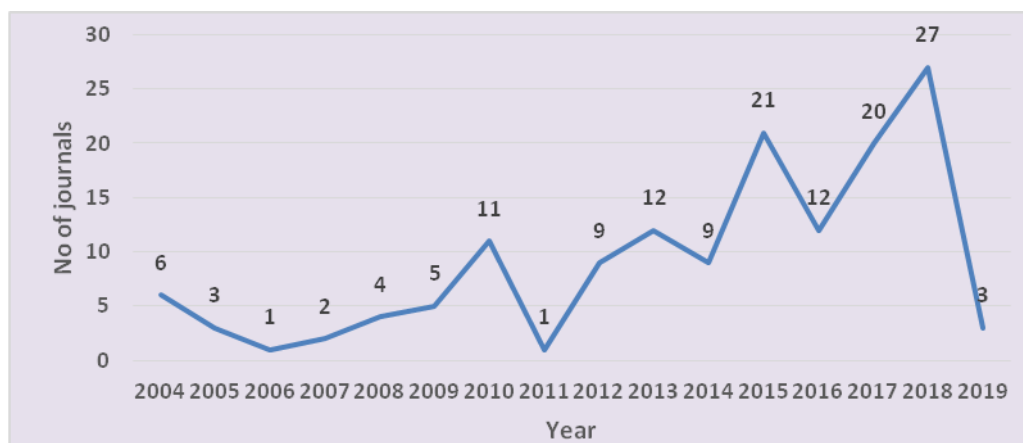
- To identify the number of Sociology journals in DOAJ.
- To identify the year wise addition of the Journals.
- To identify the subject wise distribution
- To know the country of publication of the journals.
- To identify the Publication Format and
- To identify the language of the Journals

### **METHODOLOGY**

Sociology journals details are being collected from DOAJ website at <https://doaj.org> Total 146 journals identified from the portal. The data for the study were analyzed using MS Excel spreadsheets to achieve the objectives of the study. The details were entered to Excel spreadsheets as title of the journals, Publication format, subject discipline, year of added, country of publication and language of the journal.

### **DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION**

<b>Table-1: Year wise addition of Sociology Journals</b>					
<b>Sl No.</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>No of journals N= 146</b>	<b>Percentage (%) N= 100</b>	<b>Cumulative Journals N= 146</b>	<b>Cumulative percentage (%)N= 100</b>
1	2004	6	4.11%	6	4.11%
2	2005	3	2.05%	9	6.16%
3	2006	1	0.68%	10	6.85%
4	2007	2	1.37%	12	8.22%
5	2008	4	2.74%	16	10.96%
6	2009	5	3.42%	21	14.38%
7	2010	11	7.53%	32	21.92%
8	2011	1	0.68%	33	22.60%
9	2012	9	6.16%	42	28.77%
10	2013	12	8.22%	54	36.99%
11	2014	9	6.16%	63	43.15%
12	2015	21	14.38%	84	57.53%
13	2016	12	8.22%	96	65.75%
14	2017	20	13.70%	116	79.45%
15	2018	27	18.49%	143	97.95%
16	2019	3	2.05%	146	100.00%



**Fig:** Year wise addition of Sociology Journals

Table-1 represents the year wise growth of Journals in Sociology. Maximum 27 (18.49%) of journals were added in 2018 Followed by 2015 with 21 (14.38%), 2017 with 20 (13.70%), 2013 and 2016 each 12 (8.22%), 2010 with 11(7.53%) and respectively.

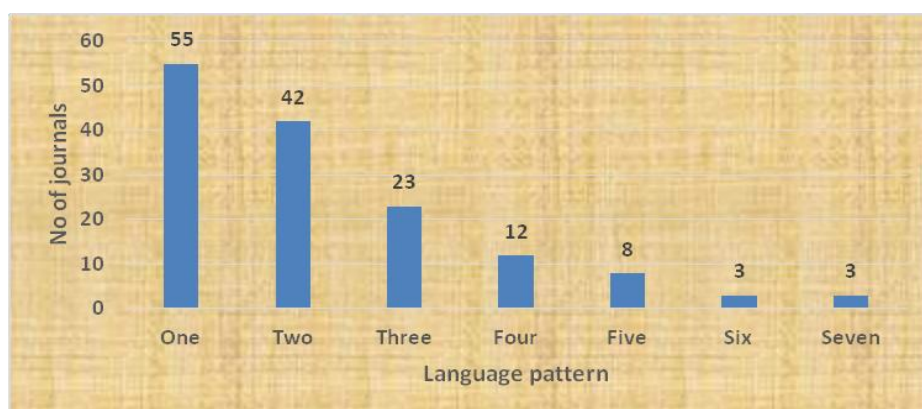
Sl. No	Language	No. of Journals	Rank
1	English	95	1
2	Castilian	54	2
3	Spanish	52	3
4	Portuguese	34	4
5	French	25	5
6	Russian	11	6
7	Italian	7	7
8	German	5	8
9	Indonesian	5	8
10	Polish	5	8
11	Valencian	5	8
12	Catalan	3	9
13	Czech	2	10
14	Moldavian	2	10
15	Moldovan	2	10
16	Romanian	2	10
17	Slovak	2	10
18	Arabic	2	10
19	Chinese	1	11
20	Croatian	1	11
21	Persian	1	11
22	Turkish	1	11

