



Helsinki Initiative on Multilingualism

Hi!

HELSINKI INITIATIVE ON MULTILINGUALISM IN SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION:

The Case of Finnish Scholarly Publishers

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WHY HELSINKI INITIATIVE?

Helsinki Initiative on Multilingualism

Hi!

- Research is international. That's the way we like it!
- Multilingualism keeps locally relevant research alive. Protect it!
- Disseminating research results in your own language creates impact. Endorse it!
- It is vital to interact with society and share knowledge beyond academia. Promote it!
- Infrastructure of scholarly communication in national languages is fragile. Don't lose it!

Policy-makers, leaders, universities, research institutions, research funders, libraries, and researchers are invited to sign the Helsinki Initiative to promote multilingualism in scholarly communication



Federation of Finnish
Learned Societies



U:R Universities
Norway



RECOMMENDATIONS

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Hi!

1. Support dissemination of research results for the full benefit of the society.

- Make sure researchers are merited for disseminating research results beyond academia and for interacting with heritage, culture, and society.
- Make sure equal access to researched knowledge is provided in a variety of languages.

2. Protect national infrastructures for publishing locally relevant research.

- Make sure not-for-profit journals and book publishers have both sufficient resources and the support needed to maintain high standards of quality control and research integrity.
- Make sure national journals and book publishers are safeguarded in their transition to open access.

3. Promote language diversity in research assessment, evaluation, and funding systems.

- Make sure that in the process of expert-based evaluation, high quality research is valued regardless of the publishing language or publication channel.
- Make sure that when metrics-based systems are utilized, journal and book publications in all languages are adequately taken into account.

WHAT MULTILINGUALISM?

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Hi!



CHALLENGES

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Hi!



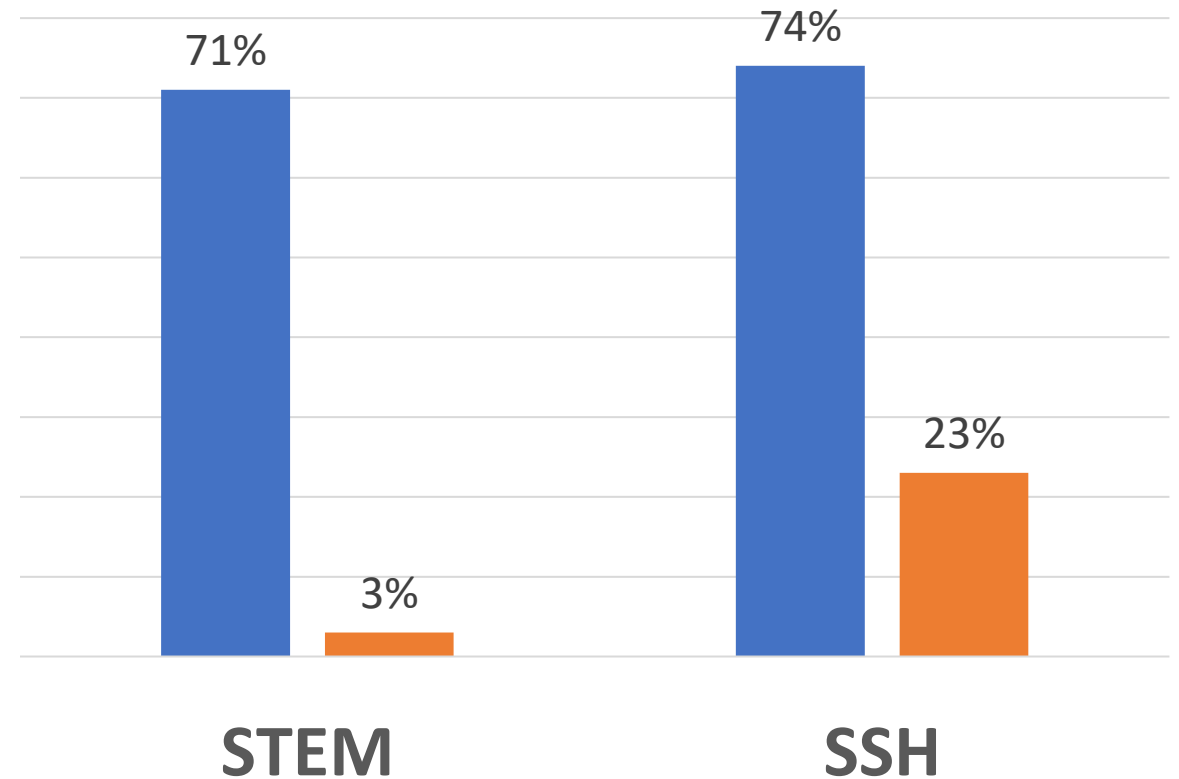
RELEVANT FOR ALL FIELDS

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Hi!

