
Challenges of Library and Information Science Journals: editor's opinions

A survey approach

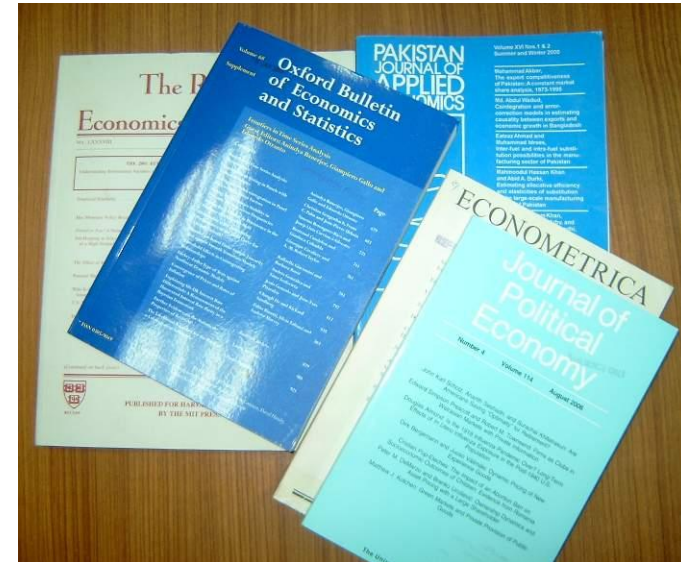
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Authors: Ernest Abadal, Alexandre López-Borrull and Candela Ollé

Introduction & background

There are several challenges threatening academic journals:

- a) Impact of open access (business models)
- b) Searching for a new formal model (new article, functionalities, altmetrics, social media, etc.)
- c) Peer review
- d) Specialization



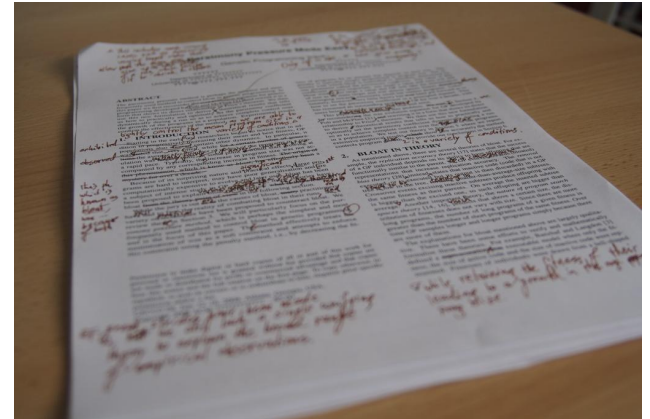
Introduction & background

Studies on LIS journals:

- Specialisation (Nicolaisen, 2013)
- Ranking (Nixon, 2014)
- Impact (Abrizah, 2013)

Studies on editors' opinions:

- Schloegl & Petschnig (2005), focused on 48 German LIS journals
- Baladrón & Correyedero (2012), focused on Spanish Communication, using Delphi methodology



Introduction & background

Our presentation about LIS journals has two different parts:

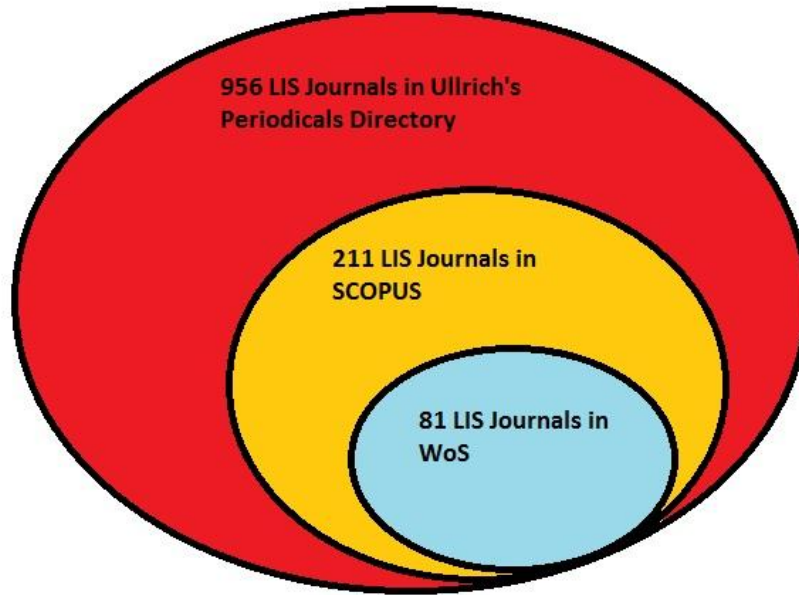
- Basic information (data proceeds from WoS and Scopus)
- Current situation and forecast (data proceed from editor's opinions)

