

# Different objectives of journal Indexing Services in quality control of scholarly publishing: inclusiveness versus exclusiveness

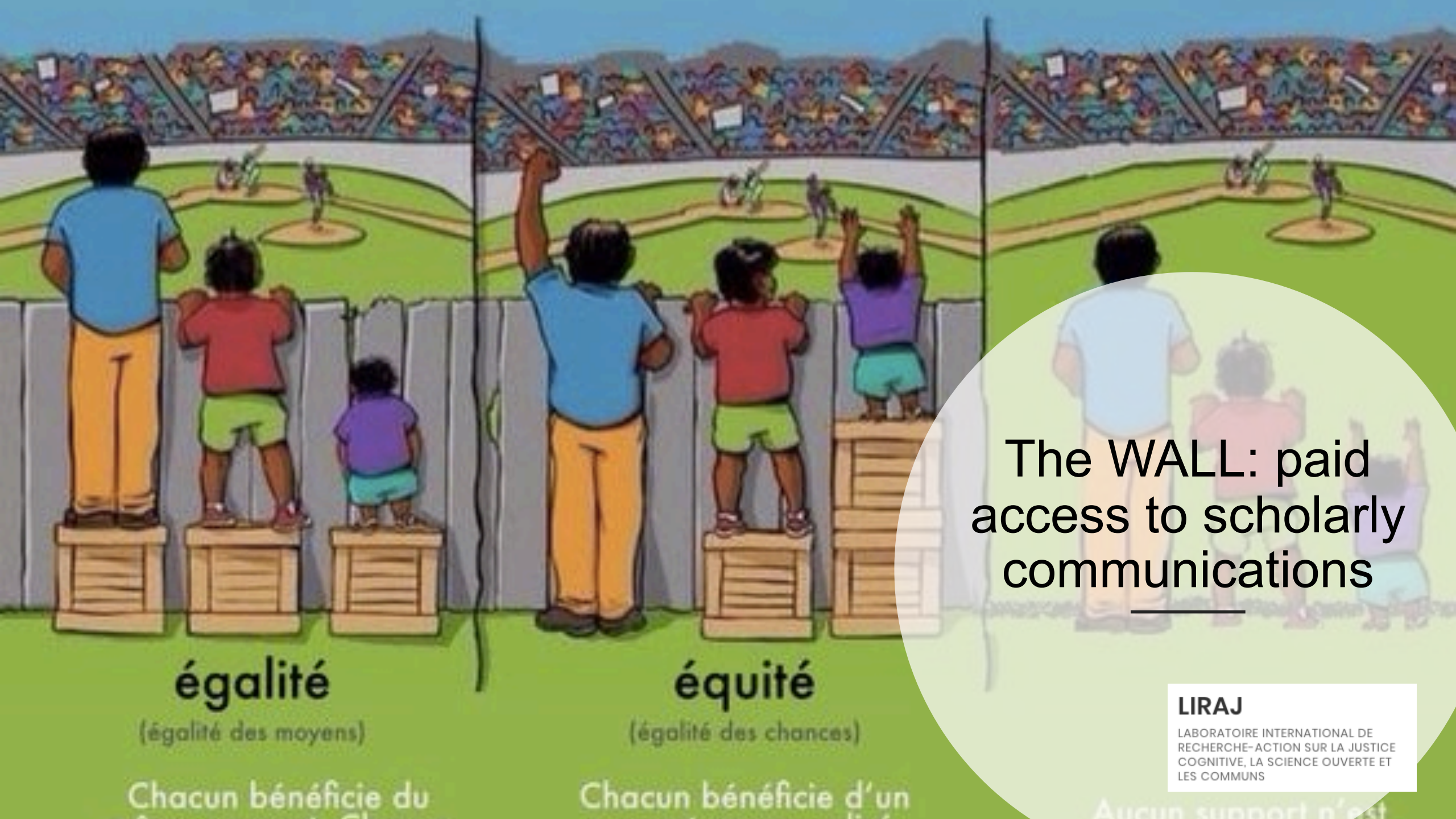
Tom **Olijhoek** *DOAJ Editor-in-Chief* [tom@doaj.org](mailto:tom@doaj.org)

SPARC Africa Open Access Symposium  
2-6 dec 2019  
Capetown  
South Africa





# THE PRINCIPLES OF OA PUBLISHING



**égalité**

(égalité des moyens)

Chacun bénéficie du

**équité**

(égalité des chances)