Share of national languages of all publication outputs of 14 Finnish Universities 2016-17 (N=70,425)

■ Not peer-reviewed ■ Peer-reviewed



Source: Pölönen, J., Muhonen, R. & Mustajoki, H. (2019), Helsinki-aloite monikielisen tieteellisen viestinnän puolesta, *Acatiimi* 4: 40: http://www.acatiimi.fi/4_2019/20.php

BALANCED POLICIES

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Hi!



Multilingualism in scholarly communication: Endorsement of Helsinki Initiative

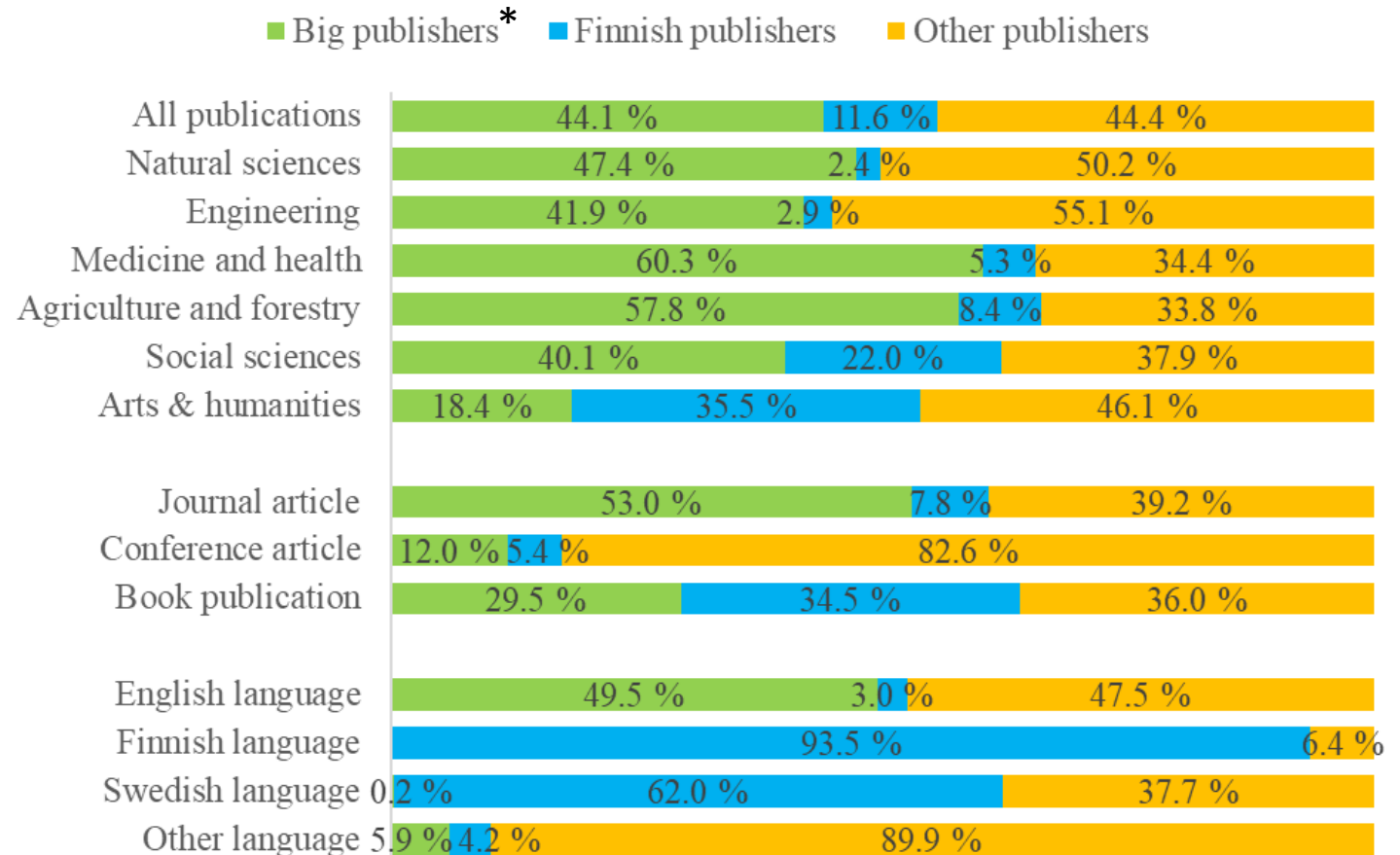
- “The Helsinki initiative brings forward the concept of ‘balanced multilingualism’, which promotes equality between different needs. For example, **multilingual work should be fully acknowledged in scholarly assessments and English should not have more weight than other languages in communication**”.
- “Balanced multilingualism is particularly relevant for Europe, as its research is characterised by **geographic, cultural and linguistic diversity and the common principle of excellence**”.
- “**The strength of European universities lies in aiming at international leadership while being locally anchored**. This also affects the use of language at higher education institutions”.

