



# The role of Finnish scholarly journals in the funding of universities

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Scholarly journals, politics, and freedom of speech

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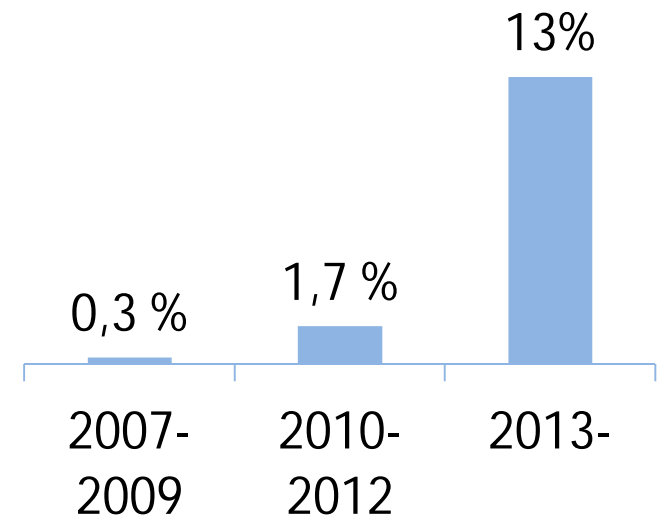


# Publications & Funding

Since 2013, 13 % of the block grant to the 14 Finnish universities is allocated by the Ministry of Education and Culture on basis of publications.

Publication-based funding has increased significantly since 2007.

Universities report each year to the Ministry their entire publication output to academic/scholarly, professional and general audiences.



In the funding-model publication counts – 3 previous years' average – are differentiated according to the publication type and the class of the outlet (Publication Forum level 0-3) regardless of publication language or country.



# Publication Forum Levels

Publication Forum levels are established by 23 panels of over 200 experts from the Finnish universities and research institutes. Federation of Finnish Learned Societies hosts Publication Forum and coordinates the evaluation.

- Level 1 includes Finnish and foreign peer-reviewed publication channels that are specialized in the publication of scientific research outcomes and have an editorial board of experts of the discipline.
- Levels 2 and 3 are awarded to a limited share of peer-reviewed journals, conferences and book publishers of the highest prestige and impact in their field. In SSH fields the Level 2 includes Finnish and Swedish-language channels with strong focus on Finnish society, history and culture.
- Level 0 contains evaluated channels that do not meet the level 1 criteria.



# Publication Channels

Publication Forum has evaluated almost 30 000 channels in all fields since 2012 (2 % on Level 3, 8 % on Level 2, 70 % on Level 1 and 20 % on Level 0).

New additions to level 1 are accepted continuously and levels 2 and 3 are updated every four years (next round 2018).

All channels	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1	Level 0	Total
Journals/series	651	2173	18889	3897	25610
Book publishers	15	92	1161	1318	2586
Proceedings		65	40	523	628
All	666	2330	20090	5738	28824

Finnish channels	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1	Level 0	Total
Journals/series	1	35	280	576	892
Book publishers		4	32	423	459
All	1	39	312	999	1351





# Publication Weights in the Funding-model

Publication Type		Publication Forum			
		Level 3	Level 2	Level 1	Level 0
Peer-reviewed	Monographs	16	12	4	0.4
	Articles in journals, books and proceedings	4	3	1	0.1
	Edited work	4	3	1	0.1
Not peer-reviewed	Books			0.4	
	Articles in journals, books and proceedings			0.1	
	Edited work			0.1	

