“Social Sciences and Humanities open access scholarly communications in a developing region: policies, initiatives and needed changes in research assessment - the case of Latin America”

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These challenges need as much local as international research outputs.

Opportunities for social sciences and humanities

1. No Poverty
2. Zero Hunger
3. Good Health and Well-being
4. Quality Education
5. Gender Equality
6. Clean Water and Sanitation
7. Affordable and Clean Energy
8. Decent Work and Economic Growth
9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
10. Reduced Inequalities
11. Sustainable Cities and Communities
12. Responsible Consumption and Production
13. Climate Action
14. Life Below Water
15. Life on Land
16. Peace and Justice, Strong Institutions
17. Partnerships for the Goals
Opportunities for SSH in an open science context:
Concepts taken from the UNESCO’s Preliminary Report on the first draft of the Recommendation on Open Science (September 2020)

• extended collaboration with societal actors beyond the scientific community, open to diversity of knowledge holders, inclusion of excluded and marginalized knowledge in solving problems of social importance

• different forms of knowledge creation and communication, not limited to publishing in peer reviewed international journals, multilingualism

• supporting collaborative publishing models with no article processing charges (APCs) or book processing charges (BPCs)

• ensuring equity among researchers from developed and developing countries, enabling fair and reciprocal sharing of scientific inputs and outputs and equal access to scientific knowledge to both producers and consumers

• diversified information technology infrastructure for Open Science, including high performance computing and data storage where needed, and robust, open and community managed infrastructures, protocols and standards to support bibliodiversity and engagement with society

• platforms for exchanges and co-creation of knowledge between scientists and society

• community-based monitoring and information systems

Source: https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000374409
The case of Latin America
Latin America and the Caribbean

- Approach to knowledge as a public and common good and open access managed by the academic community as a common, non-profit good, stands out.

- Most advanced region in % of open access adoption in academic and scientific journals published in the region, with no APCs and no outsourcing to commercial publishers

- National and institutional open access policies prioritize open access repositories

- More recently, open science is promoted in the region
Latin America has created and maintains a non-commercial infrastructure where scientific publishing belongs to academic institutions and not to large publishers.
Both Gold and Green routes are suitable form of OA for the region.

a) For Green routes, inclusive and cooperative OA solutions should be promoted to avoid new enclosures on knowledge access and dissemination.

b) Regarding Gold route, and considering that – i) only 30% of OA journals in the world presently require article processing charges (APCs); ii) APC are mainly fixed by international publishers and entrepreneurs, and fixed at international prices which are unaffordable for the average developing country; iii) research in Latin America and the Caribbean is mainly government funded; and iv) the region has a decade of experience with OA regional gold initiatives (SciELO and Redalyc) with more than 1,000 journals with no APCs - it is therefore recommended that the Gold OA route in the region continues its present emphasis on sharing costs.

What about the social sciences in Latin America

- 25% of researchers

- 50% of Ph.D graduates

- 45% of the 10,000 active journals published in the region

- 80% of articles published by social scientists are published in journals within the region, mainly in local language

- Lack of visibility of our quality SSH journals in the international indexing services WoS and Scopus
Challenges in the past 20 years: developing quality and visibility for SSH peer-review open access journals published in Latin America

• Journals published by universities and other SSH research institutions, no outsourcing to commercial publishers
• high percentage of journals in open access, no APCs
• Open Journal System (OJS-PKP) for managing editorial, peer-review process and collections of journals
• Collections of journals in open access
  • University repositories with collections of its open access journals
    • UNAM, Univ. Sao Paulo, UChile (more than 100 journals each)
  • National collections of peer-reviewed open access journals
  • Regional indexing of peer-reviewed open access journals
    • Redalyc-AmeliCA
    • SciELO
    • Latindex Catalog
• Regional subject repositories: CLACSO for SSH
• SSH in institutional repositories harvested by national repositories, members of La Referencia
The case of CLACSO-Latin American Council of Social Sciences
780 social science member institutions in 55 countries (mainly in Latin America)
• 1.475 books (all in open access and sale of print versión on demand) displayed and promoted in CLACSO’s bookstore catalog with link to the full-text and open Dublin Core metadata in CLACSO’s interoperable repository

• Other 1.883 open access books published by CLACSO member institutes (mainly universities) Full-text available in CLACSO’s server with basic metadata
CLACSO’s repository:

- Since 2002
- Collaborative
- Contents: SSH outputs from CLACSO’s members institutions: journals, articles, books, book chapters, research reports, opinion papers, conference papers, videos, audio records
- Interoperable open source repository (OAI-PMH protocol)
- 110,000 full-texts in open access
- Mailing of 1,018 people working in editorial and repository teams in Latin America, receive biweekly trends and good practices in open access/open science

