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Open Access in Poland

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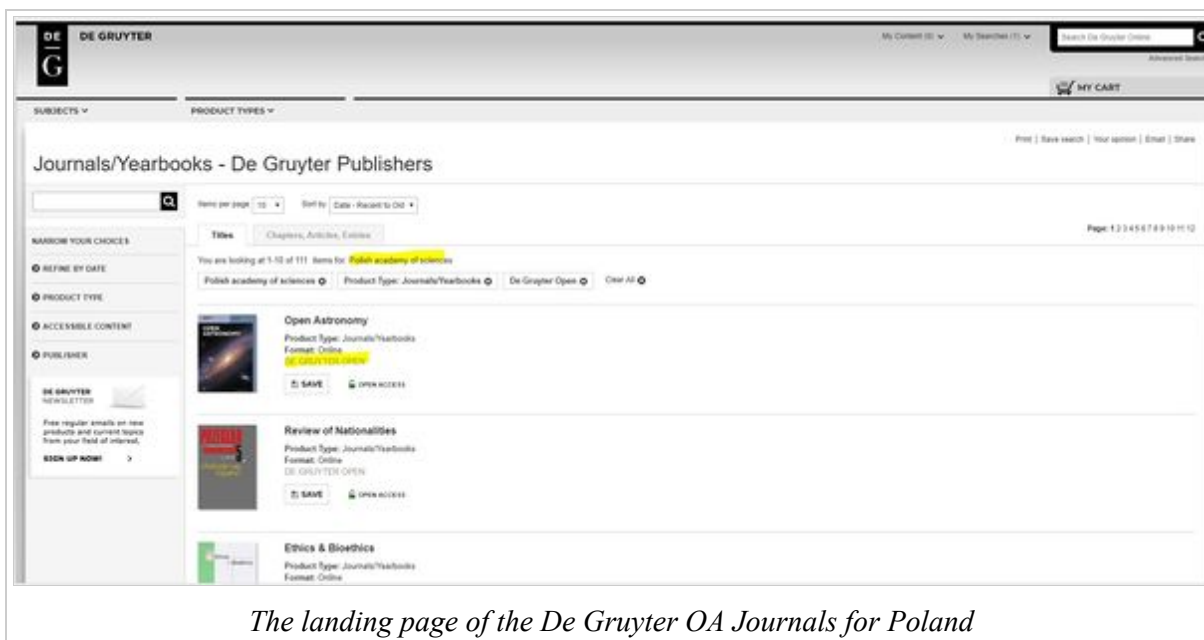- 5 Conclusion

Introduction

The question of Open Access (OA) in the Polish context remains relatively understudied in current North American, European, and Library and Information Studies Literatures with respect to Polish policies that regulate OA in the Sciences. This article does not try to provide a comprehensive picture of OA in Poland, as the issues of access to publicly funded scientific information are dynamic. Rather, I focus on three important aspects of Open Access in the context of contemporary Poland. First, I briefly examine the policy directives and premises that guide the development of OA in Poland. Second, I selectively analyze the content of the website, "*Biblioteka Otwartej Nauki* (Library of Open Science)." Lastly, I will look at the indexing databases that provide some insights into the status of OA in the Polish context. Particularly, I focus on the Registry of Open Access Repositories (ROARMAP) and the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ).

