Publication practices of researchers in minority French-speaking communities in the digital age

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Canada’s largest French-language university outside Québec. It offers 180 study programs, including 38 Master’s and 7 PhD, as well as about 30 research centers, chairs and institutes. Faculty of 370+. No institutional repository, no OA institutional policy yet.

Introduction

Digital technologies have changed the ways researchers produce and disseminate knowledge and the Open Access movement plays a major role in this transformation. Studies show that as of 2014, more than 50% of all scientific articles published around the globe are now available in Open Access.

Objectives of the exploratory analysis:
- To observe how the new modes of publication and dissemination of research influence the publication practices of researchers in minority French-speaking communities.
- To measure the growth in the number of articles available in OA, their impact (citations), and other relevant characteristics.

Limitations

- Sample of all articles published from 2000-2015 (Web of Science only).
- Definition of Open Access: full text available online for free at the time of consultation. Includes Gold and other types of OA: a publisher’s / journal’s / researcher’s website, an institutional repository (IR), an open archive, an academic social network (ASN), etc.
- Very simple data manipulation (learning curve).

Preliminary results

Total of 1448 articles analyzed

Discussion

Availability in OA: There is a gradual increase annually (with slight fluctuations). 67% is OA either by the lift of an embargo period (Delayed) or by self-archiving in an ASN (Other). The Gold and Green (IR or open archives) represent 12%.

Language: 92.5% of the UdeM articles are in English, but a skew is caused by the language bias of the WofS. To include data from Érudit.

Citations: What rational scientists should do if they wanted to have a greater scientific impact?

Green => Other => Not OA => Gold

Academic Social Networks: 59% of the articles are in ASNs, ResearchGate is preferred. “[The ASNs] are [1] expected to boost the visibility of research on the Internet; [2] collaborative tools.” (Okret-Manville, 2016)

Next steps

- Include data from Érudit & other sources
- Collaborations: tendencies
- Go beyond the Université de Moncton
- Practical implications
  - Identify and work with OA “champions”
  - Training sessions and services (copyright compliance, where to publish, etc.)
  - IR implementation (upcoming)
  - Advocacy

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Bibliography
