

Diamond Open Access in Latin America: The Challenge of a Sustainable Publishing Model

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The importance of non-mainstream journals

Non-mainstream journals serve the following functions:

- 1) offer a space for initiation into publishing (training);
- 2) provide a link between articles in mainstream journals and articles read by communities with limited access to them (knowledge-bridging);
- 3) publish topics that are not well covered by mainstream journals (knowledge gap-filling).

Publication in non-mainstream journals
cannot be attributed only to 'low scientific quality' research

According to a recent survey with scientific editors, Latin American journals are:

Academic & Public

67% are from universities

64% are from public institutions

80% target researchers, academics
and students

Survey (ALAEC, 2021):

- 342 Editors + 54 Other
- 14 Countries

Diamond Open Access

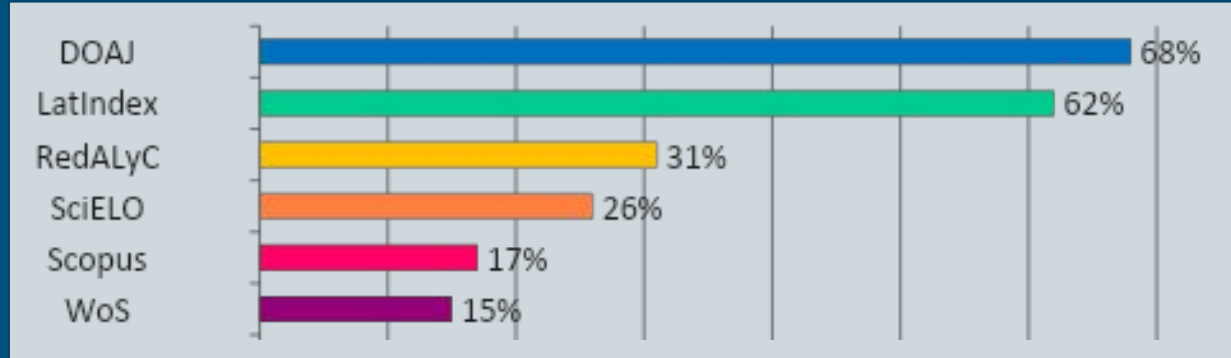
91% are Open Access

88% do not charge the
author

Regionally indexed

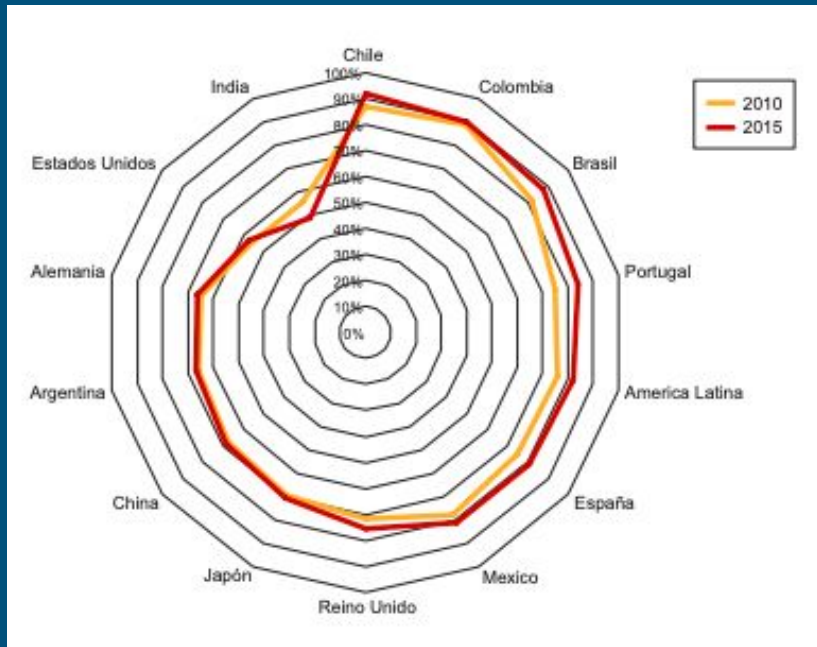
80% are not indexed in
WoS/Scopus

90% don't have an Impact Factor

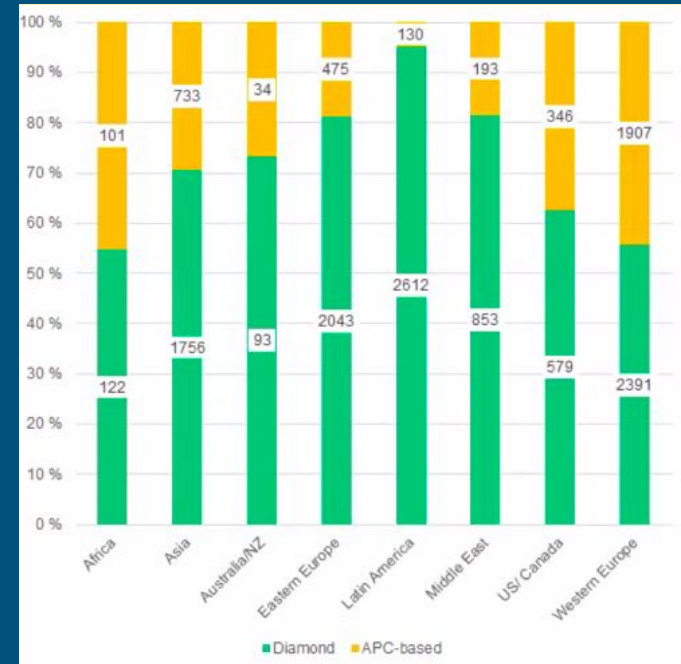


The scholarly publishing ecosystem in Latin America