The Ministry of Science and Higher Education of Poland (the Ministry) is one of the responsible governmental bodies for governing OA policies in Poland.[1] The recommendations of the European Commissions of 17 July 2012 drive the OA policy in Poland.[2] These recommendations were adapted for the Polish scenario by the Ministry and further developed into an initial policy that is governed by the document entitled, "*Kierunki rozwoju otwartego dostępu do publikacji i wyników badań naukowych w Polsce* (Directions of development of open access to publications and results of scientific research in Poland).[3] The document focuses on seven different but interlinked strategies as indicated below:
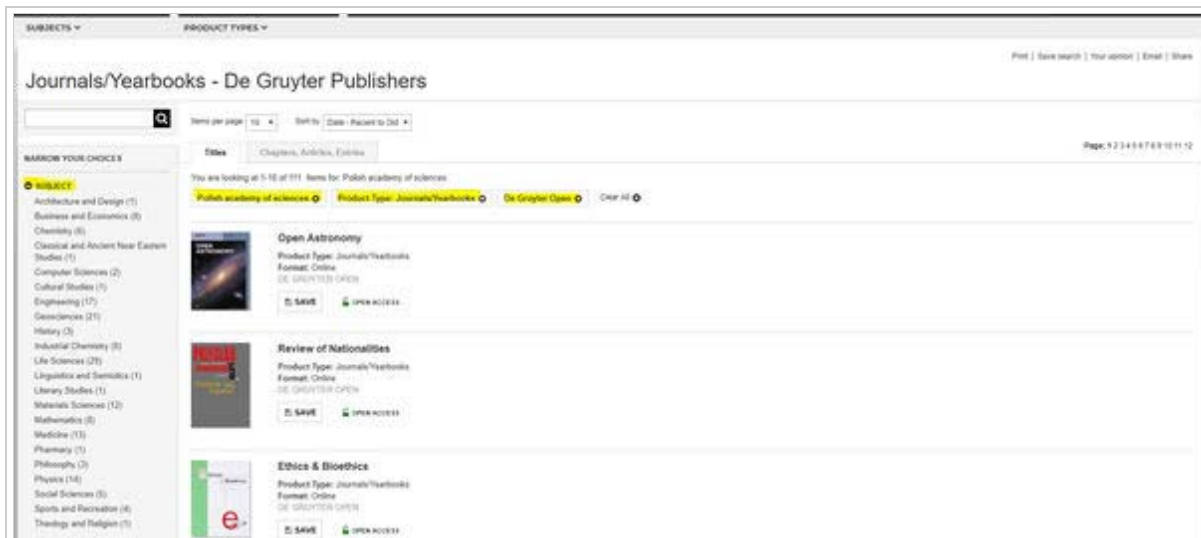
1. To ensure that the individual universities, research institutes and institutes of the Polish Academy of Sciences and NCN and the National Center for Research and Development (NCBR) further develop and adopt their own institutional policies in the field of open access (OA).[4] In addition, these policies will determine the rules of publishing the results of OA research (mainly applies to articles in peer-reviewed journals, but also peer-reviewed conference materials, and possibly research data).
2. To appoint OA representatives by heads of scientific units and universities.

3. To transition scientific journals to open models.

4. To provide doctoral dissertations in open repositories.

5. To ensure monitoring and reporting to the Ministry of Science and Higher Education on the progress of implementation of the IP, including systematic analysis of the number of publications produced in a given scientific unit or university in order to determine the proportion of publications in the IP in relation to all publications.

6. Organize training in the scope of OA for all research workers and doctoral students of a given scientific unit or university.

7. Take into account the experience and potential of scientific libraries, which often coordinate the process of editing and depositing scientific publications in repositories.

One of the policies is to ensure that the Polish Academy of Sciences (the Academy) develops its own internal policies regarding OA. One way to evaluate the success of such a policy is to look at the number of OA journals that are published by the Academy. At the time of writing this article in December of 2017, there were 111 OA journals whose publisher was the Academy in the DeGruyter Open indexed theses.

