

---

# Challenges of Library and Information Science Journals: editor's opinions

## A survey approach

III International Seminar on LIS-ER. Barcelona, 5th June

Authors: Ernest Abadal, Alexandre López-Borrull and Candela Ollé

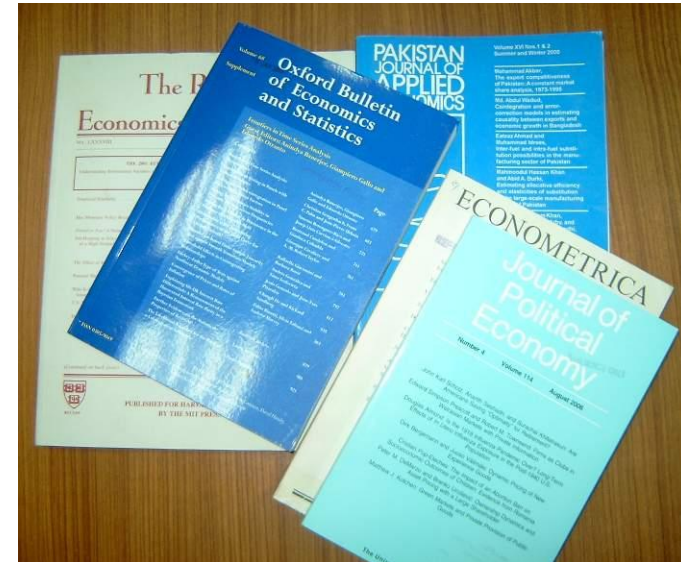
---

# Introduction & background

---

There are several challenges threatening academic journals:

- a) Impact of open access (business models)
- b) Searching for a new formal model (new article, functionalities, altmetrics, social media, etc.)
- c) Peer review
- d) Specialization



# Introduction & background

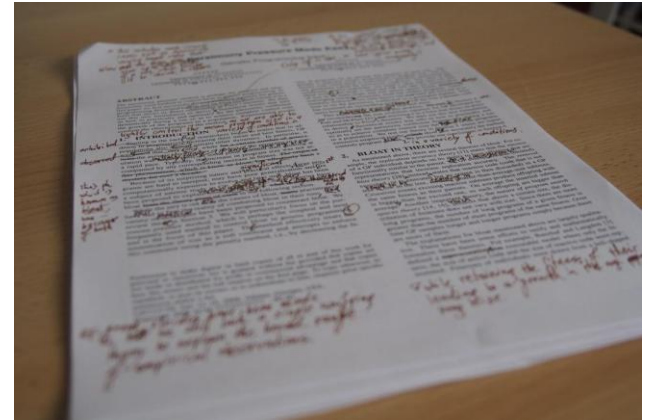
---

Studies on LIS journals:

- Specialisation (Nicolaisen, 2013)
- Ranking (Nixon, 2014)
- Impact (Abrizah, 2013)

Studies on editors' opinions:

- Schloegl & Petschnig (2005), focused on 48 German LIS journals
- Baladrón & Correyedero (2012), focused on Spanish Communication, using Delphi methodology



# Introduction & background

---

Our presentation about LIS journals has two different parts:

- Basic information (data proceeds from WoS and Scopus)
- Current situation and forecast (data proceed from editor's opinions)

# Introduction & background

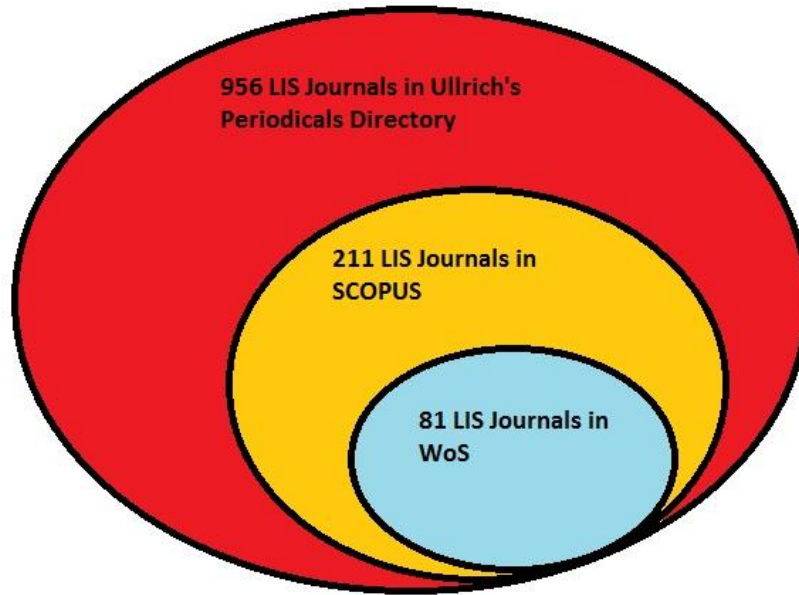
---

Which are the LIS Journals considered?

- Those indexed in the subject category in the 2013 *JCR Social Science Edition* **INFORMATION SCIENCE & LIBRARY SCIENCE**
- Those indexed in the classification code (ASJC) used by SCOPUS **3309 Library and Information Sciences**
- The resulting domain was refined and some journals were excluded as they were considered outside the discipline.