23	Ukrainian	1	11
24	Galician	1	11
25	Norwegian	1	11
26	Dutch	1	11
27	Flemish	1	11
28	Slovenian	1	11
29	Nepal	1	11
30	Swedish	1	11
31	Bokmol	1	11
32	Norwegian	1	11

Table-2 is representing the language-wise distribution of journals in Sociology. It is clear from the table that ‘English ‘is prominent and preferred language being published with highest 95 (1<sup>st</sup> Rank) journals. Followed by Castilian language with 54 (2<sup>nd</sup> Rank). Spanish languages with 52 (3<sup>rd</sup> Rank) Portuguese language with 34 (4<sup>th</sup> Rank) French language with 25 (5<sup>th</sup> Rank) and others relatively have very less number in language publications.

**Table-3: Language pattern of publication of journals**

Sl. No	Language pattern	No of journals N= 146	Percentage (%) N= 100	Cumulative Journals N= 146	Cumulative percentage (%) N= 100
1	One	55	37.67%	55	37.67%
2	Two	42	28.77%	97	66.44%
3	Three	23	15.75%	120	82.19%
4	Four	12	8.22%	132	90.41%
5	Five	8	5.48%	140	95.89%
6	Six	3	2.05%	143	97.95%
7	Seven	3	2.05%	146	100.00%



**Fig:** Language pattern of publication of journals

Table 3 explains the language Pattern wise Publication of journals Sociology. It is clear from the table that One language pattern being published with highest 55(37.67%) journals published. Two language patterns being published with 42 (28.77%) journals published. Three language patterns being published with 23 (15.75%) Four language patterns being published with 12 (8.22%) journals published and respectively.

Table-4: Country wise Growth of Open Access Journals				
Sl. No	Rank	Name of the country	No of Journal N= 146	Percentage % N= 100
1	1	Brazil	20	13.70%
2	2	Spain	17	11.64%
3	3	France	10	6.85%
4	3	Poland	10	6.85%
5	4	Argentina	9	6.16%
6	5	Russian Federation	8	5.48%
7	6	United States	7	4.79%
8	7	Indonesia	6	4.11%
9	7	Italy	6	4.11%
10	8	Canada	5	3.42%
11	9	Australia	4	2.74%
12	9	Portugal	4	2.74%
13	9	Romania	4	2.74%
14	10	Norway	3	2.05%
15	10	Chile	3	2.05%
16	10	Colombia	3	2.05%
17	10	Mexico	3	2.05%
18	10	United Kingdom	3	2.05%
19	11	Austria	2	1.37%
20	11	Croatia	2	1.37%
21	11	Czech Republic	2	1.37%
22	11	Germany	2	1.37%
23	11	Serbia	2	1.37%
24	12	Belgium	1	0.68%
25	12	Ecuador	1	0.68%
26	12	Iran, Islamic Republic of	1	0.68%
27	12	Moldova, Republic of	1	0.68%
28	12	Nepal	1	0.68%
29	12	Netherlands	1	0.68%
30	12	Slovenia	1	0.68%
31	12	Switzerland	1	0.68%
32	12	Taiwan, Province of China	1	0.68%
33	12	Turkey	1	0.68%
34	12	Ukraine	1	0.68%

Table 4 presents countries wise publication of journals. Out of 146 Journals, Brazil leading with 20 (13.70%). Followed Spain with 17 (11.64%). France and Poland with 10 each with (6.85%). Argentina with 9 (6.16%) Russian Federation with 8 (5.48%) and the remaining countries are publishing less than 7 journals.

