

**The Algerian Platform for Publishing Scientific Journals (ASJP):
and its contribution to embodying the trend towards free access to
information**

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Abstract

This paper explores the Open Access Movement to information and assesses the possibility of applying open access models adopted by leading global publishers such as Springer, Elsevier, and Wiley—specifically the “Green-Gold” model on the Algerian Scientific Journals Platform (ASJP). Following the path of major international platforms and examining the impact of the Open Access Movement on the scholarly behaviors of the study’s participants. This study employs a descriptive and analytical approach, utilizing an electronic questionnaire as a data collection tool, distributed to faculty members of the Department of Library and Information Science at the University of Algiers 2. The results indicate that 68.4% of the respondents support the adoption of the green road for open access to information.

Keywords: Open Access; Algerian scientific journal Platform; Professors of the Department of Library Science and Documentation; Scientific publishing.

Introduction:

Open Access is a new model of scientific publishing that has emerged to free researchers from restrictions imposed by publishers. One of the main factors behind the rise of the open access movement is the deep and sincere desire of the intellectuals, both authors and researchers, to make their scientific researches freely accessible, and to free researchers and libraries from the restrictions imposed by publishers.

With the widespread use of scientific journals and the integration of modern technology into the publishing field, a new phase has emerged—the rise of electronic journals, which occurred in parallel with the development of electronic databases and platforms. These platforms have provided a valuable opportunity to enhance the accessibility of scientific research and promote national journals. In this regard, both the Center for Scientific and Technical Information Research (CERIST) in collaboration with the General Directorate of Scientific Research, established a national electronic platform aimed at providing access to all Algerian scientific journals. Aligning with the state's free-access policy, aiming to transition toward open publishing as part of a national vision to enhance content quality. Achieving this goal requires the adoption of open access policies, as applied by the world's largest publishers.

Based on this, this paper examines the role of Algerian Scientific Journals Platform (ASJP) in the Open Access Movement, with a particular emphasis on how widely its Green and Gold models have been applied in an effort to follow the path of leading global platforms. The study examined how their scholarly practices are influenced by the Open Access Movement to achieve more objective and realistic results.

Thus, our study aimed to identify the Algerian platform for publishing scientific journals and its contribution to the possibility of realizing the shift towards open access to information according to the opinions of the research sample.

Several sub-questions arise, including:

1. What is meant by the Open Access Movement, and what methods are employed to achieve it?
2. What is the impact of the Open Access Movement to information on university professors through their practices and interaction with the electronic platform?

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3. What are the expected objectives of ASJP's contribution to the Open Access Movement, according to the opinions of faculty members from the Department of Library and Information Science?
4. Which road (Green or Gold) is considered more suitable for ASJP from the perspective of the research sample? In other words, what is the feasibility of implementing the Green or Golden route on the platform ASJP?

Methods and Tools

The study adopted a descriptive-analytic method and an electronic questionnaire containing 14 questions, was distributed to 88 university professors from the Department of Library and Information Science at the University of Algiers 2. The participants' academic ranks were as follows: Professor of Higher Education, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor, and Lecturer. A total of 76 completed electronic forms were returned out of the 88 distributed.

1. The Open Access Movement in Scientific Publishing

1.1. Definition of the Open Access Movement

Open Access, corresponding to "Libre Accès" in French, refers to freely available digital intellectual output accessible via the Internet, without barriers to access or usage rights. Bjork (2014) defines it as "a new model of scientific communication that allows readers to access, download, print, and distribute scientific publications available on the Internet for non-commercial purposes without any fees or other restrictions limiting their use."

1.2. The Open Access Movement: Benefits and Advantages

The Open Access Movement aims to make research findings available to researchers through Open Access via the Internet without financial restrictions. According to (Wahid Kaddoura 2019), Open Access is: "a commitment to the principle of free access to scientific publications, addressing the continuous rise in the cost of scientific journals. Economically, it addresses financial barriers, while from a communication perspective; it facilitates the rapid exchange of scientific information among researchers and enhances the visibility of scientific literature. Based on this approach, the concept of Open Access emerges with the objective of ensuring unrestricted access to information and establishing a globally accessible, continuously exchangeable library."