Chacun bénéficie d'un

The WALL: paid  
access to scholarly  
communications

**LIRAJ**

LABORATOIRE INTERNATIONAL DE  
RECHERCHE-ACTION SUR LA JUSTICE  
COGNITIVE, LA SCIENCE OUVERTE ET  
LES COMMUNS

Aucun support n'est

# Two Publishing Systems

- The subscription publication system
- A shareholder economy dominated by major Northern publishers
- Objective: **maximize profit**

competition

EXCLUSION

- The open access publication system
- A user-driven sharing economy
- Objective: to **maximize the use and impact** towards the commons of knowledge, a resource to be shared and preserved collectively

collaboration

INCLUSION



# THE PROBLEMS

# Problems in Scholarly Publishing

Publishing System: Dominance of 5 Publishers

Lack of Price – Cost transparency

Quality Control and Ranking by Producers

## **From symbiont to parasite: the evolution of for-profit science publishing**

Peter Walter\* and Dyche Mullins\*

Howard Hughes Medical Institute and Departments of Biochemistry and Biophysics and of Molecular Pharmacology,  
University of California, San Francisco, San Francisco, CA 94158

**“The commercial strategies that for-profit publishers have adopted for open access are ravenous, exclusionary and unsustainable. This is entirely contrary to the vision of open access that AmeliCA supports.”**



Arianna Becerril-García,  
chair of AmeliCA:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yQDFHBJX7xl&feature=youtu.be>

<https://poynder.blogspot.com/2019/05/the-oa-interviews-arianna-becerril.html>

# Some statistics: this is what academics allow to happen

- The two owners of Holtzbrinck are together worth €4.5bn.
- Elsevier generate €1 billion in net profit each year.
- Total revenue is estimated at around €10bn per year.
- Profit margins above 30% are fairly standard.
- About 70% of their revenue comes from public sources.
- The average amount we spend per article is between €4-5000.
- The true cost of publishing at scale is ~€400 per article.
- But it can be as low as around \$2 per article.

# Price Control of Scholarly Publishing in the North



Publishing prices increase all the time

No relation between price and actual costs

Price linked to reputation / status / branding

Reputation / Status depend on ranking

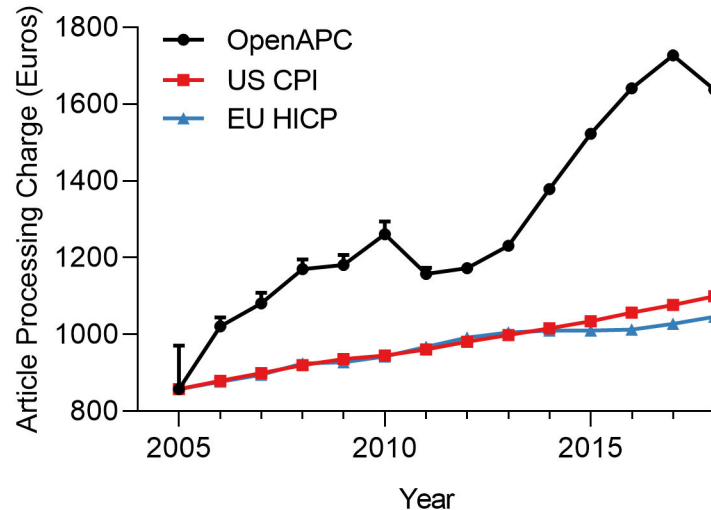
Scholars want / need to publish in high ranked journals

Ranking is done by publishers

5 publishers dominate the scholarly publishing market

# Price – Cost of OA Journals

The picture of exponential increase in cost for APC based publications



Khoo, S.Y.-S., 2019. Article Processing Charge Hyperinflation and Price Insensitivity: An Open Access Sequel to the Serials Crisis. *LIBER Quarterly*, 29(1), pp.1–18.  
DOI: <http://doi.org/10.18352/lq.10280>

CPI consumer price index  
HICP harmonized index of consumer price

According to Björn Brembs :

*This means that in an APC-OA world, total publishing expenditures are expected to increase exponentially, as the number of articles increases and the price of each article increases (<http://bit.ly/2MFEkaL>)*

# Plan S and Price – Cost Transparency in OA Journals

- Plan S requires transparency
- Price should only be linked to actual costs
- BUT
- Reputation / Status will continue to push prices if system continues to be based on ranking under the control of publishers duly followed by researchers, funders, universities

# **THE NEW STRATEGY: TRANSFORMATIVE AGREEMENTS FOR OPEN ACCESS SERVE NORTHERN PUBLISHERS**

Securing high profits

Maintaining long term dominance

Ensuring publishing in 'their' journals

Continuation of existing evaluation system  
based on ranking and publisher controlled quality assessment

# WHO IS HERE TO BLAME?



Christian Gutknecht  
@chgutknecht

Hungarian Elsevier Read and Publish Agreement now fully disclosed!

