



Directory of Open Access Journals: Initiatives in Nursing Science Research Publications

KEYWORDS

Open access journals, nursing sciences, DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals)

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ABSTRACT

Healthcare is one of the most thought provoking issues facing the world today. It is required to put the right information resources at the right time into the hands of the nursing and health professionals to improve practice and patient care. The open access movement is a big boon to the scholarly community, as it makes quality information available worldwide by removing technical, economic and legal barriers to access. The Directory of Open Access journals (DOAJ) is a popular input to the Open Access Initiative. This paper examines the 53 open access journals in Nursing Sciences in DOAJ according to the periodicity, starting year of publication, country-wise and language-wise distribution of the journals.

1 Introduction

Access to scholarly information is very important for scientists, nursing and health science professionals to progress in a research oriented society. It is a known fact that the two major challenges faced by the scientists, research scholars and health science professionals especially in developing countries is access to the information they need at a reasonable cost and getting their work noticed and used by others around the world¹. Health science professionals are conducting research and the research findings are published in journals or presented as research papers at conferences. These research findings are not available freely and cannot be accessed easily most of the time by the other researchers. Also the high subscription cost of the journals prevents the libraries to subscribe all the relevant journals in the health sciences. Restricted access to full-text research articles will not help the health science professionals to have complete details of what has already happened in their field or to check whether a particular research has been done in a particular area.

In order to ease this problem, new publishing models have emerged which aims at providing free access to the fulltext of research publications. This concept was known as the Open access initiative which was initiated at Budapest at a meeting convened by the Open Society Foundation in December 2001. The purpose of this meeting was to accelerate progress in the international effort to make research articles in all academic fields freely available on the internet².

2 History of Open Access Journals

The first open access journal in Medicine was Journal of Medical Internet Research and was published in the late 90s. Some other forerunners in open access publishing in the biomedical domain are British Medical Journal and Medscape. BioMed Central a for-profit publisher, published first article in the year 2000. The Public Library of Science published its first open access journal PLoS Biology in the year 2003, with PLoS Medicine following in 2004 and PLoS ONE in 2006.

Thus Open access can be defined as that which is freely available online throughout the world for everyone to read, download, copy, distribute and use (with attribution) anyway one wishes. The Budapest Open Access Initiative defines Open Access as By "open access" to this literature, we mean its free availability on the public internet, permitting any users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of these articles, crawl them for indexing, pass them as data to software, or use them for any other lawful purpose, without financial, legal, or technical barriers other

than those inseparable from gaining access to the internet itself. The only constraint on reproduction and distribution, and the only role for copyright in this domain, should be to give authors control over the integrity of their work and the right to be properly acknowledged and cited³.

3 Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)

After the Budapest Open Access Initiative, various open access related projects were undertaken by the Open Society Institute. The Directory of Open Access Journals was the result of one of the initiatives of the Open Access Movement which was developed by Lund University after the first Nordic Conference on Scholarly Communication in 2002. Since January 2013, it is maintained by Infrastructure Services for Open Access (IS4OA), which is a Community Interest Company, based in the United Kingdom providing benefit to the global community of users of openly accessible research publications and data.

DOAJ includes free, full text, quality controlled scientific and scholarly journals that publish research or review papers in full text, in all subjects and languages. The Directory contains 9905 journals and 1359606 articles from 120 countries. The objective of DOAJ is to increase the visibility and accessibility of open access scientific and scholarly journals and thereby promoting their increased usage and impact⁴. The directory aims to comprehensively cover all open access scholarly journals that use quality control and peer-review system. India ranks 3rd in the number of open access journals included in DOAJ.

4 Objectives of the study

The objectives of the present study are:

- To identify the free e-journals available in Nursing Sciences in DOAJ.
- To examine the number of open access journals added year-wise in Nursing Sciences.
- To find out the country-wise distribution of e-journals in Nursing Sciences.
- To know the language-wise distribution of nursing e-journals in DOAJ.

5 Methodology and Scope

This study included the open access journals in Nursing Sciences in DOAJ. It was found that 53 open access journals are available in Nursing Sciences in DOAJ. The Directory was accessed from 26.7.2013 to 31.8.2013 to collect data for the study. Each journal website was browsed to gather the data

pertaining to the particular open access nursing journal.

