



# About the use and content of the **Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)** – some viewpoints

Susanna Nykyri, D.Soc.Sc  
*Chief Information Specialist,*  
TUT, Library, Publication and Research  
Support Services  
&  
*Editor-in-Chief, Informaatiotutkimus*

# One of our aims and tasks at the university library

- is to promote open science and open access publishing
  - e.g. by providing reliable information about open access publishing channels and promoting those of high quality
    - via informing face-to-face, training and online



# DOAJ is the most central list

1) all data is freely available!

(c.f. e.g. Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory - users must be authorized)

2) it requires and promotes good editorial practices

3) its requirements for journals are transparent

4) we can trust it – it is the most extensive critical directory of scientific Open Access journals



In our guides we state

**“Characteristics of a good Open Access journal include ...**

- The journal is included in the [Directory of Open Access Journals](#)”
- But are **all** good Open Access journals included?



# As Editor-in-Chief ...

of a small open access journal *Informaatiotutkimus*, which does not only represent rather small discipline (and big audience), BUT is also a good one

- published by a learned society *Informaatiotutkimuksen yhdistys* (ITY ry)\*
- 1981, since 2008 OA
- funded by the Ministry of Education and Culture, by the information science subjects at the University of Tampere, University of Oulu and at the Åbo Akademi University, and by the members of ITY.
- has the label for peer-reviewed scholarly publications, granted by the Federation of Finnish Learned Societies



\* URL: <http://www.informaatiotutkimus.fi/>



- No, not all the good ones are included in DOAJ.

Why?



- Lack of awareness among publishers?
- The requirements for publishers?



# In Finland, both.

- In the case of *Informaatiotutkimus*, the requirements can be fulfilled, except one!





# Volume!

- **Information for Publishers**

“Content: at least a third of the content should consist of original research and/or review papers.”

- **Journal Application Form**

“How many research and review articles did the journal publish in the last calendar year?”

\* A journal must publish at least 5 articles per year to stay in the DOAJ.”




# A matter of definition & will?

- **A Peer-reviewed scientific articles**
- A1 Journal article (refereed), original research
- A2 Review article, Literature review, Systematic review
- **B Non-refereed scientific articles**
- B1 Non-refereed journal articles
- B3 Non-refereed conference proceedings



# We publish (within B1)

- brief research reports
- brief review articles
- editorials
- book reviews
- discussion papers
- lectio praecursorias
- interviews
- comments



Members of the editorial board act as referees, and if needed, also other(s)



# In 2017 & 2018

- 7 A1/A2-articles, 29 others (2017)
- Every other year I-päivät (information studies –days, 2-day-conference) – we publish all the extended abstracts (2-6 p.) of the accepted presentations, the number of “others” is going to be even bigger... (2018)



# What to do?

- Stay out of DOAJ?

OR

- Change our policy and neglect the papers about on-going-research, presenting novel ideas and research plans and/or about conferences? Book reviews? Lectios? Extended abstracts of our conference?



OR?

Could DOAJ acknowledge and accept a broader scope of (written) good quality scholarly communication?

(And, within domestic context, university library professionals should remember to include the label for peer-reviewed scholarly publications, granted by the Federation of Finnish Learned Societies, as one of the reliable indicators of a good journal.)



# Thank You!

susanna.nykyri (at) tut.fi

ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5018-5176>