13'162'904 EUR (ex. VAT) for 26 months. incl. 2505 cor. authors #openaccess articles.

-> 5255 EUR per article + reading (PAR fee). Looks very expensive to me!

[eisz.mtak.hu/images/szerzod...](https://eisz.mtak.hu/images/szerzod...) @danubin\_

**DOAJ is not against profits** but the exorbitant high profits of some publishers only serve the company shareholders and not the scholarly community nor society as a whole

## SERVICE AND SUPPLY CONTRACT FOR SCIENCEDIRECT FREEDOM COLLECTION DATABASE

This agreement ("Agreement") is entered into between the

**Library and Information Centre of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences**

(hereinafter referred to as "Subscriber"),  
seated at 1. Arany János u. Budapest, 1051  
Tax number: 15300289-2-41

Bank Account No.: IBAN: HU45 1003 2000 0032 2946 0000  
0000

represented by Dr. István Monok General Director

and

**Elsevier B. V.**

(hereinafter referred to as "Supplier")  
seated at Radarweg 29, 1043 NX Amsterdam, Netherlands  
Tax number: NL 005033019B01

## III. LICENCE FEE

**III.1.** The Licence Fee for the subscription period defined in Clause II is a fixed price as detailed in the winning tender **13 162 904 EUR** as set out in Appendix 1.

# EXAMPLE OF AGREEMENT ELSEVIER - HUNGARY





BUT:

- **It is too easy to only blame the publishers**
- Even though we are critical of the ethics of some publishers, we believe that they are only exploiting conditions created by academia, in the broadest sense (researchers, research funders, universities and governments)
- **The last ones have the power to change the conditions and are ultimately responsible for the current mess!**  
.....we have to help them change the system and provide you with incentives to share your work

# We are running out of time

**“The current model of scholarly publishing contains a disastrous blend of Stockholm Syndrome and cognitive dissonance.** Researchers are helplessly locked into the system because of an over-reliance on journal brands for their evaluations.

Every time we sign one of these so-called transformative contracts, which often contain multi-year lock-ins, or lock-ins because of publisher specific software, we lose the opportunity to create something more just, sustainable, efficient and effective.

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/opinion/transformative-open-access-publishing-deals-are-only-entrenching-commercial-power>

# COST COMPARISON

Publishing system	Average Cost / Article
Subscription	\$5000
Transformative deals	\$5000
Open Access with APC	\$1000
Open Access (SciELO, Redalyc)	\$400
J. Open Source Software	\$2,71



**BREAKING  
THE SPELL**

# Community controlled scholarly publishing

The example of Latin America



# AMELICA as Alternative to PLAN S

Arianna BecerrilGarcía chair of Amelica

“build a “collaborative, non-commercial, sustainable and non-subordinated” system in which control is removed from commercial publishers and handed back to the academy”

“democratize scientific knowledge following a multicultural, multi-thematic and multi-lingual approach”



<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/latamcaribbean/2019/11/06/latin-americas-longstanding-open-access-ecosystem-could-be-undermined-by-proposals-from-the-global-north/>



**TOOLS FOR NORTHERN  
DOMINANCE**  
(AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT)

# Journals versus articles

QUALITY CONTROL  
publisher controlled  
(as long as we let  
them!)

# QUALITY OF CONTENT

STIL MAINLY DONE BY USING IMPACT FACTOR ,  
NUMBER OF ARTICLES PUBLISHED  
AND WHERE YOU PUBLISH

# Europe

**“Especially striking is the widespread use of the journal impact factor by 75% of respondents to evaluate researchers and their output.”**

## **Reviewing university approaches to research assessment in the transition to Open Science**

<https://eua.eu/resources/expert-voices/132-reviewing-university-approaches-to-research-assessment-in-the-transition-to-open-science.html>

# QUALITY OF CONTENT

Reinforcing systemic biases in power by using International evaluation frameworks

Access to knowledge you don't need?