- **Among the Benefits of the Open Access Movement:**

- Free exchange of information.
- Avoiding costs, effort, and redundant time spent on conducting the same research.
- Reduction of library expenses.
- Removal of copyright barriers.
- **Among the Disadvantages :**
 - Relying on search engines like Google may retrieve an overwhelming amount of information, making it difficult to filter and determine what is relevant.

There Are Two Main Roads to Open Access:

- **The Green Road:** The green road corresponds to the first strategy recommended by the Budapest Open Access Initiative. It is a model that allows authors to disseminate their articles after a negotiated embargo period. Open repositories, such as HAL, have been developed by research institutions and universities to facilitate this form of access. In recent years, the length of the embargo period during which publishers retain exclusive distribution rights has been a major point of contention.

Stevan Harnad was the most active and outspoken advocate of this path, strongly promoting a strategy based on the widespread development of interconnected open archives. His vision was to gradually build a system that could compete effectively with publisher platforms particularly if embargo periods were kept as short as possible. In the long term, this approach envisions access to scientific literature primarily through open repositories, with the eventual phasing out of subscription models. Journals would then focus mainly on providing services related to peer review and editorial management.

Wilson (2021) : believes that the “Green Road” is not the optimal model for Open Access, as the accessibility of information may be influenced by the author’s or the journal publisher’s ability to finance publication, access, and free accessibility.

- **The Gold Road:** corresponds to the second strategy recommended by the Budapest Open Access Initiative. This model aims to eliminate subscription barriers and provide free access to all potential readers. The costs of the editorial process are shifted upstream, borne either by the authors and their institutions (through the payment of publication fees or Article Processing Charges (APCs)), or by public funding (such as state grants). In the fields of Science, Technology,

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and Medicine (STM), the prevailing trend is the author-pays model, supported by targeted funds or by integrating APCs into research project budgets. In contrast, in the Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH), this model remains largely underdeveloped, except for a few cases where state subsidies are considered as an upstream funding mechanism. Jean-Claude Guédon, a researcher in comparative literature, was a strong advocate of this path, openly promoting the idea of reclaiming the editorial process entirely through public institutions.

2. Electronic Publishing Platforms for Scientific Journals

They are automated systems designed to continuously manage the content of scientific journals, allowing full control over all processes in the scientific publishing cycle, starting from author registration, through assignment and peer review, followed by editing, formatting, and finally, online publication (Ghazal, Bourahli, 2018).

Scientific journal publishing platforms provide a valuable opportunity to especially those without a dedicated website. These platforms help enhance their visibility on the internet, making them more accessible to interested researchers and enabling easy access to their high-quality studies and articles.

According to (Professor Dahman and others 2012), there are two types of scientific journal publishing platforms:

- Platforms dedicated solely to disseminating journals.
- Platforms that handle both journal production and dissemination. In this case, the platform's role extends beyond merely making journals available; it offers advanced services by providing a dedicated space for journals, enabling publishers to host their periodicals. These platforms act as intermediaries between publishers and authors, receiving submissions and tracking each stage of the publication process until the final release.

3. The Algerian Scientific Journals Platform

The Algerian Ministry of Higher Education aims to enhance national journals in accordance with international standards. To achieve this, it has established a unified electronic platform for scientific journals, where they are categorized into different classifications: A+, A, B, C, and D. Most national journals that adhere to the required standards fall under Category C.

The ministry’s objective is to ensure that the majority of national journals are electronic and that all scientific publications go through this platform. For this reason, the platform is open for registration, access, viewing, and downloading.

3.1. The Algerian Scientific Journals Platform (ASJP)

ASJP is an electronic platform for national journals, established as part of a scientific and technical information system. It serves as a safeguard for authors and academics, protecting them from falling into the trap of predatory or deceptive journals.

As a third-party intermediary between authors and publishers, the platform documents all stages of the publication process up to final release. It falls under the second type of publishing platforms; those that handle both journal production and dissemination (as classified in 2.1 Types). Without fees or financial restrictions, in accordance with the state’s free-access policy, the platform aims to enhance academic standards and the quality of content. In this regard, it can be said that some visible indicators on the platform suggest one of the less commonly used methods of the Open Access Movement, known as the Diamond Road.

