

Platinum OA Journals in Switzerland

List and Documentation
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Daniela Hahn (University of Zurich)*
Christian Hopp (Bern University of Applied Sciences)
Gernot Pruschak (Bern University of Applied Sciences)**

PLATO
(Platinum Open Access Funding)
Website: <https://t.uzh.ch/plato>

* E-Mail: daniela.hahn@uzh.ch

** E-Mail: gernot.pruschak@bfh.ch

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The «Platinum Open Access Funding» (PLATO) project was initiated by six Swiss universities to establish sustainable business models that strengthen collaborative, community-driven, and high-quality Platinum Open Access publishing in Switzerland. The project is co-funded by swissuniversities.

In order to devise strategies to further develop Platinum OA publishing in Switzerland, it is key to gain a thorough overview of the current ecosystem. The PLATO Study sets out to deliver this overview with, as a first outcome, a bibliometric list of already existing or soon upcoming Platinum OA journals published in Switzerland,¹ including those in the process of transitioning to Platinum OA or not (yet) indexed in DOAJ and/or other databases. It was compiled from April to June 2022.

1. Definitions

1.1 How do we define Platinum Open Access?

Platinum Open Access (also known as Diamond Open Access) refers to publishing and accessing scholarly publications without any barriers for both authors and readers, neither monetary (requiring the payment of APCs, page charges or image charges) nor non-monetary barriers (subscription or registration barriers, implementation of an embargo period for the publication of a free online version, so-called «delayed OA»).

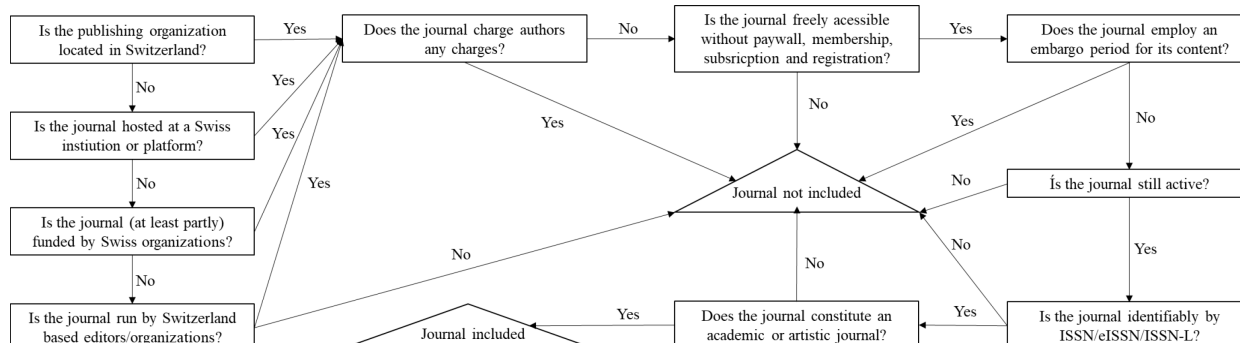
1.2 How do we define «Swiss» Platinum OA Journal?

Because the Platinum OA scholarly publishing ecosystem is largely defined by its internationality and collaborative nature (Bosman et al., 2021), we employed a broad approach to the criteria defining «Swiss» Platinum OA journal in the framework of this study:

- Published by/at a Swiss Higher Education Institution, Research Institution or Academic Society OR
- Hosted at a Swiss institution or platform OR
- Published by a publisher (primarily) located in Switzerland OR
- Member from Switzerland among editors-in-chief, editorial or advisory board AND
- Still active (at least one publication since 2018) AND
- Identifiable by an ISSN/eISSN/ISSN-L (or in the process of applying for one) AND
- Publishing for an academic or artistic readership

¹ A report with results from a qualitative and quantitative study of the Platinum OA ecosystem across the different geographical regions and scholarly disciplines, its current practices and challenges will be published in the fall 2022.

Fig. 1: Inclusion criteria.



2. Methodology

To identify Swiss Platinum OA journals based on the criteria outlined above, we combined a bibliometric study with inputs from publishers and institutional open access experts. The latter provided a counterbalance to the fact that a substantial number of open access journals is not indexed in bibliometric databases (Björk, & Solomon, 2012). Moreover, bibliometric data only allows to identify journals based on the publishing location. Because of the broad approach of the PLATO Study, the publishing location did not feature as the sole criterium for identifying Swiss Platinum OA journals but also included journals run by Switzerland-based editors or organisations as well as those (partly) funded by Swiss institutions.

2.1 Database Search

The data provided in the following bibliometric directories were used to compile a first draft of the list of possible Swiss Platinum OA Journals. The number of journals indicated below refers to the journals added to the list after a process of manually data-cleaning to ensure that only journals were included that fit the above-mentioned criteria for Swiss Platinum OA journals.

- Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ): 54 (19.04.2022)
- Swisscovery: 14 (21.04.2022)
- Scimago Journal Ranking List 2020: 19 (22.04.2022)
- EBSCO Academic Search Ultimate: 13 (23.04.2022)
- Web of Science: 7 (24.04.2022)
- Directory of Open Access Scholarly Resources (ROAD): 49 (26.04.2022)

In total, the bibliometric query resulted in the identification of 156 Swiss Platinum OA journals that fulfilled the inclusion criteria. During the manual verification process, we also gathered relevant journal characteristics from the journals' websites, comprising the research field (as defined by the Web of Science research areas [Clarivate Analytics, 2020]), size in terms of articles published per year, founding year, publishing language, publishing organisation, type of publishing organisation, information on open access license and journal URL.

2.2 Stakeholder Input

After generating the first draft of the Swiss Platinum OA journal list based on bibliometric databases, further inputs on potentially missing journals were collected by sending the list to institutional open access experts in the beginning of May 2022: (a) the PLATO Working Group members, representing the six partner institutions, (b) the members of the «Arbeitskreis Open Access» (AKOA) of the Conference of Swiss University Libraries, and (c) open access contact persons at Higher Education Institutions that publish at least one platinum open access journal according to our bibliometric findings and who had not been contacted in the previous steps.² In this way, 62 additional journal suggestions were gathered which were verified according to the inclusion criteria. This was not the case for six journals. Consequently, the manual additions added 56 journals to the list of Swiss Platinum OA journals.

The combined list of Swiss Platinum OA journals contained 212 (56 + 156) entries which were then reviewed in detail to verify the Platinum status of the journal and whether the journal was still active and/or in transition to a different publication model as well as to gather additional information on the composition of the editorial board, the publisher's location, the location of hosting services, open access policy and information on possible funding received from Swiss organisations. In addition, we checked the combined list against the journal inventory included in the 2021 «OA Diamond Journals Study» by Science Europe and cOAlition S (Bosman et al., 2021). We further contacted select journal editors regarding missing information or for clarification, especially in cases in which no information on charges was provided. The data-cleaning process resulted in the current list of 170 Swiss platinum open access journals (11.07.2022).

3. Presentation

The presentation of the list follows the inventory of Diamond Open Access journals in the framework of «The OA Diamond Journals Study» mentioned above. We included the following journal information to provide an informative overview of the Platinum OA publication landscape in Switzerland:

- Title of journal
- Scientific discipline
- ISSN
- Publisher/Editor(s)
- Location of Publisher/Editor(s)
- Journal URL
- Hosting organization
- Open access publishing license

² We would like to thank all members of the PLATO Working Group, the PLATO Project Board as well as Jeroen Bosman, Bianca Kramer, and Marco Tullney for their most helpful inputs and comments.

4. Statistics

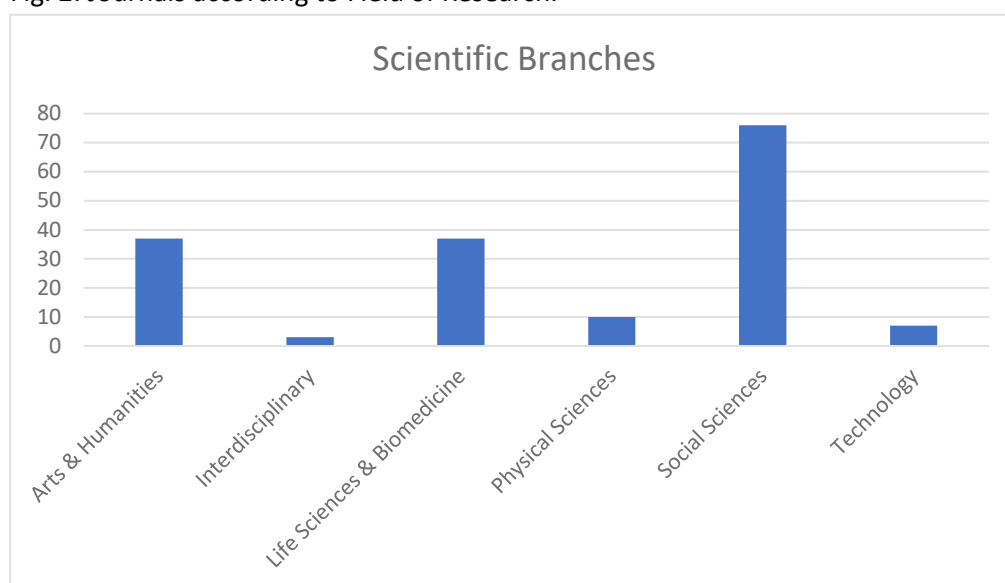
The following figures provide an initial overview of the Swiss Platinum OA publishing landscape based on the findings from the bibliometric study.