Depreciation of non-Northern knowledge systems

## **Research excellence is a neo-colonial agenda (and what might be done about it)**

*Cameron Neylon*

*cn@cameronneylon.net*

*Centre for Culture and Technology, Curtin University, Perth, 6015, Australia*

. In E Kraemer-Mbula, R Tijssen, M Wallace & R McLean (eds), *Transforming Research Excellence*. Cape Town: African Minds.

## **Epistemic alienation in African Scholarly communication: Open access as a Pharmakon.**

Mboa Nkoudou, T H. (2019).

in *Old Traditions and New Technologies:*

*The Pasts, Presents, and Futures of Open Scholarly Communication.*

Edited by Eve, M, Gray, J. Cambridge, MIT Press (in Press).

<https://eve.gd/2019/06/07/old-traditions-and-new-technologies/>

## **Cognitive injustice 4/9: Local knowledge is excluded or disrespected**

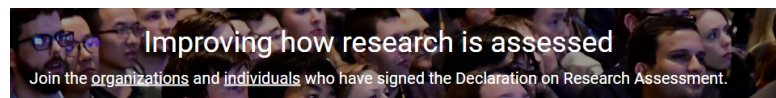
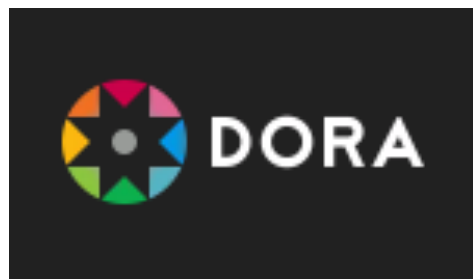
In the positivist-normative framework that dominates current science, knowledge that is local, oral, practical, experiential or contextual is considered non-knowledge to be either ignored or retranslated in scientific terms by experts.

*Mboa Nkoudou, Piron et al. in Contextualising openness edited by Leslie Chan*



AFRICA HAS A CHOICE  
why adopt the Northern systems?

# ALTERNATIVES ARE THERE:



CONTEXTUALIZED EVALUATION \*\*

INFRASTRUCTURES / IMPACT ON SOCIETY

LOCAL JOURNALS PLATFORMS

## General Recommendation

1. Do not use journal-based metrics, such as Journal Impact Factors, as a surrogate measure of the quality of individual research articles, to assess an individual scientist's contributions, or in hiring, promotion, or funding decisions.



## Invest in Open Infrastructure

An effort to enable durable, scalable, and long lasting open scientific and scholarly infrastructure to emerge, thrive, and deliver its benefits on a global scale.



<https://www.revues.scienceafrique.org/>



The screenshot shows the homepage of the 'Le Grenier des savoirs' website. At the top left is a dark blue triangle with the text 'Le Grenier des savoirs'. To its right is a navigation menu with links: 'Accueil', 'Toutes les revues', 'Instructions aux auteurs et aux autrices', 'Se connecter', and 'S'inscrire'. Below the navigation is a logo for 'SCIENCE AFRIQUE .org' featuring a colorful map of Africa. The main title 'Le Grenier des savoirs' is displayed in large red letters, followed by the subtitle 'Des revues en libre accès pour nourrir l'humanité de savoirs de qualité'. A central quote by Thomas Sankara is presented in a light blue box, flanked by two vertical images of rural African landscapes. Below the quote, a paragraph describes the project as a collective, collaborative, and decolonial effort to support the publication and open access dissemination of Southern knowledge, particularly African and Haitian knowledge, to fight against its invisibility and poor accessibility, while it is essential to the well-being and sustainable local development of Africa and Haiti - and the whole world.

Le Grenier des savoirs

Accueil Toutes les revues Instructions aux auteurs et aux autrices Se connecter S'inscrire

SCIENCE AFRIQUE .org

# Le Grenier des savoirs

Des revues en libre accès pour nourrir l'humanité de savoirs de qualité

*Vous ne pouvez pas accomplir des changements fondamentaux sans une certaine dose de folie. Dans ce cas précis, cela vient de l'anticonformisme, du courage de tourner le dos aux vieilles formules, du courage d'inventer le futur. Il a fallu les fous d'hier pour que nous soyons capables d'agir avec une extrême clarté aujourd'hui. Je veux être un de ces fous. Nous devons oser inventer le futur.*

Thomas Sankara

Le Grenier des savoirs est un projet collectif, collaboratif et décolonial d'appui à la publication et à la diffusion en libre accès des savoirs des Suds, en particulier africains et haïtiens, pour lutter contre leur invisibilité et leur faible accessibilité alors qu'ils sont essentiels au bien-être et au développement local durable de l'Afrique et d'Haïti - et du monde entier.

