

Publish your work in Open Access!!

Presentation at the Open Access Roadshow
Schleswig-Holstein 14.11.19

Flensburg

Lars Bjørnshauge

lars@doaj.org

Twitter: @elbjoern0603

- **Why publish in Open Access?**
- How can I identify good Open Access Journals?
- About questionable journals
- How DOAJ helps journals make your work visible and get impact

- Why publish in Open Access?
- **Because others tell you to do so!**
- Research Funders, Universities, Research Centers, Governments etc. have declared that they would like to see the research they fund to be available in Open Access

- It all started with the Budapest Open Access Initiative (2002)
- Declarations:
 - Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities (2003)
 - Bethesda Statement on Open Access Publishing (2003)
 - and many more
 - in general:
 - soft recommendations
 - allowing embargoes

- Over the years many organizations and research funders have pushed for Open Access
 - EU – framework programmes – FP7 – Horizon 2020 etc.
 - Science Europe
 - Various National Research Councils (incl. DFG)
 - OA2020
 - cOAlition S

- Increasingly some of the important stakeholders issue stronger Open Access mandates – and they give preference to real OA!
- They want to see real OA happen now
- Stronger requirements – no embargos – no writing away copyright to the publishers, extensive reuse rights etc.

- Universities, Research Funders & Governments:
 - increasingly **demand real OA** – from **day one**, with **extensive re-use rights**
 - OA to publications seen as part of the Open Science/Open Scholarship agenda
 - Are **questioning current research assessment practices (Impact Factor etc)** and intends to develop new models

cOAlition S!

cOAlition S



cOAlition S
**Making
Open Access
a reality
by 2020**

A DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT
BY PUBLIC RESEARCH FUNDERS

<https://www.scienceurope.org/coalition-s/>

1. Authors will retain copyright.
2. Content will be published under an open license which fulfils the requirements defined by the Berlin Declaration.
3. All scientists should be able to publish Open Access even if they have limited means.
4. Publications fees should be standardised or capped.
5. The hybrid model of publishing is not compliant with the principles.

- So, there is a stronger push that researchers should publish their works in Open Access, because
- it will benefit research, higher education, industry, innovation, our societies and the people.
- So far though, not much monitoring for compliance, no real sanctions for researchers that do not comply.

- Why publish in Open Access?
- Because others tell you to do so!
- Because it gives you more visibility and impact!!

- If you share your work in the open it
 - Gives you more visibility and more impact
 - Research results published in Open Access get cited more and earlier compared to papers behind a paywall
 - Papers available in Open Access gets more visibility in local, regional, and international media
 - You get better connected to colleagues

- Why publish in Open Access?
- Because others tell you to do so!
- Because it gives you more visibility and impact!!
- **Because you have a moral duty to do so!!**
- Lots of reasons why you **do not** publish in Open Access
 - It does not benefit your career
 - You are not rewarded for publishing in Open Access
 - You say you cannot find a relevant publishing channel (a good Open Access journal)
 - You cannot/will not pay to be published

- We have been discussing Open Access for nearly two decades
- Significant progress have been made, but...
- It goes too slow!!
- It is a widespread notion, that the publishers are to blame!

But...

- We should **stop blaming the publishers**
- They do what there are supposed to do:
 - Exploiting the conditions offered to them and (some of them) make extraordinary good business.
- **Those who have the power to change the conditions are responsible for the current mess!** ... and we have to help them change the system to provide you with incentives to share your work!

Obstacles to Open Access

- Research Assessment and Reward systems
- "Academic Freedom"
- Culture in the Academy

Research Assessment

- **The single most important obstacle to a transition to Open Access!**
- Assessment is often based on the Journal Impact Factor (JIF) and other journal level metrics are
 - not telling much about the quality of the actual research
 - subject to manipulation, gaming and fraud
- Researchers are NOT primarily rewarded for WHAT they publish, but WHERE they publish
- **Research assessment systems have to change**
- **And they are (slowly) changing – away from focussing on “prestige” journals and the use of the Journal Impact Factor as a proxy for quality!**

What pays off in the current system??

