

Open Access Publishing at the University of Belgrade (Serbia): An Analysis of Journals in the Social Sciences and Humanities

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ABSTRACT

Open access publishing has emerged as a response to the traditional subscription-based model of scholarly communication, aiming to ensure free and unrestricted access to research outputs. In line with the principles of the Budapest Open Access Initiative and the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities, the University of Belgrade promotes open access publishing and self-archiving of research outputs in institutional repositories.

The University of Belgrade comprises 31 faculties, grouped into four broad areas: social sciences and humanities, medical sciences, natural and mathematical sciences, and technical and technological sciences. All faculties maintain active publishing programs, producing scientific monographs, textbooks, and numerous scholarly journals.

Open access and increased visibility significantly enhance citation rates and the impact of both authors and their institutions. Faculties within the University of Belgrade are increasingly transitioning from traditional print publishing to open access models.

This paper presents an overview of publishing practices in the field of social sciences and humanities at the University of Belgrade. It includes data on the number of open access journals, the platforms used for their dissemination, and a brief bibliometric analysis of selected titles indexed in the Web of Science and Scopus databases.

KEYWORDS

Open Access Publishing; University of Belgrade; Social Sciences and Humanities; Bibliometric analysis; Scholarly Journals; Research visibility.

Introduction

Academic publishing is a core component of scholarly communication, enabling the dissemination of research outputs such as journal articles, books, and theses. Scientific journals have played a key role in shaping the organization and practices of scholarly communication (Larivière, Haustein, and Mongeon 2015). They serve as primary channels for the dissemination of current research findings across scientific fields, most of which are highly specialized.

The first scientific journals appeared in 1665 in Paris (*Journal des sçavans*) and London (*Philosophical Transactions*), marking the beginning of formal scientific communication. Since then, their number has grown continuously (Djokovic 2020, 450). The development of the Internet significantly accelerated information exchange and contributed to the expansion of electronic and Open Access (OA) journals. At the same time, increasing subscription costs limited access to scientific content, particularly for libraries, which often could not afford full coverage of available resources. This situation contributed to the emergence of the OA movement, which promotes free access and reuse of scholarly outputs, including articles, monographs, datasets, and related materials (IFLA 2003).

In the past two decades, Open Access (OA) and the speed of scientific communication have become central issues in scholarly publishing. OA enhances the visibility, dissemination, and evaluation of research and supports greater transparency in scientific processes.

This paper examines the publishing output of scientific journals at the University of Belgrade, focusing on the field of social sciences and humanities. The findings are presented in the following sections.

Open Access Development

According to the European Commission, “Open Access is the practice of providing online access to scientific information that is free of charge to the user and is reusable” (European Commission 2023). OA therefore refers to unrestricted online access to scholarly works, including journal articles, books, and dissertations, and is widely used in scholarly publishing to describe the free availability and reuse of research outputs (Laakso and Björk 2012, 1).

The development of OA publishing can be traced back to the 1990s, when increasing subscription costs and the growing concentration of publishing power among commercial publishers created significant barriers to access to scientific literature. In response to these challenges, the OA movement emerged as a new model of scholarly communication aimed at improving accessibility and dissemination of research results.

The term Open Access (OA) became internationally established in 2002 with the formalization of the movement through a series of foundational policy documents known as the “BBB” declarations: the Budapest Open Access Initiative, the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities, and the Bethesda Declaration on Open Access Publishing. These documents collectively emphasize the need for sustainable, accessible, and non-restrictive models of scholarly communication.

The Budapest Open Access Initiative (2002) defines OA as the free availability of scholarly literature on the public internet, allowing users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, and use full texts without financial, legal, or technical barriers (Budapest Open Access Initiative 2002).

The Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities (2003) further promotes OA publishing and highlights the role of the Internet in the dissemination and long-term preservation of scientific knowledge. It has been signed by numerous institutions worldwide, including several universities in Serbia. The University of Belgrade joined the Declaration in 2011, thereby committing to the promotion of OA through self-archiving and publication in OA journals. Shortly thereafter, it established its institutional repository within the University Library “Svetozar Marković” in Belgrade (Djokovic 2021, 481).

The Bethesda Declaration on Open Access Publishing (2003) complements these initiatives by defining key principles for the expansion of OA and emphasizing cooperation between libraries, publishers, and research institutions in developing sustainable publishing models.

OA publishing has since become a widely accepted model of scholarly communication and provides the conceptual foundation for various implementation strategies at both national and institutional levels.

Within scholarly publishing literature, four main models of OA are commonly distinguished:

- Green Open Access: Authors publish in subscription-based journals and self-archive a version of their work in an institutional repository. Access is often provided after an embargo period or under publisher-defined conditions.
- Gold Open Access: Articles are made immediately and freely available online, typically through OA journals or platforms. Publication costs are usually covered through Article Processing Charges (APCs) paid by authors or their institutions.
- Hybrid Open Access: Subscription journals offer authors the option to make individual articles openly accessible upon payment of an additional fee, while the remainder of the journal content remains behind a paywall.
- Diamond Open Access: Neither authors nor readers are charged fees; publishing costs are covered by institutions, funding bodies, or sponsorships. This model is widely adopted in non-commercial academic publishing contexts.