The landing page of the De Gruyter OA Journals for Poland

At the time of writing this piece, the oldest Polish journal that is indexed in DeGruyter Open was *Mineralogia* (*The Journal of Mineralogical Society of Poland*) and the latest journal was *Open Astronomy* (formerly *Baltic Astronomy*). Most of these journals are from the Natural Sciences, and out of the 111 journals, only 28 titles belong to the Humanities and the Social Sciences.
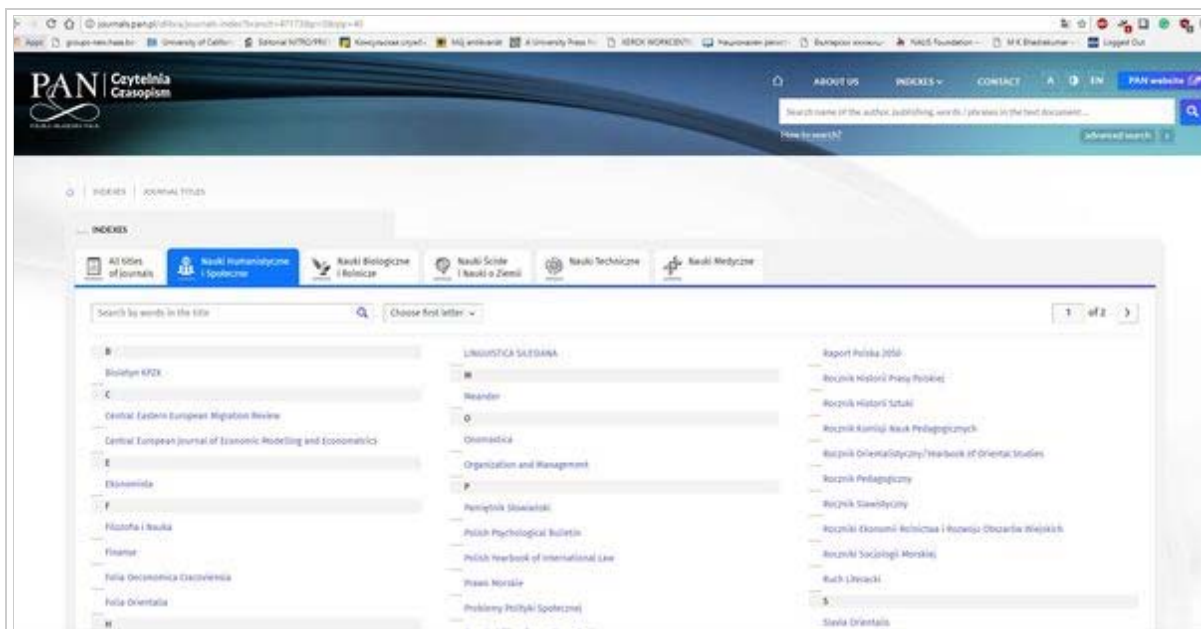
The landing page of De Gruyter's Polish Open Access journals that are published by the Academy of Sciences of Poland

The transition of the Academy to an OA platform continues. The screenshot below shows the OA Journals that are available directly from the Academy's site. The site allows its users to browse journals by broad subject areas as shown below.

The landing page of the electronic journals reading room of the Polish Academy of Sciences

At the time of writing this article, there were 49 OA journals in the Humanities and Social Sciences in the e-journals reading room of the Academy.

The landing page of the virtual reading room of the Academy of Sciences

For example, one can access the full-text of an important Polish literary journal, *Ruch Literacki*, instead of shifting through the paper copies of the journal. One must, however, note that OA does not necessarily mean that the e-version of the journal will be preserved in perpetuity or that the publisher will continue to provide OA access in the future.

Biblioteka Otwartej Nauki (The Open Science Library)

The Open Science library, by its own description, is the library that aims to provide open access to scientific publications in the Humanities. In addition to providing OA, the library's staff provides additional support services including advising about the author's legal rights and publishing agreements. Besides these basic services, the library strives to help authors prepare their OA publications, including digitization as needed. *Centrum Cyfrowe* (https://centrumcyfrowe.pl/) , *Narodowy Instytut Audiowizualny* (http://www.nina.gov.pl /en/about-us/) , *Museum Historii Polski* (http://muzhp.pl/en/) , and *Dziedzictwo Cyfrowe* (of the National Audiovisual Institute) are four original partners that either sponsor or support this program. The landing page of the site has four important facets: Home or Main Page, Questions and Answers, the contributors/participants, books about the project and contact information.

