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Zurich ^{UZH}

OPEN
PLATO

Sustainable Diamond OA Publishing in Switzerland: Challenges and Opportunities

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Overview

Context: What is Diamond OA and the PLATO Project?

PLATO Study: Landscape of Diamond OA journals in Switzerland

Input: Challenges and Opportunities

Discussion: How do we tackle the challenges and seize on opportunities?



What is Diamond/Platinum Open Access?

Diamond Open Access (or Platinum Open Access) is a scholar-led publication model in which neither authors nor readers pay any fees.

The control over publishing lies in the hands of the scientific community, and it is based on shared values of diversity and equity.

Advantages of Platinum/Diamond Open Access for researchers:

- Immediate and full open access without fees for authors and readers
- Copyrights remain with authors (rights retention)
- Scholar-led initiatives without commercial interests – journals as a “service for the scientific community”
- Integration into local research contexts while being internationally visible

Pierre Mounier (OPERAS) argues that Diamond Open Access is not a new or alternative model of scholarly publishing. It is how scientists used to publish for their communities for the longest time in history.

The industrialisation of scholarly publishing is a product of the second half of the 20th century.



About the PLATO Project

PLATO is a partnership project initiated by six Swiss universities and co-funded by swissuniversities.

Its goal is to further sustainable Diamond Open Access publishing in Switzerland by

- devising sustainable funding scenarios for Swiss Platinum/Diamond Open Access journals,
- engaging all stakeholders,
- community building.

Partner Universities:



Universität Zürich ^{UZH}

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^b UNIVERSITÄT BERN



UNIVERSITÉ DE GENÈVE

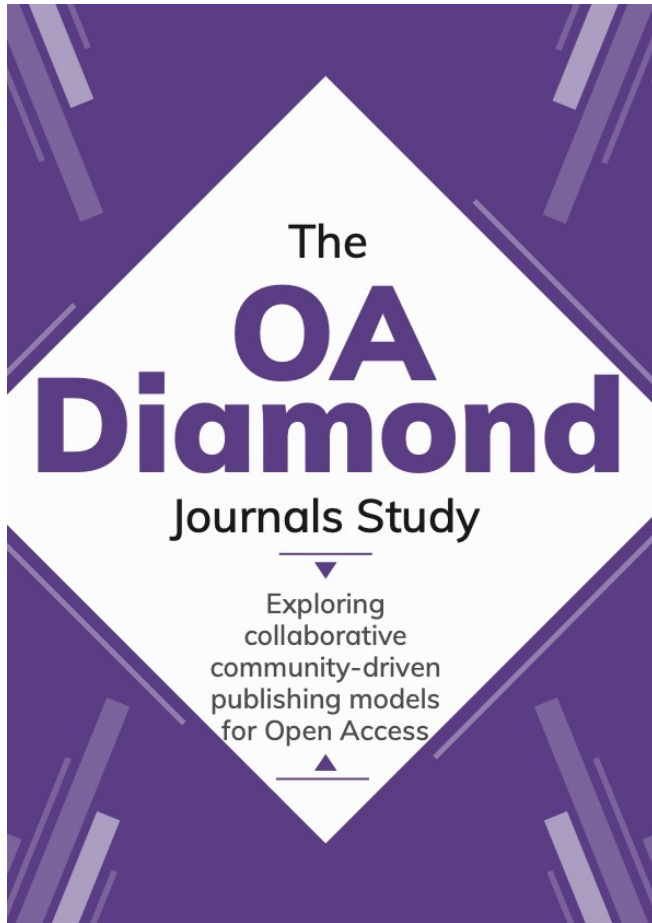
unine^o
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z

hdk

Zürcher Hochschule der Künste
Zurich University of the Arts



Momentum for Diamond OA

2021 Publication of OA Diamond Journals Study (Science Europe/cOAlition S)

2022 Start of PLATO Project

2022 Action Plan for Diamond Open Access (Science Europe/cOAlition S)

2022 Start of the Horizon DIAMAS / CRAFT OA Projects

2022 Project “KOALA” sets up consortial funding model for Diamond OA

2023 Publication of PLATO Study

Overview PLATO Study



Objectives

- Overview of the Diamond OA publishing landscape in Switzerland, its scope, modes of operation, business models and infrastructures
- Identification of challenges and opportunities of Swiss Diamond OA journals

