Data Management Plan for the Study *Do Reputable Open Access Journals Require Open Data Sharing?*

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August 9, 2018

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# Introduction

This study analyzes the submission requirements of the most reputable open access journals to determine the prevalence and characteristics of data sharing policies. This question is an important one for 21st century authors and readers because open data sharing is seen as a key component of open and more trusted scientific record.

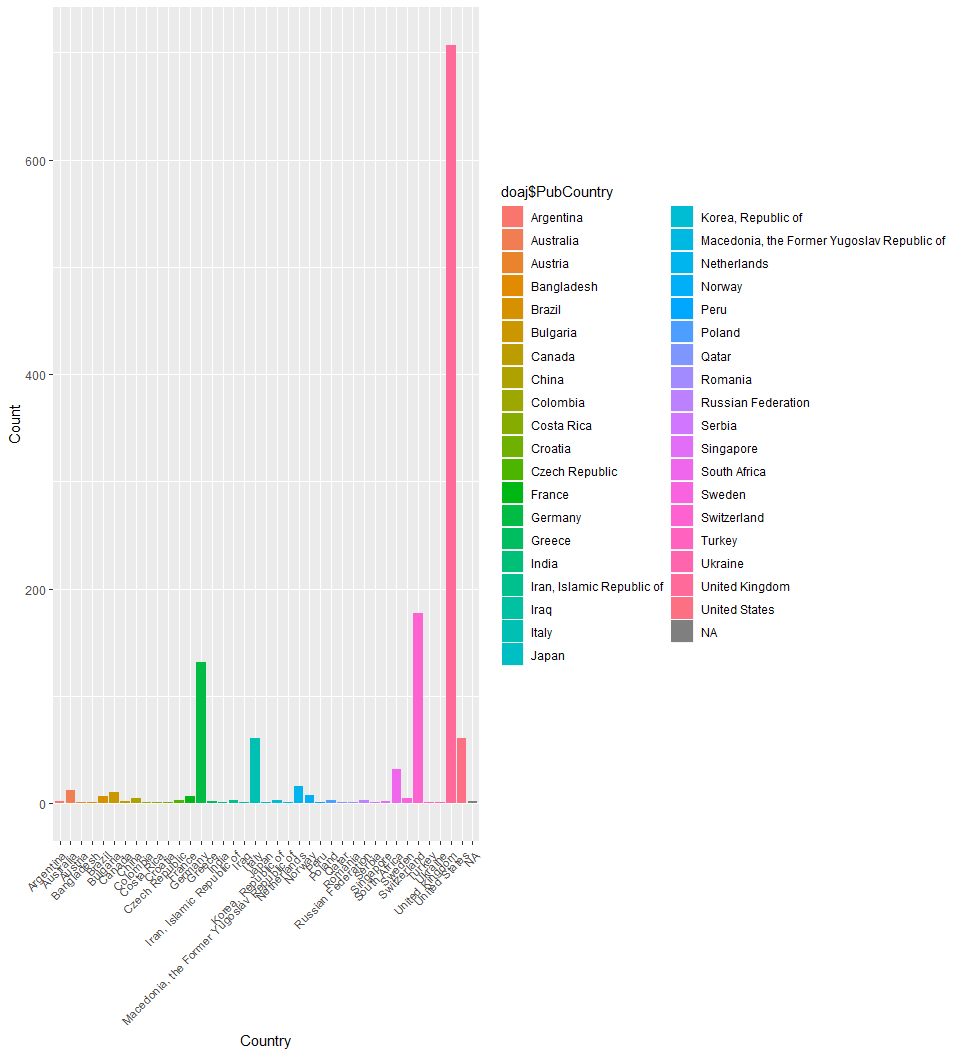
## Purpose of this Study

This study investigates whether the **most reputable Open Access journals** have data sharing polices and the characteristics of those policies. These policies require authors, in some fashion, to openly disseminate the data and software underlying their published articles. Our investigation builds on the recent work of Castro et al (2017) who assessed the prevalence and characteristics of data sharing policies from randomly-selected, English-language, open access journals. Their findings reveal that only a small minority of these journals have data sharing policies. These findings – which are consistent with those of other studies (see for example, Vasilevsky et al. 2017) – may be skewed because of the authors’ rules of inclusion and exclusion.[[1]](#footnote-23)

## Methodology

In this study, we will include only the most reputable open access journals in our assessment of journal sharing policies, reglardless of language. We will analyze all journals that have attained the Seal of Approval from the [***Directory of Open Access Journals, DOAJ***](http://doaj.org) (shown below). We will apply the same coding framework devised by Castro et al. (2017) to the DOAJ Seal journals. We contend that a more rigorously screened population of open access journals, regardles of language, will yield a more accurate and reproducible set of findings than those published from Castro et al. (2017).

Moreover, the DOAJ Seal journals do include over 200 non-English language journals that merit analysis in this study. Excluding these from the analysis represents cultural bias that undermines reliable research. The following plot of DOAJ Seal Journals by Country indicates the problem.