Introduction & background

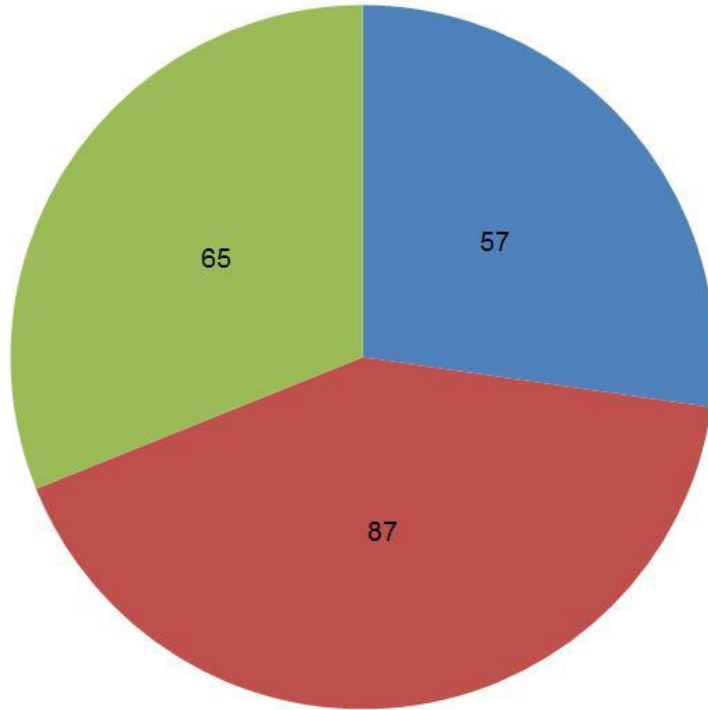
Which are the LIS Journals considered?

- Those indexed in the subject category in the 2013 *JCR Social Science Edition* **INFORMATION SCIENCE & LIBRARY SCIENCE**
- Those indexed in the classification code (ASJC) used by SCOPUS **3309 Library and Information Sciences**
- The resulting domain was refined and some journals were excluded as they were considered outside the discipline.

LIS journals in WoS and Scopus

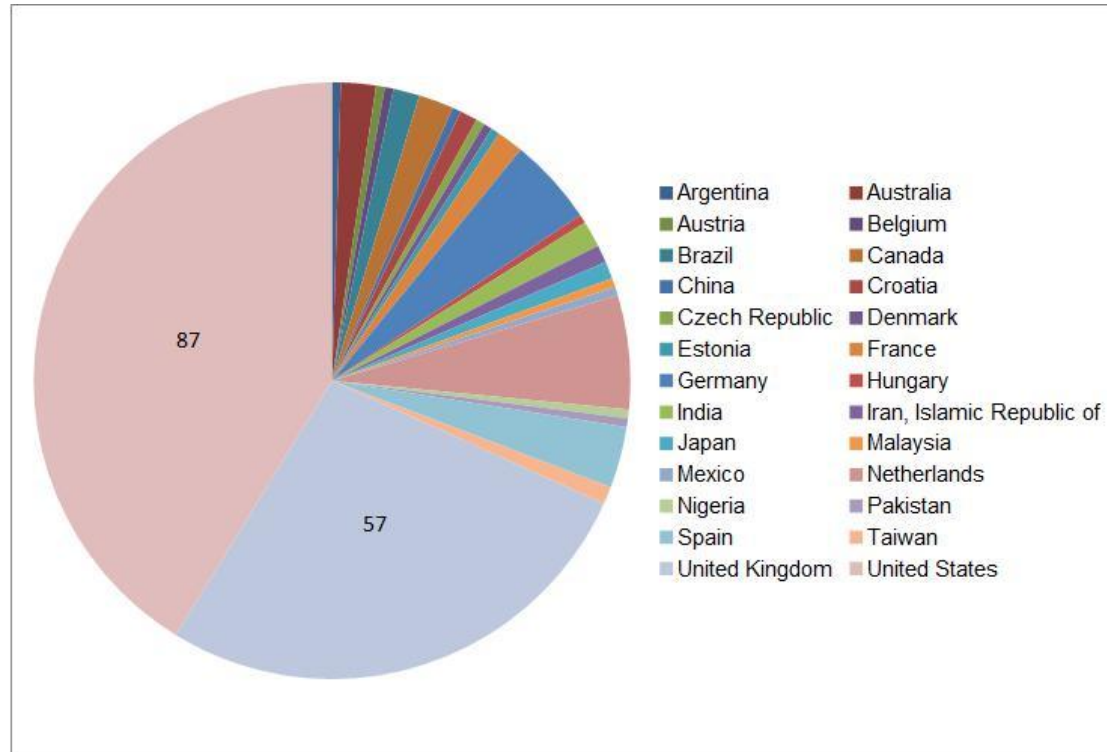


General data: Publisher Country (I)