The principles and models of OA outlined above have been widely adopted in international scholarly publishing systems and have subsequently informed the development of national and institutional OA policies. In this context, many countries have implemented open science strategies that operationalize these models within specific legal and institutional frameworks, including Serbia and the University of Belgrade.

The Diamond Open Access model is further discussed in the following section.

Diamond Open Access in the European Scholarly Publishing Framework

In recent years, the Diamond Open Access model has gained importance in the development of open access and is widely recognized as one of the most sustainable forms of non-commercial scholarly publishing (Ancion et al. 2022). Unlike the Gold Open Access model, where publication costs are usually covered by Article Processing Charges (APCs), Diamond Open Access is generally understood as a model in which neither authors nor readers pay for publishing or access, while costs are covered by universities, research institutions, libraries, academies of scienc-

es, scholarly associations, or other public or non-commercial funders, ensuring that publishing remains non-profit and under academic control.

A key feature of the Diamond model is that publishing remains within the academic community (community-owned publishing) (Becerril et al. 2021). This structure ensures editorial independence and supports academic autonomy, as journals are not driven by commercial interests but by the circulation of scientific knowledge and is based on non-commercial, community-led principles. Diamond Open Access has developed into a global movement. It emphasizes multilingualism, support for locally grounded publishing initiatives, and the role of non-commercial academic journals within different scholarly communities (Science Europe 2022; cOAlition S 2022). This is reflected in European policy discussions that support equitable publishing models and recognition of local scholarly communication systems.

The importance of Diamond Open Access has increased through several European and international initiatives. After *The OA Diamond Journals Study* (Becerril et al. 2021) and the *Action Plan for Diamond Open Access* (Ancion et al. 2022), the Diamond model became one of the main directions in European scholarly publishing development. These initiatives stress the need for stronger institutional support for non-profit publishers, better editorial processes, shared infrastructure, and higher visibility of Diamond journals.

The European Union supported this direction through the Council of the European Union (2023), where Diamond Open Access is recognized as an important model for sustainable scholarly publishing. The conclusions also highlight multilingualism, bibliodiversity, and the role of academic communities in governing publishing infrastructure.

The further development of this model is also seen through the European Diamond Capacity Hub (EDCH, 2025), which since 2025 supports Diamond publishers through shared standards, training for editorial teams, and development of technical infrastructure. Within this framework, the Diamond Open Access Standard (DOAS) and the Diamond Discovery Hub (DDH) were developed, with the aim of improving visibility and aligning editorial and technical practices with international standards. The Diamond Discovery Hub (DDH) database was also used in this study to check the visibility of the journals included in the sample within the European Diamond Open Access framework.

The publishing activity of the University of Belgrade is an example of institutionally supported non-commercial publishing. The journals included in this study publish in full open access without fees for authors or readers, which fits the main characteristics of the Diamond Open Access model. The analysis shows that university publishing fits into broader European developments in open science. Diamond Open Access is particularly relevant for smaller linguistic and academic communities, such as the Serbian one, as it supports the sustainability of scholarly communication in the national language while simultaneously increasing international visibility through open and non-commercial dissemination channels. This contributes to the preservation of linguistic diversity and bibliodiversity in scholarly publishing and strengthens the integration of locally grounded research into global open science frameworks (Council of the European Union 2023; Science Europe 2022; cOAlition S 2022).

This indicates a general alignment between the publishing practices of the University of Belgrade and broader European and international developments in Diamond Open Access and open science policy (Council of the European Union 2023; Science Europe 2022).

Open Access at the University of Belgrade

Building on the international development of OA publishing and related policy frameworks, Serbia has established its own national open science infrastructure aimed at aligning research dissemination practices with global standards. The Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia launched the Open Science Platform in 2018 with the aim of improving access to scientific literature and increasing the visibility of research outputs. The Platform defines OA to research publications as the right of every Internet user to read, download, and use scholarly publications free of charge, provided that the source is properly cited and that the content is used in accordance with applicable license terms (Open Science Platform 2018).

Within this framework, the Ministry mandates that research output must be made openly accessible either immediately or within 12 months from the date of publication for natural, medical, and technological sciences, and within 18 months for social sciences and humanities. In accordance with these provisions, state universities, research institutes, and certain private higher education institutions in Serbia have adopted corresponding policies and regulatory frameworks supporting the implementation of open science principles (Open Science Platform 2018).

The Open Science Platform of the University of Belgrade was adopted by the University Senate on 13 March 2019. It applies to all members of the academic community engaged in research activities at the University of Belgrade. The Platform promotes the principles of open science, with particular emphasis on increased visibility of research outputs, improved citation impact, and greater international recognition of the University of Belgrade. It also encourages the alignment of institutional publication practices with OA principles.

OA in Serbia is implemented through institutional and national policies aligned with international standards, primarily through self-archiving practices and publication in OA journals. These mechanisms ensure broader dissemination of publicly funded research and support compliance with open science principles.

The University of Belgrade consists of 31 faculties organized into four broad disciplinary groups: social sciences and humanities, medical sciences, natural and mathematical sciences, and technical sciences. All faculties maintain active publishing programs, including scientific monographs, textbooks, and a substantial number of peer-reviewed scholarly journals. In recent years, these faculties have increasingly transitioned from traditional print publishing toward OA models for scientific journals.

