

Principles for open access publishing: reflections from DOAJ

Lund Online October 2024





80

languages

135

countries

More than
21,000

journals

DOAJ as a principle/standard setter

DOAJ as a principle aligner?

What have we learnt?

DOAJ and the history of open access



2003

Founded at Lund University Libraries with just 330 journals. Soon became the primary index for Open Access

2013

Inclusion criteria are extended to ensure only trustworthy journals are indexed

2017

DOAJ journals are included in the Nordic List of research publications, with a formal agreement in 2017

2017

Indexing in DOAJ is a requirement for compliance with Plan S Funders

Now

DOAJ journals are included in approved lists and open access policies worldwide, and our criteria are seen as the standard for open access journal publishing

DOAJ's evaluation criteria are a gold standard for open access publishing

They cover...

- Open Access, copyright and licensing
- Transparency: editorial board, peer review, and journal ownership
- Editorial and publishing standards
- Website and functionality
- Operations: editorial independence, business model and archiving





DOAJ statistics 2023

7,926
applications &
4,126 update
requests from
journals

24% of
applications
accepted for
inclusion

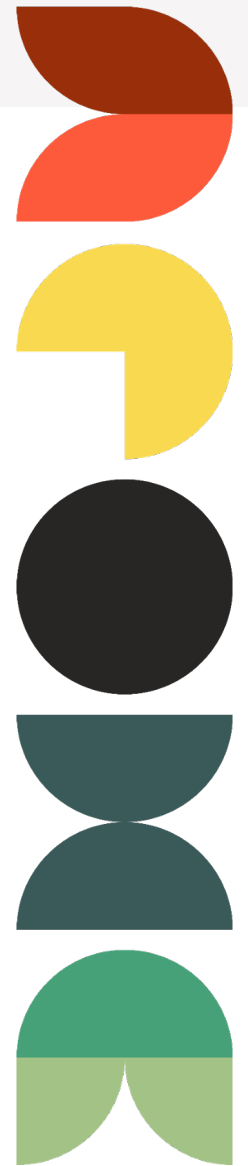
Average review
time **under**
three months

20 core staff,
>100 volunteer
editors & **21**
ambassadors

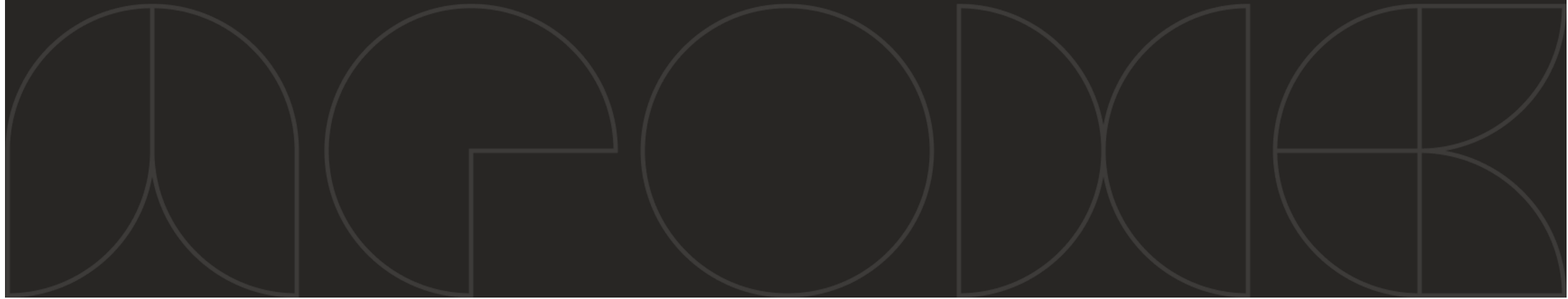
DOAJ is a global, independent infrastructure

This means:

- We do not seek to align ourselves with regional or national open access policies or agendas
- We advocate for the inclusion of all quality, peer-reviewed open access journals in principles and policies



DOAJ and the EU Council conclusions



11. Step up support to ... not-for-profit
open access multi-format scholarly
publishing models in Europe with **no
costs for authors or readers...**

DOAJ and Diamond journals

● “Helping hand” to support smaller journals through the DOAJ application process

■ Targeted acquisition projects to bring in more Diamond journals

■ Participate in Horizon Europe DIAMAS and CRAFT-OA projects to build capacity for institutional publishing within Europe

■ Two- thirds of journals in DOAJ do not charge APCs

20. Address in a systemic manner the issue of **predatory publishing** and to promote and support training on responsible, open and ethical publishing practices...

Steps to support ethical, responsible publishing



DOAJ collaborates with COPE, OASPA and WAME to publish the *Principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly*



DOAJ is a co-founder of Think.Check.Submit. A resource which helps researchers identify trusted publishers for their research.



In 2023, our expert Quality Team conducted 409 investigations of suspected questionable or predatory practice which resulted in over 300 exclusions.

16. Invest in and foster interoperable, not-for-profit **infrastructures** for publishing based on open source software and open standards...

DOAJ is an open scholarly infrastructure...

1

cannot be
bought or sold.

2

is committed to
openness,
diversity and
accountability.

3

has adopted the
Principles of
Open Scholarly
Infrastructure in
2022.

4

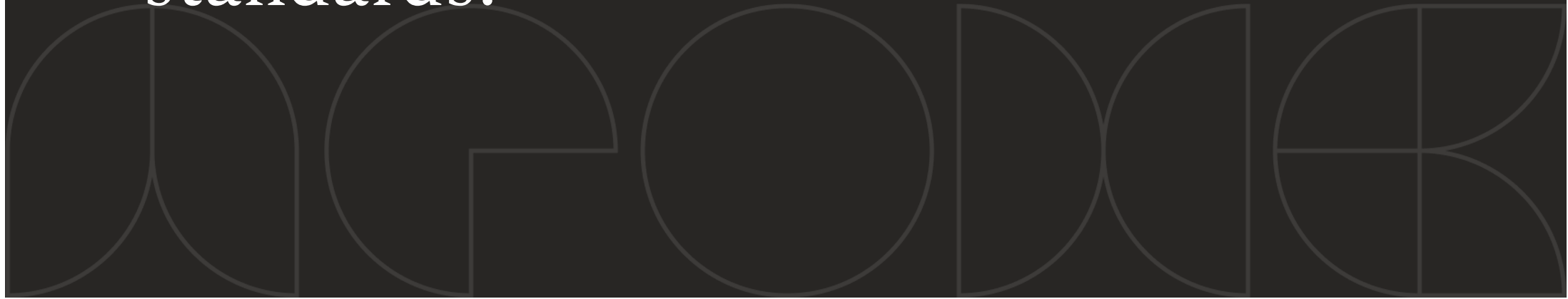
Collaborates with
others in the
community to
further open
access

Lessons from 21 years of setting principles and standards in Open Access Publishing

Principles change behaviours



DOAJ criteria, application process,
and (sometimes) rejection help
journals increase their own
standards.





Firstly, our application was rejected, as we did not have proper copyright arrangements. After that, we consulted with some experts and lawyers, adopted the CC copyright model, and arranged everything else in order to really become an open access journal. ”

Principles need to be inclusive

Publishing practices vary across regions, disciplines, and types of publisher.

DOAJ's standards are the same for everyone, but our evaluation service aims to be **equitable**.

Principles must evolve to reflect
the changing environment



Evolving DOAJ's principles

 Endogeny

 Special issues

 AI

 What's next?

Thank you

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