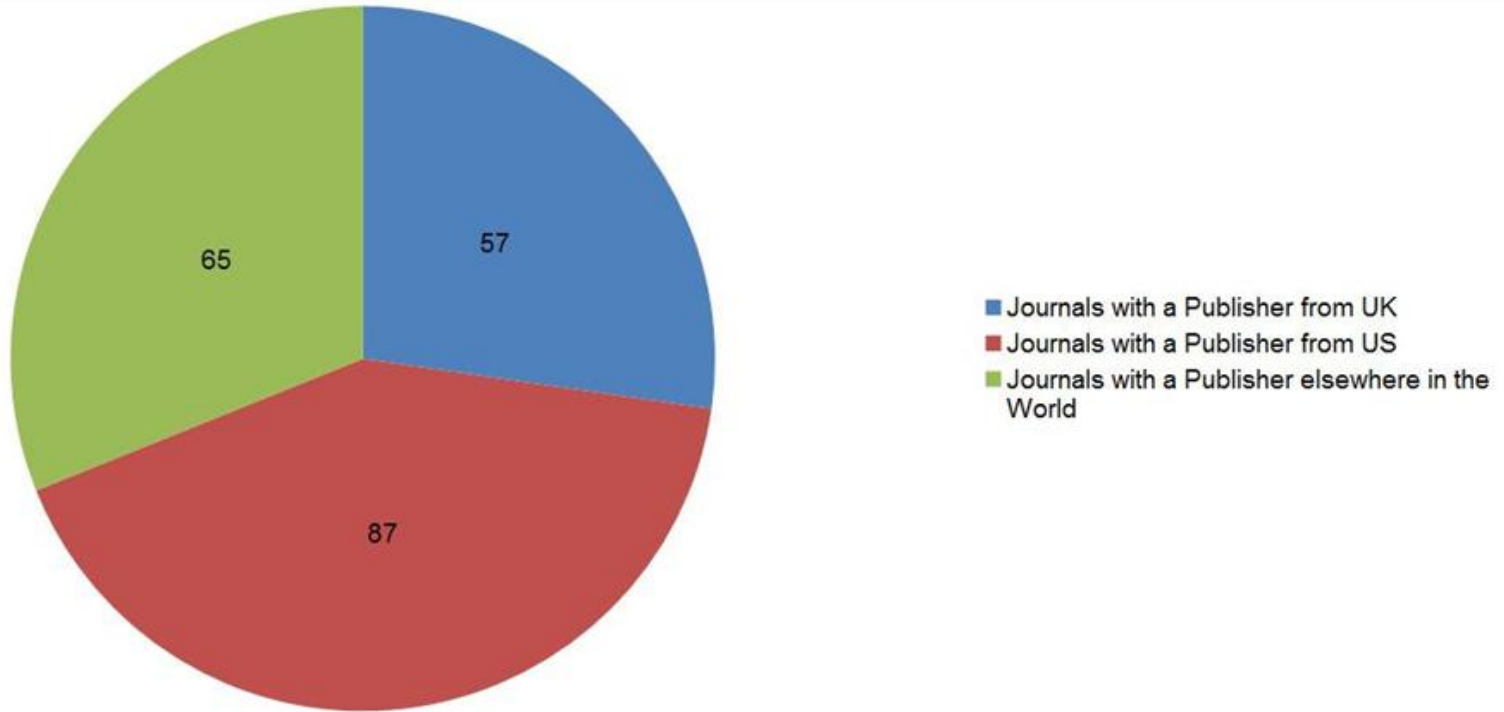
# LIS journals in WoS and Scopus

---



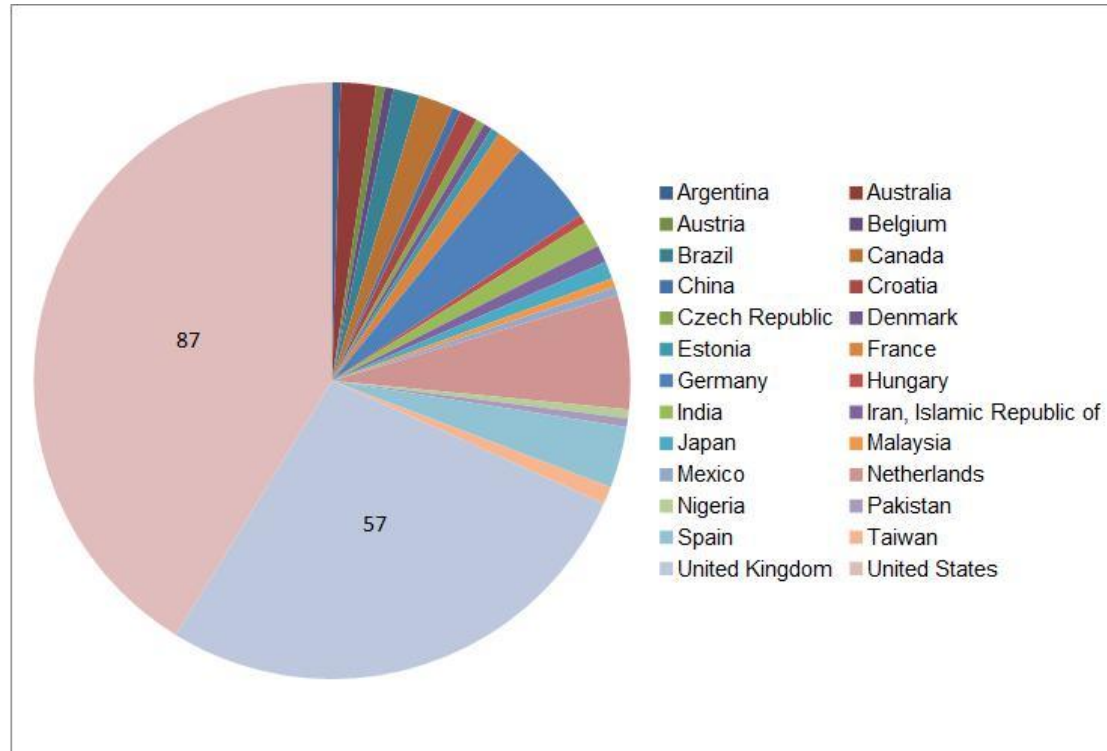
# General data: Publisher Country (I)

