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# Diamond OA Publishing in Switzerland: Where we stand now and the road ahead

Daniela Hahn, PLATO Project

Webinar

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Hosted by swissuniversities



## Overview PLATO Study

### Objectives

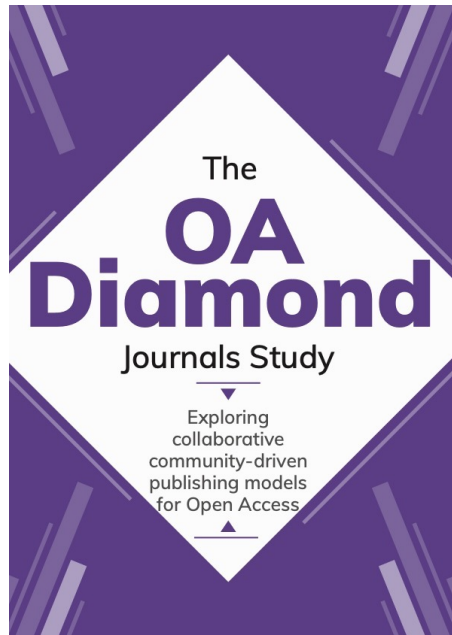
- Overview of the Diamond OA publishing landscape in Switzerland, its scope, modes of operation, business models and infrastructures
- Identification of challenges and opportunities of Swiss Diamond OA journals

### Concept

- In collaboration with the Institute for Applied Data Science & Finance, Bern University of Applied Sciences
- Focus: Diamond OA Journals
- 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)
- 3 part study: bibliometric, qualitative, quantitative

### 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>



## 4 Key Areas

- Landscape
- Compliance
- Dynamics
- Sustainability



Bosman, J. et al. (2021): The OA Diamond Journals Study

DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.4558704

<https://scienceeurope.org/our-resources/oa-diamond-journals-study/>



## Where we stand

1. **Landscape** – Mapping of the scope and diversity of journals across disciplines and cantons
2. **Compliance** – Harmonisation with industry standards (exemplified by PLAN S)
3. **Dynamics** – Workflows and operational challenges
4. **Sustainability** – Costs and funding



## Landscape

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  
17.76% by academic societies  
10.28% by for-profit publishers

21.50% of journals are published in the  
canton of Zurich  
15.42% in Geneva  
14.95% in Bern  
9.81% in Vaud  
8.88% in Basel-Stadt  
7.94% in Fribourg

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%



## Landscape

### Readership

- ❖ Mainly within the journal's discipline, to a lesser extent outside of the journal's main discipline
- ❖ Professionals and practitioners as well as educators/teaching staff are also important target audiences

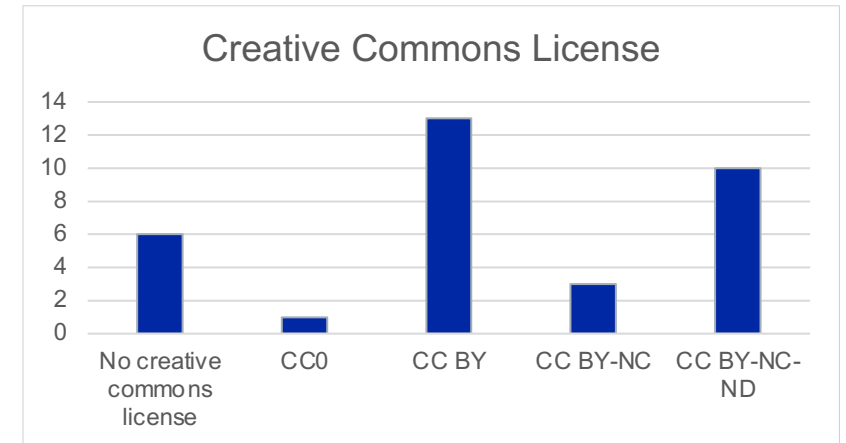
### Authorship

- ❖ Only a few journals have equal shares of Swiss-based and non-Swiss-based authors
- ❖ Age group with the highest share: 35-39 years old
- ❖ PhD and Postdocs underrepresented as authors; largest share of authors are tenured professors