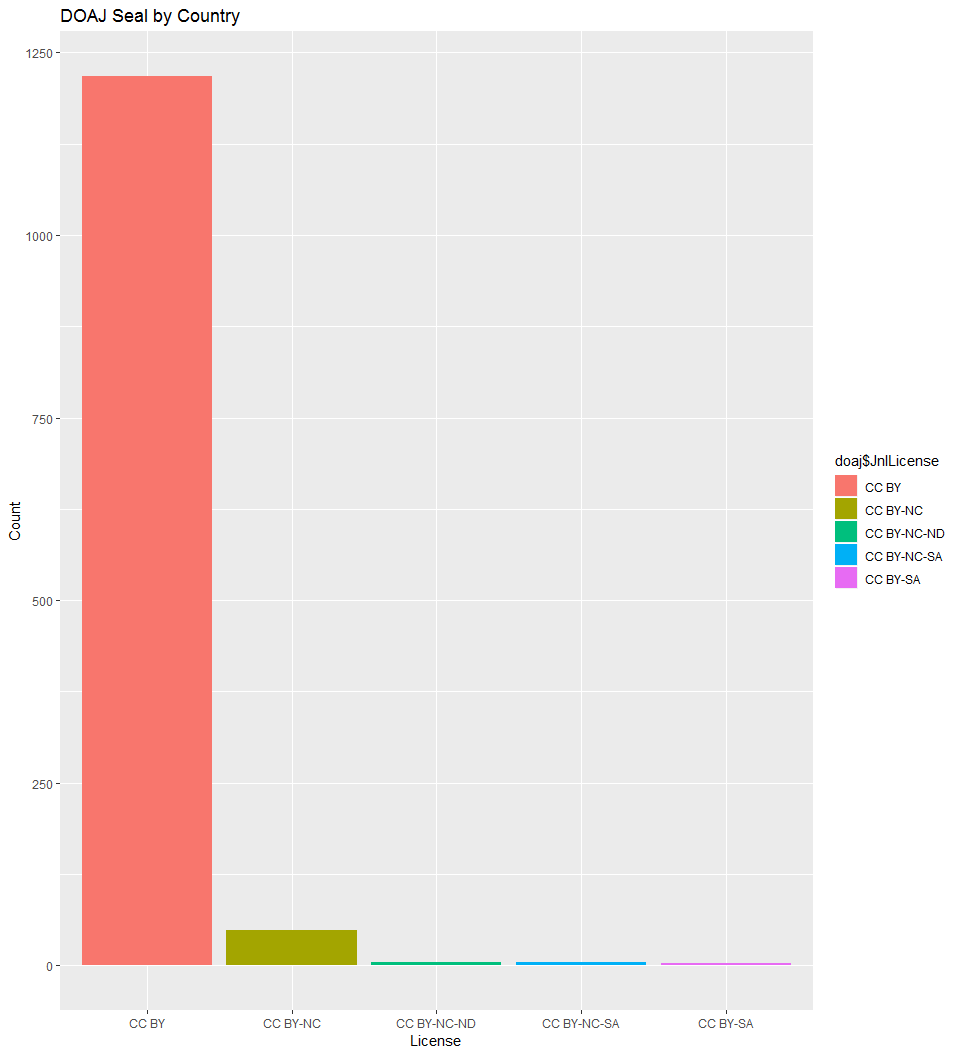


A sample of the doaj\_seal.csv data set is shown below.

A Table of the first 4 rows of the DOAJ Seal data.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| JnlTitle | Publisher | PubCountry | Fee | WaiverPolicy | Identifiers | FirstYear | Language | ReviewProcess | Plagiarism | Sub2Pub | JnlLicense | AuthorCopyright | DOAJ\_Seal |
| Archives Animal Breeding | Copernicus Publications | Germany | No | Yes | DOI | 1999 | English | Peer review | Yes | 13 | CC BY | TRUE | Yes |
| Bothalia: African Biodiversity & Conservation | AOSIS | South Africa | No | NA | DOI | 2014 | English | Double blind peer review | Yes | 12 | CC BY | TRUE | Yes |
| Geographica Helvetica | Copernicus Publications | Germany | No | Yes | DOI | 1946 | English, French, German, Italian | Double blind peer review | Yes | 53 | CC BY | TRUE | Yes |
| Hereditas | BioMed Central | United Kingdom | Yes | Yes | DOI | 2005 | English | Blind peer review | Yes | 6 | CC BY | TRUE | Yes |

# Results



# References

Castro, Eleni, Merce‘ Crosas, Alex Garnett, Kasey Sheridan, and Micah Altman. 2017. “Evaluating and Promoting Open Data Practices in Open Access Journals.” *Journal of Scholarly Publishing* 49 (1). University of Toronto Press Inc. (UTPress): 66–88. doi:[10.3138/jsp.49.1.66](https://doi.org/10.3138/jsp.49.1.66).

Vasilevsky, Nicole A., Jessica Minnier, Melissa A. Haendel, and Robin E. Champieux. 2017. “Reproducible and Reusable Research: Are Journal Data Sharing Policies Meeting the Mark?” *PeerJ* 5 (April). PeerJ: e3208. doi:[10.7717/peerj.3208](https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.3208).

1. in particular, the choice to include open access journals merely because of their use of the Open Journal Systems (OJS) hosting platform; the choice to exclude non\_English language journals [↑](#footnote-ref-23)