

E-Books from Open Access Publishing in European Network (OAPEN) Library: A Scientometric Perspective

Shekappa Bandi,

Sir Dorabji Tata Memorial Library, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, MUMBAI -400088, email: shekar.bandit@tiss.edu

Satish Kanamadi

Sir Dorabji Tata Memorial Library, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, MUMBAI -400088, email: satish@tiss.edu

Abstract

OAPEN is the most accepted and authoritative list of Open Access publishing of academic books. This study is about one aspect of OAPEN that it aims to analyze the contribution of open access literature in the various disciplines through OAPEN Library. Open Access Publishing in European Network covers literature contribution of a wide variety of subjects, countries and different languages. However, this study is limited to English language contributions. As on August 2015, there were 966 contributions from 59 publishers spread across 19 countries covering 18 different disciplines in social science and humanities. The study reveals that Australia is the highest contributing nation (37.06%) and among disciplines, society and social sciences is top most in the contributed content. It is also revealed that ANU (Australian National University) Press is the top most contributed publisher with 304 titles. Among authorship patterns, single authorship has emerged as the highest form (56%). The highest ratio (45.76%) of eBooks which were contributed were published in between 2011-2015.

Keywords: *Scientometrics; E-Books; Open Access; Academic Publishing; OAPEN*

1. Introduction

Open Access movement started with series of statements and declarations at global level, which has gained rapid momentum in the last decade through three major statements from Budapest, Bethesda and Berlin. This movement is also a worldwide effort to provide free online access to scholarly literature like peer-reviewed journal articles and preprints. Open Access literature is digital, online, free of charge, and free from most copyright and licensing restrictions. It can be in the form of peer-reviewed journal articles, conference papers as well as technical reports, theses and working papers etc. Open Access benefits the academic world in general by removing subscription barriers to research material. Making it available freely will increase the number of readers for the said document. This is significant because for any researcher this results into higher visibility and higher citations. Publishing Open Access also allows authors to retain more rights to their own work like distribution, re-use, etc.

In scholarly communications, open access offers many advantages to all stakeholders. For authors, it extends the reach of their work by ensuring global access and visibility as unrestricted access leads to increased usage. It will also increase the impact of their publications and citation rates. Researchers benefit from direct access to publications, improved search mechanisms across collections and ease of use. In this just and equitable society, public funding agencies can ensure unrestricted access to research results, thereby improving the return on their investment. They can also guarantee publication of research results once they have passed peer review. Libraries are able to provide wider access to scholarly information. Ultimately, OA publishing offers a more effective and sustainable approach to the dissemination of knowledge through the OAPEN Library.

Scholarly communication is often used interchangeably with the term scholarly publishing. Scholarly communication is the process of academics, scholars and researchers sharing and publishing their research findings so that they are available to the wider academic community and beyond. It includes both the dissemination and access to scholarship and research in a variety

of formats and states of completion, such as published books or journal articles, research results and data sets, and drafts of papers.

2. Review of literature:

Review of related literature has always been essential for research. According to Ali, "literature review is a comprehensive survey of the works published in a field of study, or related to a particular line of research, usually in the form of a bibliographic essay or annotated list of references in which attention is drawn to the most significant works". Literature review provides the researcher with a knowledge-base and helps in identifying the gaps in the literature.

One of the first directory of open access journals, DOAJ was studied in detail by Agashe, Lihitkar, and Lihitkar, Ramdas (2010) This lists open access journals, scientific and scholarly journals that meet high quality standards by exercising peer-review or editorial quality control and are free to all from the time of publication based on the Budapest Open Access Initiative. Authors analysed about 48 Business and Management E-journals based on country, languages, subject headings and accessibility of archives of e-journals.

There are several attempts to evaluate the initiatives taken by India to make the intellectual output accessible for all by publishing them in Open Access resources like Open Access journals and archiving them in Open Access archives or repositories. In a similar study, Rafiq and Geelani (2008) revealed that India is continuously contributing in Open Access literature as some of the premier institutions, particularly in the science and technology area, are providing Open Access to their research publications.