## Compliance

- ❖ Most of the journals publish under a Creative Common License (CC-BY recommended by PLAN S)
- ❖ 25% adhere to guidelines and best practices set out by the Committee for Publication Ethics (COPE)
- ❖ 72% use CrossRef DOI as persistent identifiers, 13% use no PID at all

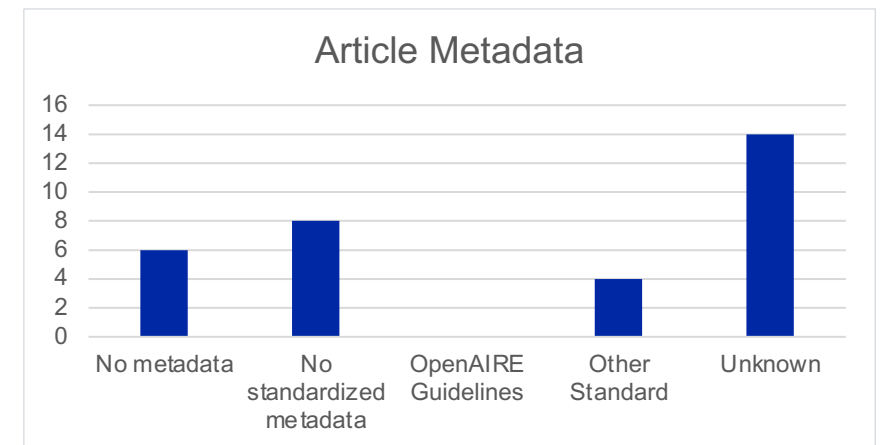


Distribution of CC licenses (editors' survey; n = 33).



## Compliance

- ❖ All surveyed journals publish PDF, only 10% in machine-readable XML format, recommended by PLAN S
- ❖ 65% of surveyed journals have a long-term archiving policy (LOCKSS and PKP Preservation Network) as most common) in place
- ❖ Almost half of surveyed journals do not know whether the journal provides metadata



Provision of article metadata (editors' survey; n = 32).

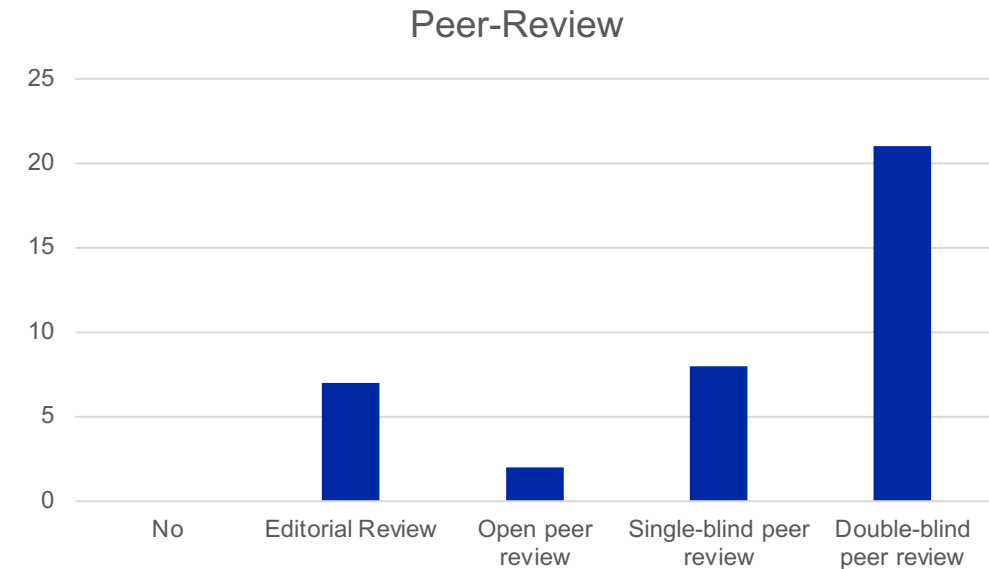




## Dynamics

There is already a rather high level of standardisation in regard to the existence of standardised quality assurance procedures (peer review).