ASJP is developed and managed by the Research Center on Scientific and Technical Information (CERIST), which operates under the Ministry of Higher Education.

The platform hosts 859 journals across various scientific disciplines, with a total of 247,059 articles available as of October 2024. These articles are accessible in full text and can be downloaded.

The platform can be accessed via the following link: <https://www.asjp.cerist.dz/en>

3.2. Disciplines Covered by the Platform's Journals: Source: The Algerian Scientific Journals Platform Website

Agricultural and Biological Sciences	Immunology and Microbiology
Arts and Humanities	Materials Science
Biochemistry, Genetics, and Molecular Biology	Mathematics
Business, Management, and Accounting	Medicine
Chemical Engineering	Neuroscience
Chemistry	Nursing

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Computer Science	Pharmacy, Toxicology, and Pharmaceutics
Decision Sciences	Physics and Astronomy
Dentistry	Psychology
Earth and Planetary Sciences	Social Sciences
Economics, Econometrics, and Finance	Veterinary Medicine
Energy	Science and Techniques of Physical and Sports Activities
Engineering	Islamic Sciences
Environmental Sciences	Administrative Sciences and Public Management
Health Professions	Other Specializations

3.3. Services of the Algerian Scientific Journals Platform (ASJP)

Through our use of the platform, we identified the following services:

- Two types of search options: Advanced and Basic search.
- Account creation with multiple roles: Users can register as authors, reviewers, or journal administrators.
- Access to the latest ten published issues.
- Ranking of the top 100 journals based on impact factor, along with a list of the 100 most cited articles and journals.
- Regular statistics on the number of newly published articles and newly added journals.

4. The Contribution of the Algerian Scientific Journals Platform (ASJP) to the Open Access Movement

In this section, we conducted an applied study by distributing an electronic questionnaire to a targeted sample namely, university professors from the Department of Library and Documentation Science at the University of Algiers 2. After collecting and analyzing the responses, the results were as follows:

Study Results and Discussion

This section presents a description and analysis of the data collected from the respondents. The results are interpreted in a way that aligns with the study objectives and answers the previously stated research questions.

Q1: Why publish through Open Access?

TO MAKE SCIENTIFIC PRODUCTION VISIBLE AND USABLE
Promising
Visibility and sharing
For the visibility of my work
More sharing
To overcome the issue of the high cost of scientific journals, especially since researchers, as authors of articles, had no control over the economic practices and selection criteria imposed by scientific publishers, hence the emergence of the movement.
For access to all
To allow access to the maximum number of readers

Figure 1: Sample Responses to Question 1

The responses to the questionnaire revealed noticeable differences in the motivations for publishing through the Open Access Movement. The participants agreed that the main driving force behind publishing in this setting is the widespread dissemination and enhanced visibility of scientific content, which enables researchers to reach a broader, global audience. They also underlined the significance of sharing researches across various platforms and scientific websites, which plays a significant role in enhancing academic outreach and fostering knowledge exchange among researchers. Additionally, the significance of citation frequency as a tool for measuring research impact and dissemination was emphasized, well as the advantage of free publishing, which encourages many researchers to share their work without financial burdens, thus promoting the availability of scientific knowledge to all.

Q2: Why publish through the Algerian Scientific Journals Platform (ASJP)?

TO ALLOW THE PUBLICATION OF MY ARTICLES IN THE JOURNALS AVAILABLE ON ASJP
For my doctorate
It is a requirement from our academic institutions.
It is nationally more accessible for our researchers and students.
It is a model (almost imposed by the authorities) that has positive aspects when publishing in open access.
For better indexing.
Not particularly.

Figure 2: Sample of respondents' answers

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The answers to Question 2 reveal a range of reasons for publishing through the ASJP platform. Majority of responses indicated that publishing is required by the Ministry of Higher Education for the defense of a doctoral dissertation, while another group said that their main reason for publishing on the platform is to delve deeper into their studies and research on specialized topics. The final group mentioned university qualification and the free access to publication as their main reasons for using the platform. Based on these responses, it can be concluded that the majority of the sample identified career advancement and qualification as the main drivers for publishing through ASJP, especially for doctoral candidates (classic-track professors who have not yet defended their dissertations).