- As a **Researcher**:
- Publish in ~~quality~~ **prestige journals** – go for the High Impact Factor journals and you will be rewarded (promotion, tenure and grants)
- **Don't bother** too much about whether or not
 - your results **are actually accessible** for the widest possible audience
 - your **data** are archived and **open**
 - your **software** is documented and **available**
 - your research is actually **reproducible**
- **For your career it doesn't** (so far) **really matter that much!**
- As an **Institution**:
 - Attract the researchers with the above behavior and the institution will get higher rankings and **receive more grants**

The Culture of the Academy

- The Culture of the Academy needs to change!
- The concept of **Academic Freedom** is often used as an excuse for publishing in the “prestige” journals.
- It is the underlying logic of the invention of Green Access and Hybrid Open Access.
- But Academic Freedom applies to what you are researching, what you are investigating, the methods you apply etc.
- Based on your agreement with your institution and the grants you get, you will do your research.

Academic Freedom

- It is often argued that your decisions as to **where** you publish, **how** you publish, the rights and permissions you give to readers/users etc belongs to your **Academic Freedom**.
- “It is my Academic Freedom to decide **where** to publish”!

Academic Freedom

- It is often argued that your decisions as to **where** you publish, **how** you publish, the rights and permissions you give to readers/users etc belongs to your **Academic Freedom**.
- “It is my Academic Freedom to decide **where** to publish”!
- **I disagree!**
- Let me introduce a different concept:
- Academic Responsibility and responsible researcher behavior!

Academic Responsibility

- Applies to how you **share** your research, your findings, your data, your software!!
- We need **stronger mandates** from research funders and research institutions
- Research funders and research institutions should be very specific as to how they **expect researchers to disseminate their findings!**
- **Responsible** researcher conduct is to **share** results, data and software in the open and researchers should be rewarded for that!

It should have been
open in the first place!

If your papers, your data and your
software are not in the open, it
should not count!

Who can change the system then?

- **Not** the Publishers – they are businesses, exploiting the conditions offered to them.
- **The research funders, university managements, governments can change the system**
 - Change the reward and incentive systems
 - Require publishing in the open
 - Setting the conditions for the publishers
 - Changing the culture in the academy

What is needed is ...

- More and much **stronger** funder and institutional **mandates**
- **Radical changes** in the research **evaluation system** and incentives for researchers to publish in the open!
 - Today researchers are rewarded based on **Where** they publish, i.e. in **which journals** they publish
 - **Not** based on **What** they publish, the actual content
 - and **not** based on **How** they publish, whether it is **open** and reuseable or **not**
- **And a cultural change in academia is needed!**

The scholarly system I want to see

- Research results are immediately **accessible** to everyone.
- Research is **verifiable** and **reproducible**.
- Research is evaluated based on its **actual** impact - not based on the wrapper (the journal title)
- Research findings are **evaluated in the open** after dissemination.

This means That:

- Research will be disseminated in the open with **generous reuse permissions**.
- Research **Data** will be archived and made accessible.
- **Software** associated with research will be documented and available as well.
- Research **Evaluation is transparent**.

And this means that:

- Researchers are **rewarded**
 - not only based on citations, but as well for
 - the **societal impact of their research,**
 - **documenting their data and software and make it open,**
 - **contributing to peer review** etc.
- In short:
 - Researchers will be rewarded for **sharing**
 - Researchers will be rewarded for **all** what they do

- Why publish in Open Access?
- How can I identify good Open Access Journals?
- About questionable journals
- How DOAJ helps journals make your work visible and get impact

DOAJ -It is all about...

Making Open Access journals more
attractive as publishing channels!

The mission of DOAJ is to help publishers do a
better job in making their journals **attractive,**
transparent publishing channels on a global
scale

How do we work?

- Journals apply via the application form
- The application form is available in 16 languages

- <http://doaj.org/application/new>

DOAJ Journal Application Form

All the information provided will help our Editorial Team with their assessment, to help them make an informed decision based on the information that you provide.

If you know a journal that should be in DOAJ, please contact the publisher and ask them to complete this form.

BEFORE YOU START, please remember that **all** the content of the journal you are applying about **must** be available **immediately** upon publication.

Basic Journal Information

1) Journal Title *

2) URL *

3) Alternative Title

4) Journal ISSN (print version) *

Only provide the print ISSN if your journal has one, otherwise leave this field blank. Write the ISSN with the hyphen "-" e.g. 1234-4321.

5) Journal ISSN (online version) *

Write the EISSN with the hyphen "-" e.g. 1234-4321.

6) Publisher *

Quality and Transparency of the Editorial Process

34) What is the URL for the Editorial Board page? *

The journal must have either an editor or an editorial board with at least 5 clearly identifiable members and affiliation information. We may ask for affiliation information and email addresses as part of our checks.