The landing page of the Open Science Library

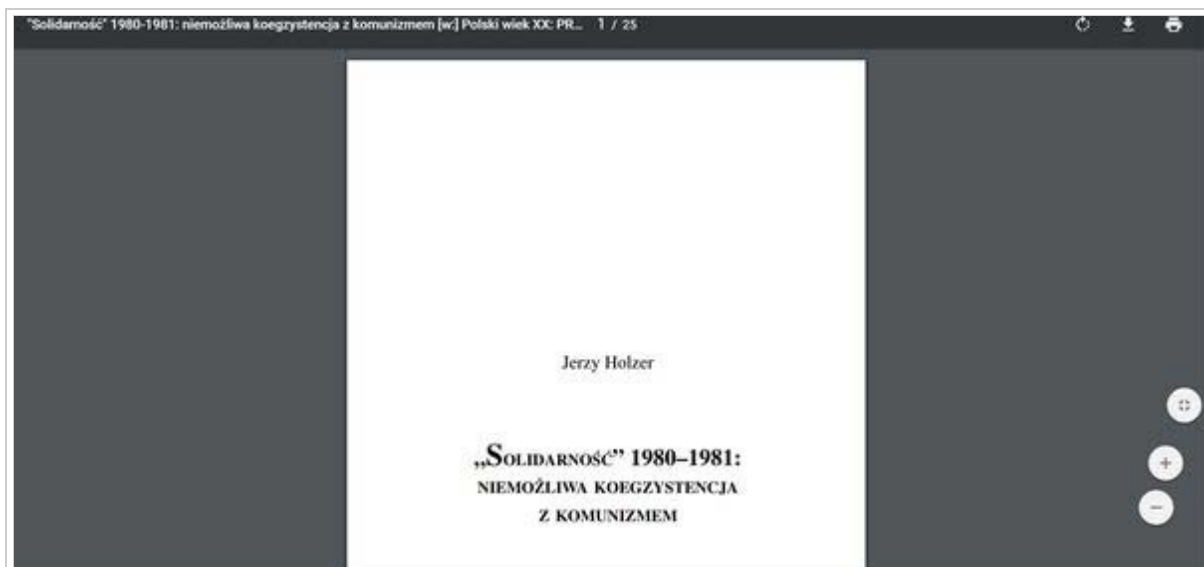The library also indexes OA books under the rubric, "Książki." Currently, there are over 600 Polish books related to the Humanities that are indexed and accessible on this site. One of the potential drawbacks of this site lies in the fact that there is no real search facet available that will allow its users to search by the subject matter. However, under the section called, "pytania-i-odpowiedzi (the questions and answers)," we see that most of these books are humanities-related. Thus the question arises: what is really meant by the Open Science library? I was unable to find any science-related monographs in this library.

Biblioteka of the OA books

The site allows one to download all of the indexed items in PDF format as shown in the examples below.

„Solidarność" 1980–1981: niemożliwa koegzystencja z komunizmem

„Solidarność" 1980–1981: niemożliwa koegzystencja z komunizmem screen shot 2

The site, however, neither indexes nor provides access to the full text of any of the Polish humanities-related journals.

Registry of Open Access Repository Mandates and Policies

According to its site, "the Registry of Open Access Repository Mandates and Policies (ROARMAP) is a

searchable international registry charting the growth of open access mandates and policies adopted by universities, research institutions and research funders that require or request their researchers to provide open access to their peer-reviewed research article output by depositing it in an open access repository."[5] It allows any user to search the database by a particular country.

The landing page of the Registry of Open Access Repositories

As of January 2018, there were 89 open access repositories from Poland registered in this database.[6] In February of 2018, 120 open access repositories from Poland were registered in this database.[7] The database also shows the rate of OA contributions by individual repositories.