---



# General data: Publisher Country (II)

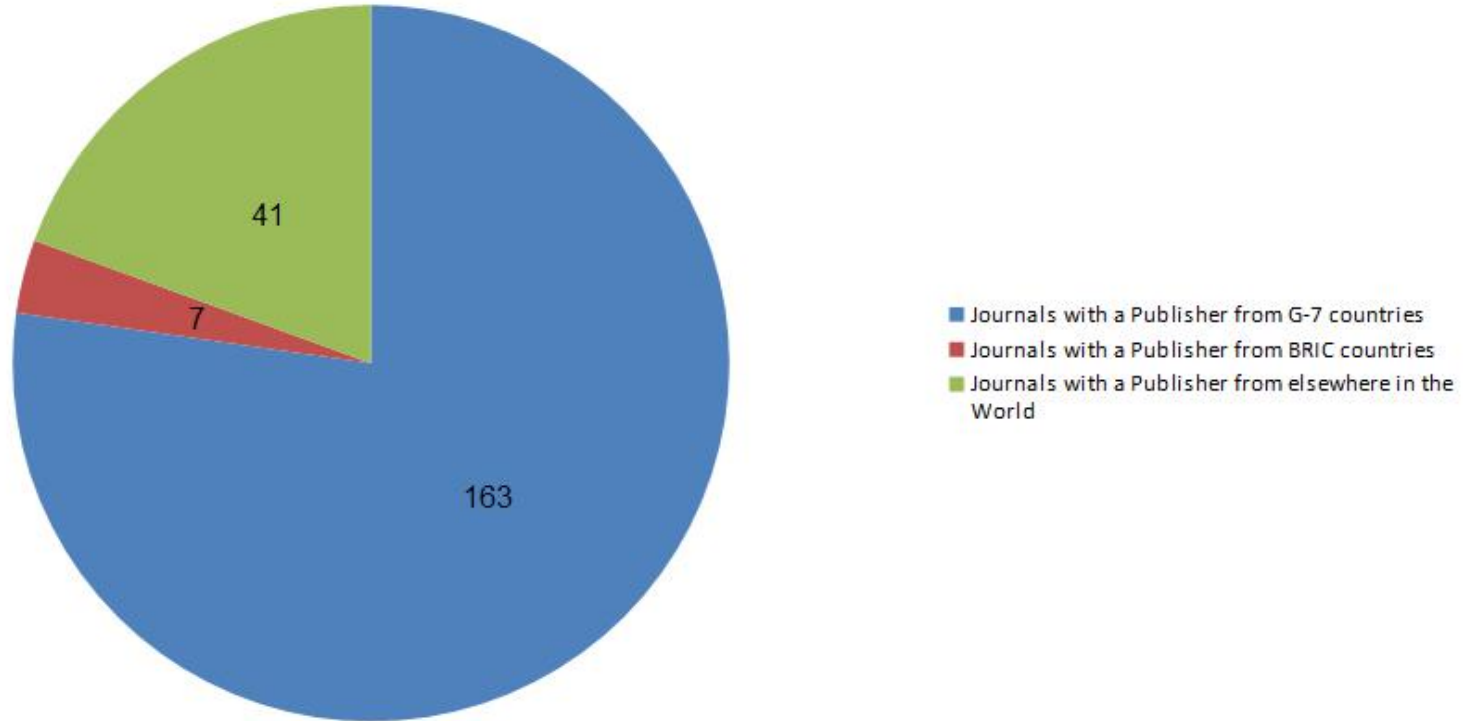
---





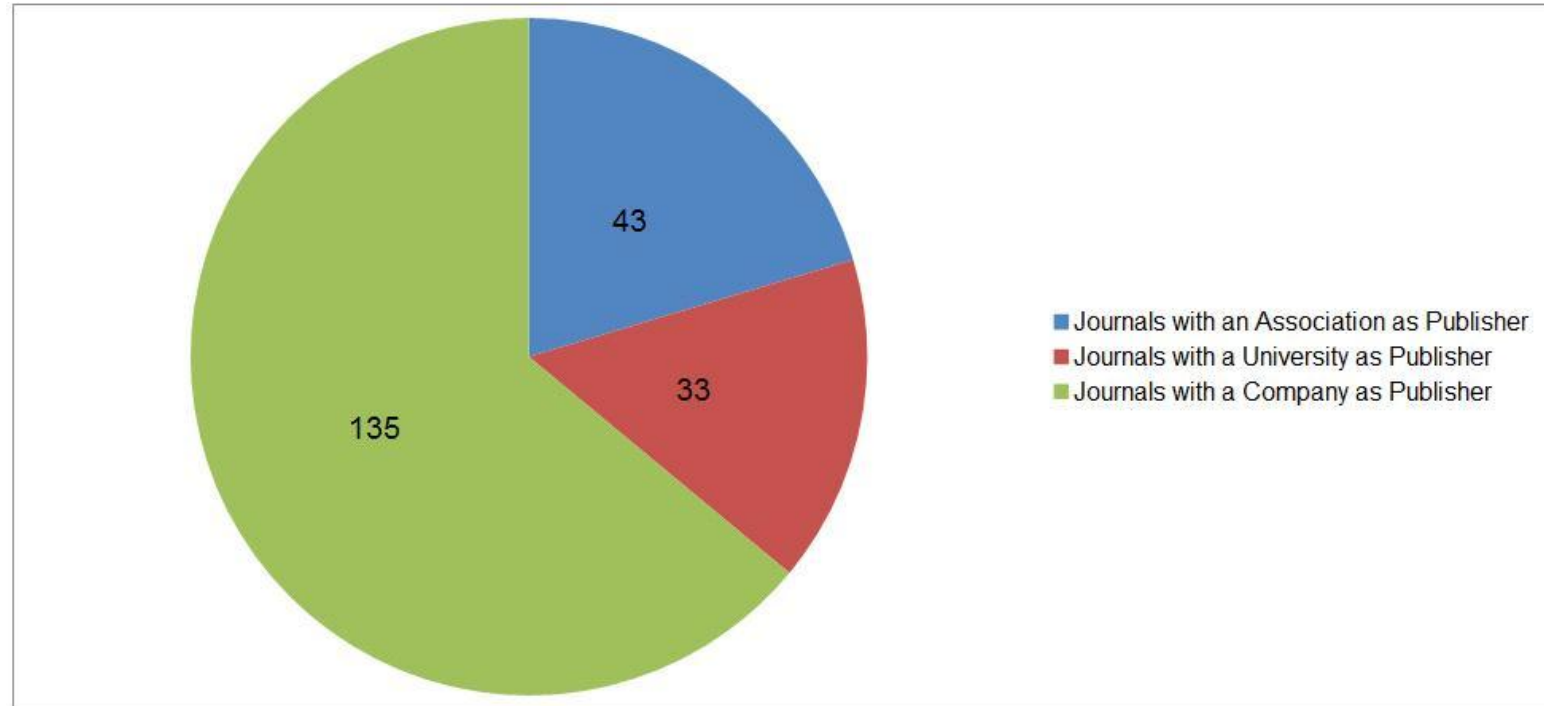
# General data: Publisher Country (III)