NATIONAL PUBLISHERS

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Hi!

Publisher shares of peer-reviewed articles in journals, conferences and books, as well as monographs of 14 Finnish Universities 2016-17 (N=48,177)



*Elsevier, Springer Nature, Wiley-Blackwell, Taylor & Francis, Sage and ACS

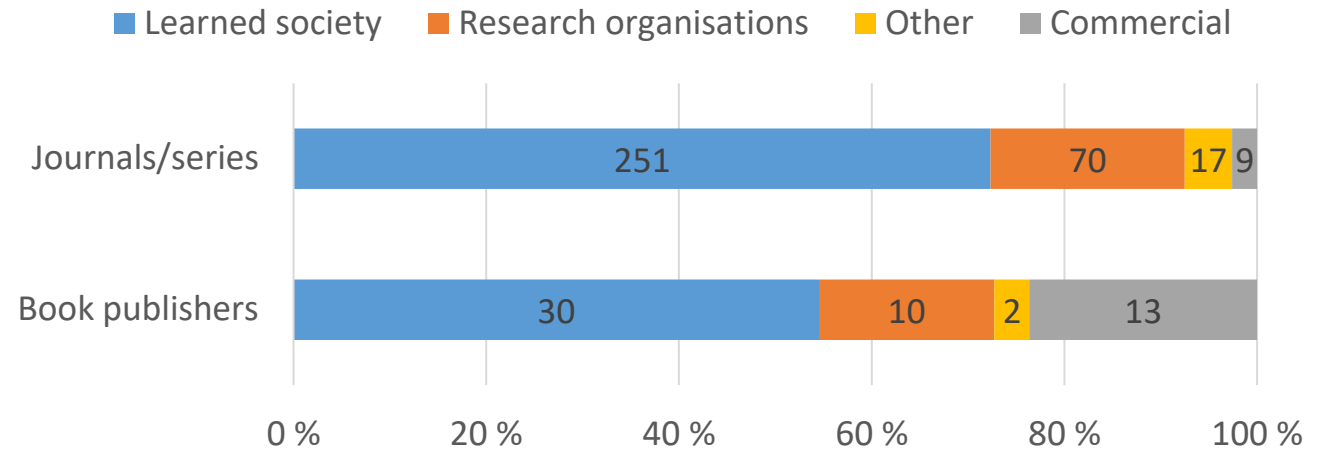
Source: Pölonen, J., Laakso, M., Guns, R., Kulczykcki, E. & Sivertsen, G. (2020), Open access at the national level: A comprehensive analysis of publications by Finnish researchers, *Quantitative Science Studies*: https://doi.org/10.1162/qss_a_00084

THE CASE OF FINLAND

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Hi!

Finnish peer-reviewed journals/series and book publishers according to type of publisher



Based on: Late, E., Korkeamäki, L., Pölönen, J. & Syrjämäki, S. (2018). The role of learned societies in national scholarly publishing, *Learned Publishing*, 33(1), 5–13. <https://doi.org/10.1002/leap.1270>

- Different kinds of publishers: mostly learned societies, as well as universities and other research organisations. Relatively small role played by commercial publishers.
- National and international publication languages:
 - 72% of all outputs in Finnish, 4% in Swedish
 - 24% in English, but also German, Russian, French, Italian, Spanish

Further information: Korkeamäki, L., Late, E., Pölönen, J., Rynnänen-Karjalainen, L. & Syrjämäki, S. (2018). *Learned Societies in Finland*, Federation of Finnish Learned Societies: <https://doi.org/10.23847/isbn.9789525995190>

JOURNAL PUBLISHERS

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Hi!

