Helping Nordic open access journals into DOAJ

Dom Mitchell, DOAJ Operations Manager
Nordic Open Access Forum 2020
28th October 2020
Why are we doing this?

- To increase the diversity of journals in DOAJ, particularly
  - In social science, humanities and arts
  - Languages other than English
  - Journals from under-represented or marginalised communities
  - Journals lost (2860) during DOAJ’s reapplication project in 2015
- Because other indexes, like Scopus and Web of Science, favour English-language journals from the “global north”.
- Because some of the most popular open access journals from countries around the world aren’t in DOAJ.
  - DOAJ has never solicited journals before, always relying on our reputation and journals’ desire to be indexed.
- To help publishers/editors be as ready as possible for initiatives, such as Plan S, which are driving open access forward.
- To create strategic partnerships
What are we doing?

- “Acquisition” projects with organisations that represent groups of journals

- Holding workshops with journals to explain the DOAJ Criteria and the application form
  - 95% acceptance rate compared to the usual 45%
  - Normally, 50% of all applications are rejected without review

- Helping journal representatives answer questions around:
  - Copyright
  - Licensing
  - Open access
  - Transparency around editorial boards and peer review
  - Multi-lingual sites

- New site will ease or remove many of the problems created by the current application form and website.
In the Nordics

- We piloted an approach to help Finnish journals submit a TSV (led by Janne) in Finland.
  - Slow but steady progress
  - Lots of journals say they will submit but few follow up immediately. It’s a lot of work.
  - 15 journals added to DOAJ as a result of the project. More coming. (50 journals in DOAJ)

- We have been able to create a self-contained programme, with training resources, materials and a project outline which is easy to roll out to other groups.

- Have had initial discussions with Denmark (29 journals in DOAJ today) and Sweden (43 journals in DOAJ today).

- Norway expressed an interest in 2019 but actually has a lot of journals in DOAJ already. (111)

- Contact made with Iceland (7 in DOAJ today) Summer 2020
Usage of DOAJ continues to increase
Advantages for the journals

- Greater discoverability on an international level
  - DOAJ gets between 35,000 and 45,000 user sessions per day (Google Analytics)

- All the major discovery services pick up our metadata
  - 75% of traffic to DOAJ is referrals
  - 2021/22 - active discussions with OCLC, Google Scholar, EBSCO, Ex Libris, Dimensions, Unpaywall on how to improve DOAJ’s value

- Increased traffic to the journal site

- Certification of a journal, reputation

- Compliance with funder/grant conditions and initiatives to release funding eg Norway, Austria, Indonesia, Europe’s Plan S.