CLACSO's repository:

- Sala de Lectura
- Revistas
- Multimedia
- CLACSO
- Qué es CLACSO
- Cómo Afiliarse
- www.clacso.org
- Ofrezca esta Biblioteca Virtual en su sitio
- Red de Bibliotecas Virtuales de Ciencias Sociales en América Latina y el Caribe

BUSCA en la Red de Bibliotecas Virtuales de CLACSO

Buscar [alguna] de la(s) siguiente(s) palabra(s):

- en todas las publicaciones
- en el índice por texto completo

artículos de revistas, libros, documentos de trabajo, ponencias, tesis y multimedia

buscar en CLACSO

Consulte artículos de revistas arbitradas en CLACSO/Redalyc

Artículos
Special collection REDALYC-CLACSO for peer-reviewed journals
(1,015 SSH journals published in the region - 445,000 articles)
The regional indexing services (SciELO, RedALyC) generally have more value among the researchers surveyed than those of greater international recognition (Web of Science, Scopus).

*Results of survey 504 social scientists from Latin America (2014)*
Who is using those articles published in peer-reviewed open access journals from our region indexed in regional indexing services SciELO and Redalyc?

Contribution to education, research, professional practice and citizens needs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Reach</th>
<th>Approximate Proportion</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SciELO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Staff</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Practice</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Use</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This table represents a composite of the results derived from my interpretations of all the responses and data collected in my dissertation study. As such, the numbers should be treated only as approximations, and the percentages should not be expected to add to 100%.

source: https://figshare.com/articles/presentation/Research_is_also_for_non_scholars_Lessons_from_Latin_America/3187551
Sharing three of our main concerns from a developing region perspective and ways forward

- Underfunding of community-owned infrastructures because scarce funds directed to APCs
  - Prioritize funding and resources dedicated to non-APC/BPC community-based infrastructures/initiatives and quality certification of its contents
- Weak international dialogue, cooperation and interoperability among community-owned infrastructures
  - Call for more international collective action, have a stronger and collective voice
  - South-South cooperation
- Researchers rewarded only when publishing in “mainstream” journals with “prestige industry” indicators, making invisible other contributions
  - Reward quality and relevance independent of publication venue
  - Reward doing peer-review of contents from community-based infrastructures
And what about research assessment in the social sciences and humanities, and its impact in open access scholarly communications?
Seven challenges in research assessment to expand open access in SSH knowledge production & circulation

- Review the incentives to publish in Impact Factor journals
- Qualitative & quantitative assessment
- Inclusivity
- Interoperability regional & local databases
- Multilinguism
- Bibliodiversity
- High quality & Social relevance

Review the incentives to publish in Impact Factor journals
The CLACSO-FOLEC initiative in Latin America

“All voices, formats and perspectives of knowledge production and circulation”

folec@clacso.edu.ar - https://www.clacso.org/en/folec
Actions taken internationally
Other international initiatives

- DORA in collaboration with the European University Association and SPARC Europe, developed a digital repository of 10 case studies that examine key elements of institutional change for academic assessment reform.

- The Global Research Council organized a virtual conference on responsible research assessment in November 2020 to explore the research ecosystem.

- A new Chinese national policy directs institutions not to use the number of papers a researcher has published or their citations as the sole criteria for recruitment or promotion.

- The Hong Kong Principles for assessing researchers, which include valuing complete reporting, rewarding the practice of open science, acknowledging a broad range of research activities, and recognizing essential other tasks like peer review and mentoring have seen initial endorsement by 15 institutions in 2020.

- Research funders—The Dutch Research Council, Science Foundation Ireland, Swiss National Science Foundation, and UKRI—are adopting the use of narrative CV formats to balance quantitative and qualitative assessments.

Next steps

FOLEC agenda initiatives for 2021

- Common proposal on research assessment reform to be presented at the 9th CLACSO Latin American and Caribbean Social Sciences Conference “Patterns of inequalities in Latin America and the Caribbean. Knowledge, struggles and transformations”. One of the main axes of the Conference is "Science, technology and society: challenges of knowledge and evaluation", which will include a special session for regional and international debate.

- Project “The evaluation of research in change: inclusion in scientific systems and projects oriented to specific missions in research funding initiatives of the Global South. Reforming quality assessment through progressive and well-founded methodologies”, funded by the International Development Research Center (IDRC, Canada).

- Working group on academic publishing and scientific evaluation registered in Es Ciencia platform, in collaboration with the Spanish Higher Council for Scientific Research (CSIC) and the OLIVA Project of UNCuyo, Argentina.

- Collaboration with ENRESSH – European Network for Research Evaluation in Social Sciences and Humanities
Thank you very much

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