Participation of universities in the scientific production (2010-2015)



Global Distribution of OA journals according to APC or Diamond



Regional infrastructure for Open Access publishing



Federated Network of Open Access Institutional Repositories of Scientific Publications

- Network of 12 countries
- 790 institutions
- +1,6 K open access repositories and journals
- +5 M open access documents (articles, reports, thesis)



Latin America and the Caribbean, Spain, and Portugal Scientific Journals Network

- 31 countries
- 755 publishing institutions
- +1,6 K diamond open access journals
- +800 K full-text articles

Scientific Electronic Library Online



- Network of 17 countries
- +1,5 K open access journals
- +500 K full-text articles

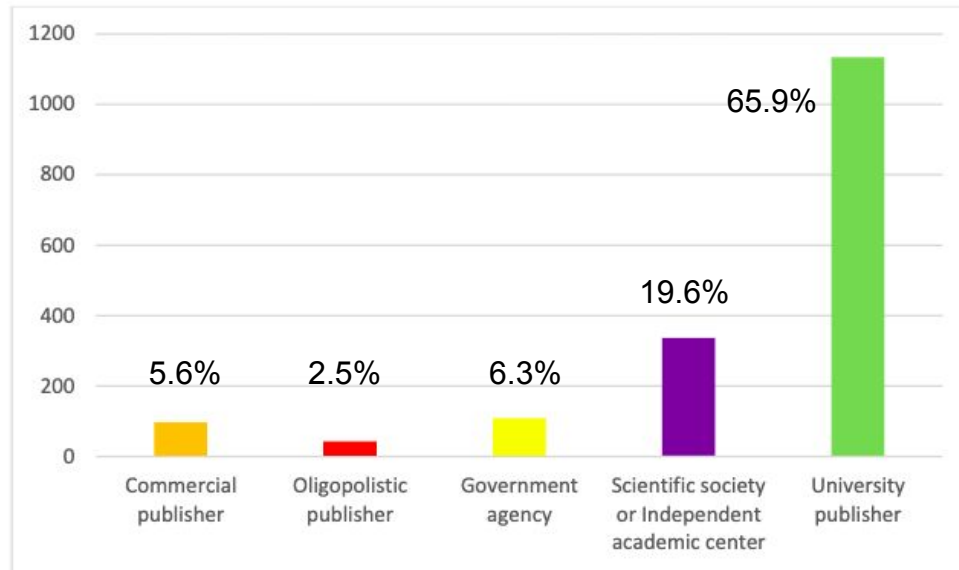
<https://www.lareferencia.info/en/>

<https://www.redalyc.org/>

<https://scielo.org/en>

Journals business models in Latin America

Figure 4. Distribution of journals by type of publisher (n=1,720).



Source: The OLIVA database (June 2019).

- Collection of 1,720 Latin American journals (Redalyc + SciELO)
- 15 countries
- 90% are Diamond OA
- 10% charge APCs (182 journals) - 60% are from Brazil
- APCs significantly lower than big publishers
- Different fees can be applied to students, Brazilian researchers, etc.