This study focuses on journal publishing output in the field of social sciences and humanities at the University of Belgrade. Within this group, there are ten faculties: the Faculty of Economics, the Faculty of Law, the Faculty of Orthodox Theology, the Faculty of Teacher Education, the Faculty of Security Studies, the Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation, the Faculty of Political Sciences, the Faculty of Sport and Physical Education, the Faculty of Philosophy, and the Faculty of Philology. All these faculties maintain active publishing activities, including monographs and peer-reviewed scholarly journals in their respective disciplines. This institutional structure provides a strong foundation for the implementation and sustainability of OA publishing practices across disciplines.

National Evaluation Framework for Scientific Journals in Serbia

Scientific journals play a central role in scholarly communication, serving as primary platforms for the dissemination and exchange of research results, as well as for academic dialogue within specific disciplines (Vučković 2009, 1).

In academic career advancement, publication in peer-reviewed journals is a key requirement. In order to be indexed in international databases such as the Web of Science Core Collection (WoS) and Scopus, journals must meet established editorial and technical standards, including transparent peer-review procedures, rigorous manuscript selection processes, and the use of Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs). High-quality journals are typically characterized by well-defined editorial policies, qualified editorial boards, and standardized publication formats (Šipka 2014, 10).

In Serbia, the evaluation of scientific output was traditionally based on peer review and publication counts. Since the early 2000s, bibliometric indicators have been increasingly introduced as complementary tools in research assessment, gradually becoming an integral part of the national evaluation system (Filipi Matutinović 2014, 48). The current regulatory framework is defined by the Regulation on Categorization and Ranking of Scientific Journals, which establishes the criteria for journal classification and serves as the basis for evaluating research outputs in Serbia (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia 159/2020).

National journal evaluation practices are aligned, to a significant extent, with the criteria used in international indexing databases such as WoS and Scopus. Systematic evaluation of Serbian scientific journals has been conducted since 2003 under the auspices of the Ministry responsible for science. Since 2016, the Mathematical Institute of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SASA) has been responsible for bibliometric monitoring and the preparation of annual reports on national scholarly publishing.

Based on these reports, scientific journals in Serbia are classified annually into six categories:

- M23 – International journal
- M24 – Journal of international significance
- M51 – Top national journal
- M52 – Prominent national journal
- M53 – National journal
- M54 – Journal categorized for the first time.

Scientific journals in Serbia may be published in print, electronic, or hybrid print–electronic formats.

Research

Methodological approach

A review of the relevant literature on OA publishing in Serbia indicates that studies focusing on the evaluation of individual journal titles published in OA are still limited. For this reason, a comparative study was conducted on a sample of scientific journals in the field of social sciences and humanities published by faculties of the University of Belgrade.

The initial step involved the selection of journal titles published by faculties belonging to the social sciences and humanities group at the University of Belgrade. The data source was the national

list of categorized scientific journals, compiled annually on the basis of bibliometric evaluations of journals in Serbia. A total of 46 journal titles were selected for analysis (detailed data are provided in the appendix).

The selected journals were analyzed in parallel according to predefined research objectives. Conclusions were drawn through comparative and descriptive analysis of the collected data. Data were gathered using an inductive approach and presented in tabular form. Some indicators were processed using Microsoft Excel.

Journals were additionally analyzed according to the language(s) of publication (Serbian, English, or bilingual editions), as language represents an important factor influencing international visibility, accessibility, and indexing potential. In addition, journals were classified according to the type of publishing platform used, including Open Journal Systems (OJS), institutional websites, and other web-based publishing solutions without integrated editorial workflow systems.

As part of the methodological framework, the Diamond Discovery Hub (DDH) database was consulted as a supplementary tool for examining the visibility of the selected journals within the European Diamond Open Access infrastructure.

The Diamond Open Access status of the journals was verified based on publisher information, journal websites, and the absence of article processing charges (APCs), as well as institutional ownership and funding models.

All journals included in the sample operate under the Diamond Open Access model, which constitutes a defining structural characteristic of the dataset and provides an important analytical context for the interpretation of the results.

Research objectives

The study was guided by the following objectives:

1. To determine the total number of journal titles in the field of social sciences and humanities at the University of Belgrade.
2. To identify ISSN and eISSN identifiers of the journals.
3. To analyze the national categorization of journals.
4. To examine the presence of Digital Object Identifier (DOI) assignments.
5. To investigate the use of Open Journal Systems (OJS) for journal management.
6. To determine inclusion in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ).
7. To identify indexing in WoS and Scopus.
8. To conduct a bibliometric comparison based on WoS and Scopus coverage.
9. To analyze the language(s) of publication of journals.

Research results

Each journal title was analyzed according to the defined research objectives. The results are presented in tables and figures in the appendix. The following section summarizes the findings.

1. *Distribution of journals by publisher*

All analyzed journals operate under the Diamond Open Access model, with publishing costs covered by academic institutions and no fees for authors or readers. Based on the national list of categorized scientific journals for 2025 (List of Categorized Scientific Journals, 2025), 46 journal titles published by faculties within the social sciences and humanities group were identified.