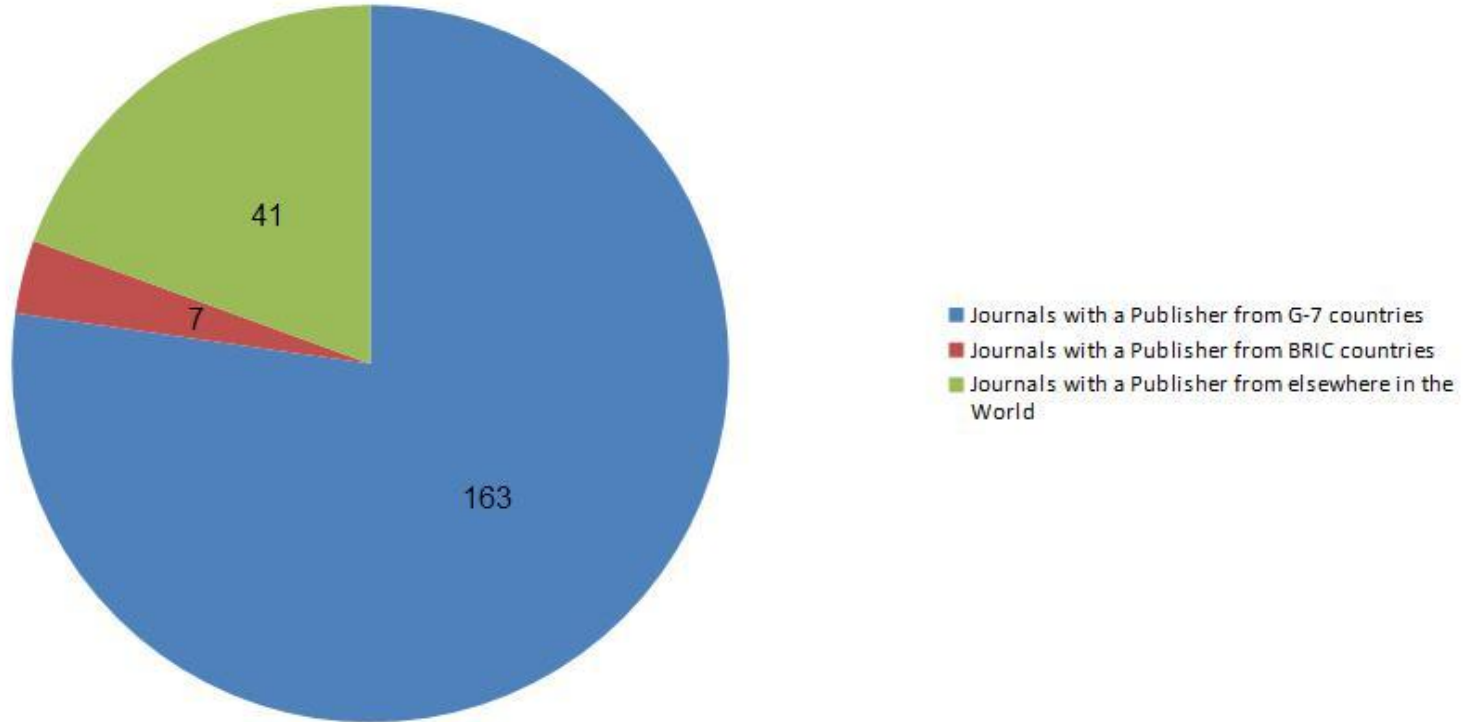


- Journals with a Publisher from UK
- Journals with a Publisher from US
- Journals with a Publisher elsewhere in the World

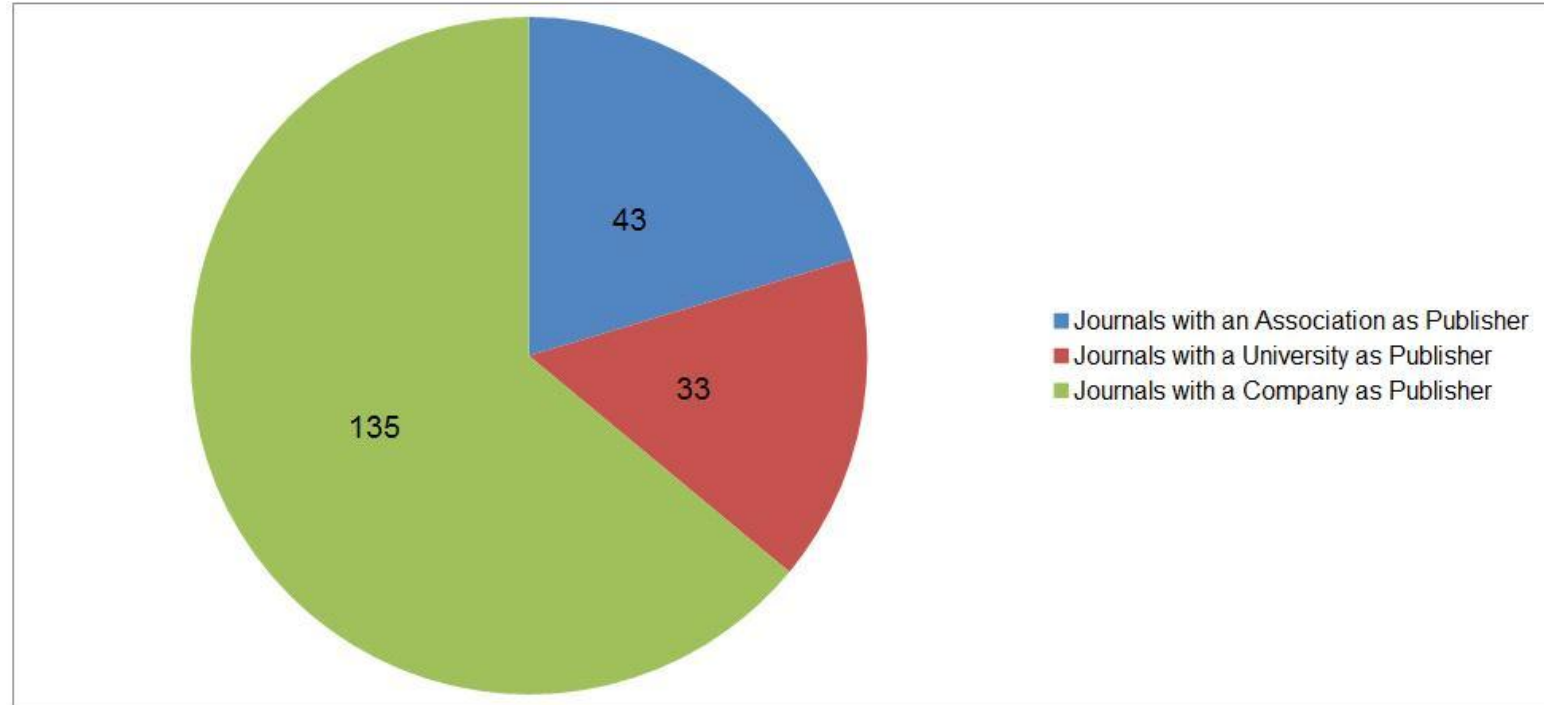
General data: Publisher Country (II)