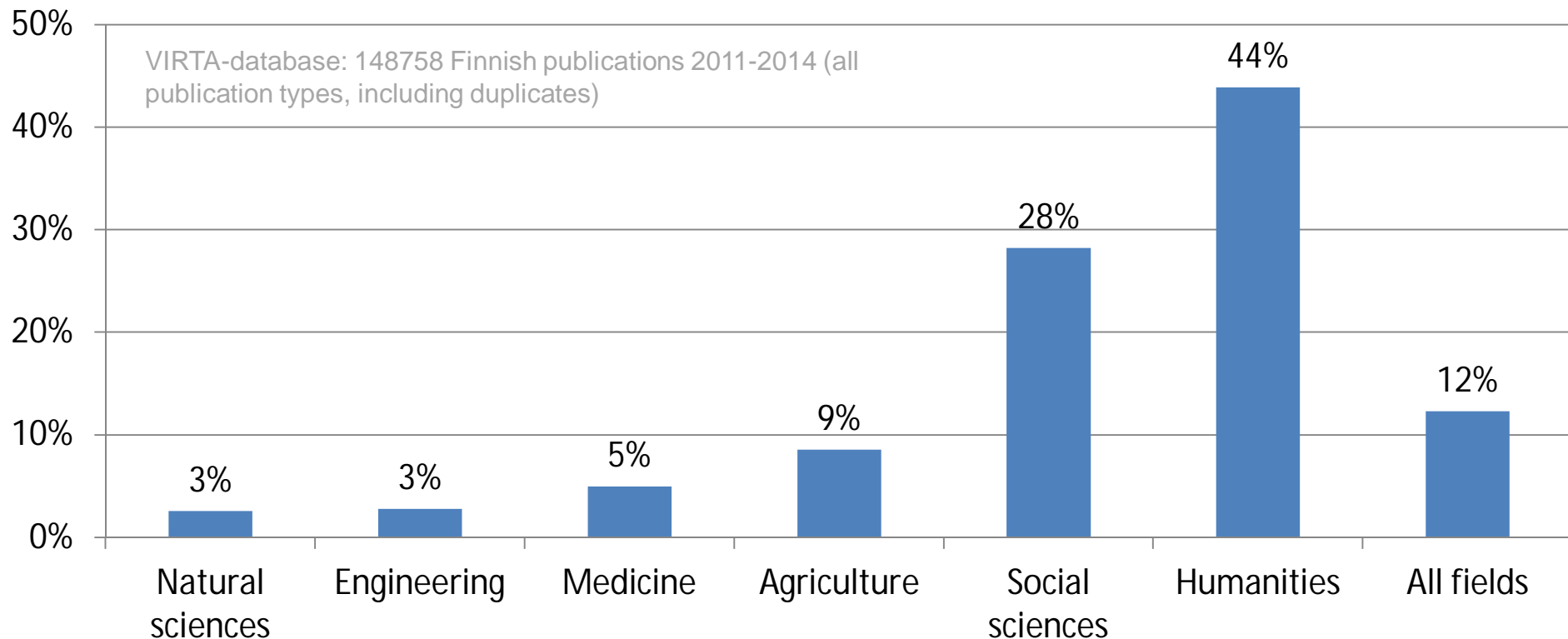


# Finnish Publications in University Funding

Roughly 12 % of all “publication points” in 2011-2014 was produced by articles and books published in Finland.

Share of Finnish publishers and Journals is largest in SSH fields.

■ Share of Finnish publishers and journals of all “publication points” produced in the field