The journals were grouped by publishing institution to ensure clarity of distribution across faculties. The Faculty of Philology publishes the highest number of journals (16 titles), followed by the Faculty of Philosophy (13 titles) and the Faculty of Political Sciences (6 titles). Other faculties publish a smaller number of journals.

Publisher	Total number of categorized journals
Faculty of Economics	3
Faculty of Law	2
Faculty of Orthodox Theology	1
Teacher Education Faculty	2
Faculty of Security Studies	1
Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation	2
Faculty of Political Sciences	6
Faculty of Sports and Physical Education	1
Faculty of Philosophy	12
Faculty of Philology	16

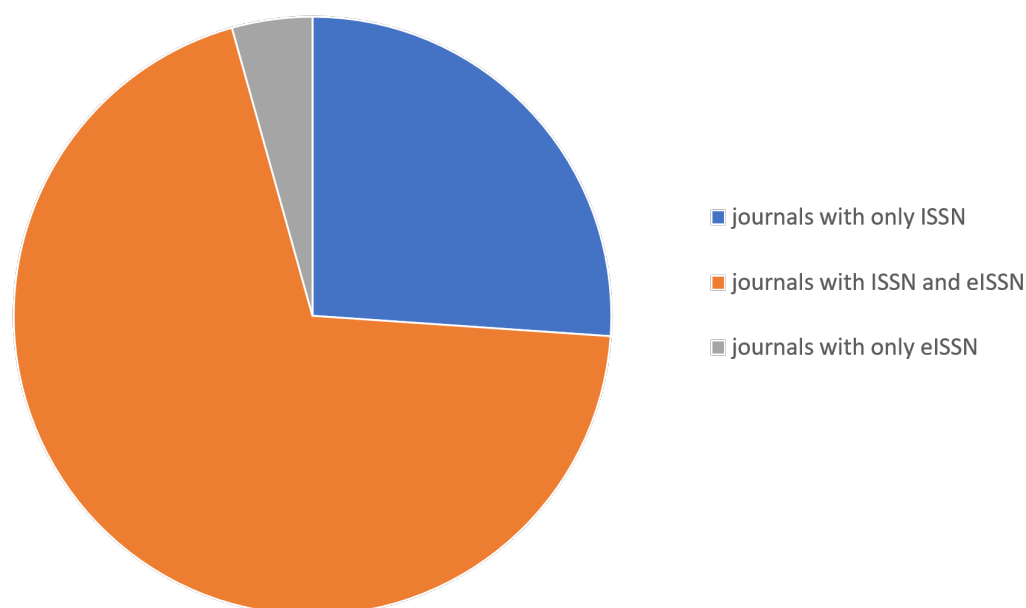
Table 1. List of publishers and the number of journals.

2. *ISSN and eISSN distribution*

The analysis shows that most journals are published in both print and electronic formats and therefore possess both ISSN and eISSN identifiers. Twelve journals are available only in print (ISSN only), while two journals are published exclusively in electronic form (eISSN only). The remaining 32 journals are available in both formats.

This distribution reflects the fact that most publishers are non-commercial academic institutions funded primarily through public resources. All electronic journals included in the sample operate under the Diamond Open Access model, without subscription fees or article processing charges. This reflects the institutional publishing practices of the University of Belgrade, where scholarly journals are supported by faculties and the University rather than commercial publishers.

Despite the advantages of electronic publishing in terms of visibility and accessibility, many Serbian journals in this field continue to maintain parallel print and electronic editions.



Graph 1. ISSN and eISSN.

3. National categorization of journals

The journals were classified according to the national categorization system. The distribution is as follows: M23 (international journal) – 9 journals; M24 (national journal of international importance) – 10 journals; M51 (leading national journal) – 16 journals; M52 (prominent national journal) – 7 journals; M53 (national journal) – 1 journal.

The classification system is influenced not only by WoS and Scopus indexing, but also by disciplinary evaluation lists and additional qualitative criteria defined by national scientific committees, including cultural and societal relevance (Rulebook on Categorization and Ranking of Scientific Journals, Official Gazette of RS 159/2020).

In recent years, indexing in WoS and Scopus has begun to influence journal categorization more significantly. Three journals: *ESP Today* (M21a), *Zograf* (M22), and *Italica Belgradensia* (M22), are placed in higher international categories and are indexed in WoS ESCI.

However, the analysis shows that WoS and Scopus indexing is not a strict requirement for obtaining the highest national categories, as only two of the nine M23 journals are indexed in these databases. Conversely, some journals achieve higher national classification despite not being indexed in WoS or Scopus.

This has influenced editorial policies, with many publishers increasingly adapting their standards to meet indexing requirements, including OA publishing.

4. DOI and research visibility

The visibility and citation impact of scientific output represent key criteria for academic promotion, institutional ranking, and participation in international research projects. Consequently, faculties acting as journal publishers increasingly recognize the importance of indexing in internationally recognized citation databases such as Web of Science (WoS) and Scopus.

A significant element in improving research visibility is the Digital Object Identifier (DOI), a persistent alphanumeric identifier assigned to digital scholarly objects (articles, book chapters, monographs, and conference papers). DOI enables stable linking and long-term accessibility of digital content. In international publishing practice, DOI assignment is typically managed through registration agencies such as Crossref.

