



UNIVERSITÄT
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Bibliometrics Working Group

Diamond Open Access Journals, Germany

(DOAG)

Version 1.0

May 25th, 2022

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1. General Remarks

Data Sources

‘Diamond Open Access Journals, Germany’ (DOAG) is a quality controlled list that contains information about diamond open access (OA) journals hosted in Germany. It was created by using different data sources that are free of charge and was compiled from March 2022 to May 2022.

Definition: Diamond OA Journal

A diamond OA journal offers immediate open access to all content published by the journal, without charging any fees from authors. Neither journals that charge article processing charges (in what follows: APC- based journals) nor *hybrid OA* or *delayed OA* journals meet this definition and are therefore not included in DOAG.

Data Sources

Possible diamond OA journals were identified via two approaches:

- Since many diamond OA journals are hosted on Open Journal Systems (OJS) platforms, a list of OJS-hosting services was used as a starting point for investigation¹. Websites of all hosting services in Germany were visited and information like journal names and ISSN were collected. As a result, a list of possible diamond OA journal candidates was created.
- The second approach aimed to identify the sub-group of diamond OA journals in world-wide evidence sources for full OA journals. In a first step, initial lists of journals were compiled including all serials with ISSN from the *Directory of Open Access Journals* (DOAJ)², PubMed Central (PMC)³, and the *Directory of Open Access Scholarly Resources* (ROAD)⁴. Furthermore, ISSN-L⁵ was used to attribute different ISSNs to unique journal entities. In a second step, data from DOAJ, PMC and ROAD was searched for country information of the publisher or the journal as well as information about whether or not any fees are charged on the side of the authors.

¹ <https://ojs-de.net/netzwerk/ojs-standorte-im-deutschsprachigen-raum>

² <https://doaj.org> Data download: 29.09.2021). Currently there are 17,570 journals listed in the DOAJ, of which 12,074 (~ 68.72%) do not charge any article processing charges (APC).

³ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/journals/> (Data download: 29.09.2021)

⁴ <https://www.issn.org/the-issn-international-is-pleased-to-introduce-road/> (ROAD data can be accessed after registration. Data download: 29.09.2021)

⁵ <https://www.issn.org/services/online-services/access-to-issn-l-table/> (Data downloaded: 29.09.2021)

In the case of ISSN covered by DOAJ, the list was restricted to cases with the country information 'Germany' and information if publication fees are charged was 'No'. In cases where the string in the field 'publisher' and/or 'institution' comprised a keyword that indicates a German city or institution (*Universität, Hochschule, Fachhochschule, Institut, Helmholtz, Leibniz, Max Planck, Fraunhofer, Gesellschaft*, as well as the *names of German university cities*), the ISSN was also included in the list of possible candidates. For ISSN covered by PMC a similar procedure was applied: All ISSN were included for which the open access indicator was 'All' and the information in the data field with the publisher information included one of the above mentioned *keywords* or website information contained the top level domain '.de'.

For ISSN included in ROAD dataset, all ISSNs were obtained where the website contained the top level domain '.de' or the publisher string contained one of the before mentioned *keywords*.

In a third step, the three data sets and the manually created list of OJS journals hosted at German institutions were merged. In order to verify the open access status of the journals of the list, it was matched against the ISSN-Gold-OA list 5.0, which is a curated evidence source for Gold OA journals. In a final step, the journals for which payment information were found in OpenAPC for 2020 and 2021 were removed from the list.

Table 1 shows the data sources together with the date of the processed version.

Source	Status
DOAJ	2021-09-29
ROAD	2021-09-29
PMC	2021-09-29
OpenAPC	2022-03-02
ISSN-Gold-OA	2022-02-28
ISSN-L	2021-09-29

Table 1: Processed versions of data sources

Manual data cleaning

The method described so far results in a list of OA journals in Germany but not in a list that is restricted to those that do not charge any fees on the side of the authors. To assure the correctness of the diamond status of the journals in DOAG, a manually checking procedure was applied. In a first step, APC URL information provided by DOAJ was used to search for

payment information on the journal website. In cases where no APC URL was available, journal URL was used as a substitute. In cases where URL information was missing, a Google web search was performed using the journal ISSN as search term. The journal website was searched for APC and other publication fee information or the information that the journals do not charge such fees. As soon as the desired information was found, the search was stopped and the journal was categorized as 'diamond OA' or 'non-diamond OA'. In cases of missing or unclear information about possible publication charges, the editor of the journal was contacted and asked for clarification.

Figure 1 gives an overview of the manual checking procedure.

