Abstract EPICOH

Open Access indexing and publication costs of occupational health journals

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Abstract

Objective: Open access (OA) publishing allows research to be freely available to readers, whilst costs are usually transferred to authors, funders, or institutions. This study explores OA policies and indexing among occupational health journals.

Material and Methods: We queried the Ulrichsweb database (a comprehensive catalog for academic and non-academic publications) for publications under the subject “occupational health and safety”. Filters were applied to restrict the search to active peer-reviewed journals with print and online formats. After deduplication, journals were searched for indexing in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). Data on OA status, article processing charges (APC), and author copyright retention were retrieved from DOAJ. The DIAMAS criteria (persistent identification, scholarly journal, OA with licenses, no fees, open to all authors, and community-owned) were used to define diamond OA journals when all criteria were met. Publishers were labelled as commercial and non-commercial by reviewing publishers’ websites and stock exchange listings. APC were compared by type of publisher (commercial/non-commercial) with the Mann–Whitney U-test. A p < 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

Results: Out of the 107 journals analyzed, 33 (30.8%) were fully OA and 15 (14%) were diamond OA journals. In the subset of OA journals, 6 (18.2%) were commercial publishers and 27 (81.8%), non-commercial. Journals owned by commercial publishers charged higher APC (median: 1532.5 EUR, IQR: 671.25 – 1745) than non-commercial (median: 0 EUR, IQR: 0 – 421, p = 0.02). Fifteen (14%) OA journals allowed authors to retain copyright of their works.

Conclusion: Nearly one third of occupational health journals in Ulrichsweb are fully OA and less than 2 in 10 diamond OA. Those owned by commercial publishers charge higher APC. Existing journals could evaluate transitioning to non-commercial or diamond OA, while new diamond OA journal initiatives could be encouraged.

# Description

# Ulrichsweb

The [Ulrichsweb database](https://ulrichsweb.serialssolutions.com/) (Ulrichsweb.com™, Copyright © 2025 ProQuest LLC) was searched for publications under the subject “occupational health and safety” (code: 003980) on 07/05/2025.

A total of **1418 records** were retrieved. The filter “Journals” was applied, resulting in **382 publications**. Subsequently, a filter for “Active” publications was applied, which led to **324 results**. A filter for “Refereed / Peer-reviewed” publications was subsequently applied, resulting in **205 publications**. Lastly, a filter for Print and Online publications was applied, resulting in **187 unduplicated records**.

Records were deduplicated by name as there was one entry for “Print” and another one for “Electronic” for journals available in both formats. The total number of records after deduplication was **n = 107**.

According to Ulrichsweb data, **n = 31 (29%)** of the journals are open access. This will later be compared against the number of matches in the DOAJ.

Table 1: Open Access (OA) journals in Ulrichsweb

| ID | Journal |
| --- | --- |
| 9 | Scandinavian Journal of Work, Environment & Health |
| 17 | Arhiv za Higijenu Rada i Toksikologiju |
| 18 | Medycyna Pracy |
| 22 | Revista Brasileira de Saude Ocupacional |
| 35 | International Journal of Occupational Medicine and Environmental Health |
| 48 | Journal of Occupational Health |
| 52 | Archivos de Prevencion de Riesgos Laborales |
| 53 | Noise & Health |
| 58 | The Irish Journal of Occupational Therapy |
| 61 | Archives of Public Health |
| 62 | Huanjing yu Zhiye Yixue |
| 63 | Perspectives Interdisciplinaires sur le Travail et la Sante |
| 69 | Salamat-i Kar-i Iran |
| 70 | International Journal of Occupational Hygiene |
| 73 | Nordic Journal of Working Life Studies |
| 75 | Meikuang Anquan |
| 80 | Safety and Health at Work |
| 83 | Sbornik Vedeckych Praci Vysoke Skoly Banske - Technicke Univerzity Ostrava. Rada Bezpecnostniho Inzenyrstvi |
| 88 | L'vivs'kyi Derzhavnyi Universytet Bezpeky Zhyttyediyalnosti. Visnyk |
| 93 | Bezopasnost' Tekhnogennykh i Prirodnykh Sistem |
| 94 | IETI Transactions on Ergonomics and Safety |
| 95 | Bihdasht-i Kar va Irtiqa-yi Salamat |
| 96 | Archives of Occupational Health |
| 97 | Ocupacion Humana |
| 98 | Tibbi-i-kar |
| 100 | The Indonesian Journal of Occupational Safety and Health |
| 101 | International Journal of Occupational and Environment Safety |
| 103 | Environmental and Occupational Health Practice |
| 104 | International Journal of Occupational Safety and Health |
| 106 | Giornale Italiano di Psicologia e Medicina del Lavoro |
| 107 | Journal of Safety and Sustainability |