Q3: Have you had any publishing experience in a journal within the scope of Open Access?

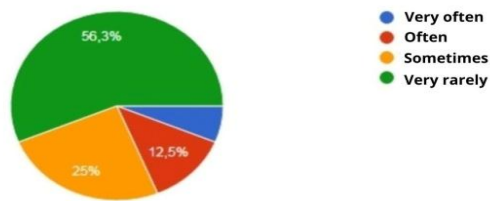


Figure 3: Distribution of the Sample Based on the Experience in Publishing within the Scope of Open Access

The purpose of Question 3 is to evaluate the university professor’s level of awareness regarding their engagement with the Open Access Movement, as well as to gauge the importance of this topic from their perspective. Moreover, the question aims to explore their perspectives and aspirations concerning various issues related to academic research and publishing. It focuses on understanding the extent to which professors are aware of recent developments in open access to information, the extent to which this movement influences their research practices, and their aspirations for advancing open-access publishing and engaging in global academic networks.

Q4: When using any electronic journal, do you check whether it adheres to the Open Access movement?

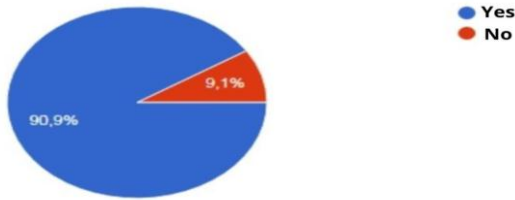


Figure 4: Distribution of respondents based on their awareness of Open Access compliance in the journals they use

The questionnaire results indicate that 90.9% of the respondents possess sufficient expertise to assess the type and publishing methods adopted by scientific journals. This is a highly positive indicator, reflecting a high level of awareness and understanding among academic researchers regarding standards and procedures that scientific journals follow in publishing research. This awareness suggests a growing understanding and interest in the Open Access Movement among researchers, demonstrating their adoption of this approach as a key mechanism for facilitating the dissemination and accessibility of scientific knowledge. Furthermore, this engagement highlights their alignment with contemporary trends in academic publishing and their recognition of the importance of open access in fostering innovation and promoting knowledge exchange across academic and geographical boundaries.

Q5: Are you aware of the titles of Open Access journals in your field of specialization?

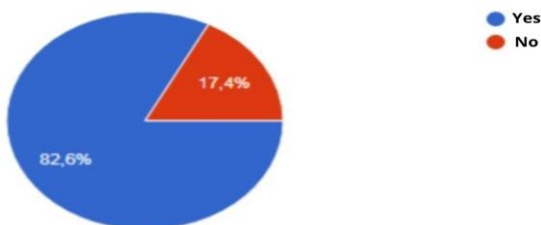


Figure 5: Distribution of respondents based on their awareness of Open Access journals.

According to the questionnaire results, 82.6% of the respondents are well-informed and familiar with the titles of open-access journals in the field of Library and Information Science. This indicates a high level of awareness and

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understanding among academic researchers about journals that adopt the open-access model, indicating their strong interest in expanding the reach of their research and actively participating in open knowledge exchange. On the other hand, 17.4% of the respondents lack sufficient awareness of open-access journal titles in this field. This suggests a knowledge gap that could be attributed to limited access to these journals or insufficient awareness efforts regarding open-access publishing.

Q6: Have you ever published an article in an Open Access electronic journal?

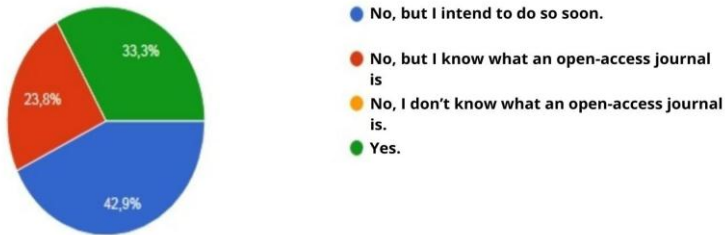


Figure 6: Distribution of respondents based on their experience in publishing in an Open Access electronic journal.