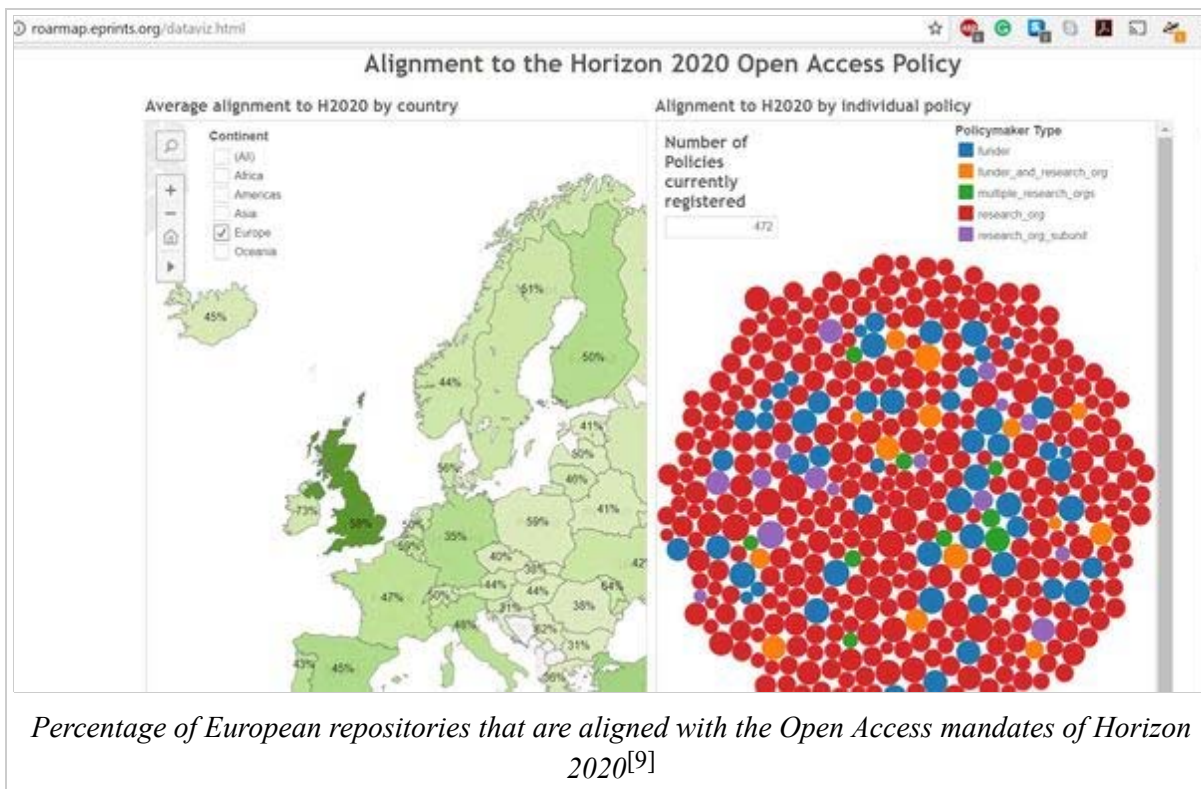*The Polish OA repositories in the Registry of OA Repositories*

The site classifies the repositories as Research Institutional or Departmental (http://roar.eprints.org /view/geoname/geoname=5F2=5FPL.html#group_institutional) (71), Research Cross-Institutional (http://roar.eprints.org/view/geoname/geoname=5F2=5FPL.html#group_subject) (6), e-Journal Publication (http://roar.eprints.org/view/geoname/geoname=5F2=5FPL.html#group_journal) (1), e-Theses (http://roar.eprints.org/view/geoname/geoname=5F2=5FPL.html#group_theses) (3), and other (http://roar.eprints.org/view/geoname/geoname=5F2=5FPL.html#group_other) (14).

The site also allows us to plot the distribution of these repositories as shown in the image below.

The graphical distribution of Polish OA repositories by types in the ROARMAP

Although the ability to plot this distribution by types might not be the most important feature of ROARMAP, it still allows us to visually represent the data. If we look at Open Access policy alignment to the Horizon 2020 report by country, we see that 59% of Polish repositories are in compliance. According to the EU's funding programs, "Horizon 2020 is the biggest EU Research and Innovation programme ever with nearly €80 billion of funding available over 7 years (2014 to 2020) – in addition to the private investment that this money will attract. It promises more breakthroughs, discoveries and world-firsts by taking great ideas from the lab to the market." [8]

Percentage of European repositories that are aligned with the Open Access mandates of Horizon 2020[9]