Within the broader framework of FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) principles, DOI identifiers contribute directly to the “Findable” principle by providing persistent, globally unique identifiers that enable reliable discovery and machine-readable access to scholarly outputs (Wilkinson et al. 2016).

In Serbia, where many journals are published by non-profit academic institutions with limited resources, DOI registration is implemented through different mechanisms. In some cases, DOI assignment is organized via the National Library of Serbia. For example, among the 16 journals published by the Faculty of Philology, only one journal receives DOI assignment through this institutional route.

Recognizing the importance of DOI for research visibility, the Department of Library and Information Science at the Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade initiated in 2014 the process of joining the Crossref system. Following the agreement signed in 2015, the Faculty began assigning DOI identifiers to publications issued within its journals.

Based on the analyzed dataset (see Appendix), all journals published by the Faculty of Philology are assigned DOI identifiers. Out of 46 analyzed journals, only nine do not have DOI registration. This indicates a strong awareness among publishers regarding the importance of persistent identifiers for increasing citation impact and visibility.

The analysis also shows that while DOI assignment and electronic publishing contribute to greater visibility, they are not strict prerequisites for achieving high national categorization. However, all journals indexed in WoS and Scopus within the sample are equipped with DOI identifiers, suggesting a strong correlation between DOI implementation and international indexing requirements.

5. Open Journal Systems (OJS)

Open Journal Systems (OJS) is an open-source platform designed for the management and publication of scholarly journals. It supports editorial workflows, peer review processes, and metadata management, while also enhancing transparency and discoverability of journal content.

Although OJS is the most widely used open-source journal management system, not all journals included in this study use this platform. Several journals are published through faculty websites or other institutional web platforms that provide online access to journal content but do not support the full range of editorial workflow functions available in OJS, such as online submission, peer review management, automated editorial communication, and standardized metadata export. Consequently, the publishing infrastructure varies considerably across faculties.

Despite these advantages, the adoption of OJS among journals published by the University of Belgrade remains limited. The system is predominantly used at the Faculty of Philology, where six journal titles are currently managed through OJS. It has also been adopted by individual journals published by the Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation and the Faculty of Political Sciences.

The choice of a publishing platform does not in itself determine the scientific quality of a journal. However, systems such as OJS facilitate standardized editorial procedures, improve metadata management, support interoperability with indexing services and repositories, and contribute to the transparency and efficiency of editorial workflows. These features may indirectly enhance the visibility and accessibility of scholarly publications.

Notably, some journals managed through OJS are also indexed in Scopus, suggesting a potential positive relationship between structured editorial systems and international visibility.

Overall, the findings indicate uneven implementation of OJS across faculties and suggest that awareness of its benefits for editorial efficiency, metadata standardization, and indexing potential is still developing within the academic publishing landscape in Serbia.

6. *Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)*

The Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) is an international indexing service that provides access to peer-reviewed OA journals across disciplines. Its main objective is to increase the visibility, accessibility, and impact of high-quality OA scholarly publishing worldwide (DOAJ n.d.).

At present, DOAJ indexes 213 journals from Serbia, including 19 journals included in this study. This indicates that more than half of the analyzed electronic journals are represented in this database.

However, a considerable number of OA journals are still not indexed in DOAJ, despite meeting basic technical requirements. This suggests that editorial boards may not always be fully aware of the submission and inclusion procedures, as well as the benefits that DOAJ indexing brings in terms of international visibility and credibility. This situation also reflects broader developments in open access publishing, where visibility increasingly depends on inclusion in recognized international indexing systems.

7. *WoS and Scopus indexing*

WoS and Scopus are among the most influential international citation and bibliographic databases. WoS, developed by the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI), includes multiple citation indexes (SCI, SSCI, AHCI), while ESCI includes journals undergoing evaluation. Despite its global relevance, WoS has been criticized for linguistic and geographical biases.

Scopus, developed by Elsevier, was introduced in 2004 as a broader alternative with more inclusive indexing criteria and greater coverage of non-English publications.

Journals in the field of social sciences and humanities in Serbia are predominantly published in the Serbian language and often address nationally oriented research topics. This limits their international visibility and reduces their likelihood of inclusion in WoS and Scopus, which remain the most commonly used databases in national research evaluation practices.

Out of 46 analyzed journals, only four are indexed in WoS: *Zograf* (A&HCI), and *ESP Today*, *Etnoantropološki problemi*, and *Italica Belgradensia* (ESCI). In Scopus, six journals are indexed: *Economic Annals*, *ESP Today*, *Specijalna edukacija i rehabilitacija*, *Journal of Regional Security*, *Knjižerstvo* and *Zograf*. Only *Zograf* and *ESP Today* are indexed in both databases.

However, citation database coverage should be interpreted as one of several indicators of research visibility and journal performance, particularly in light of recent developments in research assess-

ment frameworks such as COARA (CoARA 2022), which emphasize broader and more responsible evaluation criteria beyond bibliometric indicators.

8. *Diamond Discovery Hub (DDH) analysis*

To complement the analysis of international indexing databases, the Diamond Discovery Hub (DDH) was also used in this study as an additional tool for examining the visibility of journals within the European Diamond Open Access framework (European Diamond Capacity Hub, 2025).