It is also observed that Kumar G. H., et al. (2012) attempted to evaluate the initiatives taken by India in contributing to open access repositories and journals with special reference to agricultural sciences. The study indicated that India is continuously contributing in open access literature as some of the premier institutions, particularly in the agriculture sciences. The position of India in terms of number of journals in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) is fifth. And in Directory of Open Access Repositories (OpenDOAR) India has 11th place in the world repository. Chauhan (2012) studied and evaluated open access e-journals in LIS available on Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) which provides access to quality controlled Open access journals. The paper also provides guidance to students, researchers, scholars about free, full-text, quality-controlled scientific and scholarly journals in Library and information science available on DOAJ.

Husain, and Nazim (2013) analyzed 106 open access journals in Media and Communication subject listed in DOAJ. The analysis indicated that most of the open access journals in Media & Communication were started during late 1990s and are being published from 34 different countries on 6 continents in 13 different languages. It is surprising to note that India's contribution towards OA journals in Media & Communication is almost nil. Aswathy and Gopikuttan (2013) studied the contribution of open access literature in the subject physics through DOAJ. There were 153 journals in DOAJ in the subject physics contributed from 38 countries. USA was the top most country with 34 journals published. India ranked seventh position with 5 journals.

3. OAPEN: New Means for Publishing and Archiving

OAPEN (Open Access Publishing in European Network) is the most recognized and most authoritative list of fully Open Access books. OAPEN Library is a dedicated collection of scholarly titles (peer-reviewed monographs and edited volumes) in the humanities and social sciences. The research and dissemination of research results should not be separated but treated as essential elements in the scholarly communication process. Hence, the research funding should include the costs of dissemination. The academic institutes supporting Open Access should extend their policies to include OA publishing. In other words, they should promote not only OA archiving of existing publications (the 'green road'), but also OA publishing (the 'golden road'). In addition, funds for OA publications should be available for both articles and books; The academic publishers

should develop OA publishing as a service to the scholarly community. This might be compared to the way many journal publishers grant authors the option of publishing their articles in Open Access within subscription-based journals.

The prime goals of the OAPEN Library are to build a branded collection of OA peer-reviewed titles; to increase the visibility and retrievability of high-quality European research; to promote OA book publishing by setting quality standards for content, based on transparent procedures for peer review and recommendations for OA licences, and to stimulate Open Access publishing of academic books, to further develop OAPEN as a platform for Open Access books, to develop a sustainable business model for OAPEN. OAPEN started in the year 2010 with 704 e-books but at present it contains 2454 e-books in different languages i.e. English, German, French, Dutch, Latin, Danish, Estonian, Welsh, Italian, Russian, Spanish and many more languages. These are e-books contributed by 88 publishers around the world.