Figure 6 illustrates the distribution of respondents based on their experience with publishing in open-access electronic journals. It reveals that 42.9% of the respondents have not yet published in an open-access journal but expressed a desire to do so in the future. This reflects an increasing interest and willingness among these academic researchers to participate in this publishing model. On the other hand, 33.3% of the respondents have had previous experience publishing their articles in open-access journals, indicating a certain level of engagement and familiarity with this type of publishing, as well as an understanding of the advantages of open access to information.

Q7: Is author participation necessary to enhance open access?

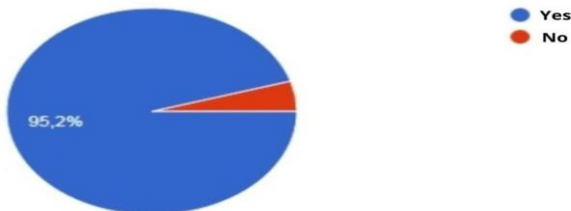


Figure 7: Distribution of the sample based on their opinion on whether author participation is necessary to enhance open access

The professors' responses in Figure 7 show the importance of the author's involvement as a basic aspect in fostering open access through ASJP, which broadens the spread of knowledge. Professors believe that this participation is not limited to publishing research, it also contributes to expanding access to scientific content for free, enhances the documentation of academic work, and increases the visibility of the researcher. Furthermore, it plays a role in improving the quality of scientific research both locally and internationally. As such, the author's participation is considered an essential element for the success of open access, fostering an open scientific environment and facilitating the widespread exchange of ideas.

Q8: The Algerian Scientific Journals Platform (ASJP) should:

- Apply the "Author-pays" model.
- Give the "Green Light" to authors to upload their work on the platform for publication.
- Do not take any special action in this area.

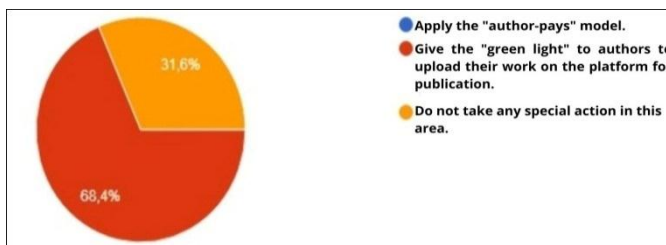


Figure 8: Distribution of the sample on the most effective model to be applied on the Algerian Scientific Journals Platform (ASJP)

The results indicate that 68.4% of the respondents prefer the green road to open access, which allows research to be published in traditional journals and later archived in open repositories, ensuring free access. On the other hand, 31.6% favor the gold road, which enables direct publication in open-access journals, though it may involve financial costs. These results indicate that the green road is the most suitable option for the Algerian academic context, since it provides a flexible and cost-free method of publishing research, fostering information exchange without imposing financial restrictions on researchers.

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Q9: The open-access movement: One of the approaches of this movement requires the author to pay for publishing their article. In this context, are you willing to pay to publish your article?

- No, under no circumstances.
- Yes, out of my own pocket
- Yes, by drawing from my research budget.
- Yes, if the university allocates funds specifically to cover these publication costs.

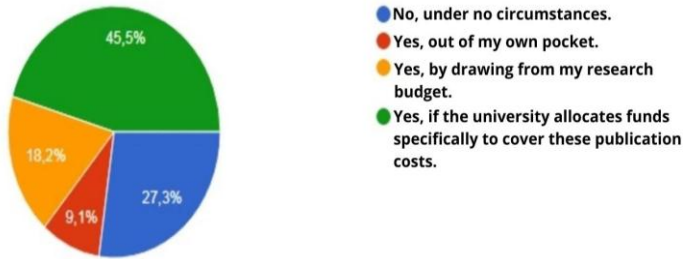


Figure 9: Distribution of the sample based on their acceptance of paying publication fees.

The objective of Question 9 is to assess the willingness of researchers and professors to pay publication fees if the Green Road model is implemented at ASJP. The results show that 45.5% of researchers are willing to pay the fees if the university finances it, while 27.3% reject the idea in any way, 18.2% find it acceptable, depending on their own research budget, and 9.1%, a very small percentage, are willing to pay out of their own pockets.

Q10: Have you ever submitted one of your scientific texts to the Algerian Scientific Journals Platform (ASJP)?