---



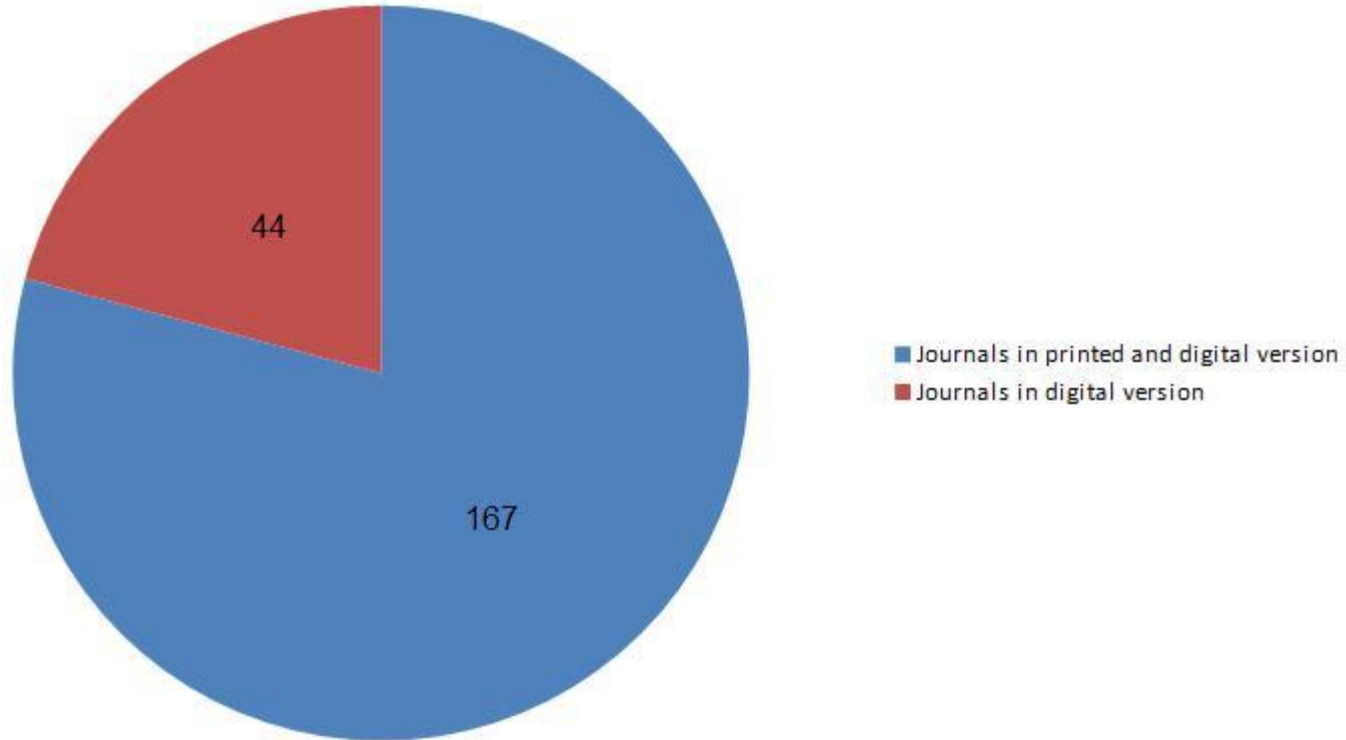
# General data: Sort of Publisher

---



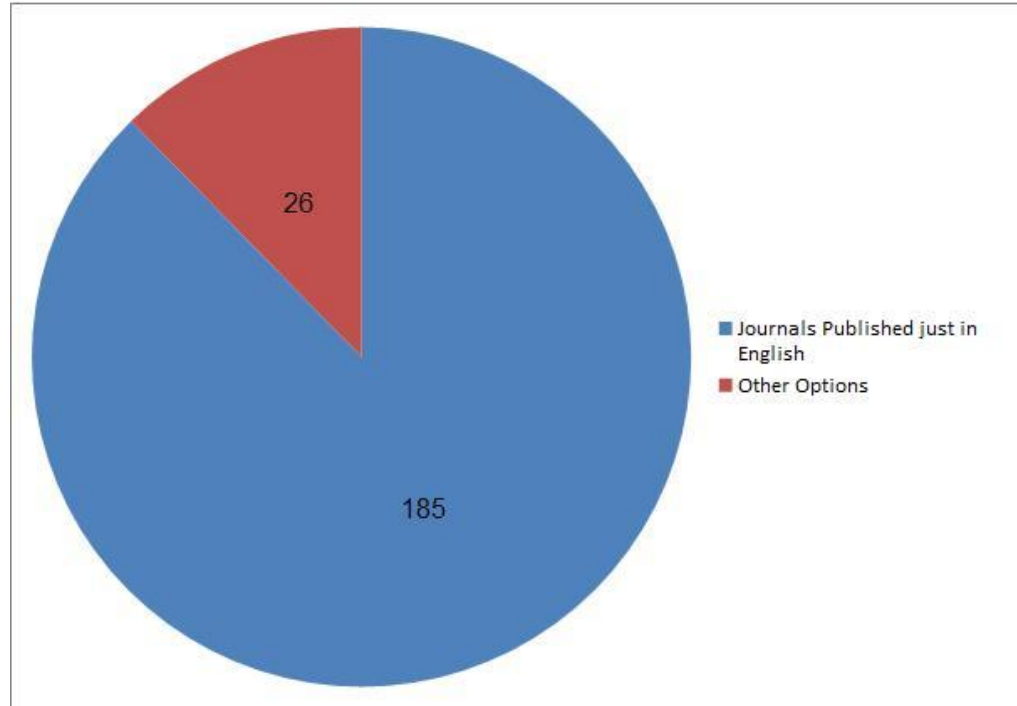
# General data: Printed or Digital?