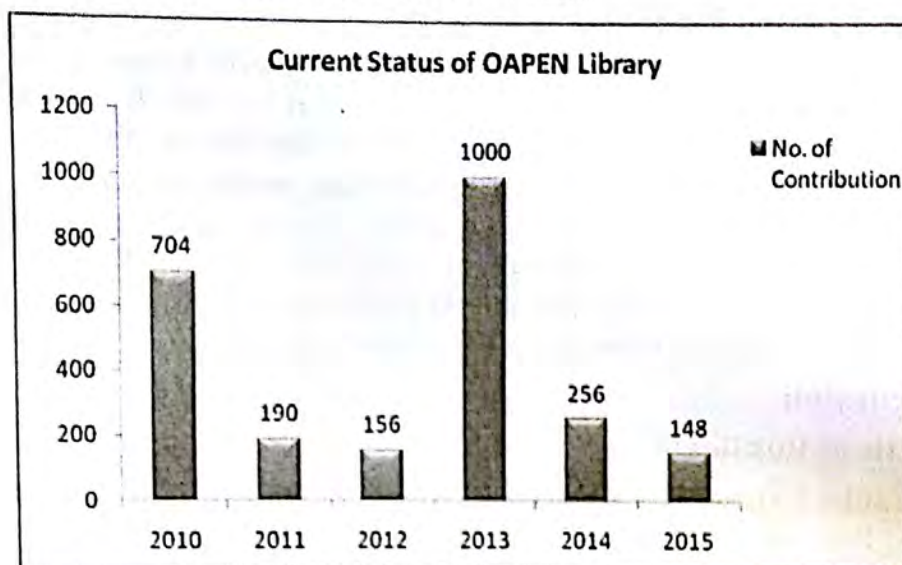


Figure 1: Current Status of OAPEN Library

Impact of OAPEN Library

Taking into account the country of origin enables us to measure the global impact of the OAPEN Library. In September 2014, OAPEN researched the usage per country. OAPEN books were downloaded in 165 countries, and the chart below lists the percentages. The relatively large usage by Chinese, Indian and Indonesian readers is noteworthy; the OAPEN Library also has a function in the 'Global South'.

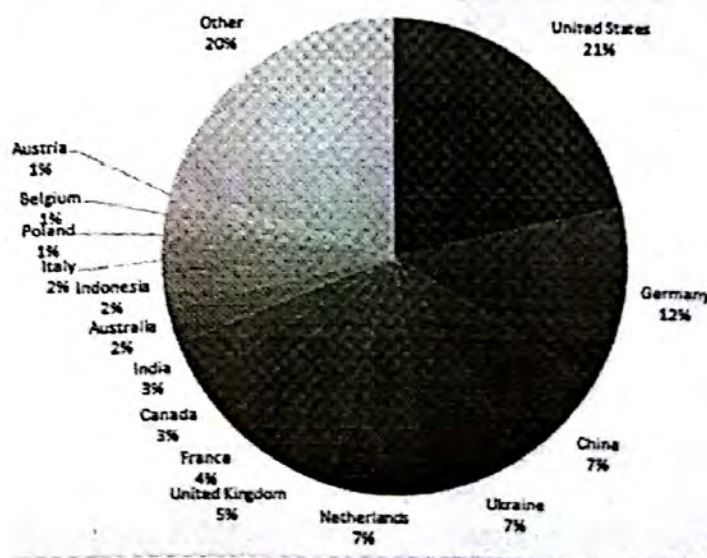


Figure 2: Usage of OAPEN Library

4. Objective of the study

The main objective of this study is to evaluate Open Access e-Books as the primary vehicle for delivering Open Access literature i.e Open Access Publishing in European Network (OAPEN). The specific objectives of the present study are to:

1. To assess the year-wise book contributions to OAPEN
2. To assess authorship pattern
3. To examine the subject-wise contributions of the e-Books
4. To study the country-wise distribution of OA e-Books.
5. To analyze publisher-wise distribution of OA e-Books.
6. To assess the how information is latest

5. Scope, Limitation and Methodology of the study

This study is limited to analyze the eBooks collection and its access at OAPEN Library. It contains e-books in social sciences and humanities in all languages from all over the world; however, the present study is limited to the English literature contributions to OAPEN. There are 966 e-books in OAPEN contributed by 88 publishers around the world as per the data accessed in August 2015. The relevant details regarding the number of books, publisher, country, language, subject, publishing date etc have been collected and tabulated using MS Excel. The data were interpreted and analysed based on a set of parameters defined in the objectives of the study to get the right picture of contributions to Open Access Scholarly Output.

6. Results and Discussion

a) Year-wise Growth of Publications

The following Table: 1 shows the growth of collection in OAPEN. It was started in the year 2010 with 704 titles. But out of the total contributions at that time, English language is 148 (15.32%), followed by the year 2011 with 83 (8.59%), 2012 with 91 (9.42%). Out of last six years, OAPEN got maximum growth in 2013 467 (47.72%). At present 2015 is third highest contributed year with 97 (10.04%)

Table 1: Year-wise Growth of OAPEN Contribution		
Year	No. of E-Books Added	Percentage
2010	148	15.32%
2011	83	8.59%
2012	91	9.42%
2013	461	47.72%
2014	86	8.90%
2015	97	10.04%
Total	966	100.00%

b) Authorship Pattern

The authorship pattern of OAPEN is indicated in Fig:4. It is seen that among different authorship patterns, single authorship forms a majority with 55.60% of the total OAPEN English literature contributions, followed by double authorship (28.15%) and multiple authorship forms are 16.25%.

