

## Free Access to the Selected Journals of Social Sciences in Open Access Journals Search Engine

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### Abstract

Open access means that teachers, students, scholars, and scientists have access to the latest research findings throughout the world. The rapid growth of open access journals provides a very valuable supplement of the traditional published reading materials. Purpose of this study is to evaluate open access e-journals in the field of social sciences available on open access journals search engine (OAJSE). The open access journals search engine (OAJSE) service covers free, full text, quality controlled journals in all subjects that are published in English language. OAJSE is an effective source of information for the present day. There are 20% of peer-reviewed articles across all disciplines which are now freely available. This paper is an effort to guide users about free, full-text, quality-controlled scientific and scholarly journals in social sciences available on OAJSE.

**Keywords:** Open access journals, social science, OAJSE, e-journals

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### INTRODUCTION

Open access is a radical way of providing access to the scholarly journal literature. "Open Access literature is digital, online, free of charge, and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions [1]." "By Open Access to the literature, we mean its free availability on the public internet, permitting any users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of these articles [2]." "Open access journals ensure that knowledge is available to the public, not hidden behind pay walls. And sharing actual data sets, whether created by scientists or enthusiasts, is key part of the movement toward open knowledge [3]."

OAJSE service covers free, full text, quality controlled journals in all subjects that are published in English language. There are now 4,500+ journals in the directory, including more than 100 journals of social sciences. In 2008, a project named "Link Library of Open Access Journals" was developed. In the first part of 2010, its name was changed to "Open Access Journals Search Engine". In January, 2011, Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University, Patgaon, Rani, Guwahati, sponsored a minor research project, and as part of the project it was run from an independent website www.oajse.com. On 18th May, 2017,

all the data and information from the previous website was migrated to the www.kkhsou.in domain. The aim of this project is to increase the visibility and ease of use of open access journals thereby promoting their increased usage and impact. This project was closed in July, 2012. Now it only provides access to already build up collections. This study covers the evaluation of free e-journals in social science available in OAJSE [4].

### SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

The scope of the study is limited to the journals of social sciences covered in 'Open Access Journals Search Engine' (OAJSE). The study does not include journals by any other search engine or directories.

### METHODOLOGY

In order to identify the journals of social sciences in OAJSE, a subject search on 'Social Sciences' is undertaken. In result, it is found that total 103 titles are related to the field of social sciences. Websites of each of the journals were visited to check the present status of the journals. Some e-journals are in other languages, which are not evaluated.

### RESULTS

In this study, we are able to find 103 titles related to the field of social sciences. Some

journals are multidisciplinary in nature. We also found that most of journals are available in full-text form, free of cost and can be received regularly. Many of the titles have relatively very strong relevance to the field of social sciences, whereas few with a weaker relevance. The titles which have error in link or found no information are excluded from this study. The most important point in the study is that it provides effective communication between user and online free e-journals.

## AVAILABLE JOURNALS IN OAJSE

### Arts and Social Sciences Journal

Arts and Social Sciences Journal (<http://astonjournals.com/assj>) is an open-access journal publishing quality research in education, political science, international relations, sociology, law, communication and media studies, and development studies. In the field of Arts, the journal covers literary arts only. OMICS group is the co-publisher of this journal. Arts and Social Sciences Journal (ASSJ) publishes peer-reviewed research articles, reviews and research notes. ASSJ is indexed in Google Scholar, EBSCO, and Gale.

### Asian Social Science

Asian Social Science (<http://www.ccsenet.org/journal/index.php/ass/index>) journal is published by the Canadian Center of Science and Education. The journal focuses on the topics of anthropology, sociology, politics, culture, history, philosophy, economics, education, arts, psychology etc. It provides an academic platform for professionals and researchers to contribute innovative work in the field. The journal carries original and full-length articles that reflect the latest research and developments in both theoretical and practical aspects of society and human behaviours. The journal is published in both print and online versions. ASS is an international, double-blind peer-reviewed, open-access journal.

### African Studies Quarterly

African Studies Quarterly (<http://asq.africa.ufl.edu>) is an interdisciplinary, fully referred, online open access journal, publishing the finest scholarship relating to the African continent. It is published by the Center for African Studies, University of Florida. The

Center for African Studies founded the African Studies Quarterly (ASQ) to promote research on Africa, beyond that undertaken by University of Florida faculty and graduate students. The ASQ undertakes two kinds of publications. Most issues contain articles from a wide range of authors on diverse topics.