---



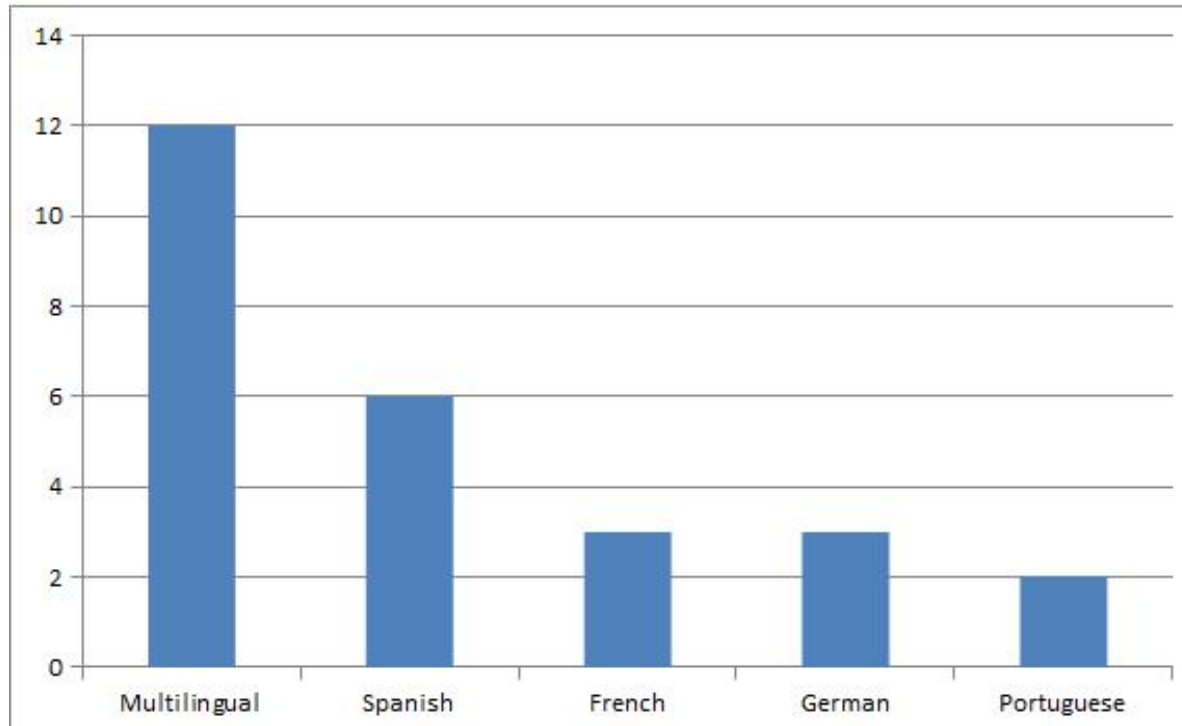
# General data: Language (I)

---



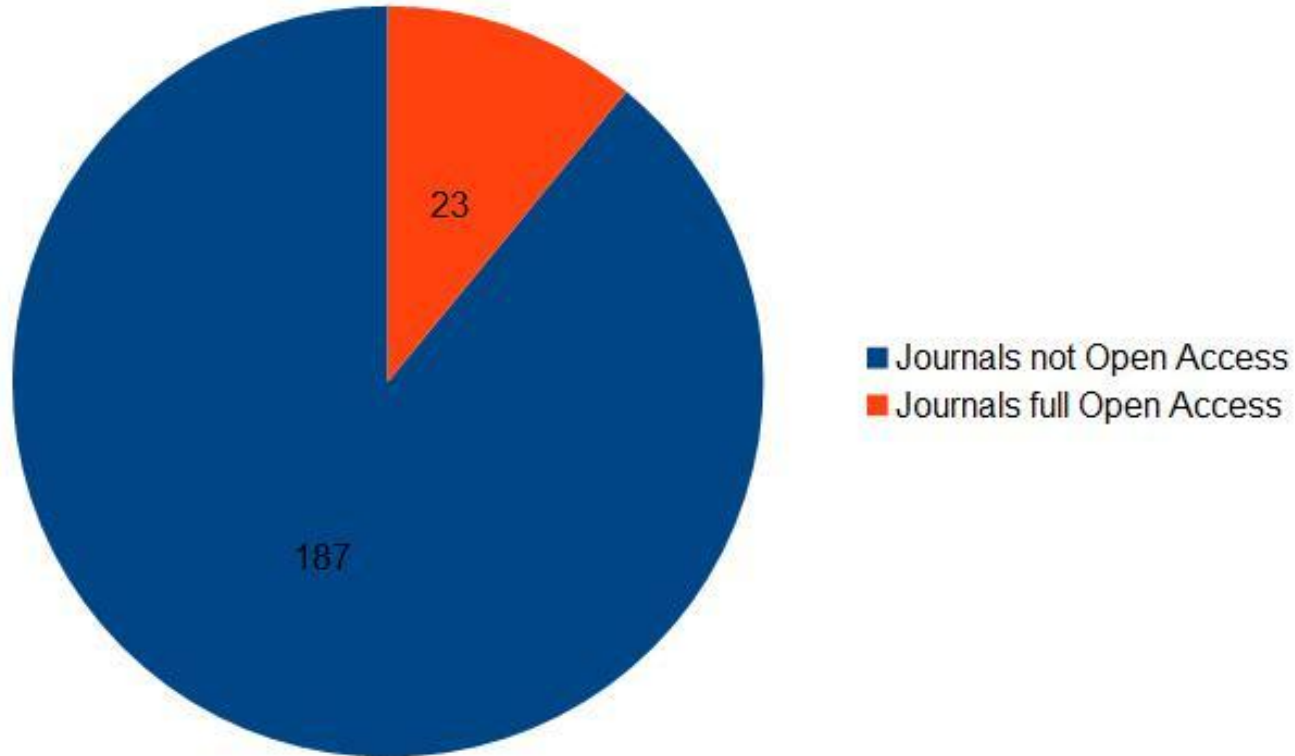
# General data: Language (II)