35) Please select the review process for papers *

36) Enter the URL where this information can be found *

This field is optional if you have selected "None" above.

37) What is the URL for the journal's Aims & Scope *

Capture a Rectangul

The principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Communication

- The Principles are very much inspired by the initial draft of the new DOAJ criteria, apply not only for Open Access publishing and has developed into de-facto standards.

Principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing

Introduction

The [Committee on Publication Ethics](#), the Directory of Open Access Journals, the [Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association](#) and the [World Association of Medical Editors](#) are scholarly organizations that have seen an increase in the number, and broad range in the quality of, membership applications. Our organizations have collaborated in an effort to identify principles of transparency and best practice for scholarly publications and to clarify that these principles form part of the criteria on which membership applications will be evaluated.

These criteria are largely derived from those developed by the Directory of Open Access Journals. Note that additional membership criteria may also be used by each of the scholarly organizations. The organizations will not share information about applications received. We do not intend to develop or publish a list of publishers or journals that failed to demonstrate they met the criteria for transparency and best practice.

UPDATE: This is the second version of a work in progress (published June 2015); the first version was posted in January 2014. We encourage its wide dissemination and continue to welcome feedback on the general principles and the specific criteria. Background on the organizations is below.

Principles of Transparency

1. Peer review process

Journal content must be clearly marked as whether peer reviewed or not. Peer review is defined as obtaining advice on individual manuscripts from reviewers expert in the field who are not part of the journal's editorial staff. This process, as well as any policies related to the journal's peer

- <https://doaj.org/bestpractice>

The Principles

1. **Peer review process**
2. **Governing Body**
3. **Editorial team/contact**
4. **Author fees**
5. **Copyright**
6. **Identification of and dealing with allegations of research misconduct**
7. **Ownership and management**
8. **Web site.**
9. **Name of journal**
10. **Conflicts of interest**
11. **Access**
12. **Revenue sources**
13. **Advertising**
14. **Publishing schedule**
15. **Archiving**
16. **Direct marketing**

How do we work?

- Journals apply via the application form
 - So far DOAJ is not actively going out to solicit applications
- Lots of information is provided to enable journals to produce a good and detailed application
- Applications are initially triaged
- We receive around 500+ applications/month

Must haves for journals to be listed:

- An Open Access statement
- Comply with the BOAI definition
- A peer-review process, and a description of the of process
- An editor/editorial board with clearly identifiable members
- Licensing and copyright information
- Aims and scope
- Publish a least 5 articles per year to qualify

Recommendations to journals wanting to be listed

- Unrestricted copyright for the author
- No exclusive publishing rights
- No transfer of commercial rights
- Clear licensing conditions
- Preferably use of Creative Commons licensing
- Embedded licensing information with articles
- No mention of impact factors

- Founded at Lund University, Sweden – launched May 2003 with 300 journals - since 2013 operated by Infrastructure Services for Open Access (www.is4oa.org) – a non-profit company registered in the United Kingdom
- Basic demand then:
- Just a list of Open Access Journals
- Gradually developing in to a service recognized by lots of universities, research funders and governments as the **authoritative go-to point for peer-reviewed scholarly journals** not based on the subscription model

DOAJ – much more than a list of journals!

- A global list of peer-reviewed Open Access journals – all subjects and languages
 - journals undergo evaluation based on a set of criteria
 - 13.900 titles (November 2019)
- An aggregation of article level metadata
 - Publishers upload article metadata into DOAJ
 - 79% of the journals do so
 - Currently 4.400.000 records
- Applications rejected: 19,950
- Rejection Rate: 55%
- All DOAJ services including reviewing applications are **free of charge**
- All DOAJ data are **free for all to use**, download and re-use

- Why publish in Open Access?
- How can I identify good Open Access Journals?
- **About questionable journals**
- How DOAJ helps journals make your work visible and get impact

Questionable or unethical
publishers

Questionable publishing is **not** a
phenomenon that is specific to
Open Access publishing!

Our definition:

Questionable publishers is publishers, who are **not living up** to reasonable standards in terms of **content, services, transparency** and **business behavior**.

- Why are researchers publishing in questionable journals?
 - Ignorance – lack of attention to the faith of the paper
 - Aggressive marketing cheats researchers
 - Publish or Perish – get something on my C.V. – subito! – pays off!
 - Research Assessment – decision makers counting beans!