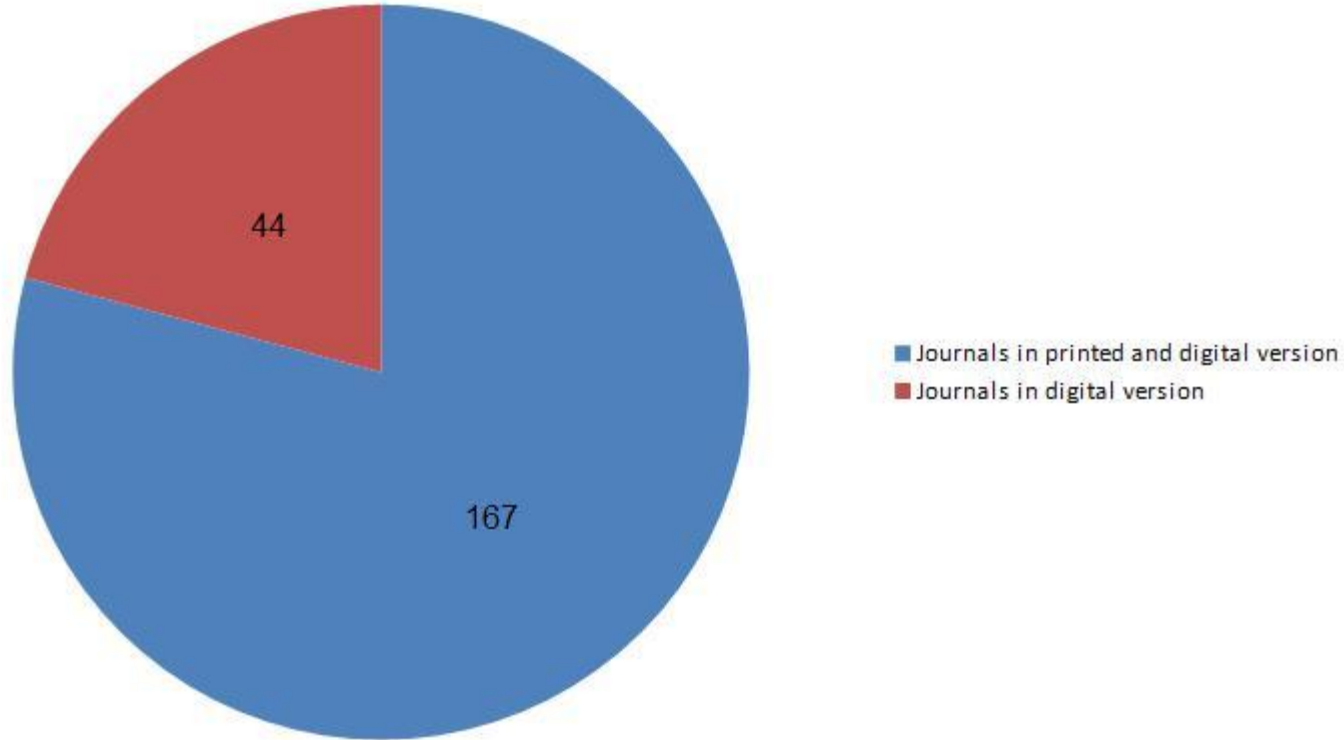
General data: Publisher Country (III)