---



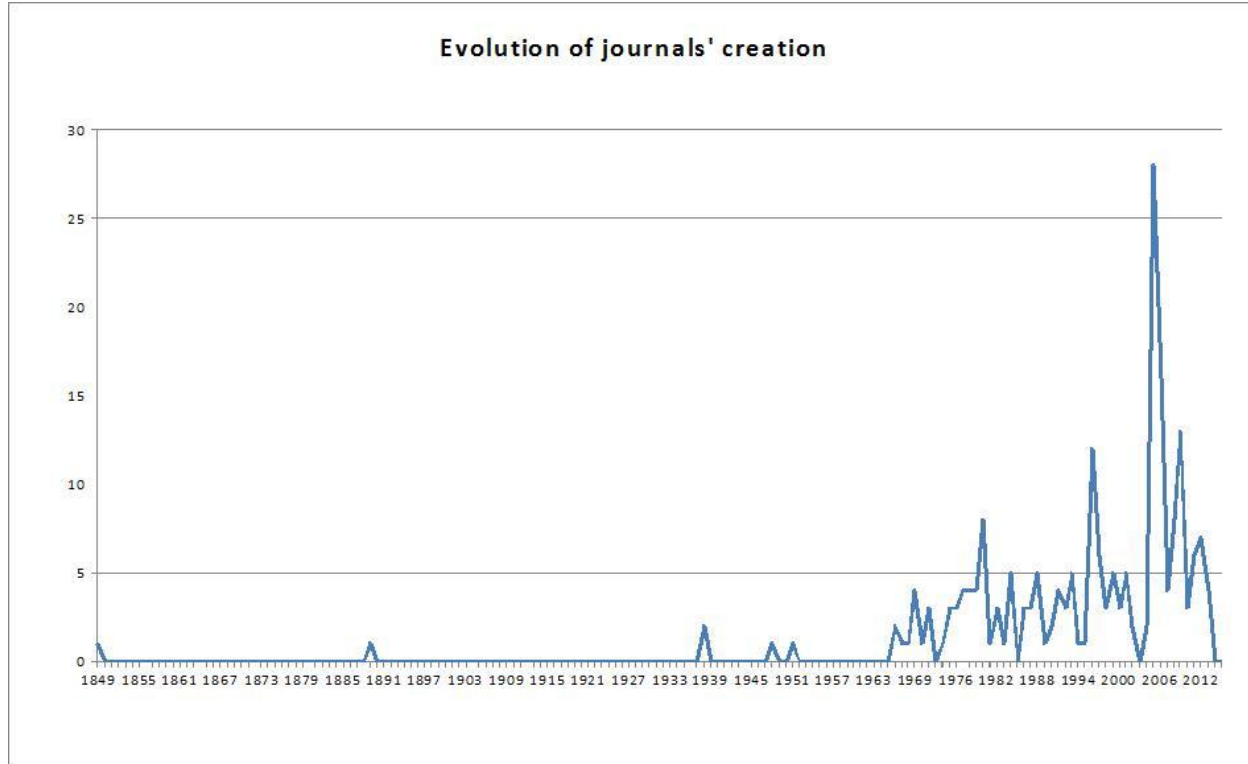
# General data: Open Access

---



# Evolution of journals' creation

---



# Objectives and methodology

---

To know editor's opinion about current situation and future trends in LIS academic journals.

Specific objectives:

- Economic aspects (Business models)
- Peer review
- Functionalities
- Subject specialization
- Forecast (Trends)

Survey addressed to editors and directors (December 2014-April 2015), disseminated by e-mail and web form.

Total of 36 responses (~15%)



# Results:

---

Grouped into 5 blocks:

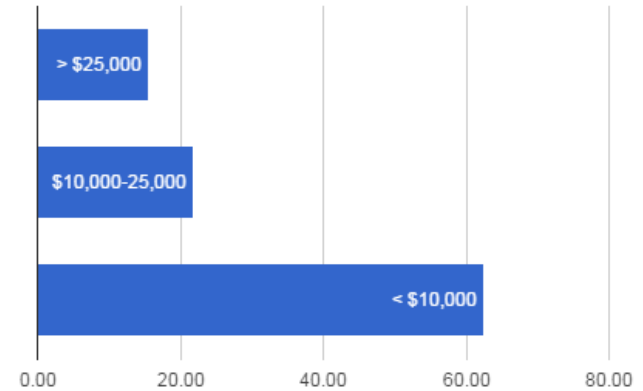
- economic aspects
- peer review procedures
- functionalities
- topics/specialization
- future forecast