### Canadian Social Science

The Canadian Social Science (<http://www.csc.anada.net/index.php/css>) was founded on May 31, 2005 (Quarterly from 2005 to 2007; Bimonthly from 2008 to 2014 and Monthly from 2015). It is an English and French language journal published by the Canadian Academy of Oriental and Occidental Culture (CAOOC). It covers a wide range of disciplines in Humanities and Social Sciences. Canadian Social Science is filed by Library and Archives, Canada, and collected by the database AMICUS of Canada, indexed by ProQuest, Gale, EBSCO Publishing, DOAJ, CNKI of China, etc.

### Catholic Social Science Review

The Catholic Social Science Review (<https://www.pdcnet.org/cssr/Catholic-Social-Science-Review>) is an interdisciplinary, peer-reviewed journal that publishes original articles and reviews in the social sciences and the humanities. It is the journal of the Society of Catholic Social Scientists, and has an editorial focus on topics relevant to the social teaching of the Catholic Church. Print copies are available from the society; online access is provided here without charge. The journal is published annually in September with assistance from the Franciscan University of Steubenville.

### Childhoods Today

Childhoods Today (<http://www.childhoodstoday.org>) is published by the Centre for the Study of Childhood and Youth at the University of Sheffield (UK), and supported by the Worldwide Universities Network. It is bi-annual open access journal. No subscription is required to access the articles, which are published in .pdf format. First published in 2007, the journal has already achieved a high level of international recognition and received an endorsement from Child watch International. It is also archived by the British Library.

### **Dark Matter Journal: In the Ruins of Imperial Culture**

Dark matter (<http://www.darkmatter101.org/site/>) was established in 2007. It is an independent project to provide immediate open access to its content with the principle of making research freely available in knowledge society. Dark matter content is either commissioned as part of special issues, or general issues publishing unsolicited material on a rolling basis. It is a peer-reviewed, open-access online journal and published under a Creative Commons license.

### **Discrete Dynamics in Nature and Society**

Discrete Dynamics (<https://www.hindawi.com/journals/ddns/>) in Nature and Society was founded in 1997, with the objective to foster links between basic and applied research relating to discrete dynamics of complex systems encountered in the natural and social sciences. It plays its important role in channel of communication between scientists and practitioners working in the field of complex systems analysis. According to the 2016 Journal Citation Reports released by Clarivate Analytics in 2017, the Impact Factor for Discrete Dynamics in Nature and Society is 0.711.

### **Diversities**

Diversities, formerly the International Journal on Multicultural Societies, (<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/social-and-human-sciences/resources/periodicals/diversities/>) is a scholarly and professional journal, published by UNESCO, to provide a platform for international, interdisciplinary and policy-related social science research in the fields of migration, multicultural policies, and human rights. Established by UNESCO's social sciences research and policy division in 1998, it aims at improving the linkages between academic communities in various regions and across different social science disciplines. All articles published in Diversities are referred in external peer-review.

### **Hmong Studies Journal**

The Hmong Studies Journal (<http://www.hmongstudiesjournal.org>) is internet-based academic publication. It is committed to the scholarly discussion of Hmong history, Hmong culture, Hmong people, and other facets of the Hmong experience in Asia, US,

and around the world. The Journal has published 17 volumes and 21 online issues since 1996. Articles are arranged volume-wise and available in .pdf format. The Hmong Studies Journal is also part of DOAJ- the Directory of Open Access Journals.

### **IASSIST Quarterly**

The IASSIST Quarterly (<http://www.iassistdata.org/iq>) deals with social science information and data services. IQ represents an international cooperative effort on the part of individuals managing, operating, or using machine-readable data archives, data libraries, and data services. IQ reports on activities related to the production, acquisition, preservation, processing, distribution, and use of machine-readable data carried out by its members and others in the international social science community. The IASSIST Quarterly is normally published four times per year: summer, winter, fall, spring.

### **Interdisciplinary Description of Complex Systems: INDECS**

Interdisciplinary Description of Complex Systems, INDECS (<http://indecs.eu>) is a scientific journal, which is published quarterly as the online and printed edition. It is financially supported by Croatian Ministry of Science, Education and Sport. INDECS is devoted to the field of humanities, social and natural sciences. INDECS is indexed in the EBSCO Academic Search<sup>TM</sup> Complete, ERIH PLUS, EconLit, and Ulrich's. Backup files are available from Vol. 1, 1–2, 2003–Vol. 15, 2017.