- Research managers/funders/decision makers:
 - Research assessment based on actual assessment of the research!!
 - OA-publishing mandates
 - Lists of accredited publishing channels!?
- Professors/PI/research managers:
 - Make **Publishing Literacy** an integral part of (training in) Research Integrity

How to spot Questionable Publishers/Journals

The 5 minute check

- Competent web-site?
- Mass e-mails asking for editors and submissions?
- In the DOAJ? – if not: worrying
- Usage statistics?
- Stable in the discipline?
- Misspelled journal titles?
- Journal launch dates – many at the same time?
- Empty shells- no/few articles?
- Check list from Gavia Library (the library loon) -<http://gavialib.com/2012/04/assessing-the-scamminess-of-a-purported-open-access-publisher/> – april 2012

The 5 minute check

- Regularly publishing?
- Many “Edited volumes”?
- Quality of writing, copyediting and typesetting?
- Archiving arrangement?
- Editorial Board – identifiable?
- Other financial support – only relying on APCs?
- Relevant Advertising?
- Running many/expensive conferences?

How we spot them!

- How does DOAJ detect questionable journals?
- Our approach is based on:
 - the Principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing

How does DOAJ detect questionable journals?

- Low publishing quality
 - Journal name, website, fees, peer review, publisher, ownership, volume of articles, advertisements, prominent soliciting for editors, ambiguous company address, many journals and few articles
- Low scientific quality
 - focus, format, self-citations, plagiarism
- Malpractice
 - false claims, hidden costs, spamming authors, wrong information,

- Inappropriate marketing practices
 - Spam emails
- Journal titles with “International”, “American”, “European” or even “Universal”!!
- Very broad scope, multidisciplinary
- Fake impact factors
- Advertise very quick publishing
- Advertise a relative low publication fee
- No or little quality control of articles
- Low-standard peer review process or even don't have peer review at all

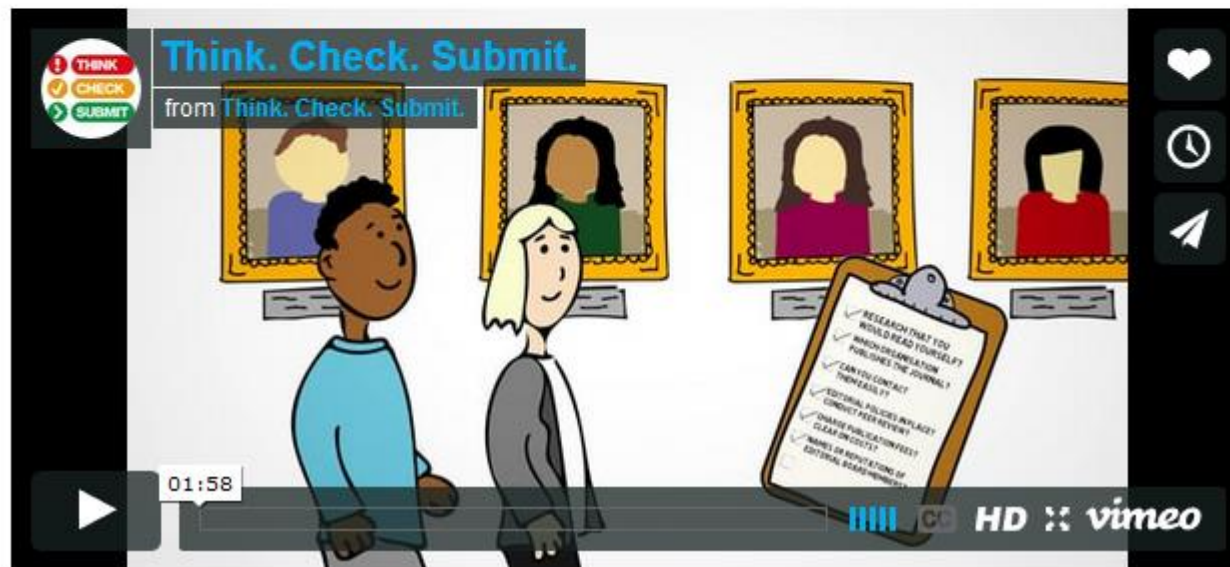
- It is the **complete** assessment of the journal/publisher that forms the final picture.
- A minor set of shortcomings isn't enough "evidence" to label someone a Questionable Publisher.
- Shortcomings often based on lack of knowledge!
- We are in it **to help honest publishers** do a better job!!