# Economic aspects

---



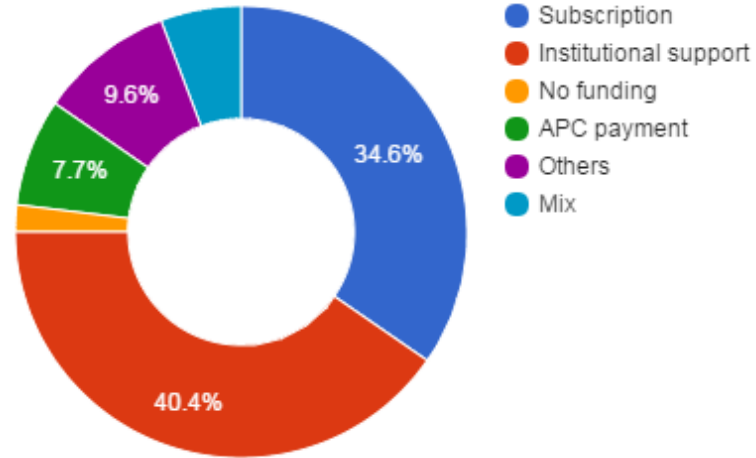
Annual budget



# Economic aspects

---

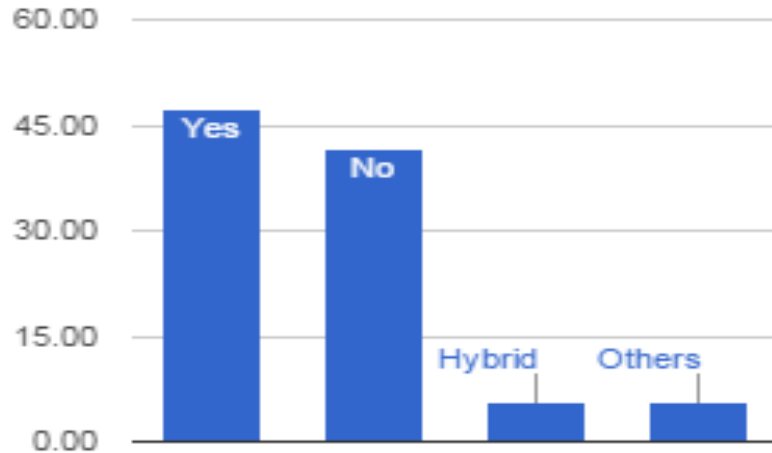
## Sources of funding



# Economic aspects

---

Classification of journals: OA or not OA



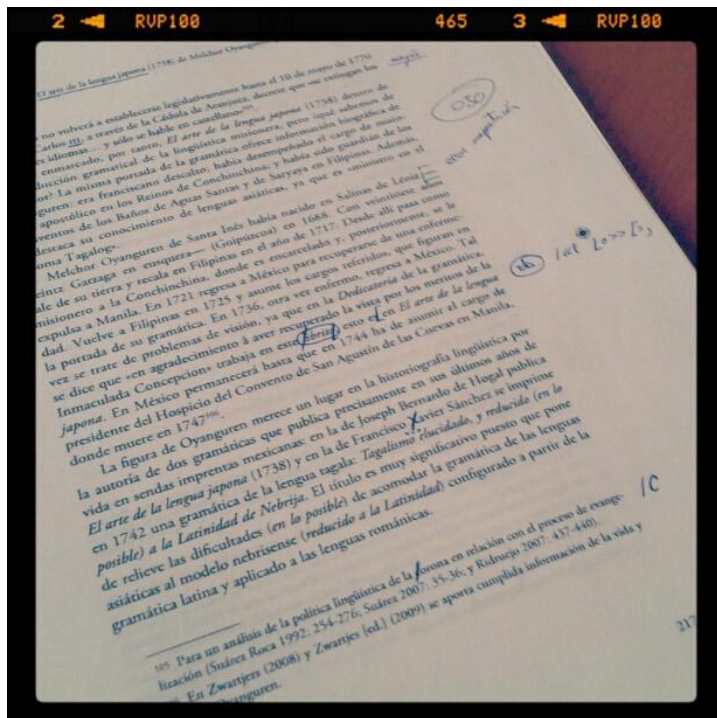
# Economic aspects

---

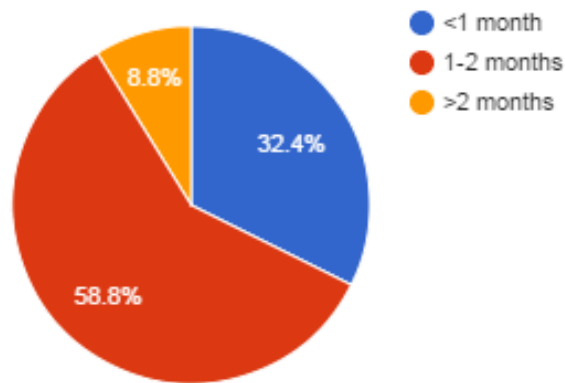
OA will become the majority model for scholarly journals?	%
yes	64
no	28
n/a	8

Funding model of OA journals should be?	%
Institutional support	64
Article processing charge (APC)	5
Both	17
Other	14

# Peer-review procedures



Peer review frame



# Peer-review

---

The **measures to compensate reviewers** are:

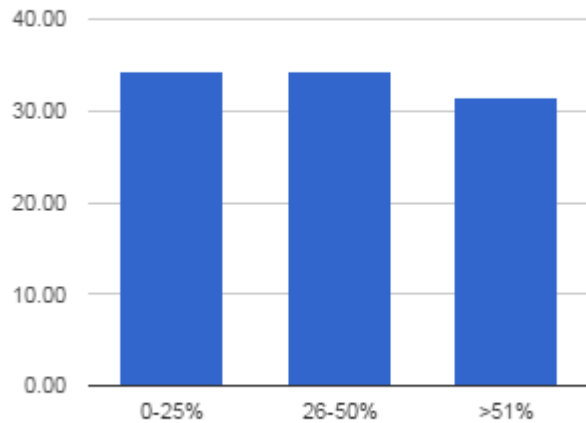
Name listed publicly	43%
Accreditation/certificate	33%
Payment	5%
Other	19%