# DOAJ

All journals were searched in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ).

Out of the **n = 107** journals, a total of **n = 32 (29.9%)** were indexed in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ):

Table 1: Journals from Ulrichsweb indexed in DOAJ

| ID | Journal |
| --- | --- |
| 9 | Scandinavian Journal of Work, Environment & Health |
| 17 | Arhiv za Higijenu Rada i Toksikologiju |
| 18 | Medycyna Pracy |
| 22 | Revista Brasileira de Saude Ocupacional |
| 35 | International Journal of Occupational Medicine and Environmental Health |
| 38 | Occupational Therapy International |
| 48 | Journal of Occupational Health |
| 52 | Archivos de Prevencion de Riesgos Laborales |
| 53 | Noise & Health |
| 58 | The Irish Journal of Occupational Therapy |
| 61 | Archives of Public Health |
| 62 | Huanjing yu Zhiye Yixue |
| 63 | Perspectives Interdisciplinaires sur le Travail et la Sante |
| 69 | Salamat-i Kar-i Iran |
| 70 | International Journal of Occupational Hygiene |
| 73 | Nordic Journal of Working Life Studies |
| 75 | Meikuang Anquan |
| 80 | Safety and Health at Work |
| 83 | Sbornik Vedeckych Praci Vysoke Skoly Banske - Technicke Univerzity Ostrava. Rada Bezpecnostniho Inzenyrstvi |
| 88 | L'vivs'kyi Derzhavnyi Universytet Bezpeky Zhyttyediyalnosti. Visnyk |
| 93 | Bezopasnost' Tekhnogennykh i Prirodnykh Sistem |
| 95 | Bihdasht-i Kar va Irtiqa-yi Salamat |
| 96 | Archives of Occupational Health |
| 97 | Ocupacion Humana |
| 98 | Tibbi-i-kar |
| 100 | The Indonesian Journal of Occupational Safety and Health |
| 101 | International Journal of Occupational and Environment Safety |
| 102 | XXI Vek. Tekhnosfernaya Bezopasnost' |
| 103 | Environmental and Occupational Health Practice |
| 104 | International Journal of Occupational Safety and Health |
| 106 | Giornale Italiano di Psicologia e Medicina del Lavoro |
| 107 | Journal of Safety and Sustainability |

Table 1: Journals indexed in DOAJ but not listed as OA in Ulrichsweb

| ID | Journal |
| --- | --- |
| 38 | Occupational Therapy International |
| 102 | XXI Vek. Tekhnosfernaya Bezopasnost' |

Table 1: Journals listed as OA in Ulrichsweb but not indexed in DOAJ

| ID | Journal |
| --- | --- |
| 94 | IETI Transactions on Ergonomics and Safety |

A new column open\_access was added to the journals\_dedup dataframe, which indicates whether a journal was is OA either in Ulrichsweb or DOAJ.

The status of the publisher as a *commercial* or *non-commercial* publisher was classified by reviewing the publishers’ websites when available looking for declarations of for-profit opperations, or by reviewing listings of companies on a stock exchange (if true, these were labelled as commercial).

# Analysis of journals included.

## Open Access

A total of **n = 33 (30.8%)** journals were fully open access (OA).