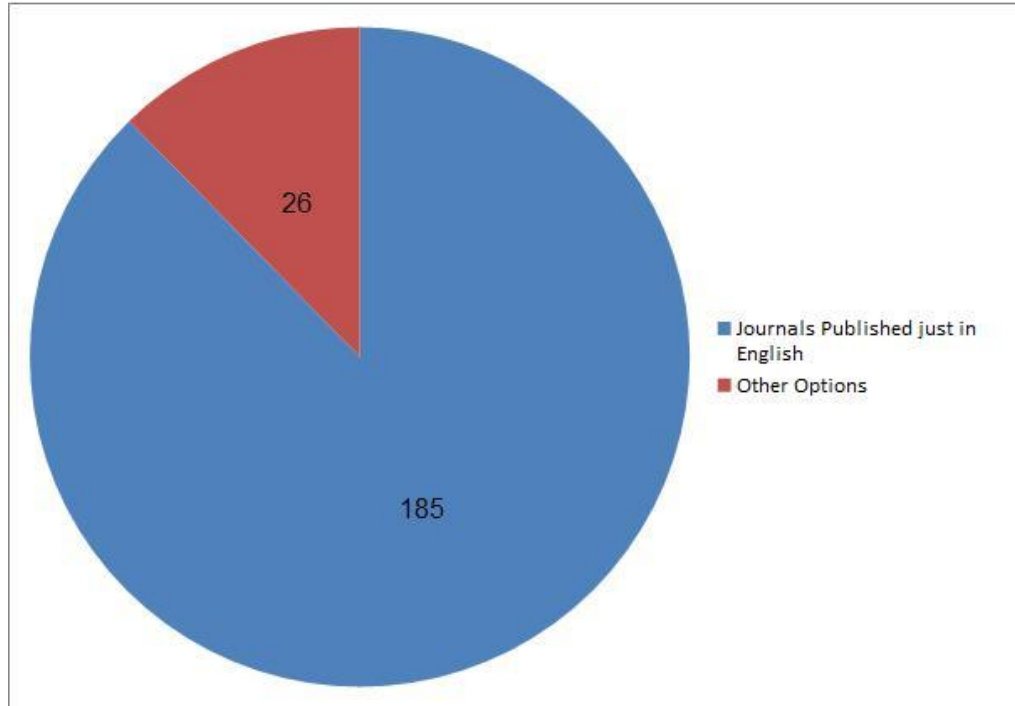
General data: Sort of Publisher



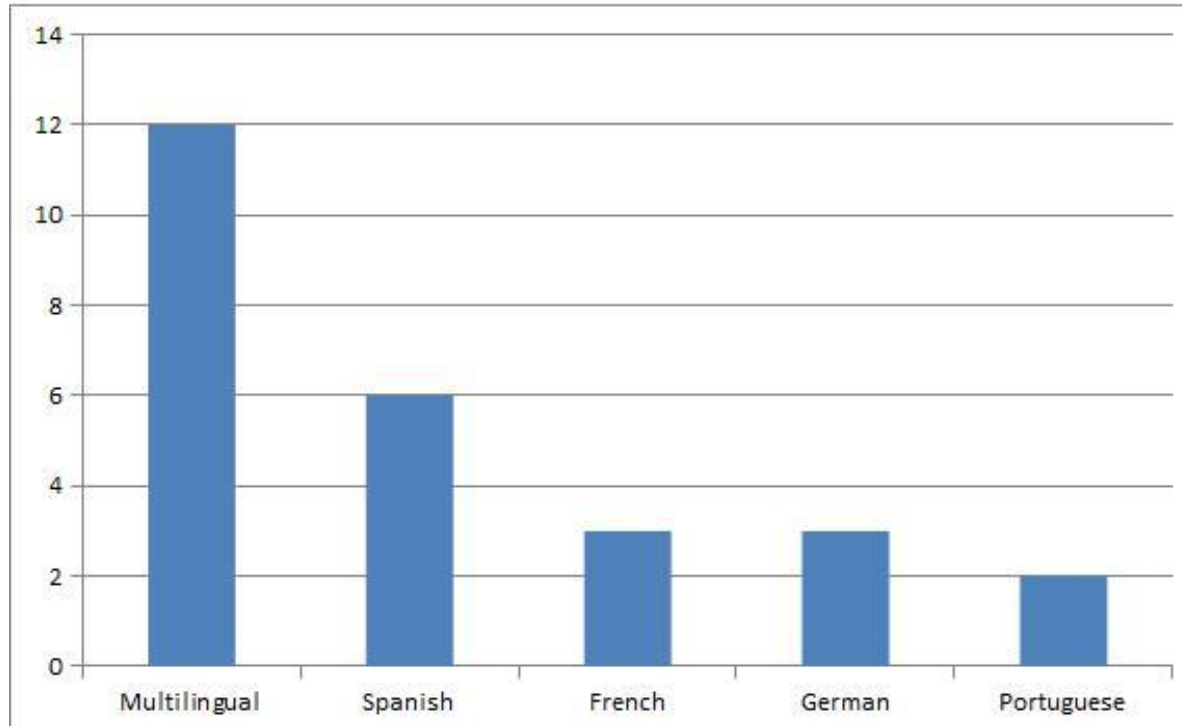
General data: Printed or Digital?



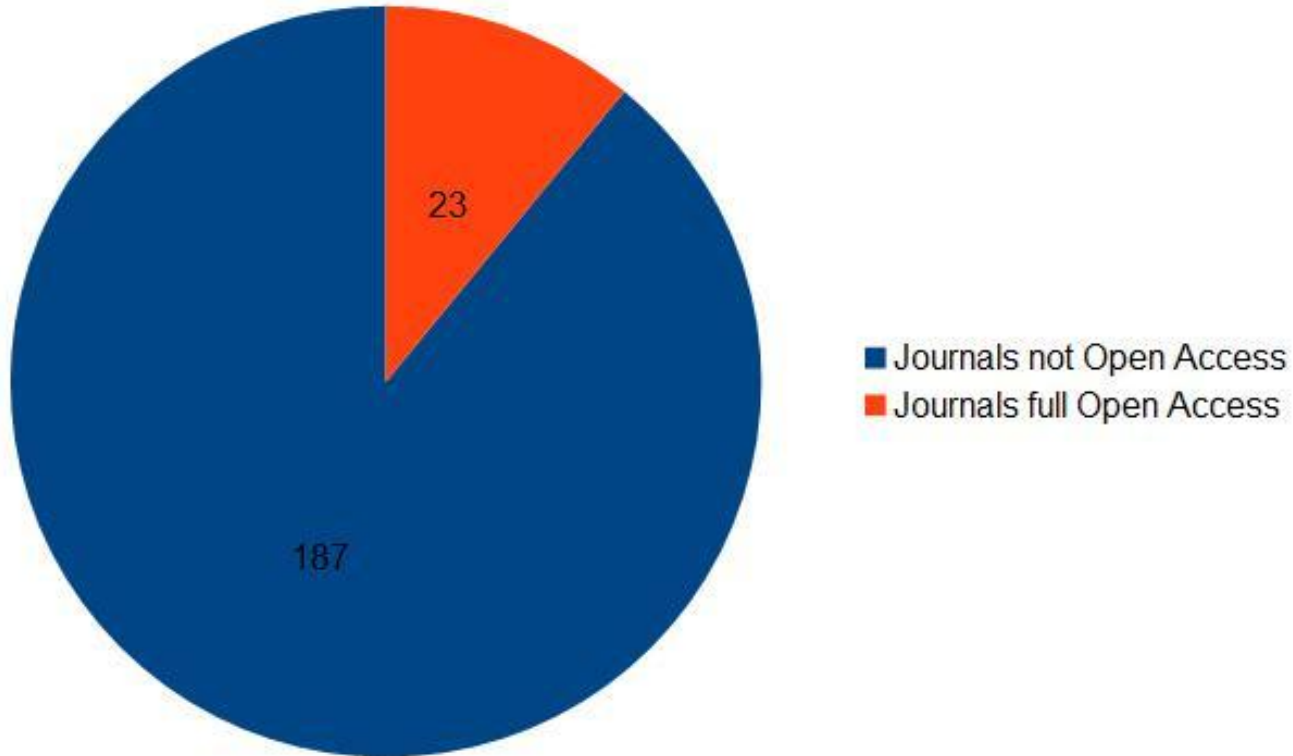
General data: Language (I)