The Grenier des savoirs is a collective, collaborative and decolonial project to support the publication and open access dissemination of Southern knowledge, particularly African and Haitian knowledge, to fight against its invisibility and poor accessibility, while it is essential to the well-being and sustainable local development of Africa and Haiti - and the whole world

# À PROPOS DU GRENIER DES SAVOIRS

## NAAJ

Revue africaine sur les changements climatiques et les énergies renouvelables

Vers le site →



## MASHAMBA

Linguistique, littérature, didactique en Afrique des grands lacs

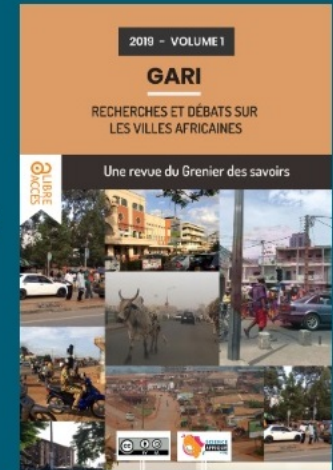
Vers le site →



## GARI

Recherches et débats sur les villes africaines

Vers le site →



# QUALITY OF JOURNALS

RANKING IS A  
MARKETING TOOL  
FOR PRICE CONTROL  
AND THE MOTOR  
OF THE SYSTEM OF  
PUBLISH OR PERISH

scholars say:

but ***we have to publish in a journal listed in ..... OR?***

LIST SERVICE	TOLL ACCESS	OPEN ACCESS	PAID SERVICE	RANKING
SCOPUS	+	+	+	+
WEB OF SCIENCE	+	+	+	+
CABELL	+	+	+	+
DOAJ	No	+	No	No

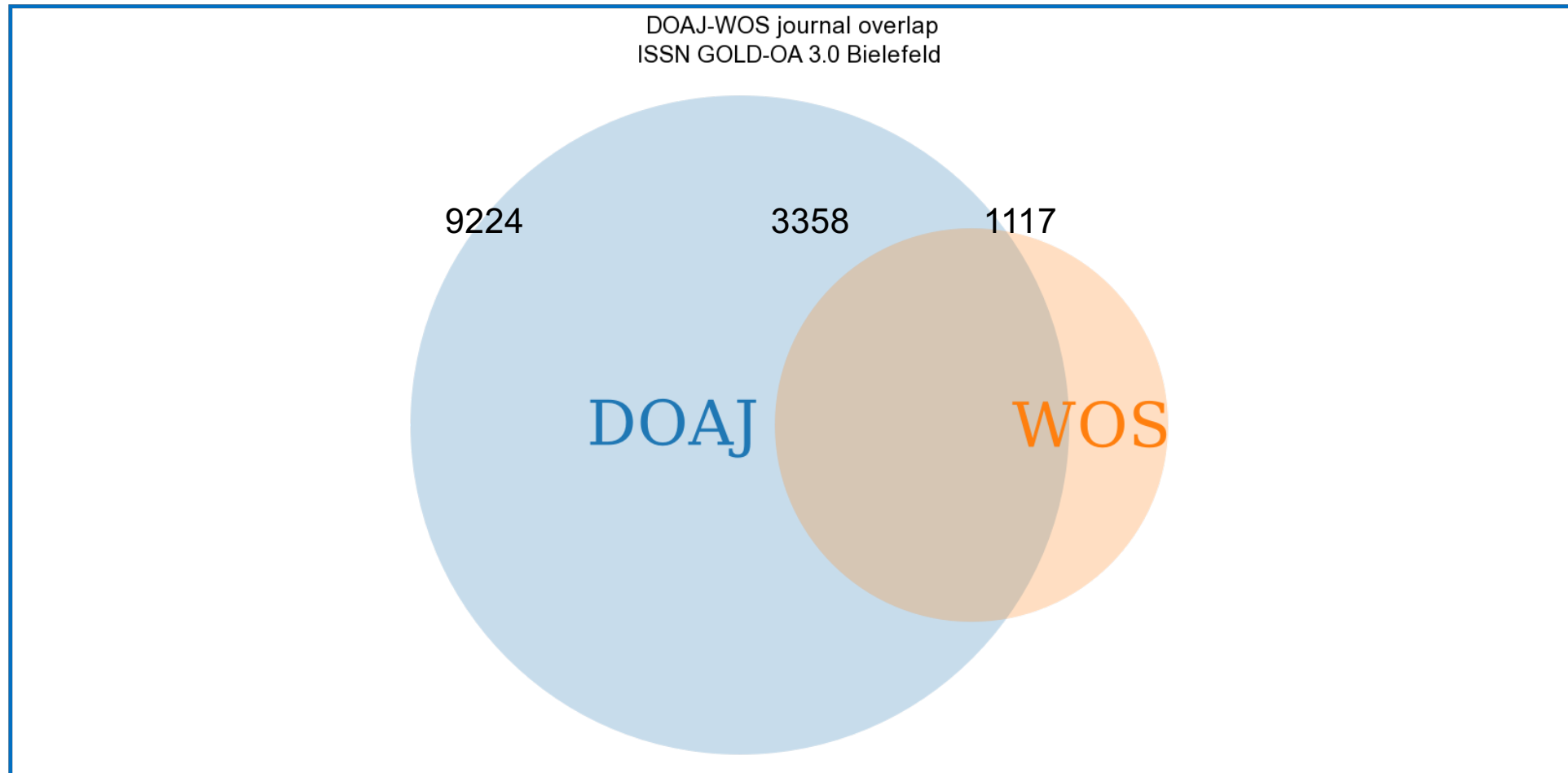
**NO NEED FOR  
“BLACKLISTS”  
INDEX SERVICES  
FOR QUALITY  
JOURNALS ARE  
SUFFICIENT,  
BUT.....**