The DDH database gives an overview of journals that are part of the Diamond publishing ecosystem and their presence within European initiatives supporting this model. In this study, it was used to check how visible the selected journals are in this system.

The results show that 19 out of 46 journals in the sample are included in the DDH database. The remaining journals are not yet listed, which suggests that their integration into the European Diamond Open Access framework is still uneven.

9. *Bibliometric comparison*

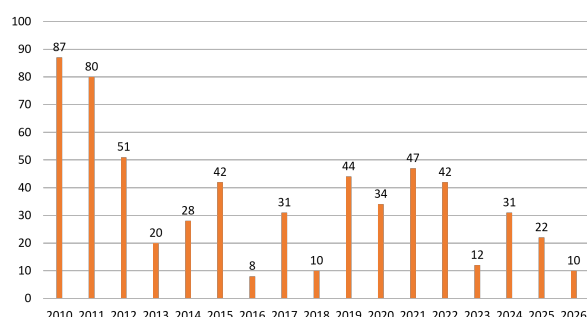
WoS and Scopus, in addition to providing bibliographic records of scholarly publications, also represent important tools for bibliometric analysis and research evaluation. In this phase of the study, a comparative bibliometric analysis was conducted on a selected sample of two journals, based on their visibility and citation indicators in these databases. The analysis covers the period from 2010 to 2026 for data retrieved from the Web of Science Core Collection, while Scopus data were available for the period from 2012 to 2026 due to database coverage limitations.

The comparison was carried out between the journal *Zograf* (ISSN 0350-1361 / eISSN 2406-0755), indexed in both WoS and Scopus and available in OA, and the journal *Srpski jezik – studije srpske i slovenske* (ISSN 0354-9259), which is not indexed in WoS or Scopus and is not available in OA.

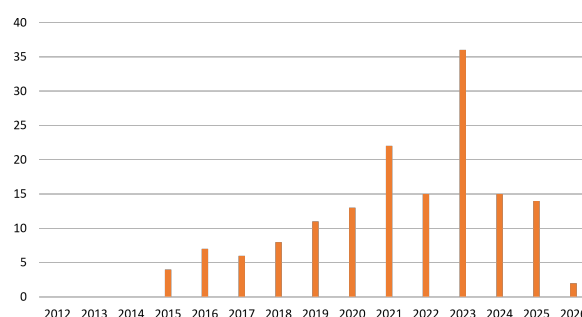
Given its inclusion in both citation databases, it was assumed that *Zograf* would demonstrate a higher citation impact compared to *Srpski jezik – studije srpske i slovenske*. This assumption was verified through searches conducted in the WoS and Scopus databases.

Zograf is published by the Institute of Art History at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade, and has been continuously published since 1966. The journal is issued annually in both print and electronic formats and has been available in OA since 2002.

According to data retrieved from the Web of Science Core Collection, publications indexed in *Zograf* have been cited 599 times within the observed period. Scopus records 153 citations for the same journal.



Graph 2. Zograf in WoS.



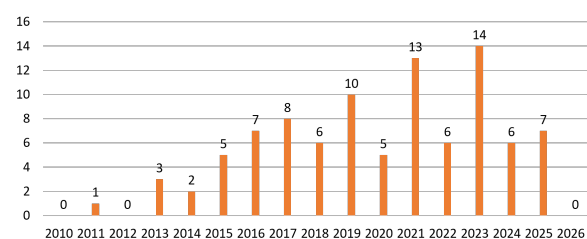
Graph 3. Zograf in Scopus.

In contrast, *Srpski jezik – studije srpske i slovenske* is a scientific journal published in print form since 1996. It is issued annually and does not have an electronic edition, nor is it indexed in the Web of Science or Scopus citation databases. The journal focuses on Serbian language studies, and its primary audience includes researchers from Serbia and the broader region, as well as Slavic scholars.

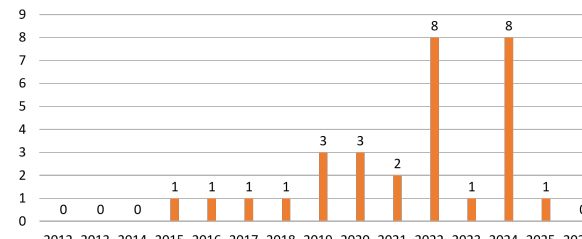
Citation data for this journal were obtained using the Cited Reference Search option in the Web of Science database, which enables the identification of citations to sources that are not themselves indexed in WoS. According to these data, publications from this journal have been cited 93 times in WoS-indexed sources, while Scopus records 30 citations.

It should also be noted that the journal title *Srpski jezik – studije srpske i slovenske* appears in various abbreviated and inconsistent forms in reference lists, which may have affected the completeness of the retrieved citation data. Due to the length and variability of the journal title, as well as differences in citation practices (such as abbreviations, omission of subtitles, and inconsistencies in diacritics), some citations may not have been captured fully in the databases.