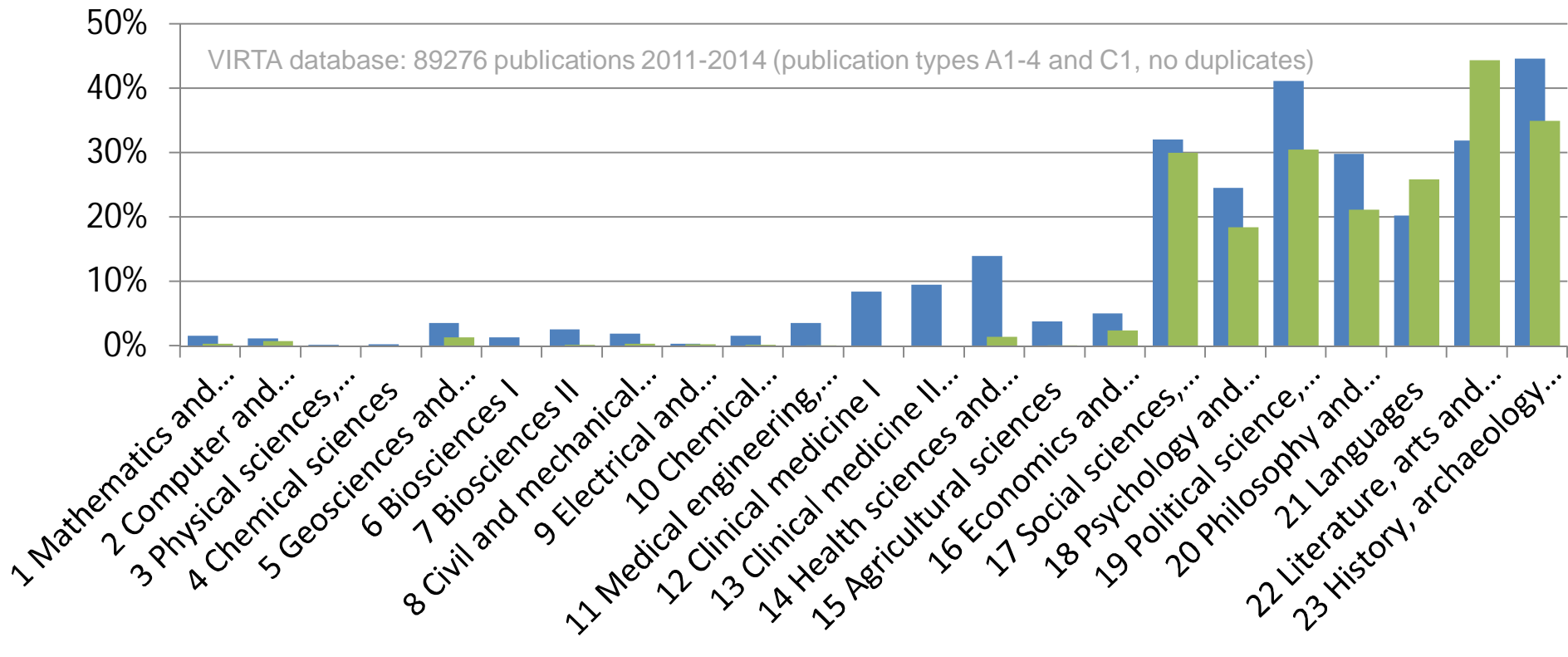


# Representation of Finnish Language Publications

In SSH, publishing concentrates to national language channels

Share of peer-reviewed Finnish language publications on the Level 2 is close to the Finnish language share of all level 0-3 peer-reviewed publications.

■ Finnish language share of all publications ■ Finnish language share of level 2 and 3 publications