Directory of Open Access Journals

While the ROARMAP's Directory of Open Access repositories provides insights into Poland's current state of OA, it does not provide information about the particular titles that are in these repositories. Besides the previously discussed DeGruyter repository of Open Access journals, I would like to focus briefly on the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) for Polish OA content. At the time of writing this article, there were 506 Polish OA journals indexed in the DOAJ. The DOAJ also indexes the same journals that are held in DeGruyter's OA repository. The DOAJ provides a subject breakdown as shown in the image below.
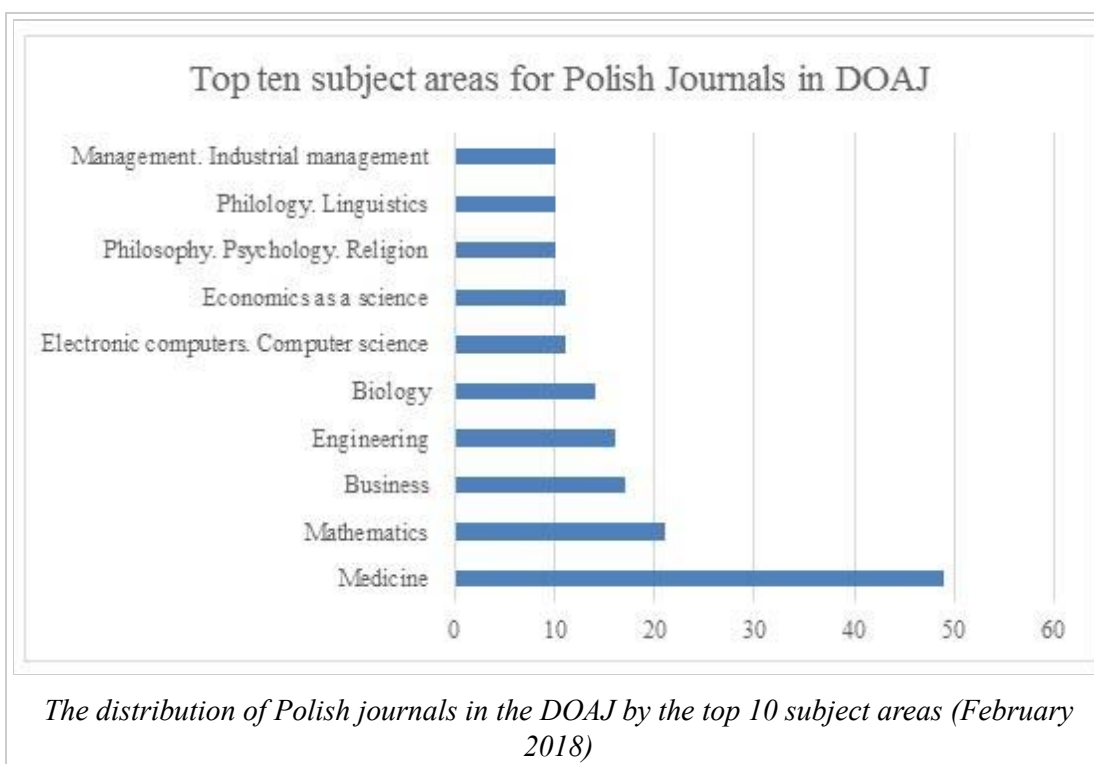
Polish Journals in the DOAJ by subject breakdown

A plot of the top 10 subject areas for Polish journals that were in the DOAJ at the time of writing this article is represented below.

The distribution of Polish journals in the DOAJ by the top 10 subject areas (February 2018)
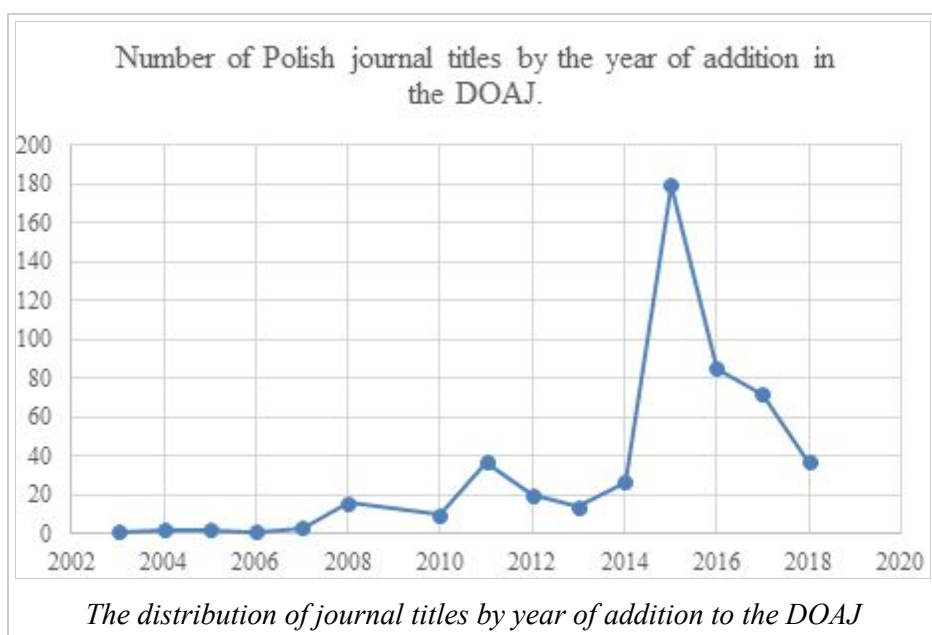
Out of 506 journals, 85 titles mandated article-processing charges, and 419 titles did not mandate article-processing charges (APCs). Two journal titles did not provide any specific information regarding APCs.[10] The other important aspect of Polish journals that are indexed in the DOAJ is their peer review status. The list below shows that about 57 % of these journals follow double blind peer review in order to make decisions with respect to publishing a particular article or not. Overall, 83% of Polish journal titles in the DOAJ have either the double blind or blind peer review that is geared towards ascertaining some level of quality control about what will be published in these journals.