The results indicate that journals with higher visibility in international citation databases tend to achieve higher citation rates. Additionally, the availability of publications in OA and the use of persistent identifiers such as DOIs contribute to increased visibility and potential citation impact. However, these findings should be interpreted with caution, as differences in database coverage and indexing practices may influence citation counts, particularly in the case of non-indexed journals. These results mainly reflect differences in database coverage rather than differences in journal quality.



Graph 4. Srpski jezik in WoS.



Graph 5. Srpski jezik in Scopus.

10. *Language(s) of publication*

The analysis of the language(s) of publication shows that the majority of journals included in the sample are bilingual, publishing in Serbian and English. While Serbian remains the dominant language, English is regularly used to publish individual articles or entire issues, particularly in journals aiming to increase international visibility and indexing potential.

A smaller number of journals publish exclusively or predominantly in Serbian. These are mainly journals with a strong focus on national literature, linguistics, cultural studies, or related fields in which Serbian is the primary language of scholarly communication.

In addition, a limited use of other languages was identified. These cases are found exclusively within journals published by the Faculty of Philology, where additional European languages are occasionally used alongside Serbian and English.

Overall, the findings indicate a predominantly bilingual publishing model (Serbian–English), with a limited but meaningful presence of additional languages in a small number of journals.

Conclusion

This study examined OA publishing practices within scientific journals at the University of Belgrade, with a particular focus on the field of social sciences and humanities. The analysis combined bibliometric indicators, journal infrastructure characteristics, and international indexing coverage.

The overall findings indicate that OA publishing has become an established component of scholarly communication in the observed context, particularly in terms of improving journal visibility and dissemination. Most journals operate under the diamond OA model and are available in both print and electronic formats, although full digital transformation remains limited.

At the same time, the study reveals uneven development of key publishing infrastructures, including Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) and journal management systems such as Open Journal Systems (OJS). While these tools are widely recognized as essential for improving visibility and integration into international scholarly communication systems, their implementation is still inconsistent across institutions.

International indexing analysis shows that only a limited number of journals from the University of Belgrade are included in Web of Science and Scopus databases, reflecting both disciplinary characteristics and broader challenges related to internationalization, language of publication, and editorial standards. These factors collectively influence the global visibility of journals in the humanities and social sciences.

Within this broader context, a comparative bibliometric analysis of two selected journals was conducted as a case study of citation visibility. The results show a clear difference in citation performance between *Zograf*, indexed in both Web of Science and Scopus, and *Srpski jezik – studije srpske i slovenske*, which is not indexed in these databases. This difference reflects the role of database coverage and indexing visibility in shaping measurable citation impact.

However, the analysis also indicates that citation data for non-indexed journals may be underestimated due to variations in reference formatting, abbreviation practices, and limitations of reference-based retrieval methods. This highlights important methodological constraints in bibliomet-

ric research, particularly in the humanities, where citation practices are less standardized. Overall, the study suggests that indexing coverage, OA availability, and citation performance are interrelated factors that jointly influence journal visibility. Strengthening standardized publishing infrastructures, improving metadata quality, and further aligning journals with international open science frameworks may contribute to greater visibility and integration of journals into global scholarly communication systems. These findings should be interpreted as part of a broader structural analysis of scholarly publishing practices, rather than being limited to individual journal performance.

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Appendix

The table presents the dataset used in the analysis, including the following variables: publisher (faculty), journal title, ISSN, eISSN, national journal category, DOI assignment, use of Open Journal Systems (OJS), inclusion in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), indexing in Web of Science (WoS) and Scopus databases, and language(s) of publications.

Journal titles are listed in their original form. Serbian-language titles are presented in Latin script, while English-language titles are given in English only. Bilingual titles are presented in both language versions.

The dataset served as the basis for the analysis and for the interpretation of the results presented in this study.

<i>Publisher</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>ISSN eISSN</i>	<i>National category</i>	<i>equipped with a doi</i>	<i>OJS plat- form</i>	<i>DOAJ</i>	<i>indexed in WoS/Scopus</i>	<i>Language(s) of publ.</i>
Faculty of Economics	Ekonomski anali = Economic Annals	0013-3264 1820-7375	M24	yes	no	yes	Scopus	Serbian / English
Faculty of Economics	Ekonomske ideje i praksa	2217-6217 2738-1129	M52	yes	no	no	-	Serbian / English
Faculty of Economics	ESP Today	- 2334-9050	M21a	yes	no	yes	Web of Science-ESCI Scopus	Serbian / English
Faculty of Law	Anali Pravnog fakulteta u Beogradu = The Annals of the Faculty of Law in Belgrade	0003-2565 2406-2693	M23	yes	no	yes	-	Serbian / English
Faculty of Law	Crimen	2217-219X 2683-5800	M51	yes	no	yes	-	Serbian / English
Faculty of Orthodox Theology	Bogoslovlje = Theology	0006-5714 2560-4945	M51	yes	no	no	-	Serbian / English
Teacher Education Faculty	Inovacije u nastavi – časopis za savremenu nastavu	0352-2334 2335-0806	M23	yes	no	yes	-	Serbian / English
Teacher Education Faculty	Metodička teorija i praksa	0354-9801 -	M51	no	no	no	-	Serbian / English
Faculty of Security Studies	Godišnjak fakulteta bezbednosti = Annual Faculty of Security Studies	1821-150X 2683-5738	M52	yes	no	yes	-	Serbian / English
Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation	Beogradska defektološka škola = Belgrades school of defectology	0354-8759 -	M52	no	no	no	-	Serbian / English
Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation	Specijalna edukacija i rehabilitacija	1452-7367 2406-1328	M51	yes	yes	yes	Scopus	Serbian / English