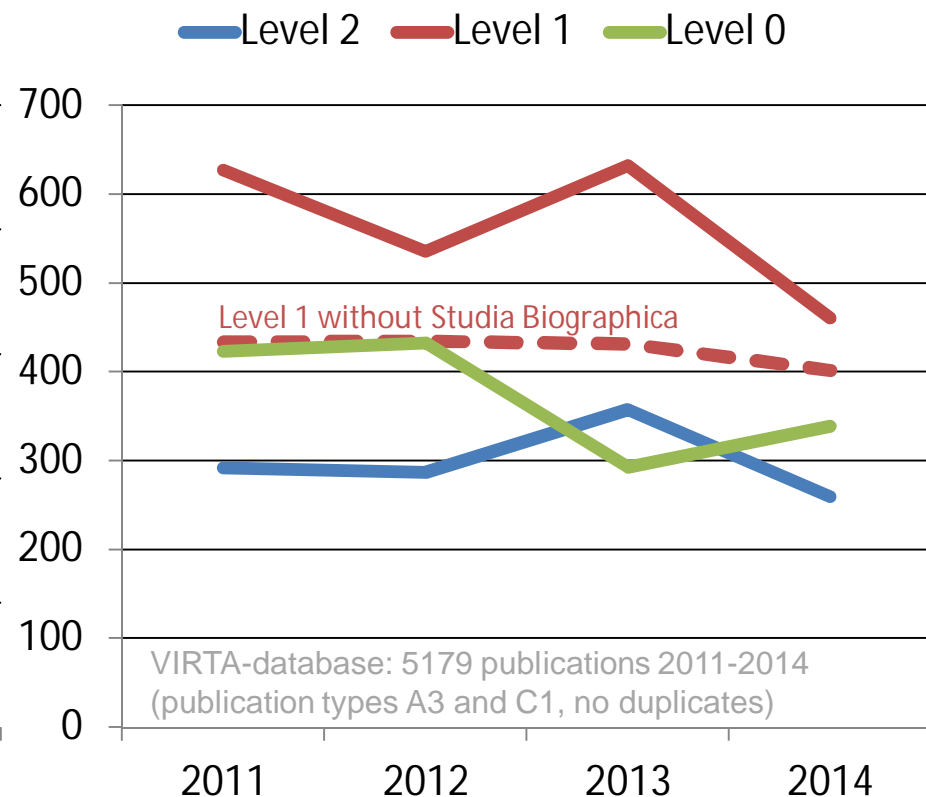
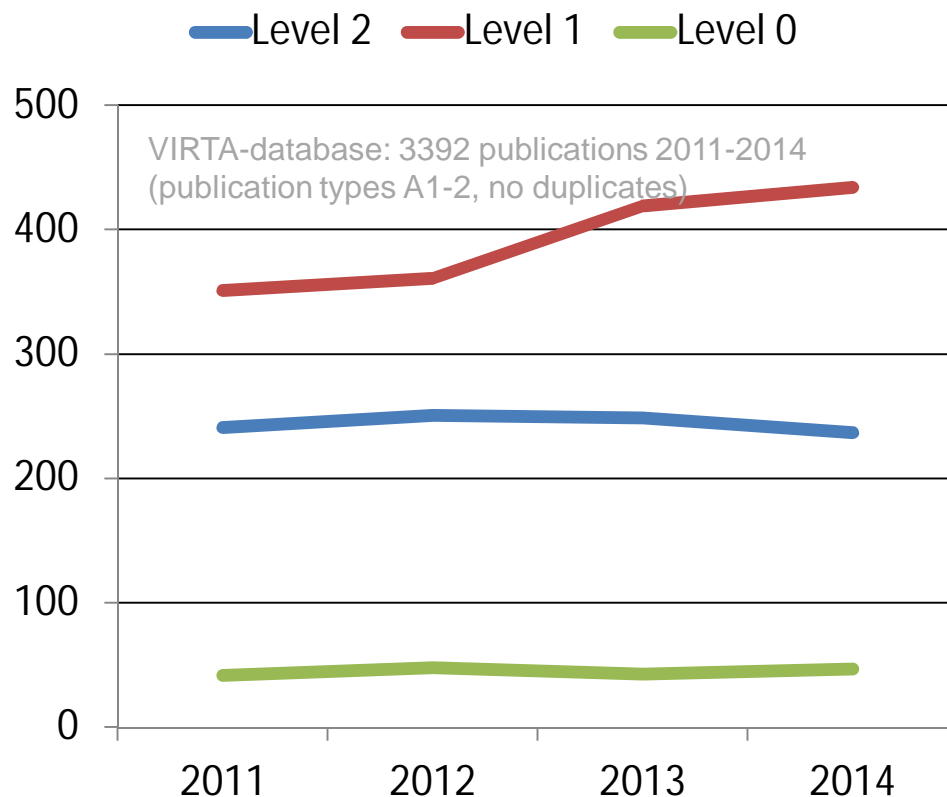




# Development of Finnish Language Publications

Number of peer-reviewed Finnish language journal articles in SSH has remained stable, and even increased in the Level 1 journals

Share of Finnish language book articles and monographs has decreased, but the effect of one channel can be important.