Intensity of national Open Access actions in Latin America

Country	National OA policy	OA legal framework	Institutional OA policies
Argentina	✓	✓	✓
Brazil	✗	✗	✓
Chile	✓	✓	✓
Colombia	✓	✓	✓
Mexico	✓	✓	✓
Peru	✓	✓	✓



Associations of scholarly publishing in Latin America



Region: ALAEC

Colombia: ASEUC
65 university presses

Brazil: ABEC
+130 Brazilian editors

Chile: Red Chilena
200 journals from 15 universities

Uruguay: AURA
25 editors/journals

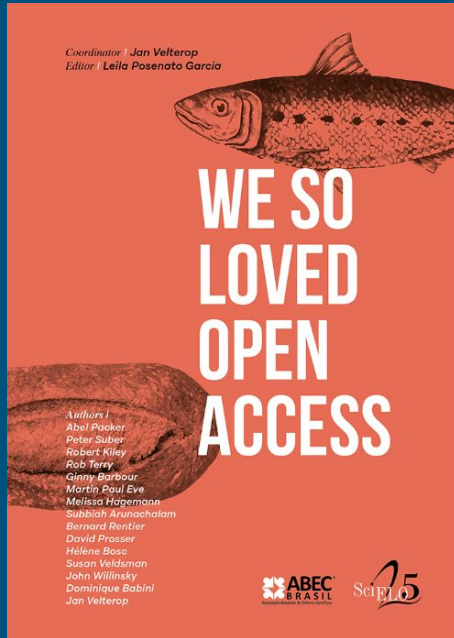
Argentina: Red Sara
24 universities/research institutions

Challenges of a sustainable model

- Global studies on APCs show a total of USD 1.06 B spent in 2015-2018
- National scale studies on APCs (mainly based on projections from the correspondent author):
 - Argentina 2013-2020 - USD 11,634,112
 - Chile 2019 - USD 9,129,939
 - Colombia 2009-2019 - USD 10,900,808
- Biological and Health sciences are more affected (62% of APCs total)

The change from READER PAYS to AUTHOR PAYS simply changes the sources of funds for mainstream publishers

SciELO's sustainability challenges



COST STRUCTURE (SciELO Brazil)

- The operational annual cost of SciELO Brazil is estimated at USD1,6 M;
- The average cost of a journal is USD 6,2 K and USD 85 per article.

REVENUE STREAMS (SciELO Brazil)

- 80% - 90% from FAPESP (São Paulo Research Foundation) as a research grant awarded every 3 years to a researcher linked to the Federal University of São Paulo (UNIFESP);
- 10% - 20% from CNPq (National Council for Scientific and Technological Development) and CAPES (Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education Personnel).

KEY RESOURCES (SciELO Brazil)

Human: 41x staff: 1x Director, 4x Council members, 8x coordinators, 2x admin staff, 4x librarians, 21x technical staff, 1x intern;

Physical, Systems and data: provided by UNIFESP (public university).

Redalyc takes a bold step towards diamond only



**Scientific Information
System Redalyc**

Diamond Open Access
scientific journal network

Non-commercial global
infrastructure owned by
academia

- Multidisciplinary Research Group hosted and financed by the Autonomous University of the State of Mexico (UAEM);
- A SCOSS-Certified project: Donations from organizations and governments, through SCOSS - Operational funding for 3 years target € 1,197,994;
- Received a French National Fund for Open Science FNSO fund share € 70,000 in 2022.



Large consortia are opting for Transformative Agreements

CAPES debate Acesso Aberto e Acordos Transformativos

Durante workshop, foram apresentados os desafios e as oportunidades para a democratização da informação científica no Brasil

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A CAPES realizou, nesta quarta-feira, 17 de maio, o *Workshop* Colaborativo sobre Acesso Aberto e Acordos Transformativos. O debate tratou da melhoria do acesso e da disseminação de publicações científicas no Brasil, por meio de assinaturas de periódicos que possibilitem o Acesso Aberto. O evento teve como objetivo ouvir a comunidade acadêmica e começar a construir o entendimento sobre a posição brasileira.

Durante a abertura, Mercedes Bustamante, presidente da CAPES, defendeu o protagonismo da Fundação para que o Brasil tenha força e poder de negociação junto às



Yearly national budget for journals subscriptions - USD 100 M for CAPES Portal

Yearly budget for grants to support local journals - USD 600 k CNPq
max USD 20 k / journal

Tensions & Challenges

- The traditional publishing model in the region is diamond, but paradoxically local journals don't receive enough support from their universities or from funding agencies;
- Non-mainstream journals are not highly considered in national evaluation systems;
- Redalyc is taking a step further: only indexes non-APC Open Access Journals;
- SciELO is supporting Gold Open Access for local journals, which struggle to survive;
- Brazil and Colombia are moving towards transformative agreements at a national level;
- There is not enough institutional and national incentives to publish in Open Access;
- Regional key organisations like ALAEC and Redalyc, are publishing manifestos to strengthen local journals, as a mean of having a more diverse and inclusive, truly global, scholarly publishing ecosystem



Obrigada!

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Publishing Specialists