6 Analysis and Interpretation of data

The open access journals in Nursing Sciences were evaluated in DOAJ and the results are presented in the form of tables.

Table - 1 Total Number of e- journals in Health Sciences

Sr No	Subject	Number of Journals
1	Dentistry	109
2	Medicine (General)	617
3	Nursing	53
4	Public Health	239

(Table 1 has been given at the end in Appendix I)

Table 1 shows the number of journals included under Health Sciences in DOAJ. It is seen that Dentistry includes 109 open access journals, Medicine in general has 617 journals, and Nursing has 53 journals and Public Health includes 239 journals.

Table - 2 Periodicity of the nursing e- journals

Periodicity	Number of Journals	Percentage (%)
Monthly	1	1.9
Bi-monthly	2	9.4
Quarterly	20	37.7
Annual	7	11.3
Bi-Annual	11	15
Tri-Annual	10	19
Irregular	3	5.7
Total	53	100

(Table 2 has been given at the end in Appendix I)

Table 2 shows the periodicity of the open access journals published in Nursing Sciences. It is seen that majority (37.7%) of the journals are published quarterly, 19% are published 3 times a year and small percentage (1.9%) is published monthly.

Table - 3 Starting Year-wise distribution of nursing e-journals

Year of start of the e-journal	Number of Journals
1993	1
1995	1
1996	2
1997	2
1998	1
1999	2
2000	1
2002	3
2003	2
2004	4
2005	6
2006	1
2007	5
2008	2
2009	4
2010	3
2011	8
2012	4
2013	1
Total	53

(Table 3 has been given at the end in Appendix I)

Table 3 indicates the year-wise distribution of the 53 nursing journals. It is seen that only one journal was published in the year 1993. Few journals were added in the subsequent years. Significant number ie. 6 journals and 5 journals were added

in the year 2005 and 2007 respectively. Highest number of the journals i.e. 8 journals have started publication from the year 2011.

Table- 4 Country-wise distribution of nursing e-journals

Country	Number of Journals	Percentage (%)
Brazil	14	26.4
Canada	2	3.8
Chile	1	1.9
Colombia	2	3.8
Costa Rica	1	1.9
Cuba	1	1.9
Egypt	2	3.8
Greece	1	1.9
Iran	2	3.8
Italy	1	1.9
New Zealand	1	1.9
Norway	1	1.9
Portugal	1	1.9
South Africa	1	1.9
South Korea	1	1.9
Spain	8	15
Thailand	1	1.9
Turkey	1	1.9
United Kingdom	2	3.8
United States	9	16.7
Total	53	100

Table 4 exhibits the country-wise distribution of nursing journals published. It is seen that majority (26.4%) of the journals are published from Brazil, followed by United States (16.7%) and Spain (15%). It is observed that there is no nursing open access journals published from India in DOAJ.

Table - 5 Language-wise distribution of nursing e-journals

Language	Number of Journals	Percentage (%)
English	28	52.9
French	2	3.8
Greek	1	1.9
Korean	1	1.9
Norwegian	1	1.9
Persian	1	1.9
Portuguese	20	37.7
Spanish	18	34
Thai	1	1.9
Turkish	1	1.9

Table 5 reveals the language in which the nursing e-journals are published in DOAJ. It is seen that the most common language of publication is English with 52.9% journals being published in English language. 37.7% of the nursing e-journals are published in the Portuguese language, followed by Spanish language (34%). Some of the journals are published in more than one language.

7 Findings

- The study reveals that the Directory of Open Access journals enables access to 53 open access journals in Nursing Sciences.
- Majority (37.7%) of the journals are published quarterly.
- The highest number of the journals ie 8 journals have started publication from the year 2011.
- Majority (26.4%) of the journals are published from Brazil, followed by United States (16.7%) and Spain (15%).
- It is seen that the most common language of publication is English with 52.9% journals being published in English language.

8 Conclusion

The open access movement is a big bonus to the scholarly community, as it makes quality information available worldwide by removing technical, economic and legal barriers to access. There is a great need in our country to support and implement the Open

Access Initiative in the library and information centers by encouraging and creating awareness amongst students, teachers and research scholars to publish their work in open access journals. Librarians should upgrade their knowledge about open access journals available and provide training to the end users to use and access the open access scholarly literature.

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