### **International Journal of Qualitative Methods**

The International Journal of Qualitative Methods, IJQM (<http://journals.sagepub.com/home/ijq>) was first published by the International Institute for Qualitative Methodology (IIQM) in 2002. It was one of the first open access journals to be published and remains the world's only exclusively open access interdisciplinary qualitative methods journal. According to the 2016 Journal Citation Reports<sup>®</sup> (Clarivate Analytics, 2017), Impact Factor of the journal is 0.641 and the ranking is 67/96 in social sciences, interdisciplinary latest articles, most read, and most cited has been given.

### **The Journal of Alternative Perspectives in the Social Sciences and the Journal of Asia Pacific Studies**

The Journal of Alternative Perspectives in the Social Sciences and the Journal of Asia Pacific Studies (<http://www.japss.org>), both Journals are published by the International Academy of Social Sciences. JAPSS favours a multidisciplinary approach to social problems. As an open license publication, JAPSS is distributed for free electronically. JAPSS is peer-reviewed as well as an opinion journal. This journal was established in September 2008. JAPSS aims to serve as an outlet for research related to the interdisciplinary field of Asia Pacific Studies. JAPSS and JAPS are indexed and catalogued in DOAJ, EBSCO, OpenJGate, etc.

### **Journal of Social Science Education**

The Journal of Social Science Education-JSSE (<http://www.jsse.org/index.php/jsse>) is published by Sowi-Online e.V. The JSSE arose in 2002 out of the Sowi-online journal. The journal covers the area of research on teaching and learning in the field of social science education. The centre of interest of this journal is theoretical discussions on education, teaching and learning. It is an international peer-reviewed academic open access journal and published quarterly. Statistics has been given which includes the details of total submission, peer-reviewed, and accepted articles.

### **Journal of Social Sciences**

Journal of Social Sciences (<http://thescipub.com/journals/jss>) is a quarterly publication.

JSS covers the fields of scientific knowledge and academic scholarship that study social groups and human society. JSS also covers articles on extended fields of social science. This journal is published by Science Publications, a commercial science, technology and medicine publisher of peer-reviewed, open access academic journals. Backup files are available from Vol. 1, 1-4, 2004-Vol. 13.

### **The Journal of Social Work Values and Ethics**

The Journal of Social Work Values and Ethics (<http://jswve.org/>) provides the necessary

historical perspectives on the development of social work values and ethics, as well as present articles providing value and ethical dilemmas stemming from state-of-the-art developments. As of January 1, 2013, the Journal of Social Work Values and Ethics is published by the Association of Social Work Boards, USA. The Journal is indexed in SOCIAL WORK ABSTRACTS, EBSCO Publishing, SOCIAL SERVICE ABSTRACTS, INTUTE, JOURNALSEEK, ACADEMIC SEARCH COMPLETE, and INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ORGANIZED RESEARCH. It is listed in DOAJ.

### **Qualitative Studies**

Qualitative Studies (<https://tidsskrift.dk/index.php/qual/index>) is hosted by the Royal Danish Library. The aim of the qualitative studies is to be a central forum for discussions of qualitative research in social sciences in general. The journal is affiliated with Aalborg University, Denmark. QS is a biannual theme based journal and employs a non-anonymized peer-review process. It is therefore not open to contributions that do not relate to the current theme. Articles of back volumes are stored by the Royal Danish Library.

### **CONCLUSION**

Many journals from developing countries, especially Latin America and India, have improved their visibility and impact by adopting OA in every field [5]. Since OA journals are more visible, they have a larger readership and their articles are cited more often, which increases the journals' impact [6]. Users consider OA journals and their content worthy of interest from a scientific point of view. Most of the journals use creative commons licence. The free e-journals are available in accepted standards and the users are using free e-journals satisfactorily. The OAJSE provides relevant free e-resources in the field of social sciences. The results of this study can be useful for teachers, students, scholars, and scientists in the field of their interest.

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**Cite this Article**

Anoop Singh. Free Access to the Selected Journals of Social Sciences in OAJSE. *Journal of Advancements in Library Sciences*. 2018; 5(1): 1–5p.