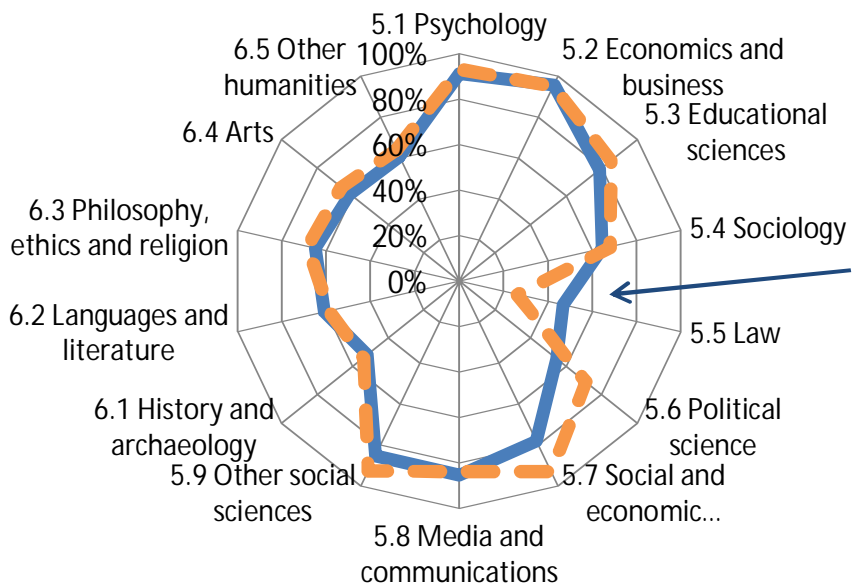
# English Language in Finland and Flanders

Similar disciplinary pattern and development in the share of English language peer-reviewed SSH journal articles is found in Finland and Flanders (Belgium).

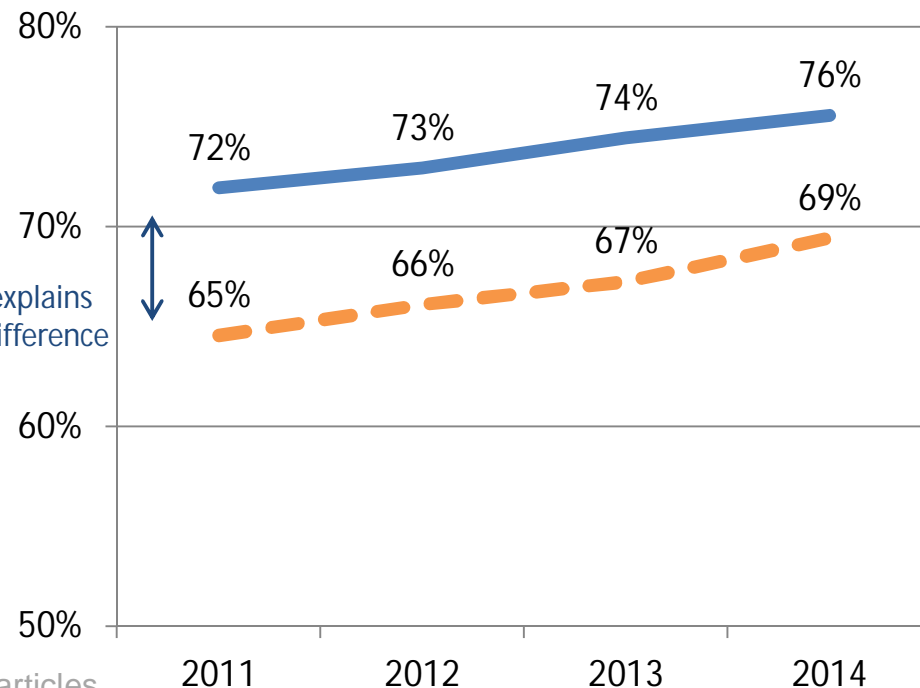
Analysis is based on national publication data from the Finnish VIRTa and Flemish VABB-SHV databases 2011-2014.