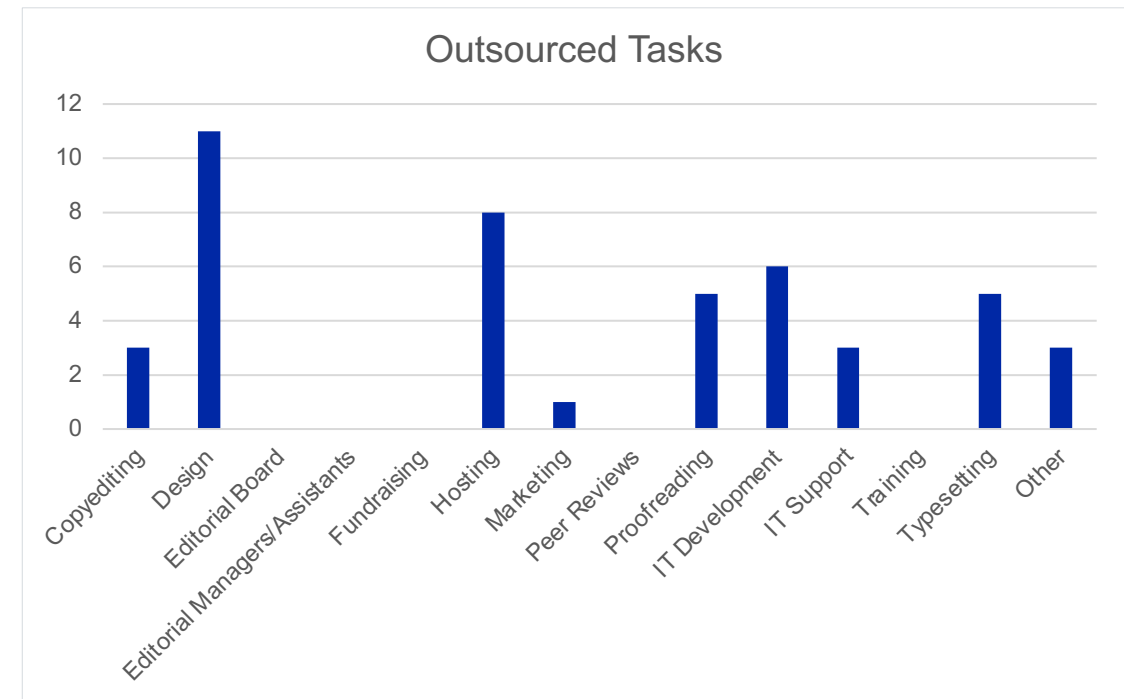
Half of the journals adhere to the highest level of quality control (double-blind review).



Employed quality assurance procedures (editor survey; n = 38).