- THEY SHOULD BE INCLUSIVE
- THEY SHOULD HAVE TRANSPARENT CRITERIA
- THEY SHOULD BE GOVERNED INDEPENDENT OF PUBLISHERS /BE COMMUNITY CONTROLLED

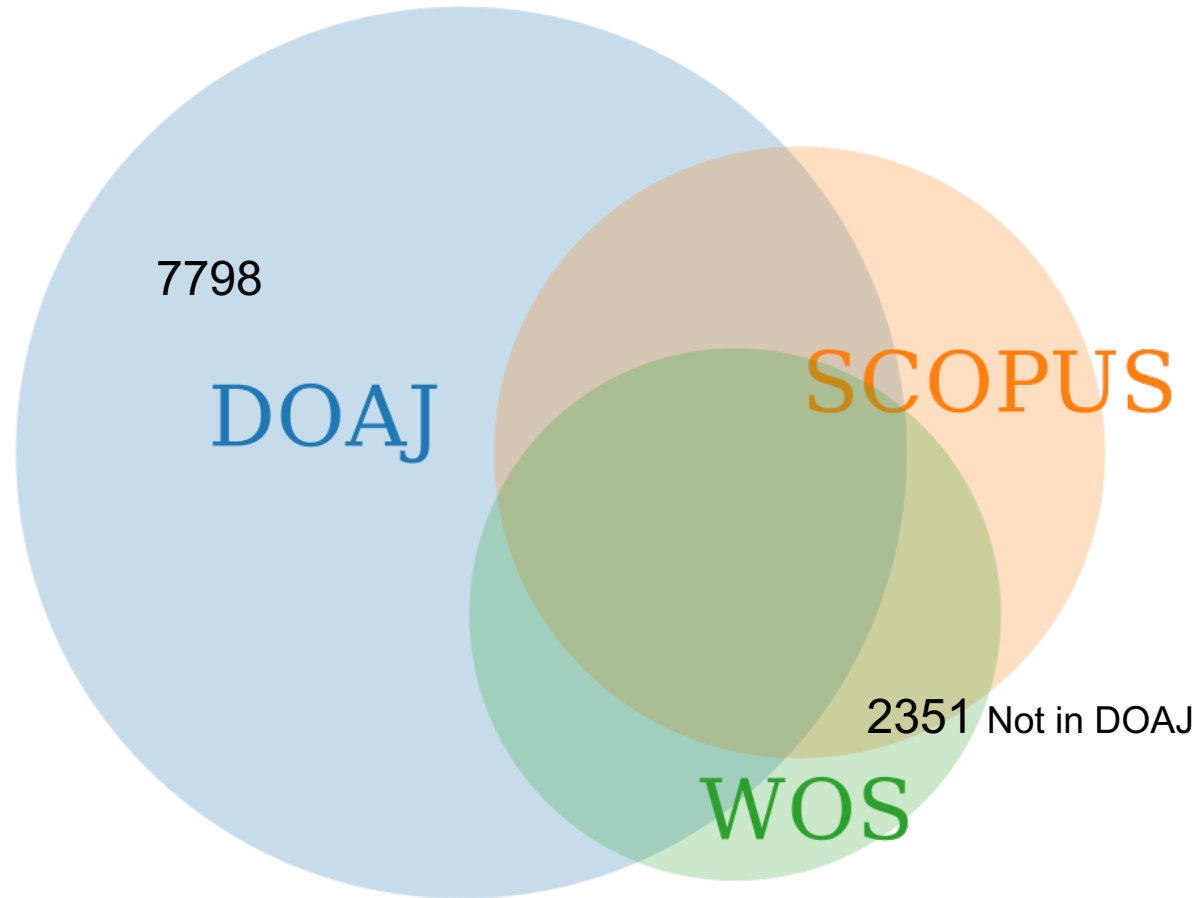


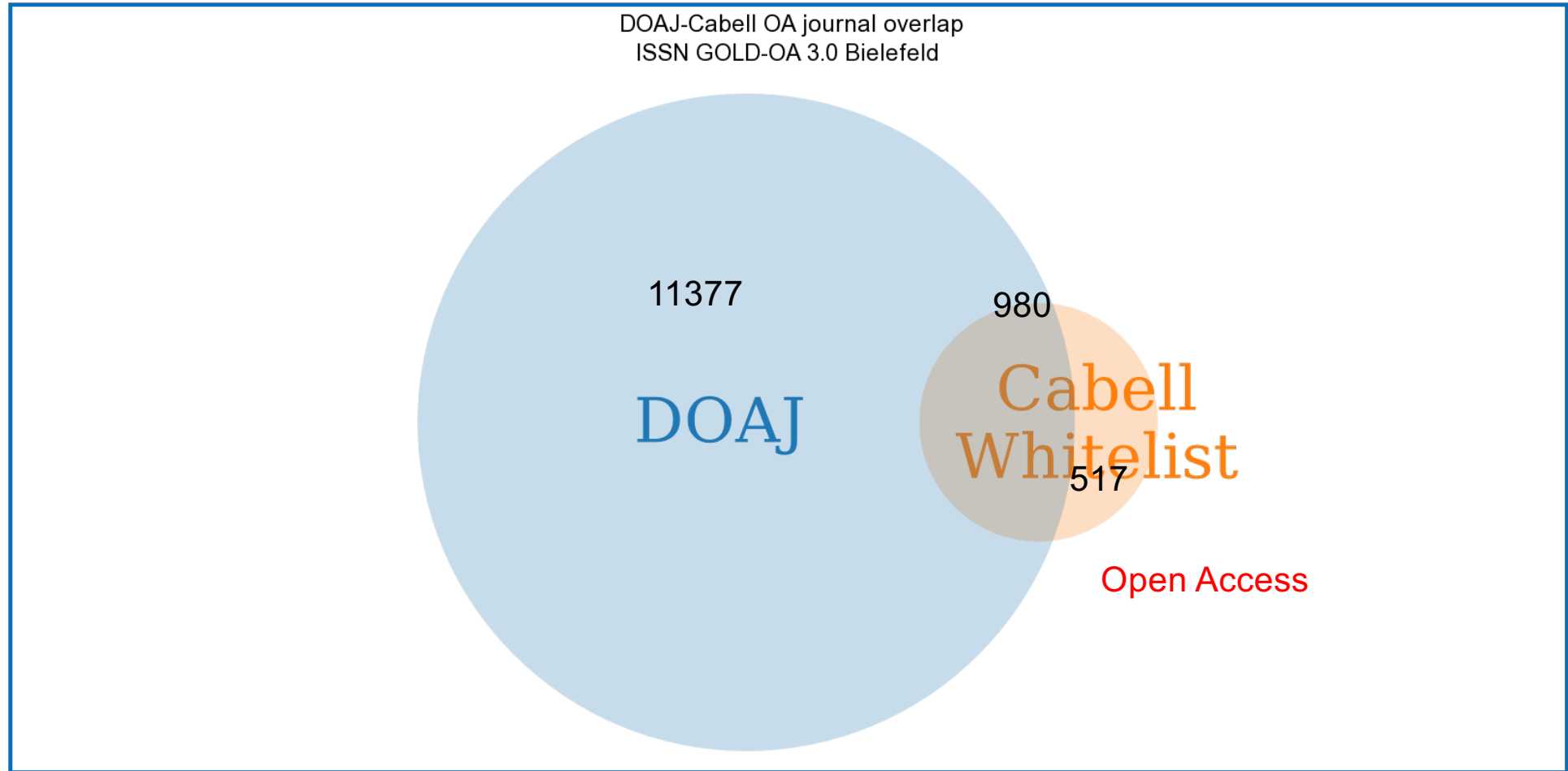
# COMPARISON OF INDEXING SERVICES

# LITTLE OVERLAP IN OA CONTENT OF DIFFERENT LISTS



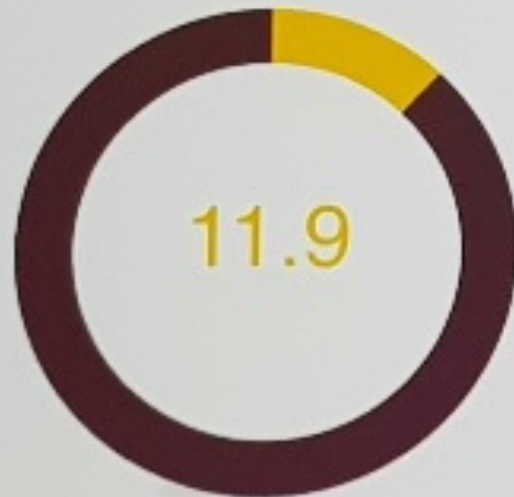
DOAJ-SCOPUS-WOS journal overlap  
ISSN GOLD-OA 3.0 Bielefeld



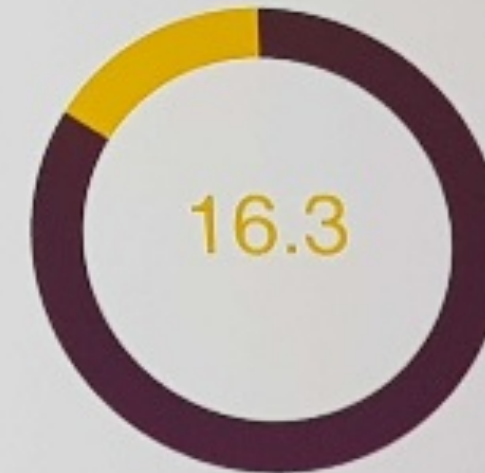


Academy-owned publishing seems not to exist in  
the mainstream databases

Academy-owned journals in WoS



Academy-owned journals in Scopus



Arianna Becerril-García at Munin Conference 2019

# REASONS FOR LIST DIFFERENCES

2300 journals in SCOPUS or Web of Science but not in DOAJ  