- Share of English language publications in Finland
- - - Share of English language publications in Flanders

- Share of English language articles in Finland
- - - Share of English language articles in Flanders



Law explains the difference



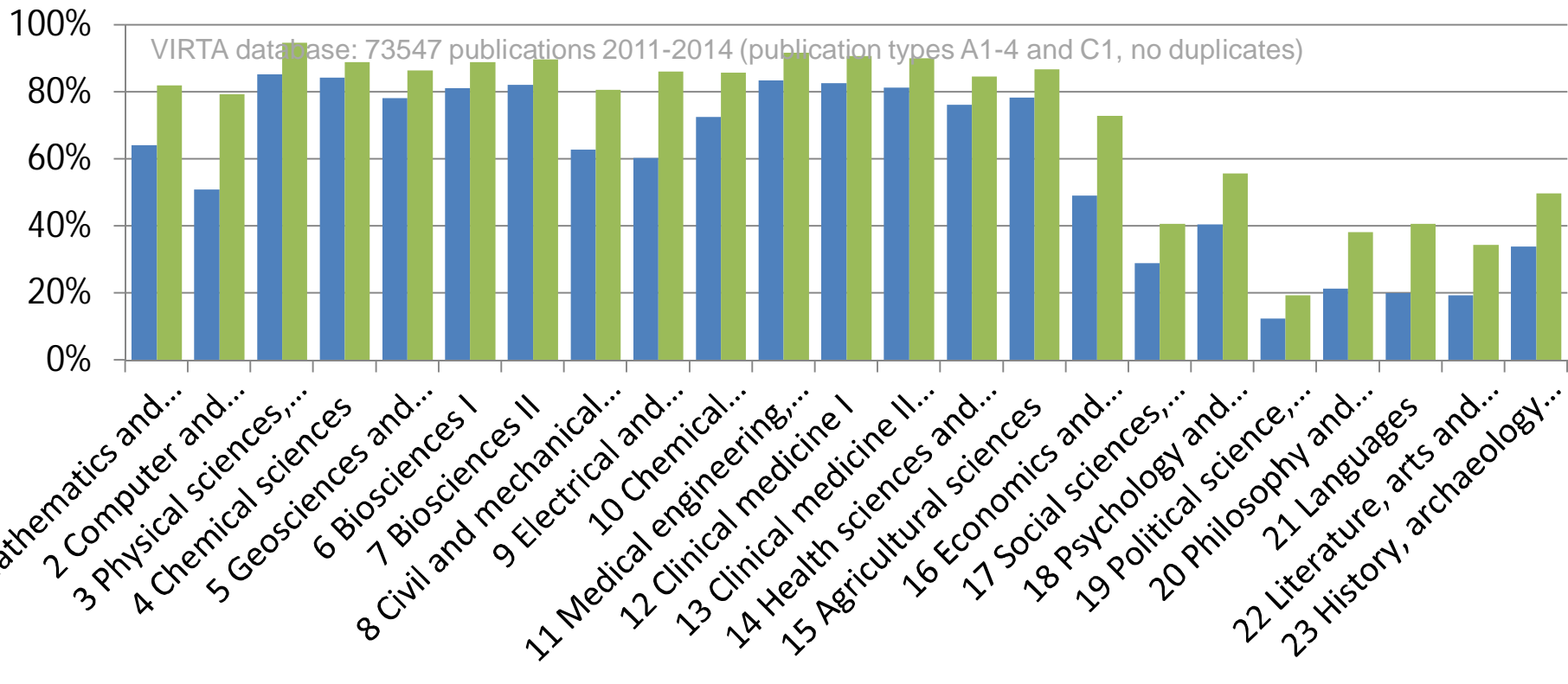


# WoS and Scopus Coverage

31 % of the peer-reviewed SSH output on levels 1-3 is published in Web of Science indexed journals, and 45 % in Scopus indexed publication series.

Only national data provides full coverage of SSH publication types and languages.

■ Share of Finnish articles included in WoS      ■ Share of Finnish articles included in Scopus



