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An action plan for Diamond Open Access

Paris Open Science European Conference (OSEC)
The future of academic publishing, 4 February 2022



An action plan for Diamond Open Access

An action plan for **strategic** support to:

- disseminate scholarly outputs in journals and platforms that are assessed and managed by the scientific community itself in its variety of scholarly disciplines, languages, and cultures.
- more efficiently organise, coordinate, and sustainably fund Diamond journals so they can better support researchers in disseminating their work.
- develop the full potential of the Diamond sector in the context of Open Science and scholarly communication.



An action plan for Diamond Open Access

An action plan for **practical** support to:

- develop a sustainable community-driven Diamond scholarly communication ecosystem and infrastructure.
- federate Diamond Open Access journals that share the same principles, guidelines, and quality standards.
- increase the capacity of Diamond journals to provide innovative, valid, and reliable publishing services.



An action plan for Diamond Open Access

1. Defining Diamond Open Access:

- Free of charge to authors and readers
- Community-driven, academic-led and -owned
- No fee open access = equitable access for all
- Bibliodiversity: serving a variety of small-scale, multilingual, and multicultural scholarly communities



An action plan for Diamond Open Access

2. The Open Access Diamond Journals Study

a study on Diamond OA publishing by an OPERAS-led consortium, commissioned by cOAlition S and Science Europe (March 2021)

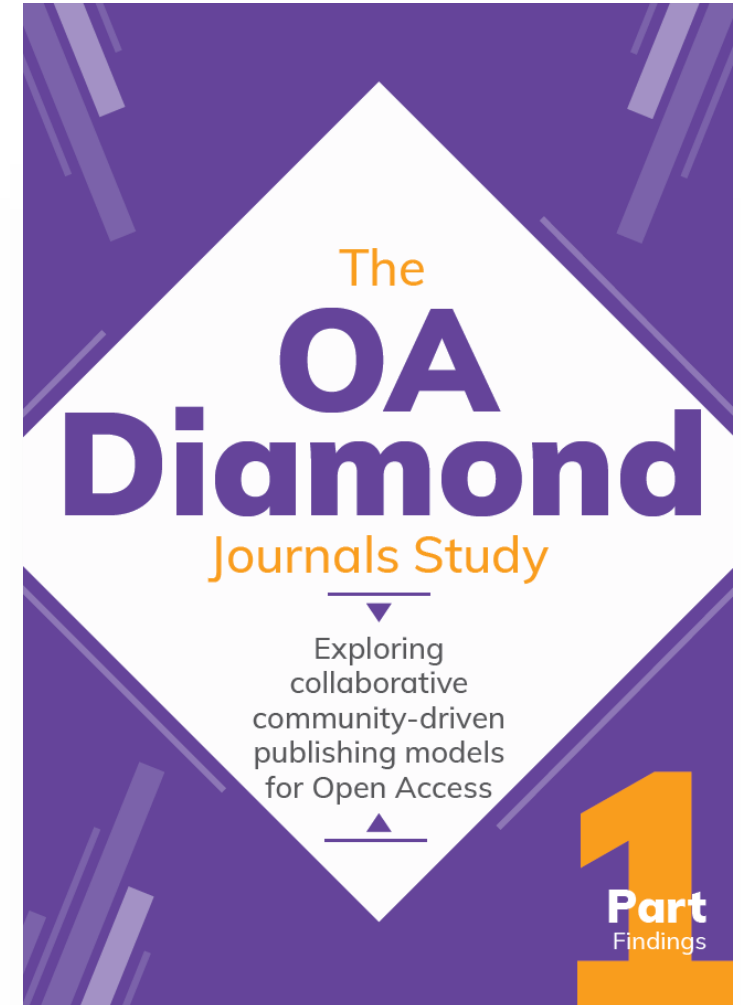


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2. The Open Access Diamond Journals Study

Findings:

- A survey of 1619 journals, and focus group interviews.
- An archipelago of 17k - 29k journals (11.5k in DOAJ)
- 60.6% in SSH, 17.1% in medicine, 22.2% in science
- 44% of OA journal publishing, and 8-9% of total publishing volume (compare 10-11% for APC Gold)