Faculty of Political Sciences	CM: Communication and Media	2466-541X 2466-5452	M24	no	no	yes	-	Serbian / English
Faculty of Political Sciences	Journal of Regional Security	2217-995X 2406-0364	M23	yes	yes	yes	Scopus	Serbian / English
Faculty of Political Sciences	Političke perspektive	2217-561X 2335-027X	M24	yes	yes	yes	-	Serbian / English
Faculty of Political Sciences	Godišnjak Fakulteta političkih nauka	1820-6700 -	M51	no	yes	no	-	Serbian / English
Faculty of Political Sciences	Politički život	2217-7000 -	M51	yes	no	no	-	Serbian / English
Faculty of Political Sciences	Genero	1451-2203 2620-181X	M51	yes	no	yes	-	Serbian / English
Faculty of Sports and Physical Education	Fizička kultura	0350-3828 2217-947X	M24	yes	no	yes	-	Serbian / English
Faculty of Philosophy	Filozofski godišnjak = Belgrade Philosophical Annual	0353-3891 2956-0357	M24	yes	no	no	-	Serbian / English
Faculty of Philosophy	Etnoantropološki problemi	0353-1589 2334-8801	M23	yes	no	yes	Web of Science ESCI	Serbian / English
Faculty of Philosophy	Zbornik seminara za studije moderne umetnosti	2217-3951 2738-1528	M24	yes	no	no	-	Serbian / English
Faculty of Philosophy	Srpske studije	2217-5687 -	M24	no	no	no	-	Serbian / English
Faculty of Philosophy	Lucida intervalla	1450-6645 -	M24	no	no	no	-	Serbian / English
Faculty of Philosophy	Antropologija	1452-7243 2334-881X	M51	no	no	no	-	Serbian / English
Faculty of Philosophy	Beogradski istorijski glasnik = Belgrade Historical Review	2217-4338 -	M51	no	no	no	-	Serbian / English
Faculty of Philosophy	Stari srpski arhiv	1451-3072 -	M52	no	no	no	-	Serbian / English
Faculty of Philosophy	Zograf	0350-1361 2406-0755	M22	yes	no	yes	Web of Science A&HCI Scopus	Serbian / English
Faculty of Philosophy	Andragoške studije = Andragogical Studies : journal for the Study of Adult Education and Learning	0354-5415 2466-4537	M23	yes	no	no	-	Serbian / English
Faculty of Philosophy	Psihološka istraživanja	0352-7379 2560-306X	M23	yes	no	yes	-	Serbian / English

Faculty of Philosophy	Nastava i vaspitanje = Studies in Teaching and Education	0547-3330 2560-3051	M23	yes	no	yes	-	Serbian / English
Faculty of Philology	Srpski jezik – studije srpske i slovenske	0354-9259 -	M23	yes	no	no	-	Serbian
Faculty of Philology	Prilozi za književnost, jezik, istoriju i folklor	0350-6673 2406-0798	M23	yes	no	no	-	Serbian
Faculty of Philology	Anali Filološkog fakulteta = Annals of the Faculty of Philology	0522-8468 2787-1037	M24	yes	yes	yes	-	Serbian / English
Faculty of Philology	Naučni sastanak slavista u Vukove dane	0351-9066 -	M51	yes	no	no	-	Serbian
Faculty of Philology	Philologia	1451-5342 1820-5682	M52	yes	yes	yes	-	Serbian / English / French / German / Italian
Faculty of Philology	Slavistika	1450-5061 2738-1358	M51	yes	no	no	-	Serbian / Russian / English
Faculty of Philology	Filološki pregled	0015-1807 -	M51	yes	no	no	-	Serbian / English
Faculty of Philology	Belgrade English Language & Literature Studies	1821-3138 1821-4827	M51	yes	yes	no	-	Serbian / English
Faculty of Philology	Godišnjak Katedre za srpsku književnost sa jugoslovenskim književnostima	1820-5305 -	M51	yes	no	no	-	Serbian
Faculty of Philology	Živi jezici	0514-7743 2787-3161	M53	yes	yes	no	-	Serbian / English
Faculty of Philology	Primenjena lingvistika	1451-7124 -	M51	yes	no	no	-	Serbian / English
Faculty of Philology	Knjiženstvo	- 2217-7809	M24	yes	yes	no	Scopus	Serbian / English
Faculty of Philology	Slovenika	2466-555X 2466-2852	M52	yes	no	yes	-	Serbian / Slovenian / English
Faculty of Philology	Italica Belgradensia	0353-4766 2812-877X	M22	yes	no	no	Web of Science ESCI	Italian / English
Faculty of Philology	Folkloristika	2560-4414 2560-3191	M51	yes	no	no	-	Serbian / English
Faculty of Philology	Infoteka = Infotheca	1450-9687 2217-9461	M52	yes	yes	no	-	Serbian / English