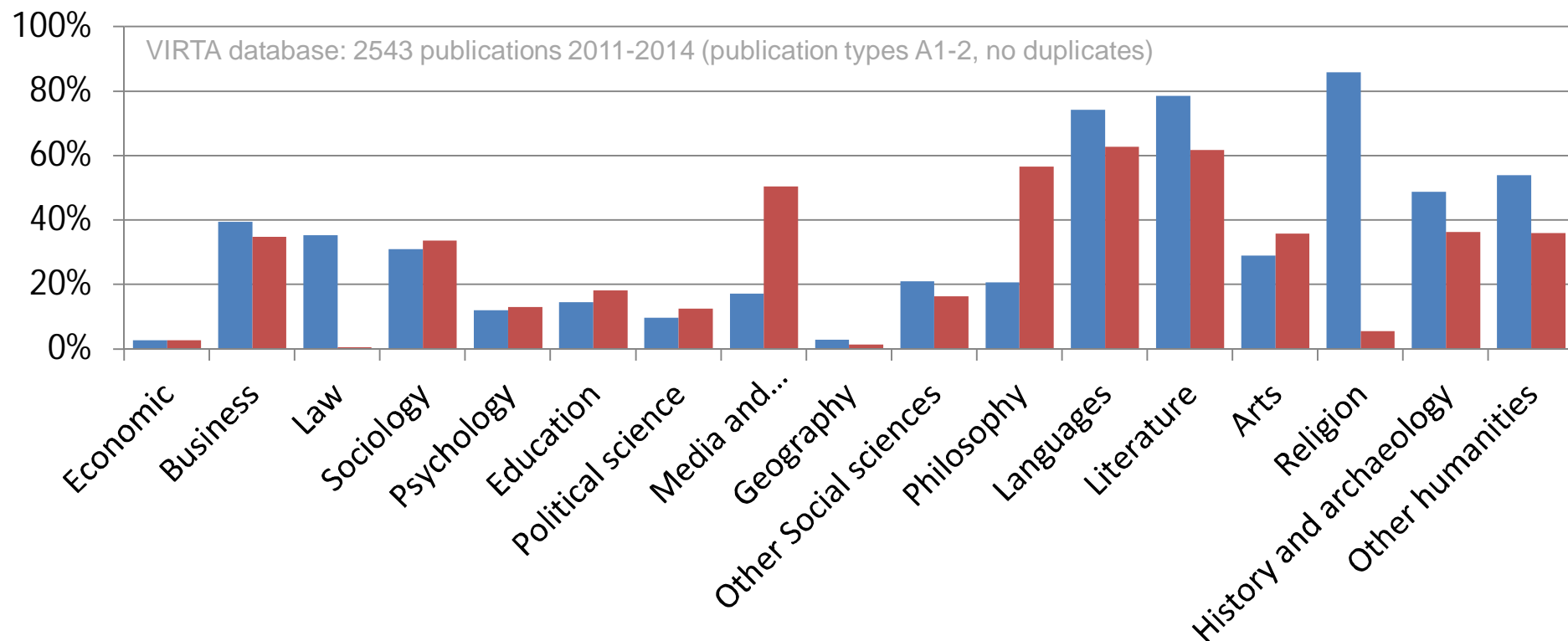


# Norwegian and Danish ratings

Norwegian Level 1 covers only 35 % of the peer-reviewed Finnish language SSH journal articles, and the Danish level 1 covers only 27 %.