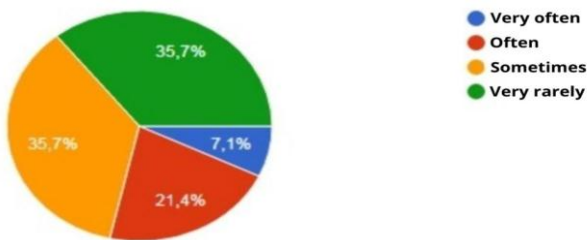


Figure 10: Distribution of the sample based on their frequency of interaction with the ASJP platform.

Figure 10 shows the respondents' various levels of interaction with the Algerian Scientific Journals Platform (ASJP). A total of 35.7% stated that their interaction

with the platform was very rare, while another 35.7% reported occasional use. Meanwhile, 21.4% claimed frequent interaction, and 7.1% reported very frequent usage.

Q11: What do you consider the advantages of depositing on the platform?

- Visibility
- Citations
- Exchanges
- Speed

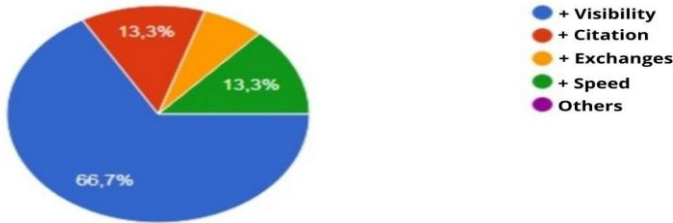


Figure 11: Distribution of the sample on the advantages of depositing or publishing through the Algerian Scientific Journals Platform (ASJP).

The study demonstrates that 66.7% of respondents view visibility as the most crucial factor when publishing their articles on ASJP, as it enhances their academic presence and increases the impact of their research. Meanwhile, 13.3% prioritize citation frequency, recognizing that publishing on a reputable platform increases the chances of their work being cited. Another 13.3% emphasize the importance of rapid publication, as ASJP streamlines the process by eliminating traditional administrative hurdles, expediting both review and publication. Consequently, the platform facilitates both wide and swift dissemination of research, reinforcing its impact within the academic community.

Q12: Do you think ASJP’s contribution to the open-access movement is beneficial?

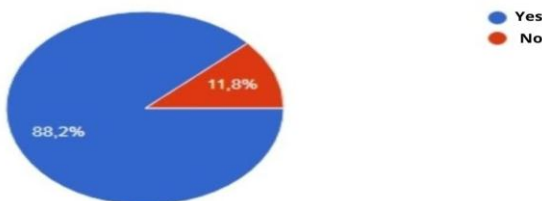


Figure 12: Distribution of the sample based on their opinions on ASP’s contribution to the open-access movement.

The study indicates that 88.2% of respondents believe that ASJP strengthens open access to research, facilitating the wider dissemination of academic knowledge

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and increasing opportunities for scientific collaboration. Conversely, 11.8% consider this model potentially unprofitable due to publication costs, which may pose a financial burden on some researchers, especially under the Gold Open Access model, where authors are required to cover publication fees.

Q13: Do you think the editing process via ASJP, in the era of the open-access movement, is more reliable than the traditional process?

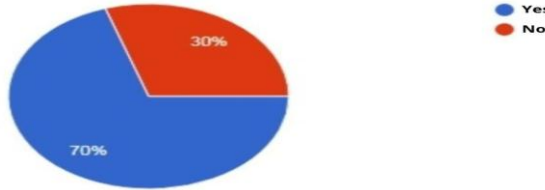


Figure 13: Distribution of the sample based on their opinions on ASJP’s contribution to the open-access movement.

The study results revealed that 70% of the respondents consider the ASJP platform to be safer and more reliable compared to traditional academic publishing methods. This consensus indicates that most researchers view the platform as a trustworthy tool for publishing their work, as it ensures that published research undergoes thorough scientific review and adheres to global academic standards.

This positive assessment could be attributed to the platform’s use of a thorough scientific review process and a digital system that facilitates the tracking of articles and verifying their credibility. Moreover, the ease of accessing different articles enhances the transparency of the research process and ensures the publication of accurate and reliable scientific information.