- Most journal publishing societies operate on very small resources and mostly rely on voluntary work of researchers
- The strength of this model is that it is researcher-driven and the journal editors are experts of the substance
- The weakness is the lack of professional editorial and technical support, very small or no compensation for editorial work
- The existence and stability of this infrastructure is vulnerable to small changes in resources, such as losing income from subscriptions and membership fees needed to sustain the publishing activities
- This model needs to be restructured because currently it does not support transition to Open Access publishing

BOOK PUBLISHERS

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Hi!

- Even the biggest academic book publishers in Finland are small compared to international academic publishers
- Even the commercial academic publishers in Finland have low expectation of profits: they expect mainly to cover the costs of publishing
 - They have universities and societies as background institutions
- Book publishing editors are usually not researchers but professional editors
- Strong publishing expertise and editorial support for authors
- Needs a wide network of researchers and other experts of substance
- Depend on sales of their books (in printed and electronic format) to cover the costs of publishing. Therefore, publishing their books Open Access is not possible without alternative funding sources.

OPEN ACCESS TRANSITION

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Hi!

- National publishers are needed to maintain high standards of peer-review and research integrity in national language publishing.
- They face technical and socio-economic challenges in transition to an open access publishing model
- Technical challenges can be important
 - Free or low-cost OA publishing platforms for journals and books are widely available nationally and internationally
 - For some publishers a move from print to digital environment is needed
- National journals and book publishers maintain and are embedded in local research communities.
 - Infrastructure of scholarly publishing in Finland has developed since the early 19th century
- Also publishers' economic circumstances to transfer into OA publishing vary a lot
 - Losing income from subscriptions and membership fees to support mainly voluntary editorial and peer-review work

FUNDING SOLUTIONS

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- A sustainable funding model for OA publishing is needed to provide a better and more reasonable way of supporting and organizing the publishing activities
 - Small not-for-profit organizations are flexible and therefore can adopt new models more easily than big publishers
 - The publishing expenses of Finnish publishers are quite modest, which means that funding OA publishing in Finland does not need large sums of money
- Because the publishing landscape is so diverse, it is difficult to create one all-encompassing model
 - The model should allow space for different publishers and different ways of doing things
- In Finland, there is no tradition of charging authors payments (APC)
- The most viable alternative is a national level solution based on support from government and consortium of research and funding organizations

OA AND ACCESSIBILITY

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Hi!

- Open access to research publications is important but it does not secure the fulfilment of the educational and public understanding missions of Open Science in a world of OA publishing
- National journals and book publishers play a crucial role in the society by making effort to communicate research results also beyond academia in a findable and comprehensible way
 - The publications are not accessible to the decision-makers, professionals and general public if they are available through channels and repositories used by only academic community
 - Not only peer-reviewed articles and monographs for other researchers but also research-based, popularized publications, discussions and reviews are needed
 - Open Access does not make publications any easier to access and read if there are no publications written in a way that is comprehensible also to other audiences

GLOBAL & LOCAL TOPICS

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Hi!

- National publishers provide outlets for research on topics that are relevant for the Finnish society
 - Thus they make sure that the Finnish public has reliable research-based knowledge on locally important topics
 - Without national publication channels, research publications would be written mainly on topics serving international academic discussion
- National publishers also support the international aspect of research by publishing research on local topics in English and other languages for foreign audiences
- They also provide publication channels for critical discussion on topics from international research literature and their adaptation to Finnish national context
- National publishers also play a crucial role in development of the scientific vocabulary and conventions, thereby ensuring that Finnish and Swedish can have a role as languages of science also in the future

CONCLUSIONS

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- Sustaining a balanced approach to multilingual scholarly communication also requires a healthy infrastructure for local language publishing.
- The social and cultural context of national journals and book publishers is unique: they cannot be replaced by publication channels produced in other countries, or by international mega-journals and platforms.
- The Finnish research community cannot meet the international and national OA targets if open access to research is not secured in a sustainable way to journals and books published in Finland.

MORE INFORMATION

**Helsinki Initiative
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Hi!

Read and sign:

www.helsinki-initiative.org

Email:

helsinki-initiative@tsv.fi

Hashtag:

[#InAllLanguages](#)