

EXPERIENCES OF LITHUANIAN DOAJ-JOURNALS

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Introduction

According to the country statistics in the DOAJ (Directory of Open access Journals) eleven Lithuanian journals are registered in the Directory for 2009. I tried to get in touch with all the editors to interview them about OA and the DOAJ. Unfortunately, I only succeed to get answers from seven of the Lithuanian OA journal editors.

I am pleased to present short interviews with Dr. Alma Braziuniene, ed. of the *Knygotyra*, publisher Vilnius University Press; Igor Korotkich, ed. of the *Medicina*, publisher the Lithuanian Medical Association; Dr. Olegas Prentkovskis, ed. of the *Transport*, publisher Vilnius Gediminas Technical University; Dr. Liutauras Kraniauskas, ed. of the *Sociologija: Mintis ir veiksmai*, publisher Klaipeda University; Professor Alfonsas Motuzas, ed. of the *Soter*, publisher Vytautas Magnus University; Professor Marijona Barkauskaite, ed. of the *Pedagogika*, publisher Vilnius Pedagogical University; Dr. Inga Vinogradnaitė, ed. of the *Politologija*, publisher Vilnius University.

Interview

How have the usage and accessibility of your journal articles changed after registration in the DOAJ? Has this exerted any influence?

O. Prentkovskis: From the increased number of cited articles in the Transport journal since 2008, I can draw the conclusion that registering in the DOAJ has a positive influence for wider accessibility and visibility at the international level.

I. Korotkich: The online usage of the Medicina has been constantly growing since 2002. As we have no statistics from the DOAJ about access to the journal through the DOAJ database, it is difficult to state that it was the result of registering the journal in the DOAJ. The Medicina is accessible for free also from Medline and ISI Web of Science.

A. Braziuniene: It is difficult to answer as we have no statistics from the DOAJ.

A. Motuzas: The Soter printed version is distributed only through university libraries, theological seminaries, and dioceses and has no subscribers. Registration of the journal in the DOAJ did raise its

prestige among scholarly institution internationally.

L. Kraniauskas: We have no possibility to evaluate the DOAJ impact on usage and accessibility of the journal Sociologija, as we have no information from our readers that they have got information about our journal from DOAJ. Recently, a new design and searchable content has been implemented for the online version, and now articles can be accessible through Google.

M. Barkauskaite: We have noticed an increased number of manuscript submissions to the journal after it became more accessible to users.

I. Vinogradnaitė: Unfortunately, we have no information about the influence of the DOAJ. Our journal is being indexed by CEEOL and freely accessible from the University homepage.

Have you retained the same number of subscribers to the printed version of the journal after its registration in the DOAJ? Has it affected your journal budget?

O. Prentkovskis: The number of subscribers remains the same, and I think that many researchers prefer to keep a printed journal in hand rather than read digital articles, but the DOAJ helps to find articles and journals much faster on the Internet.

I. Korotkich: We did not experience a lowering of income, as our journal online has been freely accessible from the very beginning in 2001.

L. Kraniauskas: We have no permanent subscribers to the printed version, and dissemination is mainly through book stores and libraries.

A. Braziuniene: No changes in journal income after registering in the DOAJ.

Are all the articles peer-reviewed? Who pays for peer-reviewing: the institution, the journal, the authors, or someone else?

O. Prentkovskis: All the articles published in the journal are peer-reviewed. The manuscripts are accepted after positive evaluation by two peer-

reviewers. Usually peer-reviewers are independent experts and members of an editorial board and they work free of charge. We consider that every article receiving a positive peer-review is a point of honour for the researcher.

I.Korotkich: All the articles are peer-reviewed and peer-reviewers do not receive any remuneration.

A.Braziuniene: All the articles are peer-reviewed free of charge. It is a part of the research and academic activity at the University.

A.Motuzas: Authors should submit already peer-reviewed manuscript, and editorial board members should provide additional peer-review. Peer-reviewing work is being covered from the University budget.