More help to
researchers to avoid
Questionable Publishers

It's easy: **think!!!**



Choose the right journal for your research



Think. Check. Submit. is a campaign to help researchers identify trusted journals for their research. It is a simple checklist researchers can use to assess the credentials of a journal or publisher.

<http://thinkchecksubmit.org/>

and of course:

Check DOAJ – if the journals is not
listed, then:

Watch out!!

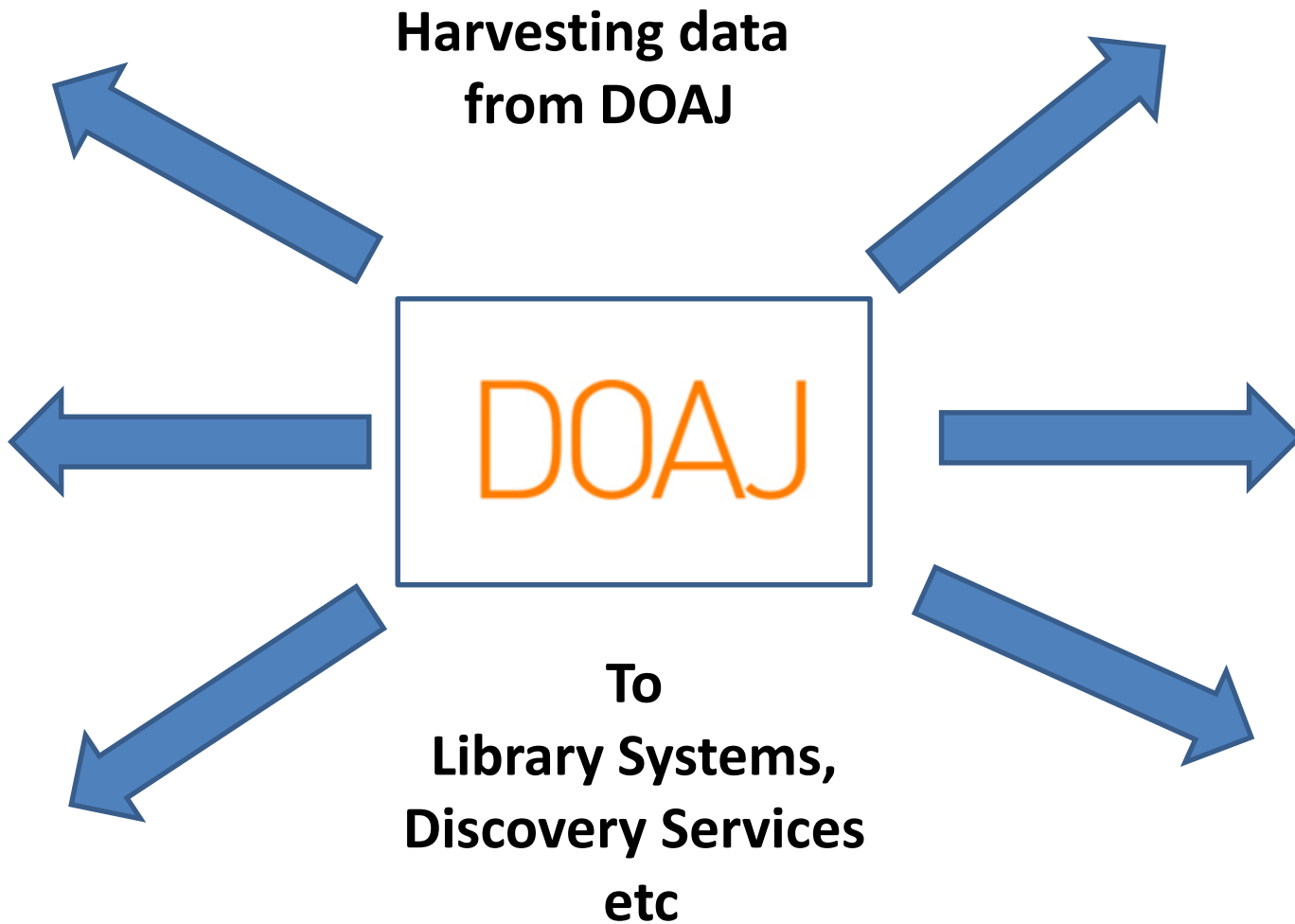
- Why publish in Open Access?
- How can I identify good Open Access Journals?
- About questionable journals
- How DOAJ helps journals make your work visible and get impact

Dissemination!

