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# **How DOAJ helps to disseminate journal and article metadata**

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# Problems faced by smaller journals / publishers

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- 1 No technical resources to focus on indexing or discovery. There are often technical barriers that are hard to overcome.
- 2 There is no money to overcome the barriers, or even to pay someone to do all of this for you.

## Problems faced by smaller journals / publishers

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- 3 Niche journals don't attract or publish as many papers, and therefore websites remain static for long periods of time.
- 4 Smaller journals get drowned out and excellent content remains undiscovered and uncited and, sometimes, lost.

# **DOAJ enables maximum dissemination**

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Through three fundamental principles:

1. All metadata is free for use and re-use.
2. Metadata is available in different formats.
3. Metadata adheres to standards.

# Clear licensing on how metadata can be used

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- *Journal metadata* is distributed under a CC BY-SA 4.0 license
- Copyrights and related rights for *article metadata* are waived via CC0 1.0 Universal (CC0) Public Domain Dedication.

# Metadata formats

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- JSON
  - Metadata dump, updates weekly
    - journal metadata
    - article metadata
  - Via the API
- OAI-PMH
  - Journal feed and article feed
  - Mapped to Dublin Core, updates constantly

# Metadata formats

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- CSV
  - Journal-level metadata only, updates every 30 minutes
- Atom feed of newly-added journals
- Change log of journals added and removed

# Others methods of enabling discovery

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- Crawling
  - Google: journal entries in DOAJ always achieve a high Google Page Rank
  - Google Scholar: crawls article metadata in DOAJ.
  - CNKI: China's largest indexer and database of journals



# Others methods of enabling discovery

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- Widgets
  - DOAJ searches and queries can be be embedded directly into other websites
- Directly approaching journals and asking them to submit an application to DOAJ

## **Others initiatives to aid discovery**

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- Permanent identifiers aid discovery by preventing link rot but 32% of journals in DOAJ use no form of identifier.
- Cost barrier to implementing DOIs that many smaller journals can't afford.
- DOAJ is working with Crossref to be able to assign DOIs on behalf of publishers

## **Others initiatives to aid discovery**

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- Digital preservation prevents journals from disappearing from the internet
- A recent study\* found that 174 journals had “vanished” without any digital preservation in place.
- Traditionally, digital preservation also comes with a cost

## **Others initiatives to aid discovery**

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- CLOCKSS, DOAJ, Internet Archive, Keepers Registry and PKP are working to help as many diamond, DOAJ-indexed journals as possible be preserved at no or low cost.
- Combined with DOIs, digital preservation ensures articles remain discoverable for a longer period of time.

# **Discovery is at the centre of DOAJ's strategy**

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- We can do more!
- DOAJ's strategy for 2021-2022 focuses on discovery
- We are partnering with the large discovery services to find out how we can make DOAJ metadata even more useful

## Summary

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- DOAJ is the world's most diverse directory of open access journals and has a long tail of small single journals, often niche “Diamond” SSH titles.
- Visibility for these journals is key to survival and being indexed in DOAJ helps them to achieve this.

# Summary

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- Discovery is maximised by DOAJ sticking to 3 principles when it comes to dissemination.
  - Metadata is free, in different formats and adheres to standards
- DOAJ's metadata is in all the major indexing and discovery services.

# Summary

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- Preservation and permanent article identifiers are important for discovery
- There is work to do! We have discovery at the centre of our strategy and are further improving dissemination, thereby increasing discoverability.



# Open is not forever

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\*Laakso, Matthias and Jahn, *Open is not forever: a study of vanished open access journals:*

<https://asistdl.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/asi.24460>

<https://arxiv.org/abs/2008.11933>

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**Thank you.**

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