L.Kraniauskas: Recently, we have required higher standards of peer-reviewing, as we are receiving too many manuscripts. We have implemented a blind peer review method, where the manuscript should be sent to peer-reviewers without the author's name and institution. Afterwards peer-reviewers remarks are presented to the author. We are not willing to formalize peer-reviewing process, but we seek collegial advice and qualified evaluation of the articles.

M. Barkauskaite: All the articles are peer-reviewed by a subject specialist and editorial board member free of charge.

I.Vinogradnaite: All the articles are peer-reviewed by selected reviewers for free.

What is your business model? Is the journal self-financing?

L.Kraniauskas: The journal is financed by the University and the Lithuanian Research Council and the budget is mainly for editing and publishing the journal. Sometimes we publish a special edition on conference or project materials, and then costs are covered from that budget. We have received some funds from CEEOL in 2008 for the first time.

A.Motuzas: The funds for journal publishing are allocated from the University budget, and we also receive some money from sales.

A.Braziuniene: We are receiving a grant from the Government for journal publishing, so we can afford an open access journal.

M. Barkauskaite: The journal is subsidized by the Lithuanian Science and Studies Foundation, and the University.

O.Prentkovskis: The journal is financed by the University, the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences, and the Ministry of Education and Science.

What online databases are indexing the journal?

The *Medicina* is being indexed by MEDLINE, ISI Web of Science, and Index Copernicus.

Transport - ISI Web of Science, Scopus, PaperChem, EBSCO, ICONDA, CSA, VINITI.

Pedagogika – CEEOL, MLA, Scopus, Index Copernicus.

Knygotyra – Book History Online (BHO), EBSCO, LISA, Modern Language Association Directory of Periodicals.

Soter – The Philosopher's Index, CEEOL.

Sociologija – IBSS, CSA, EBSCO, CEEOL.

What other ways are you using to promote the usage and accessibility of your journal?

L.Kraniauskas: We much expect to increase the usage of our journal owing to the new journal homepage and through the Social Sciences Forum (www.socforumas.lt) and Philosophy in Lithuania (www.filosofija.vu.lt)

A.Braziuniene: We are publishing surveys in the related European journals (Svensk Biblioteksforskning) and reviews in the Lithuanian scholarly and cultural publications such as the *Metai*, *Literatura ir menas*, *Mokslo Lietuva*.

O.Prentkovskis: We are disseminating information about new issues by email, and booklets at conferences.

I.Korotkich: Every year we both send out information about the possibility to access the journal via Internet and invitations to subscribe to the print version to medical institutions, pharmaceutical companies, etc.

I.Vinogradnaite: We mainly disseminate information about new journal issues through social networks and their links.

Are you satisfied with the DOAJ article search possibility? What kind of services could you suggest to the DOAJ team?

I.Korotkich: It would be very useful and interesting to get statistical information about the journal usage from the DOAJ portal.

I.Vinogradnaite: It would be wonderful if the article search possibilities were extended as the subject catalogue is too general. However, the DOAJ is a very good database for searching OA journals.

L.Kraniauskas: Usually, I'm searching for information in other databases, and my wishes are simply that the DOAJ interface was user friendly, and that links to the journal homepages were active.

M. Barkauskaite: Thank you. We are satisfied with the work of the DOAJ team

What do you think about OA initiatives and do you support this movement?

A.Motuzas: The Soter journal editorial board members support the initiatives and OA movement and we consider that it helps scholarly communication internationally.

A.Braziuniene: All the members of our editorial board support and encourage every OA initiative. The DOAJ team is doing great work.

I.Vinogradnaite: We suppose that science cannot be developed without scholarly communication internationally, and it is natural to seek cheaper communication. Researchers from small institutions or with small funds should not be isolated from access to information.

COMMENT from the DOAJ team:

There are plans to develop, in a near future, a statistics tool which can be used by DOAJ users as well as publishers for gathering statistics of different kinds (usage, downloads etc.).

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