Only national rating provides full coverage of Finnish language output

■ Level 1-2 in Norway ■ Level 1-2 in Denmark



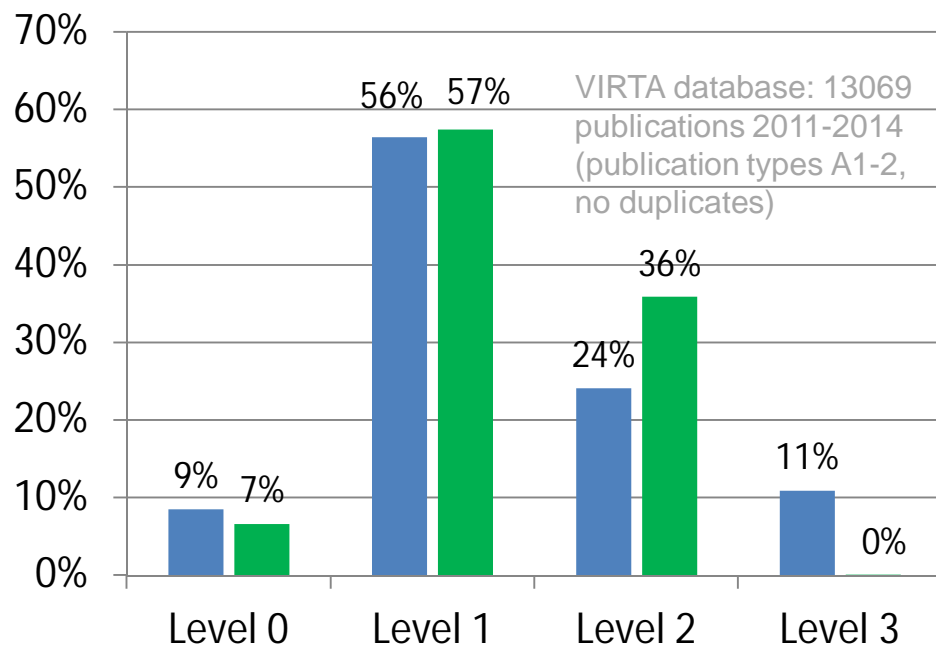


# Journal Articles in English Favored?

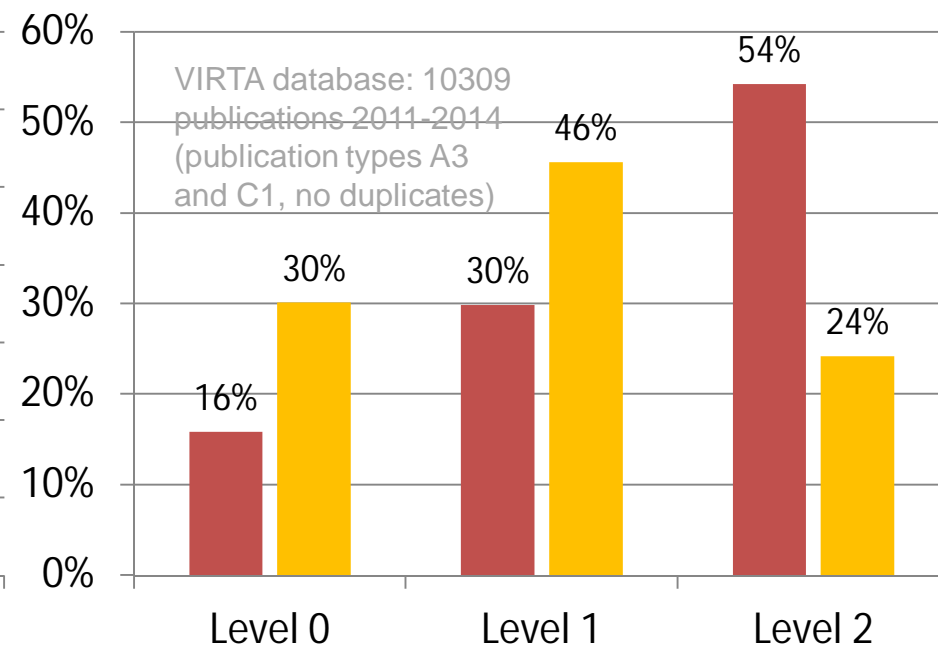
Equal shares of SSH English and Finnish language peer-reviewed journal articles on different levels with exception that 11 % English articles on level 3.

Larger share of English articles in books and monographs on level 1 and 2.

■ SSH journal articles in English  
■ SSH journal articles in Finnish



■ SSH book publications in English  
■ SSH book publications in Finnish





# Publishing incentives

The funding-model provides incentives for publishing monographs, and it also rewards publishing with Finnish scholarly publishers and journals.

Not a perfect model, but tries to take into account SSH publishing patterns.

■ Weight of Publications in the funding-model





# Conclusions

- Increasing use of English language in publishing research results is a global trend even in the social sciences and humanities.
- Yet, in SSH research on local issues and national language publishing remain important. Books as well as journals are used in dissemination of research results, also beyond academia.
- Combining the comprehensive national publication data and Publication Forum ratings the university funding-model is able to take into account the important role played by Finnish scholarly publishers and journals especially in SSH fields.
  - This would not be the case if publication counts were based on Web of Science or Scopus databases, or if citations or other Nordic ratings were used as quality indicators.
- It is in the interest of the Finnish research community to make effort to develop the national Publication Forum Rating.



## More Information

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