<b>Problems peer review</b>	%
Lack of reviewers	45
Compliance with the time frame	36
Guarantee of blind reviews	5
Other	14

# Peer-review

---

Rejection rate



Rejection rate	%
Low quality	43
Methodological and/or formal errors	28
Topic not adjusted to the journal's focus	23
Other	6



# Functionalities

---

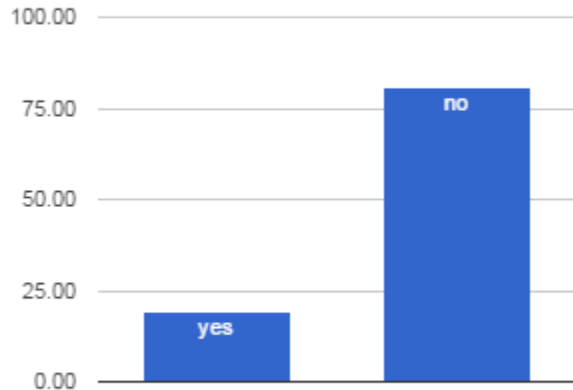


<b>value-added services</b>	
Ability to search from certain fields	50%
Document sharing tools	20%
No	4%
Commentaries about the articles	2%
Other	24%

# Functionalities

---

Mobile phone and other versions



Social media



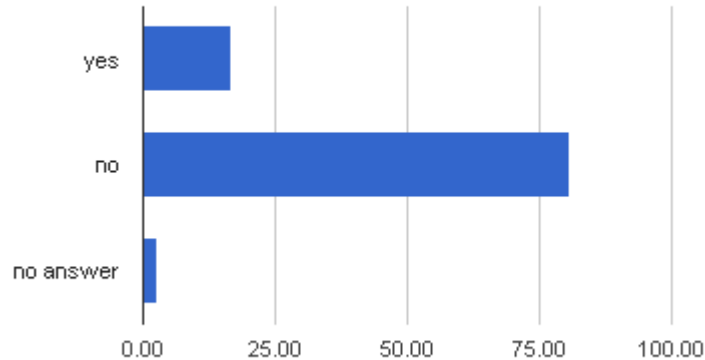
How would editors/directors rate the presence of the journal in the social network?

Very good	9%
Good	16%
Average	47%
Bad	25%
Very bad	3%

# Functionalities

---

## Altmetrics

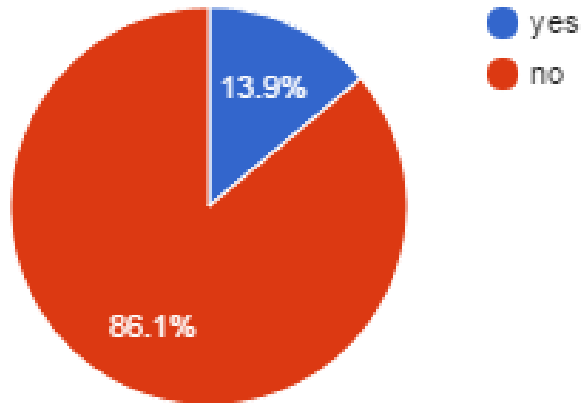


<b>advantages altmetrics</b>	<b>%</b>
Information for authors and readers	43
Transparency	24
Quality monitoring	21
Other	12

# Functionalities

---

Data policy

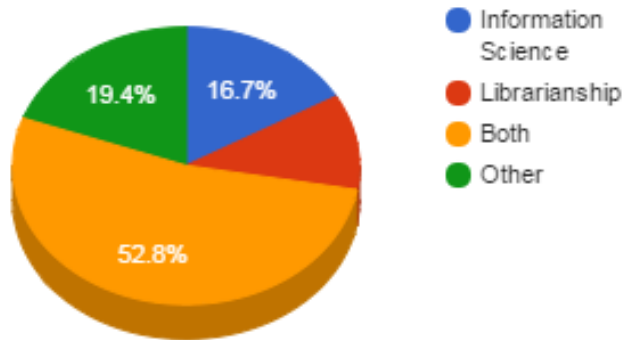


Additional material	
Datasets	31%
AV material	19%
Other	12%
No	38%

# Topics-specialization

---

Focus



<b>Related disciplines</b>	
Communication	32%
Management	28%
Computer Science	15%
Others	25%

# Future forecast

---



Some general tendencies

Which areas editors and publishers expect more or fewer changes

# Prospective

---

Do you think the future of content distribution will focus on article or issue?

Article	81%
Issue	19%

Do you think that journals in general will evolve towards the megajournal model?

No	73%
Yes	27%

What are the main threats facing journals?

Funding	51%
Pressure of quartiles and impact factors	18%
Others	31%

# Prospective

---

Here you have the data, presented from the most changeable to the least.

Metrics	6.78
Data	6.18
Article format	6.09
Interdisciplinarity	6.03
Number/volume	5.39
Funding	5.22
Peer-review	4.39



# Conclusions

---

## a) Impact of open access

Budgets are reduced and the importance of **institutional support** and **subscriptions** is confirmed.

A **shift to an open access** model is expected.

## b) Searching for a new formal model

**Social media**, mobile phone and altmetrics have yet to be exploited.

There is a lack of **data policy** and consequently there are few available additional materials in most journals.

# Conclusions

---

The majority of editors consider that the distribution will **focus on article**, rather than on issue.

Funding is considered the main threat..

## c) Peer review

According to the answers, most of journals have peer review time of **less than 2 months**. Lack of reviews is considered the main problem.

## d) Specialization

Librarianship, Information Science and LIS together are the **focus**, but most editors will probably expand to related disciplines, such as **Management and Communication**.

**Metrics** and **data** are the challenges for the next 5-10 years.

---

Thank you very much for your attention

[abadal@ub.edu](mailto:abadal@ub.edu), [alopezbo@uoc.edu](mailto:alopezbo@uoc.edu), [collec@uoc.edu](mailto:collec@uoc.edu)