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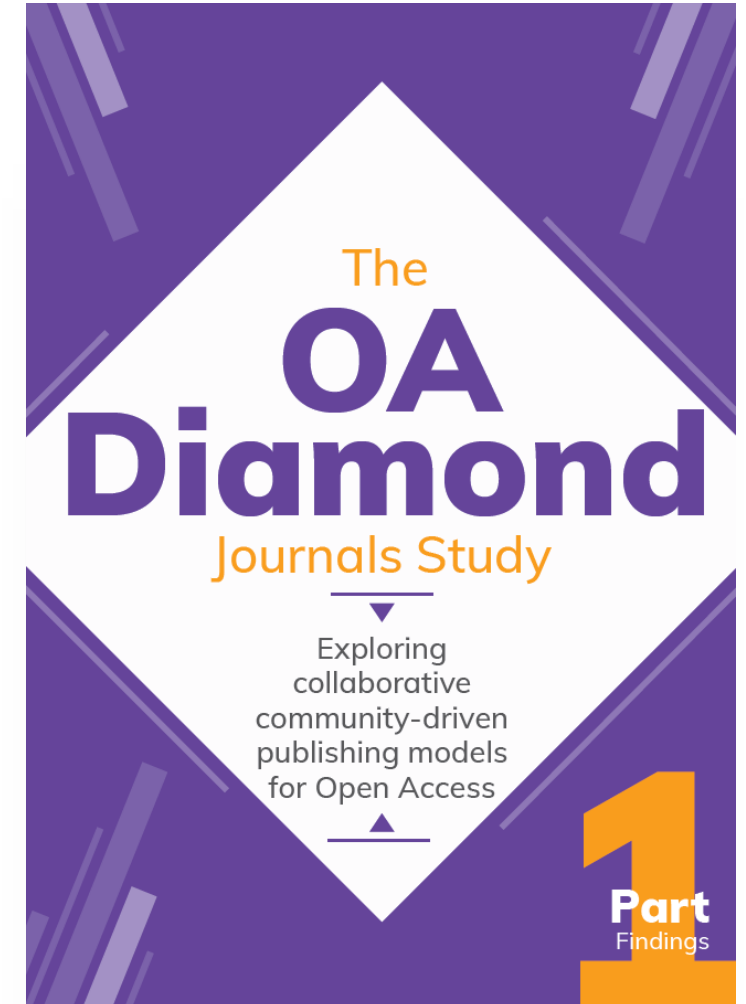
Four main challenges identified:

- Technical capacity
- Management
- Visibility
- Sustainability

One major recommendation:

More dialogue and commitment are needed between:

- Researchers
- Research Funding Organisations (RFOs)
- Research Performing Organisations (RPOs)
- University libraries, university presses & departments
- Scholarly societies
- Ministries



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2. The Open Access Diamond Journals Study