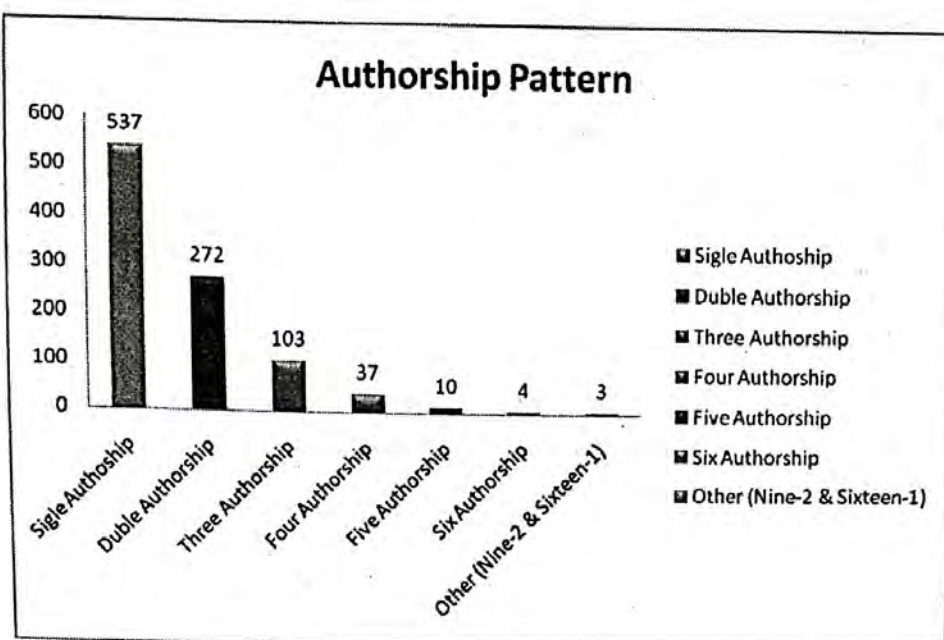


Figure 3: Authorship Pattern Trends

c) Subject-wise Contributions to OAPEN

All OAPEN contributions are classified as per the BIC's Subject Categories and Qualifiers Scheme, the standard classification scheme for the UK book trade and other English language markets. There are 966 contributions from among 18 different disciplines. However, it is noted that the three disciplines put together, namely, Society and social sciences, Humanities and Economics constitute significant majority (71.12%) of open access scholarly literature to the OAPEN. All other disciplines combined are about 28.88%. Society and social sciences is one of the top most disciplines in the contribution with 40.99% of eBooks.