Q14: Finally, is there investment from Algerian publishers in aligning their journals with the open-access movement?

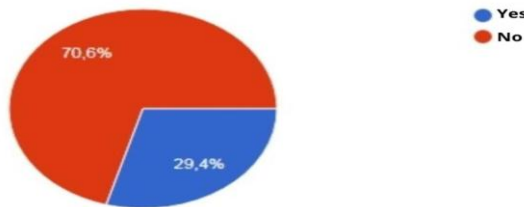


Figure 14: Distribution of the sample based on their opinions and observations on the extent of investment by Algerian publishers in the open-access movement.

The study showed that 70.6% of the respondents consider Algerian publishers' investments in open access to scientific journals are limited, which highlights the challenges related to funding and infrastructure. On the other hand, 29.4% believe that some publishers have made significant efforts to support open access despite these challenges.

❖ **General Findings of the Study**

Based on the fieldwork results, the key findings of this study can be summarized as follows, in alignment with the research problem:

1. The Significance of Open Access to Information

88.2% of the sample agreed that the contribution of the ASJP platform to the open access movement offers a practical solution, promoting the widespread dissemination of scientific research and granting researchers unrestricted access to academic knowledge. However, 11.8% of the sample expressed reservations, arguing that charging publication fees could create financial barriers for researchers with limited resources.

The study found that implementing the Green Route on the Algerian Scientific Journals Platform (ASIP) is the most suitable option, as 68.4% of respondents prefer this approach. The Green Route allows researchers to publish their work in journals while later depositing them in open repositories, ensuring the sustainability of scientific research. A prominent example of this model is the experience of platforms such as ArXiv in the United States and HAL in France.

2. Visibility and Reach

The results indicate that 66.7% of respondents consider visibility the most significant factor when publishing their research on the ASP platform. This indicates that the majority of researchers perceive digital publishing as a means to expand the reach of their work, ensuring broader accessibility to an academic audience and increasing the impact of their studies within the scientific community.

According to a report published by Le Monde on October 22, 2024, 80% of scientific research is now available through open access. Additionally, data from Springer Nature shows that open-access publications receive 60% more citations compared to paywalled articles.

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3. Integrity and Credibility

According to the study, 70% of respondents believe the ASJP platform is more secure and trustworthy than traditional methods of publishing their researches. This underscores the trust researchers place in the platform, as it guarantees thorough scientific review and rigorous evaluation, ultimately enhancing the quality of published studies.

Some studies have confirmed that in 2014, DOA revised its criteria for journal inclusion, increasing the number of standards from 8 to 50 to ensure that listed journals adhere to high standards of transparency and integrity. Since this revision, DOA has added over 4,000 journals to its directory, reflecting a stronger commitment to the quality of open access publishing.

4. Factors Affecting Publishing:

The opinions on the relevance of depositing articles on the platform were divided into three major categories:

13.3% of the respondents considered citations to be the most important factor when choosing a publishing platform, believing that being on a recognized platform increases the citation rate of their research. The other 13.3% preferred the ASJP platform for its faster publishing speed compared to traditional publishing methods, stressing that depositing on the platform offers a more efficient and quicker publishing process. In this regard, Elsevier's 2013 studies show that publications published in Open Access Journals are cited more frequently, with increases ranging from 18% to 80% compared to those published in subscription-based journals.

5. Investments of Algerian publishers in Open Access

70.6% of respondents stated that Algerian publishers' investments in making their journals available through open access remain very limited. This assessment demonstrates insufficient efforts by Algerian publishers to support the Open Access movement for scientific information, which has an impact on Algerian journals' competitiveness in the international academic field. On the other side, 29.4% of respondents stated that some Algerian publishers have made significant efforts to support the Open Access movement, implying that some Algerian journals have begun to embrace this strategy.

Conclusion

The results clearly demonstrate that the ASJP platform acts as an excellent instrument for scientific publishing in Algeria, providing researchers with several chances to enhance the impact of their work through open access. However, significant challenges persist, including as limited investment from local publishers and worries about publishing fees, which may be prohibitive for certain researchers. Overcoming these challenges is critical to creating a more inclusive and sustainable academic publishing ecosystem.

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