Findings

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4558704>



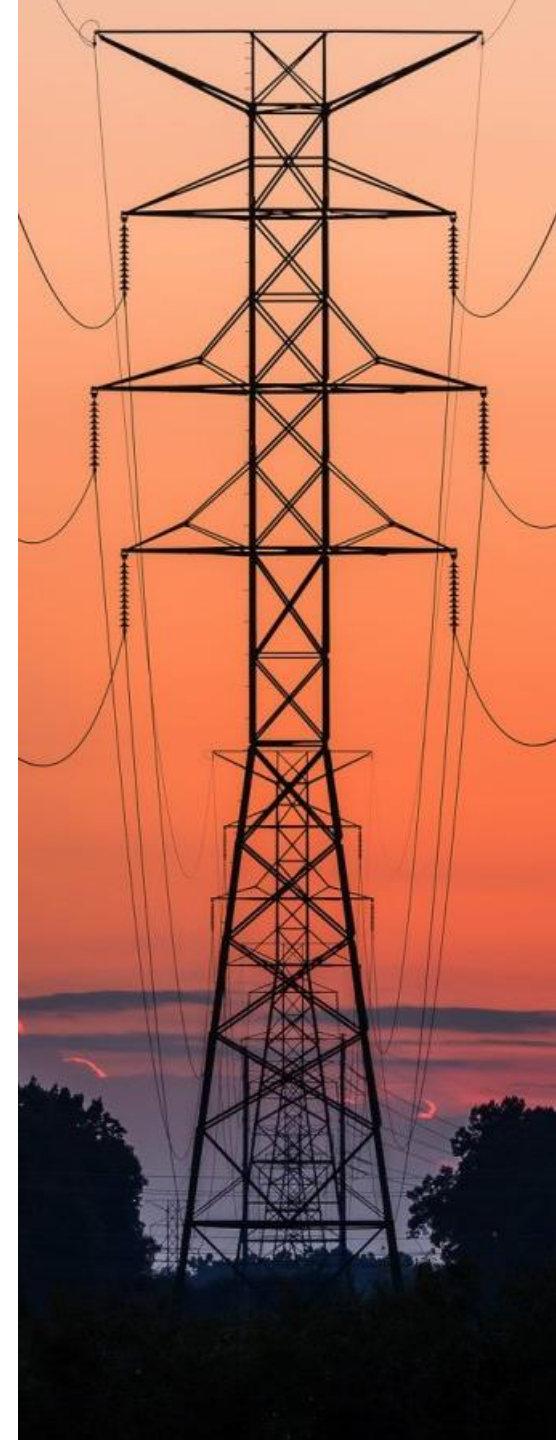
Recommendations

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4562790>

An action plan for Diamond Open Access

3. An action plan focusing on four central elements

- Efficiency
- Quality standards
- Capacity building
- Sustainability



An action plan for Diamond Open Access

3.1. Efficiency

Diamond Open Access journals and platforms would benefit from sharing common resources:

- Align quality, create sustainability, and build trust for all stakeholders via shared infrastructures, standards, policies, practices, and funding streams.
- Make technical services and operations more accessible, interoperable, and streamlined.
- Build synergies between Diamond journals in the same discipline, geographical location, or language via a network of existing organisations, groups, and societies.



3.2. Quality standards

The quality of Diamond Open Access journals and platforms needs to be flexibly aligned:

- Specify quality standards for the core components of publishing operations.
- Flexibly align existing non-technological standards and best practices for OA publishing into a *European Quality Standard for Institutional Publishing* (EQSIP).
- Develop a self-assessment tool to assess the quality standards for Diamond journals to assist progress towards EQSIP.



3.3. Capacity building

Editorial and management skills need alignment:

- Build capacity through the creation of tools for Diamond academic publishing. Training materials for institutional editors and service providers, quality standards for journals, author and reviewer policies and guidelines that will be made available in a Common Access Point.
- Create a *Capacity Center for Diamond Publishing* that provides technical, financial, and training services to Diamond journals and platforms.



3.4. Sustainability

Revenue streams, legal status, and governance of Diamond Open Access publishing need to be stabilized:

- Strive to ensure that the operational costs of Diamond publishing are carried by a network of institutional actors.
- Develop a coordinated financial mechanism delivering various sources of funding to both a central capacity center and to Diamond journals/ infrastructures.
- Promote that OA diamond journal titles and platforms are scholar-led, owned, and governed with a clear legal status.
- Seek an understanding of the costs of OA diamond and promote transparent financial administrative good practices to inform all stakeholders.



An action plan for Diamond Open Access

- This action plan was developed by the participants in the Diamond Open Access Workshop held online on 2 February 2022
 - Organised by Science Europe in collaboration with cOAlition S, OPERAS and ANR;
 - Sponsored by the French Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation.
- The €3m HORIZON-WIDERA-2021-ERA-01-43: *Capacity-building for institutional open access publishing across Europe* was awarded to the DIAMAS consortium that grew out of OADJS.
- Organisations willing to sign this action plan are welcome to contact bregt.saenen@scienceeurope.org
- A conference is being planned in June 2022 to discuss implementation.



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