DOAJ is aggregating article level metadata



3.350.000 article metadata records



- DOAJ data (journal data and article level metadata) are
 - picked up by all major search engines (Google etc)
 - Integrated in all major discovery services and indexes
- Which means that the journals listed in DOAJ will appear in those services alongside the more wellknown journals
- DOAJ have massive traffic from our harvester and API

- Unique sessions
- 3.4 million (2015)
- 8.3 million (2017)
- 12.4 million (2019 so far)
- DOAJ have massive traffic from our harvester and API
 - API traffic: 200.000.000 records/year

The DOAJ core team

- Managing Director
 - Operations Manager
 - Project and Communications Manager
 - Editor-in-Chief
 - Senior Managing Editor
 - 6 Managing Editors
 - We are based in Sweden, United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Italy, Spain, Mexico, Peru, China, Singapore & Denmark
- And...

Volunteers and Ambassadors

- 90+ **Voluntary** Editors/Associate Editors working unpaid a few hours/week – distributed in editorial groups managing 20+ languages
- 20 **Ambassadors** recruited to
 - Promote DOAJ
 - Handle applications of journals to be listed in DOAJ
 - Promote best publishing practice and
 - Help identifying and spotting questionable and unethical publishers
- Ambassadors are based in
 - China, India, Russia, Egypt, Burkina Faso, Algeria, South Africa and Mexico, Indonesia & Korea – covering Asia, Middle East, Africa and Latin America

Funding

- DOAJ is independent and entirely dependent on funding from the community
 - Universities, university libraries and library consortia can support DOAJ with a yearly membership fee - <https://doaj.org/membership>
 - Smaller publishers can as well support DOAJ via a yearly membership fee – <https://doaj.org/support>
 - Larger publishers can sponsor DOAJ - <https://doaj.org/sponsors>.

Funding

- 600 University libraries from 36 countries
- 17 Library Consortia from 13 Countries
- 10 Research Funders/Academies of Science
- 30+ smaller publishers
- 25+ Sponsors - publishers and aggregators

- 80% of income from the community
- 20% of income from publishers

| |
|--|
| Germany |
| Bayern Konsortium |
| Bayerische Staatsbibliothek |
| Universitätsbibliothek Bayreuth |
| Universitätsbibliothek Erlangen-Nürnberg der FAU Erlangen-I |
| Universitätsbibliothek München (LMU) |
| Universitätsbibliothek der Technischen Universität München |
| Universitätsbibliothek Passau |
| Elektronische Zeitschriftenbibliothek, Regensburg |
| Universitätsbibliothek Regensburg |
| Universitätsbibliothek Würzburg |
| Technische Hochschule Ingolstadt |
| Universitätsbibliothek Bamberg |
| |
| Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin |
| Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft |
| Freie Universität Berlin |
| Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU), Universitätsbibliothek Erlangen-Nürnberg |

| |
|--|
| German National Library of Medicine (Deutsche Zentralbibliothek für Medizin, ZB MED) |
| Helmholtz Association |
| Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin |
| |
| Konsortium Baden-Württemberg |
| UB Freiburg |
| UB Heidelberg |
| KIM Hohenheim |
| BLB Karlsruhe |
| KIT-Bibliothek Karlsruhe |
| KIM Konstanz |
| UB Mannheim |
| UB Stuttgart |
| WLB Stuttgart |
| UB Tübingen |
| kiz Ulm |
| Pädagogische Hochschulen |

| |
|--|
| Hochschulen für angewandte Wissenschaften |
| Duale Hochschule Baden-Württemberg |
| Musikhochschulen |
| |
| Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttinge |
| RWTH Aachen University, Universitätsbibliothek |
| Ruhr-Universität Bochum |
| Darmstadt University of Technology |
| <u>Technische Informationsbibliothek (TIB)</u> |
| Technische Universität Berlin |
| Universitätsbibliothek Bielefeld |
| Universität Potsdam |
| ZBW - German National Library of Economics |

Thanks to :

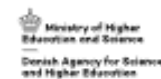
**All the Library
Consortia,
Universities,
Research Funders and
Publishers
and our Sponsors
for the financial
support to DOAJ!**

Gold sponsors

EBSCO



Silver sponsors



Bronze sponsors