**Table: 5 Subject wise Distribution of journals**

Sl. NO	Subject	No of journals N= 146	Percentage% N= 100	Rank
1	Social Sciences	91	62.33%	1
2	Geography & Social Science	12	8.22%	2
3	Philosophy & Social Science	9	6.16%	3
4	Language and Literature and Social Science	8	5.48%	4
5	Political Science & Social Science	6	4.11%	5
6	History & Social science	5	3.42%	6
7	Medicine & Social Science	4	2.74%	7
8	Education & Social Science	4	2.74%	7
9	Social Sciences & Demography	2	1.37%	8
10	Law & Social Science	2	1.37%	8
11	Agriculture & Social Science	1	0.68%	9
12	General Works & Social Science	1	0.68%	9
13	Technology & Social Science	1	0.68%	9

Table-5 is explaining the subject wise distribution of e journals. There are 91 journals were identified in Social Science (Sociology) and its allied discipline. Maximum (62.33%) of journals were in Sociology, the remaining (37.67%) of journals were added from social sciences field.

**Table-6 Publication Mode of Journals**

Sl. No.	Mode	No of journal N= 146	Percentage % N= 100
1	Online version	104	71.23%
2	Print and Online version	42	28.77%

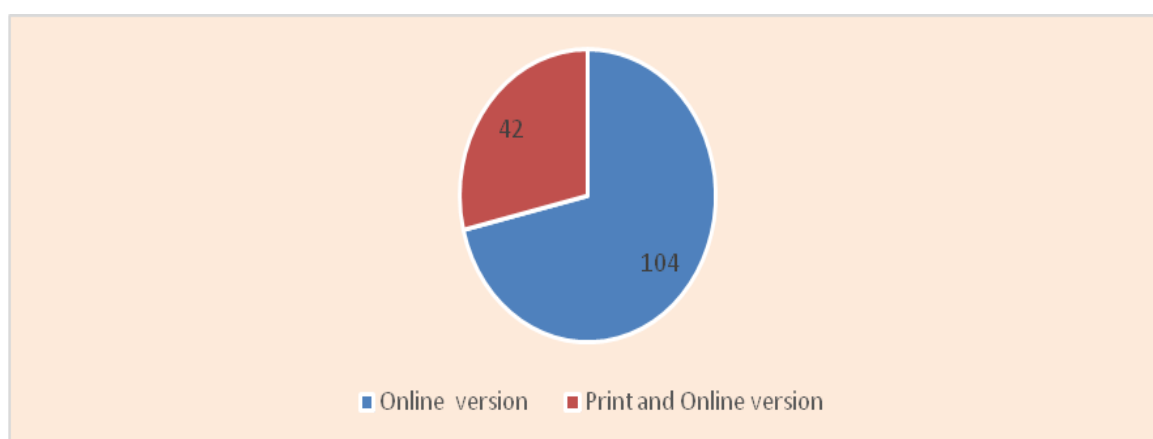


Table-6 describes Publication Mode of Journals. An Online Mode with 104 (71.23%) and It is found that both Print and Online Mode with 42 (28.77%).

## **FINDINGS**

The following findings are identified from the study:

In Table 1 it is found that, there are 146 journals available in Sociology and its allied discipline. From the analysis Table-1 it is found that the highest (18.49%) journals were Growth in 2018. Table-2 indicates and found that more than 95 of journals are published in English and remaining journals are published other than English language. Table 4 presents country wise Publication of journals. It is observed that Brazil, Spain, France, Poland, Argentina and Russian Federation are top in the list for journal growth. In table 5 it is found that, nearly (62.33%) journals are available in Sociology, the remaining (37.67%) of journals are found in allied areas of Sociology. In table-6 it is observed that there are 71.23% of journals are available online Mode Followed by (28.77%) with both Print and online Mode are available.

## **CONCLUSION**

The directory of open access journals is one of the vital and developed databases of open access research journals that reports research findings of the scientific literature being published around the world by established publishers and organizations. DOAJ helps research community to contribute their research findings in some of the most valued peer-reviewed open access journals. The current study has conducted a bibliometric study of open access journals in 'sociology' indexed in DOAJ and shows some impressive outcomes. The DOAJ is a huge database with high usage. It is recommended that professionals must include the DOAJ database in their libraries online collections, consortia and library networks. LIS should also promote DOAJ database among its library user community and advised to hold special training programs for students and faculty members for the awareness and right usage of DOAJ database.

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