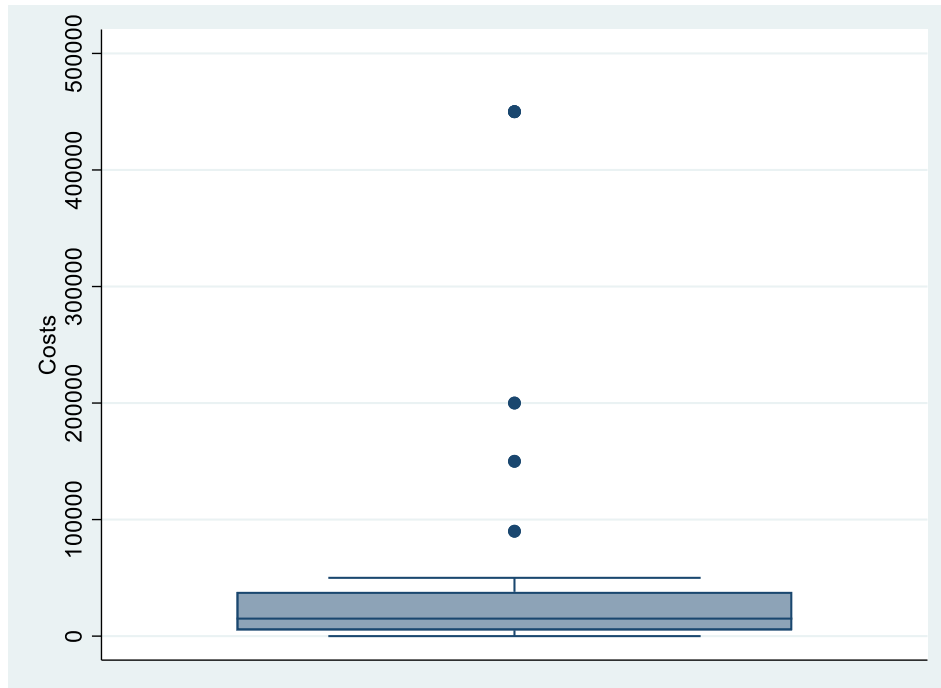
## Dynamics

- ❖ While 42% journals rely on review management tools included in OJS, 52% of journals manage reviews via e-mails.
- ❖ The majority of Swiss Diamond OA journals does not systematically check their submissions for plagiarism, only 22% do so.
- ❖ Design, hosting and IT development are tasks that are most commonly outsourced by editors



Outsourced tasks (editors' survey; n = 29 with multiple selection possible).