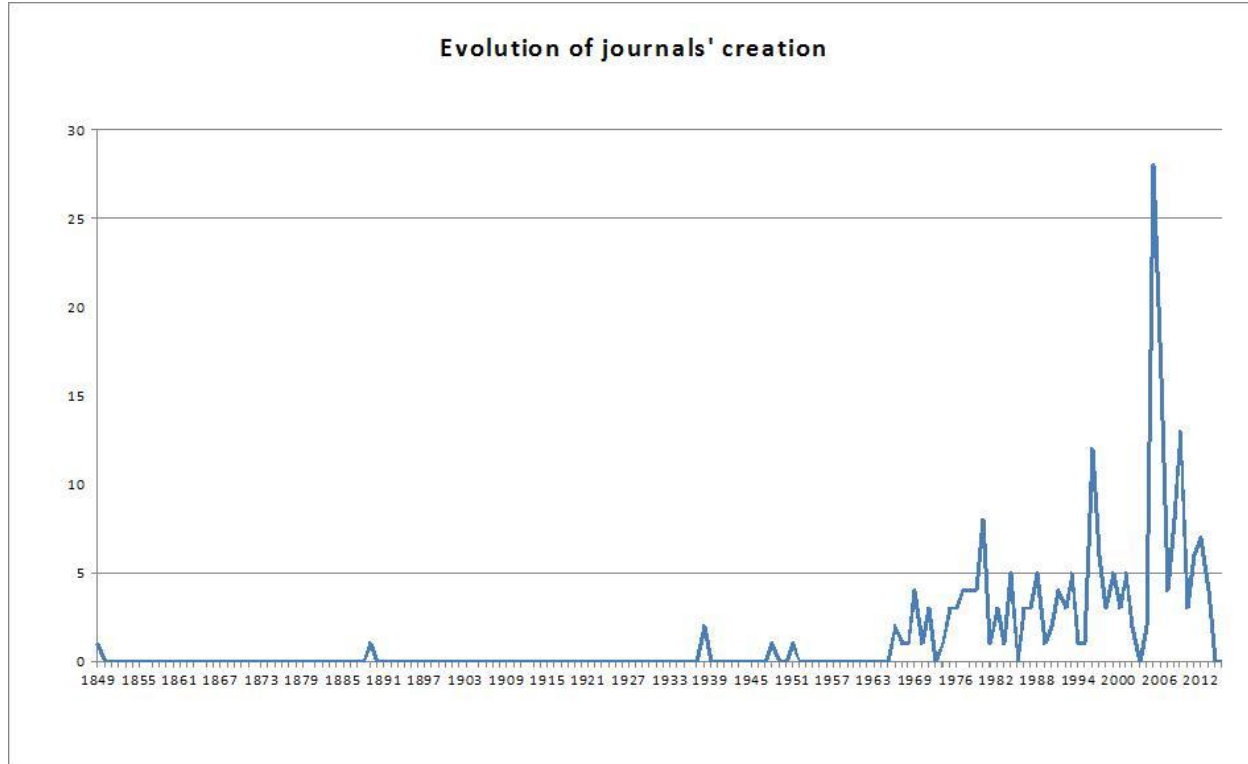
General data: Language (II)



General data: Open Access



Evolution of journals' creation



Objectives and methodology

To know editor's opinion about current situation and future trends in LIS academic journals.

Specific objectives:

- Economic aspects (Business models)
- Peer review
- Functionalities
- Subject specialization
- Forecast (Trends)

Survey addressed to editors and directors (December 2014-April 2015), disseminated by e-mail and web form.

Total of 36 responses (~15%)

Results:

Grouped into 5 blocks:

- economic aspects
- peer review procedures
- functionalities
- topics/specialization
- future forecast