Many did not pass DOAJ criteria others did not apply

8000 journals in DOAJ but not in SCOPUS or Web of Science  
Many were non-English, Global South and / or new journals

*DOAJ IS MOST INCLUSIVE INDEXING DIRECTORY FOR OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS*

# UNPAYWALL identifies 23,0000 fully OA journals



Unpaywall  
@unpaywall



Unpaywall now identifies fully [#openaccess](#) journals even if they're not indexed by [@DOAJplus](#). We analyzed 70k journals to find ones whose publication history was fully open. Adds 10k new OA titles to the 13k already in DOAJ. More here:



New data in journal\_is\_oa field  
Posted 9/4/19 2:24 PM, 6 messages  
[groups.google.com](#)

12:07 PM · Sep 5, 2019 · [TweetDeck](#)

# PROPOSED ACTIONS FOR AFRICA

- IGNORE RANKING
- STOP REQUIRING PUBLICATIONS IN HIGH PROFILE JOURNALS
- PROMOTE COMMUNITY CONTROLLED PLATFORMS
- ESTABLISH MORE LOCAL LANGUAGE JOURNALS
- BE INDEXED IN DOAJ
- DEVELOPE NEW ASSESSMENT METHODS BASED ON
  - Contextualization
  - Social relevance

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All the Library Consortia, Universities and Publishers  
and our Sponsors for the financial support to DOAJ!

Speed of Indexing in DOAJ and Indexing as such is independent of sponsor status of applicants

Gold Sponsors



# DOAJ

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OPEN ACCESS  
JOURNALS

Thank you for your attention!

[tom@doaj.org](mailto:tom@doaj.org)