## Sustainability

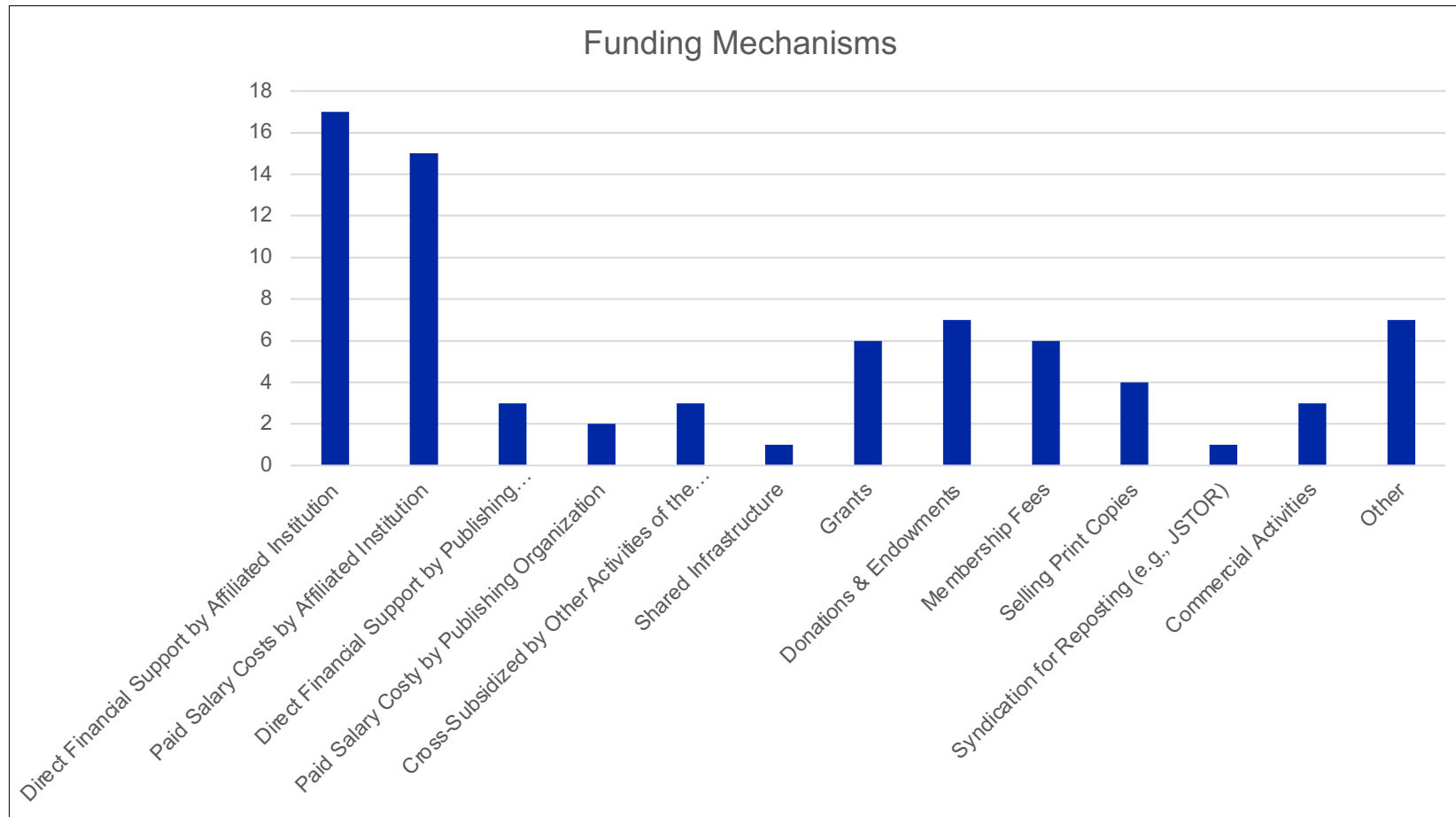


Average total costs of Swiss Platinum OA journals (editor survey; n = 28).

- > 50% of journals operate with less than CHF15'000
- > Reliance on volunteer work
- > 48.38% of journals break even; 29.03% operate at a loss; 19.35% do not know their financial situation
- > 50% of journals are less than 70% confident about long-term sustainability (> 3 years).
- > 65% of journals have no contractual agreement with the publishing organisation addressing the ownership of the journal.



## Distribution of funding mechanisms of Swiss Diamond OA journals (editor survey; n = 34 with multiple selection possible).

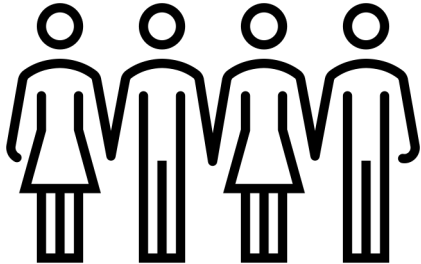




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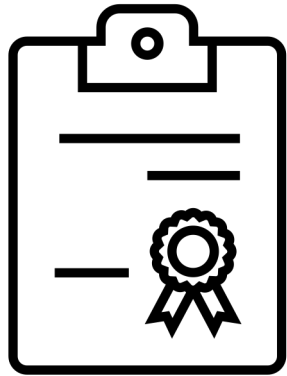
**...and the road ahead**



**Reaching out to research communities to make Diamond open access more visible through presentations and workshops at different faculties/institutions and working with librarians and open access experts**

Challenges:

- Not all disciplines are equally covered
- Possible lack of reputation or recognition of journals
- System of academic reward (Research Assessment Reform)
- Visibility of Diamond OA in Swiss OA Monitor (NOAM)



## Information on Best Practices through show casing, information platform, and workshops

### Challenges:

- Autonomy of Operations vs. Standardisation
- Professionalisation comes at a cost
- Current lack of overview of standards and tailored support



## **Developing Sustainable Funding Models based on knowledge of funding mechanism and cost structures**

### Challenges:

- Transparency of costs
- Requires forging of new collaborations and innovative solutions
- Different institutional perspectives and possibilities
- Who is taking the lead?





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Thank you for your attention!