Economic aspects

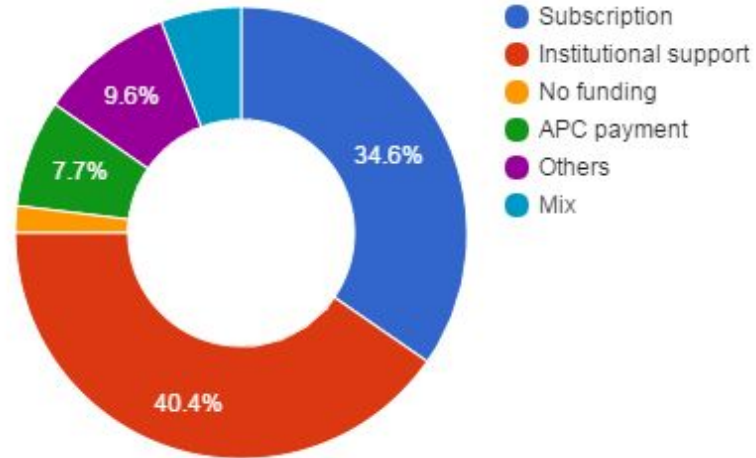


Annual budget



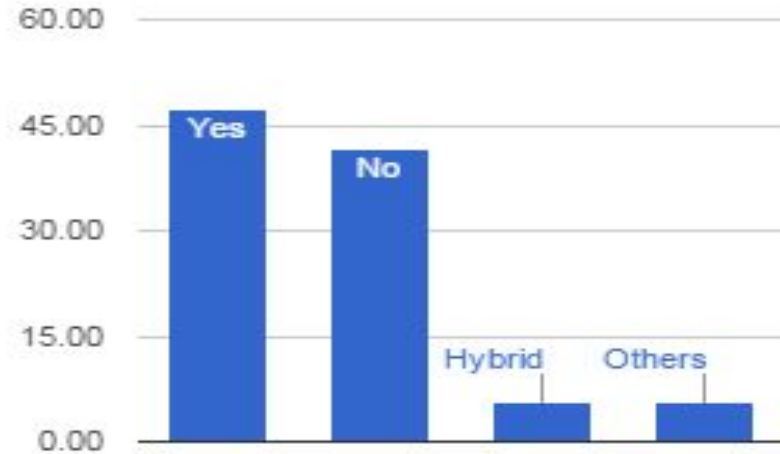
Economic aspects

Sources of funding



Economic aspects

Classification of journals: OA or not OA

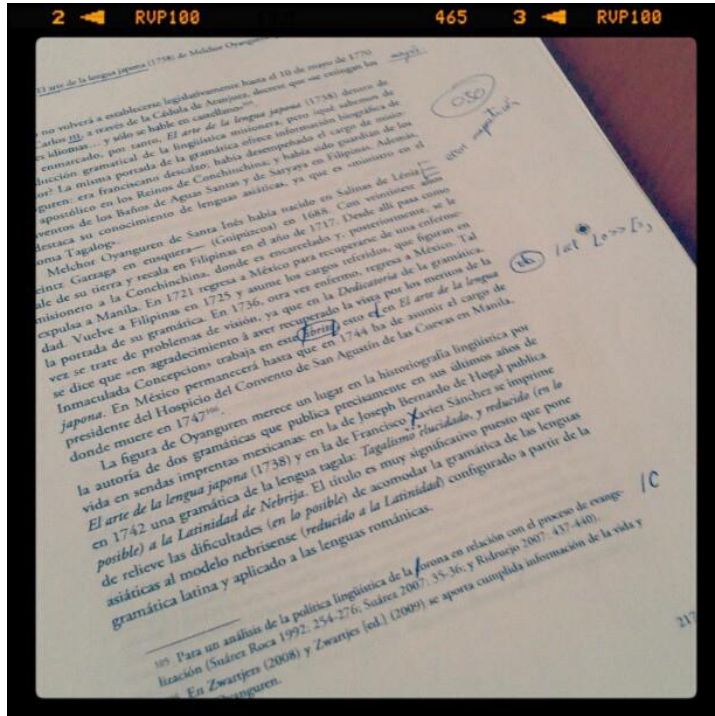


Economic aspects

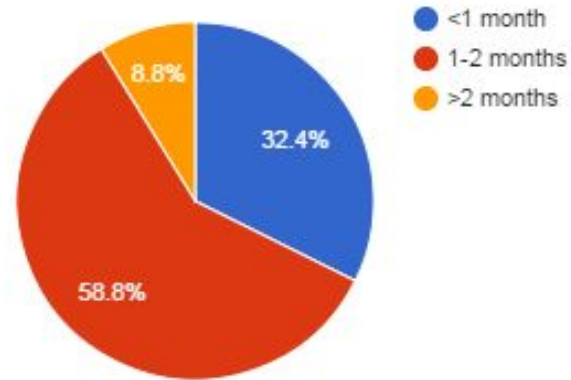
OA will become the majority model for scholarly journals?	%
yes	64
no	28
n/a	8

Funding model of OA journals should be?	%
Institutional support	64
Article processing charge (APC)	5
Both	17
Other	14

Peer-review procedures



Peer review frame



Peer-review

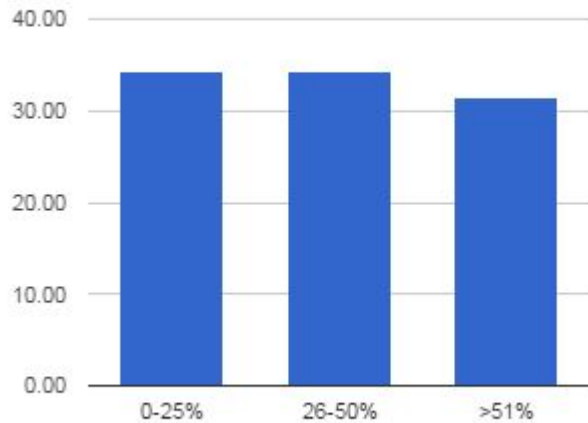
The **measures to compensate reviewers** are:

Name listed publicly	43%
Accreditation/certificate	33%
Payment	5%
Other	19%

Problems peer review	%
Lack of reviewers	45
Compliance with the time frame	36
Guarantee of blind reviews	5
Other	14

Peer-review

Rejection rate



Rejection rate	%
Low quality	43
Methodological and/or formal errors	28
Topic not adjusted to the journal's focus	23
Other	6