Concept

- In collaboration with the Institute for Applied Data Science & Finance, Bern University of Applied Sciences
- Broad definition of Swiss Diamond OA journal (published, hosted or (partially) funded by Swiss institution or member from Switzerland among editorial or advisory board; at least one publication since 2018; existing ISSN)
- Three parts: bibliometric, qualitative (interviews with editors of Swiss Diamond OA journals), and quantitative (survey: authors, editors, publishing/hosting institutions)

Output

- Bibliometric list of Diamond OA journals in Switzerland (first version, published August 15, 2022): <https://zenodo.org/record/6992615#.Y8e5WOLMI-Q>
- Study Report «Mapping the Swiss Landscape of Diamond Open Access Journals. The PLATO Study on Scholar-led Publishing» (published January 5, 2023): <https://zenodo.org/record/7461728#.Y8e5wOLMI-Q>
- Data Set (published January 5, 2023): <https://zenodo.org/record/7461754#.Y8e5quLMI-Q>



Landscape of Swiss Diamond OA Journals

Currently 214 journals
Only 60 (28.03%) are indexed
in DOAJ

Social Sciences: 45.33%
Arts & Humanities: 23.83%
Life Sciences: 20.09%
Physical Sciences: 4.21%
Technology: 4.21%
Interdisciplinary: 2.34%

Almost 50% of journals are published
by Higher Education Institutions
(10% of those by universities of applied
sciences and PHs)
17.76% by academic societies
10.28% by for-profit publishers

71% of journals publish
<25 articles per year

English is most common publishing
language (32.24%)
French 12.15%
German 10.75%
English/French/German 7.48%
English/German 7.48%
English/French/German/Italian 5.61%

50% of journals operate with less than
CHF15'000.

In their operations, most journals
mainly rely on volunteer work.



What are the challenges?

Funding

Preconceptions

Governance
and Ownership

Compliance to
OA Standards



Funding

- > Lack of sustainable funding options leads to lower confidence in long-term sustainability of journal operations (> 3 years)
- > Transparency of costs
- > Different institutional perspectives and possibilities
- > Requires forging of new collaborations and innovative solutions

Who will fund and how?



Preconceptions

- > In certain communities, there are preconceptions that Diamond OA or OA publishing in general is unreliable and variable in quality.
- > Diamond OA journals do not have the same prestige than Gold OA – even though high price doesn't necessarily translate into high prestige.

(Corbyn, Z. Price doesn't always buy prestige in open access. *Nature* (2013).

<https://doi.org/10.1038/nature.2013.12259>)

How do we raise awareness that quality isn't related to a specific publication model?



Governance and
Ownership

- > Besides funding, governance and ownership are important aspects for the sustainability of journals (personnel structure and responsibilities, succession planning, ownership, relationship with service providers)
- > 65% of journals have no contractual agreement with the publishing organisation addressing the ownership of the journal.
- > Lack of support regarding legal aspects of OA publishing

<https://www.ccdigitallaw.ch>

**How do we improve support in legal issues
surrounding Diamond OA publishing for
editors and authors?**



Compliance to OA
Standards

> Mixed picture in regard to compliance to OA standards (e. g. Plan S, DOAJ, COPE)

- Most of the journals publish under a Creative Common License
- High level of standardisation in regard to quality assurance procedures (peer review)
- 72% use CrossRef DOI as persistent identifiers, 13% use no PID at all.
- 65% of surveyed journals have a long-term archiving policy in place
- 25% adhere to guidelines and best practices set out by COPE
- Only 22% of journals systematically check their submissions for plagiarism
- Almost half of surveyed journals do not know whether the journal provides metadata

> Autonomy of operations vs. standardisation

> Professionalisation comes at a cost

How do we improve compliance of journals?



What are the opportunities?

Position
Diamond OA
as solid
alternative to
APC-based
and other
commercial
publishing

Take back
control over
scholarly
communication

Investment in a
diverse,
inclusive, and
sustainable
publishing
ecosystem

Shared
infrastructures
as enablers

IT support and
indexation



Questions – Discussion

- Which importance does Diamond OA have at your institution?
- What are your (or your institution's) priorities moving forward?
- How do you offer support to researchers as authors and/or editors? What works best according to your experience?
- Would your institution support a consortial fund for Diamond OA? And under which conditions?



Save the Date

“Acting together for Sustainable Scholar-Led Publishing” National Diamond Open Access Conference

Friday, 8 March 2024
PROGR in Bern



Contact

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Zenodo Community: <https://zenodo.org/communities/plato-ch/>

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