## Diamond Open Access

Journals were binary classified as diamond open access (DOA) and non-DOA based on meeting all six criteria stated in the [DIAMAS classification](https://diamasproject.eu/operational-diamond-oa-criteria-for-journals/). A total of **n = 15 (14%)** journals met all criteria to be classified as DOA:

| ID | Journal | Country |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 22 | Revista Brasileira de Saude Ocupacional | Brazil |
| 63 | Perspectives Interdisciplinaires sur le Travail et la Sante | Canada |
| 97 | Ocupacion Humana | Colombia |
| 17 | Arhiv za Higijenu Rada i Toksikologiju | Croatia |
| 83 | Sbornik Vedeckych Praci Vysoke Skoly Banske - Technicke Univerzity Ostrava. Rada Bezpecnostniho Inzenyrstvi | Czech Republic |
| 100 | The Indonesian Journal of Occupational Safety and Health | Indonesia |
| 70 | International Journal of Occupational Hygiene | Iran |
| 95 | Bihdasht-i Kar va Irtiqa-yi Salamat | Iran |
| 96 | Archives of Occupational Health | Iran |
| 98 | Tibbi-i-kar | Iran |
| 101 | International Journal of Occupational and Environment Safety | Portugal |
| 93 | Bezopasnost' Tekhnogennykh i Prirodnykh Sistem | Russia |
| 102 | XXI Vek. Tekhnosfernaya Bezopasnost' | Russia |
| 52 | Archivos de Prevencion de Riesgos Laborales | Spain |
| 58 | The Irish Journal of Occupational Therapy | UK |

## Article Processing Charges

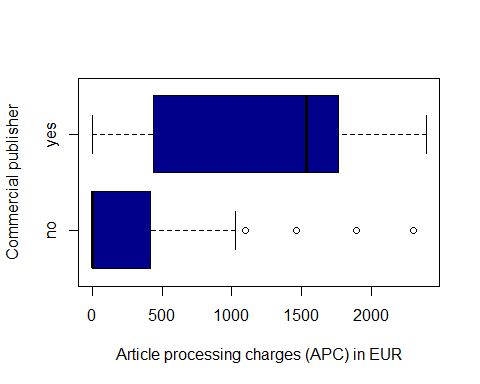
Whenever APC charges were registered in a currency distinct to euros (EUR), values were converted to EUR by using international currency exchange rates from [Google Finance](https://www.google.com/finance/) on 07/05/2025.

The summary of journal article processing charges (APC) per article in euros (EUR) is shown in this table:

| Number of Journals | min | Q1 | median | Q3 | max |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 33 | 0 | 0 | 15 | 1025 | 2390 |

The summary of APC in EUR according to commercial status of the publisher is as follows:

| Commercial Publisher | Number of Journals | min | Q1 | median | Q3 | max |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| no | 27 | 0 | 0.00 | 0.0 | 421 | 2300 |
| yes | 6 | 0 | 671.25 | 1532.5 | 1745 | 2390 |



The Mann–Whitney U-test (Wilcoxon’s rank sum test) was applied to test the alternative hypothesis that the APC differed according to publisher commercial status classification:

Wilcoxon rank sum test with continuity correction  
  
data: APC by commercial\_publisher  
W = 33.5, p-value = 0.0198  
alternative hypothesis: true location shift is not equal to 0

## Year of conversion to OA

The year of registration of journals as fully open access (OA) is summarized in the following table:

| Number of Journals | min | Q1 | median | Q3 | max |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 33 | 1999 | 2011 | 2016 | 2018 | 2024 |

## Author copyright

Out of the 107 publications included for analysis, **n = 15 (14%)** allowed authors to retain the copyright of their works.

## Licensing

The types of licenses allowed in the journals indexed in DOAJ were the following:

| license | n | Percentage |
| --- | --- | --- |
| CC BY | 19 | 57.6 |
| CC BY-NC-ND | 10 | 30.3 |
| CC BY-NC | 6 | 18.2 |
| CC BY-NC-SA | 3 | 9.1 |
| CC0 | 1 | 3.0 |
| NA | 1 | 3.0 |

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