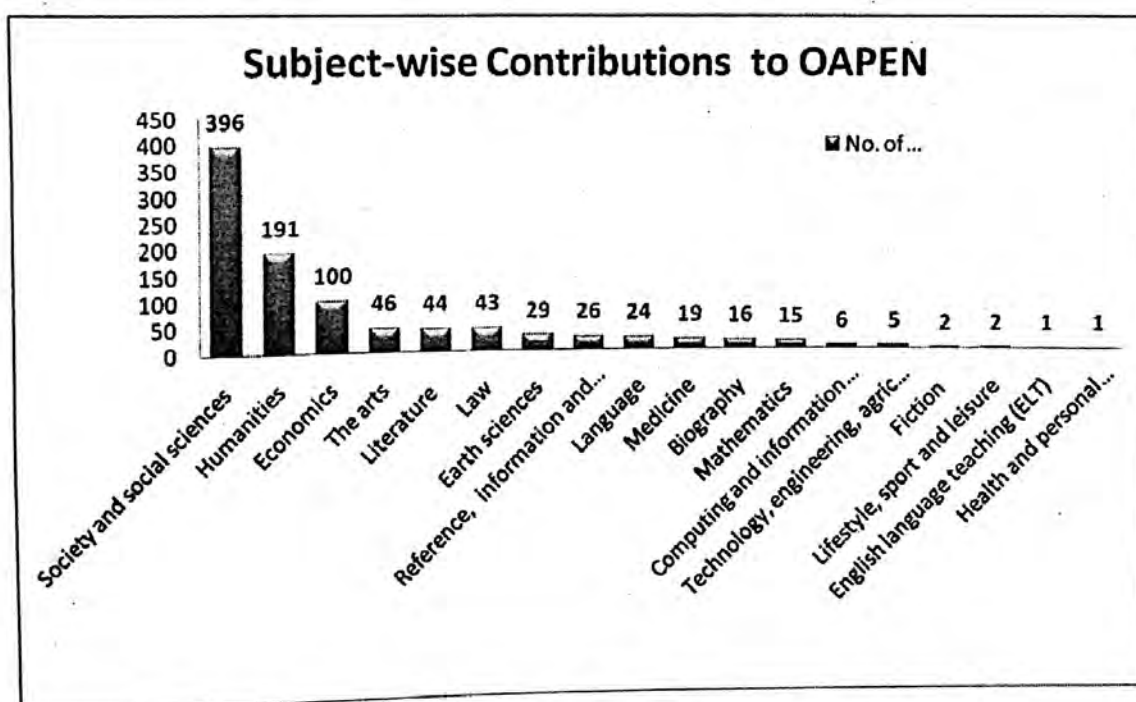


Fig:4: Subject-wise Contributions to OAPEN

d) Country-wise contributions to OAPEN

There are 19 countries worldwide who have contributed e-books to OAPEN since its inception. Figure-6 shows the list of countries as per the e-book in the OAPEN. Australia is the top contributor with 350 (37.06%) e-books followed by Netherlands with 241 (24.95%), UK with 189 (19.57%) e-books contributed to OAPEN. It is surprising to note that there is no contribution from India to OAPEN even though the global usages of OAPEN indicate 3% usage by Indians.

e) Publishers-wise Distribution of OAPEN Contribution

The following table shows that out of 966 contributions received from 59 publishers spread over 19 countries, top three publishers shared majority 52.90% (511) of the total contributions, followed by other 16 publishers who contributed 47.10% (455). When analysed for identifying the independent publisher, ANU (Australian National University) press emerged as the top-most independent contributor with 32.51% (314) contributions to the OAPEN.

Table 3: Publisher-wise Contribution to OAPEN (Top 10 publishers listed)	
Name of the Publisher	No. of Contributions
ANU Press	314
Amsterdam University Press	103
Manchester University Press	94
WRR	63
Brill	45
Hong Kong University Press, HKU	44
University of Adelaide Press	44
Universitätsverlag Göttingen	28
Open Humanities Press	20
Oxford University Press	18
Others	193
Total	966

f) Currency of the contributions:

The eBooks were analysed for the up-to-datedness of the publications submitted to OAPEN library. Figure 7 shows that how many contributed eBooks have been latest. Among 966 e-books contributed in English language, 39 (4.04%) books are published on 2000 and before, thus low on currency. This is followed by 143 (14.80%) books which have been published between 2001-05, and 342 (35.40%) of the contributions published in between 2006-10. It is also not worthy to see that highest no of contributions 442 (45.76%) of APEN have been published between 2011-15.

7. Conclusion

The growth of open access movement is of immense significance on our society as it breaks several barriers. It helps to overcome cultural, legal and financial barriers to their acceptance and use. Most of the public funding research institutions across world have come forward to provide free access to their scholarly published contents over the internet. It may be expected that in the next few years we will see sustainable growth of open access ebooks as some leading publishers are also taking interest in open access books publishing.

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