- Double blind peer review (288)
- Blind peer review (133)
- Peer review (78)
- Editorial review (4)
- Open peer review (1)

We also see that the distribution of Polish OA titles added to the DOAJ reached its peak in 2015. In 2015, there were 179 titles added to the DOAJ. For the last five years, we see the distribution as depicted below.

- 2018 (37)
- 2017 (72)
- 2016 (85)
- 2015 (179)
- 2014 (27)
- 2013 (14)

The graphical representation of the number of journal titles that were added to the DOAJ for the past 5 years is shown below.

The distribution of journal titles by year of addition to the DOAJ

The number of newly added Open Access Polish journals in the DOAJ has dropped over the past three years,

possibly because the Polish journals market is approaching its point of saturation. However, open access remains robust in Poland.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the information above shows that Open Access in Poland is influenced by its membership in the European Union. The Polish government, educational organizations and Academia act as facilitators of the development of Open Access within the framework of the European Union. The Open Science library (*Biblioteka Otwartej Nauki*), despite its title, mostly indexes the humanities and provides access to the humanities-related monographs. This introductory article recognizes that further research is needed to establish an accurate picture regarding the penetration of OA in Poland when it comes to journals that are related to the natural sciences and mathematics.

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Works cited

1. ↑ *Otwarty Dostęp Do Publikacji Naukowych*. Ministerstwo Nauki i Szkolnictwa Wyższego, www.nauka.gov.pl/otwarty-dostep-do-publikacji-naukowych/.
2. ↑ 2012/417/EU: Commission Recommendation of 17 July 2012 on access to and preservation of scientific information, https://publications.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/48558fc9-d4c8-11e1-905c-01aa75ed71a1
3. ↑ "Otwarty Dostęp Do Publikacji Naukowych." *Przejdź Do Strony Głównej*, Ministerstwo Nauki i Szkolnictwa , www.nauka.gov.pl/otwarty-dostep-do-publikacji-naukowych/
4. ↑ Narodowe Centrum Badań i Rozwoju
5. ↑ Welcome to ROARMAP - ROARMAP. http://roarmap.eprints.org/. Accessed 17 Feb. 2018. "Browse by Country." Registry of Open Access Repositories, roar.eprints.org/view/geoname/geoname=5F2=5FPL.html
6. ↑ "Browse by Country." Registry of Open Access Repositories, roar.eprints.org/view/geoname/geoname=5F2=5FPL.html
7. ↑ "Country Matches Any of "Poland"" - Registry of Open Access Repositories. http://roar.eprints.org/cgi/roar_search/advanced?location_country=pl&software=&type=&order=-recordcount%2F-date. Accessed 17 Feb. 2018
8. ↑ "What Is Horizon 2020? - Horizon 2020 - European Commission." Horizon 2020, /programmes/horizon2020/en/what-horizon-2020. Accessed 17 Feb. 2018
9. ↑ Open Access & Data Management - H2020 Online Manual. https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/cross-cutting-issues/open-access-dissemination_en.htm. Accessed 17 Feb. 201
10. ↑ The DOAJ identifies the following two journals as discontinued journals and thus does not provide any information on the article processing charges. These journals were *Studia Humanistyczne* (Kraków. 2003), and *Współczesna Ekonomia*.

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