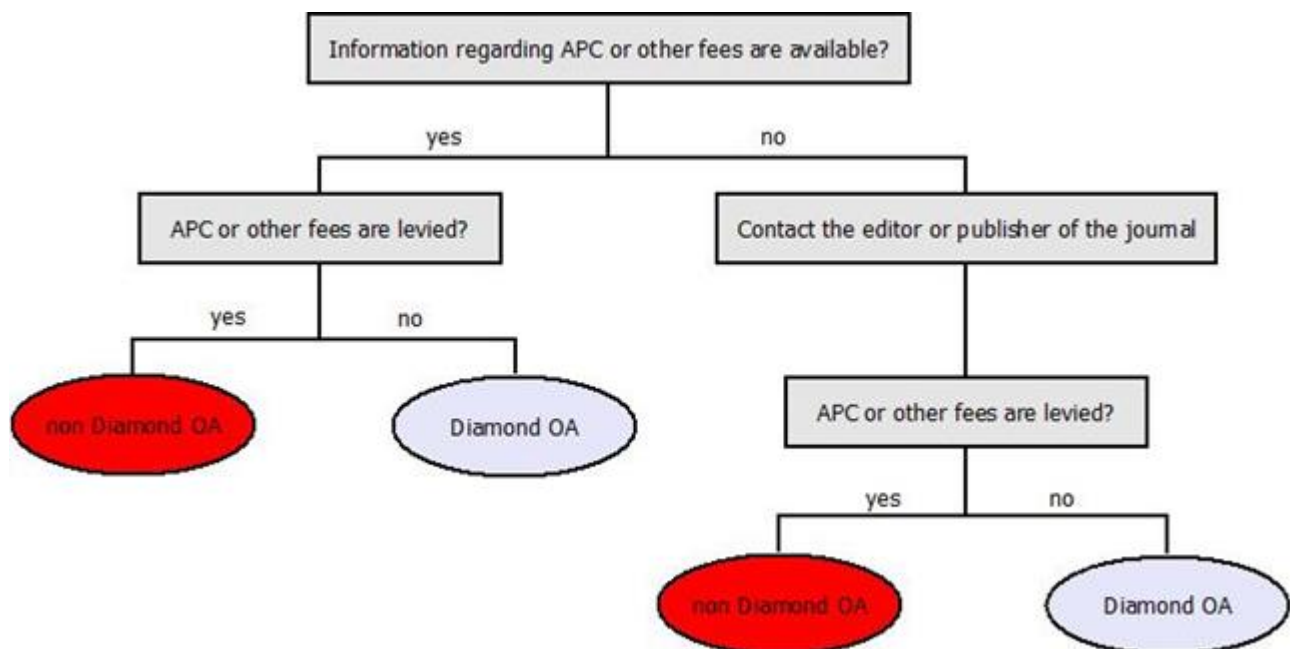


Figure 1: Manual checking procedure

In case of websites that were not available or in cases of broken links, the journal was flagged as non-Diamond OA. In cases where the editor of the journal failed to respond to the request and the reminder email, the journal was flagged as non-diamond OA. Journals that ceased publication were excluded from DOAG.

During the manual checking procedure, it turned out that DOAG covers not only journals but also other types of media like book series, blogs, outreach channels with a restricted group of authors of a particular research institution (internal journals, internal series, internal working paper series, internal preprints), annual reports and conference proceedings. Such media were flagged accordingly in the column 'media type'.

2. Statistics

Coverage of OA sources

The number of distinct diamond OA ISSN and journals (ISSN-L) in total and per OA-source as well as the respective coverage in the Web of Science master journal list (WoS) and Scopus is shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Coverage of ISSN and ISSN-L of DOAG in other databases

	# ISSNs	# ISSNs in WoS	# ISSNs in Scopus	# Journals	# Journals in WoS	# Journals in Scopus
Total	509	106	135	345	67	90
ROAD	283	42	64	222	33	49
DOAJ	216	66	93	155	46	65
PMC	11	8	7	10	7	7
OJS	102	14	29	80	12	20

Table 2: Number of Diamond OA ISSN and Journals in OA-sources

DOAG contains 509 distinct ISSN and 345 distinct journals. Each ISSN and journal can be covered in one or more of the data-sources. Numbers were calculated after manual data cleaning. 283 of the ISSN (~55.6%) and 222 of the journals (~64.3%) are indexed in ROAD. About 42.4% of all ISSNs and 44.9% of all journals are covered in DOAJ. About 23.2% of the journals are included in the manually collected data set from OJS hosting services.

3. Feedback

If you feel that a German diamond OA journal is missing in the list, please notify us (niels.taubert@uni-bielefeld.de).

4. Funding acknowledgement

This work was supported by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) [Community-Driven Open-Access-Journale zwischen wissenschaftlichen und ressourcenbezogenen Anforderungen, (CODRIA), AKZ 16TOA001].