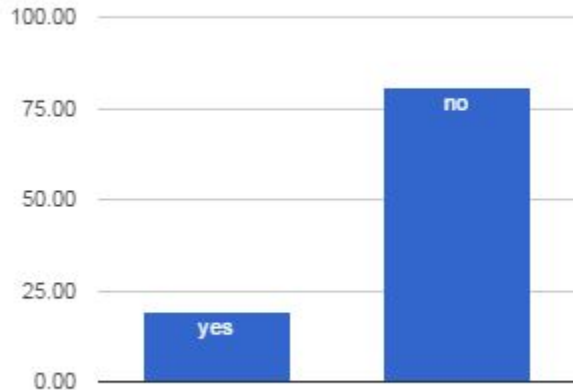
Functionalities



value-added services	
Ability to search from certain fields	50%
Document sharing tools	20%
No	4%
Commentaries about the articles	2%
Other	24%

Functionalities

Mobile phone and other versions



Social media

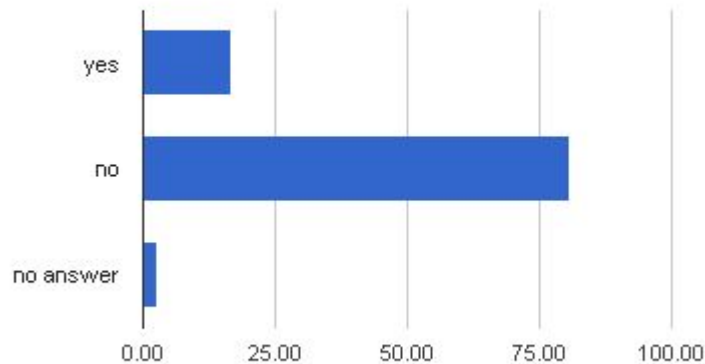


How would editors/directors rate the presence of the journal in the social network?

Very good	9%
Good	16%
Average	47%
Bad	25%
Very bad	3%

Functionalities

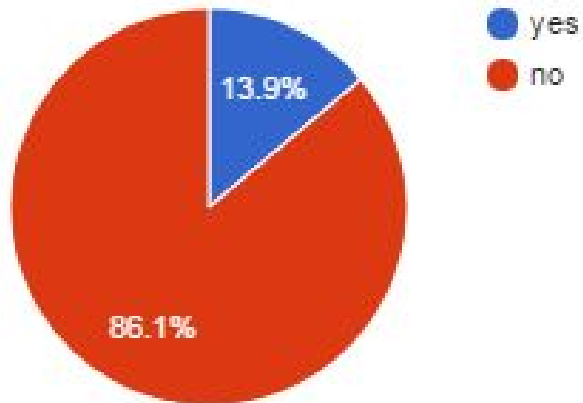
Altmetrics



advantages altmetrics	%
Information for authors and readers	43
Transparency	24
Quality monitoring	21
Other	12

Functionalities

Data policy

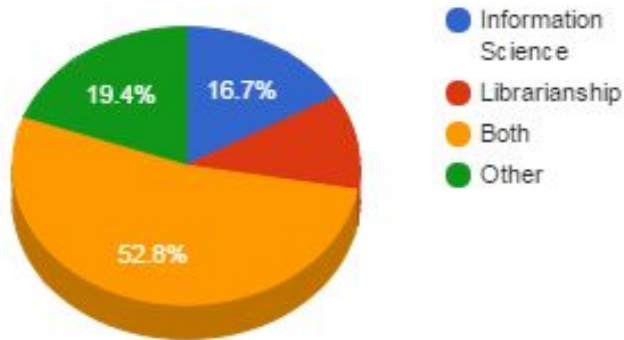


Additional material

Datasets	31%
AV material	19%
Other	12%
No	38%

Topics-specialization

Focus



Related disciplines

Communication	32%
Management	28%
Computer Science	15%
Others	25%

Future forecast



Some general tendencies

Which areas editors and publishers expect more or fewer changes

Prospective

Do you think the future of content distribution will focus on article or issue?

Article	81%
Issue	19%

Do you think that journals in general will evolve towards the megajournal model?

No	73%
Yes	27%

What are the main threats facing journals?

Funding	51%
Pressure of quartiles and impact factors	18%
Others	31%

Prospective

Here you have the data, presented from the most changeable to the least.

Metrics	6.78
Data	6.18
Article format	6.09
Interdisciplinarity	6.03
Number/volume	5.39
Funding	5.22
Peer-review	4.39

Conclusions

a) Impact of open access

Budgets are reduced and the importance of **institutional support** and **subscriptions** is confirmed.

A **shift to an open access** model is expected.

b) Searching for a new formal model

Social media, mobile phone and altmetrics have yet to be exploited.

There is a lack of **data policy** and consequently there are few available additional materials in most journals.

Conclusions

The majority of editors consider that the distribution will **focus on article**, rather than on issue.

Funding is considered the main threat..

c) Peer review

According to the answers, most of journals have peer review time of **less than 2 months**. Lack of reviews is considered the main problem.

d) Specialization

Librarianship, Information Science and LIS together are the **focus**, but most editors will probably expand to related disciplines, such as **Management and Communication**.

Metrics and **data** are the challenges for the next 5-10 years.

References

Abrizah, A.; et al (2013). “LIS journals scientific impact and subject categorization: a comparison between Web of Science and Scopus”. *Scientometrics*, vol. 94, pp. 721-740.

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Thank you very much for your attention

abadal@ub.edu, alopezbo@uoc.edu, collec@uoc.edu