Total of Platinum OA Journals: 170

Number and percentage of those registered in DOAJ: 52 (30.59%)

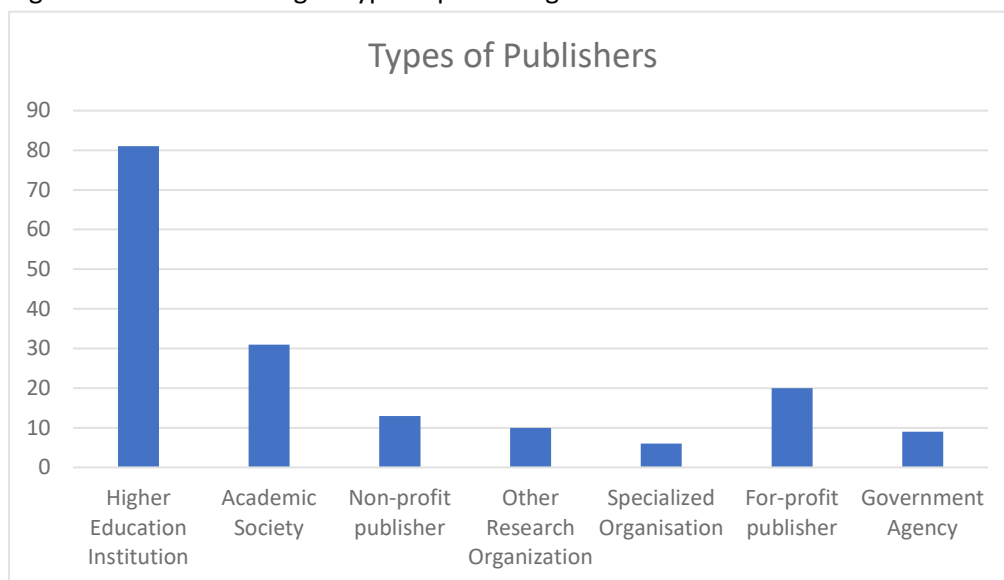
Figure 2 highlights the distribution of Swiss Platinum OA journals among scientific branches. The largest group of journals (76 or 44.71%) are published within the social sciences. This is followed by Life Sciences & Biomedicine (37 journals or 21.76%) and Arts & Humanities (37 journals or 21.76%). Only ten journals identified (5.88%) are published within the physical sciences, seven technology journals (4.12%) and three interdisciplinary journals (1.76%).

Fig. 2: Journals according to Field of Research.



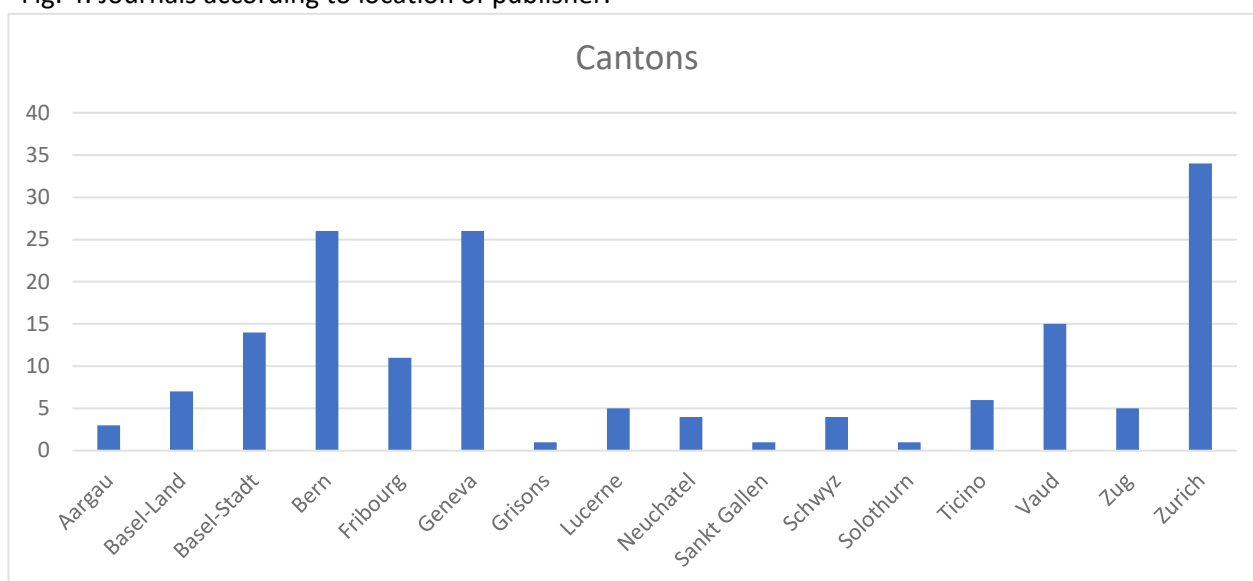
The following graph (Fig. 3) highlights the different types of publishers of Swiss Platinum OA journals. Nearly half of the journals are published by Higher Education Institutions (81 journals or 47.65%). Academic Societies publish 31 journals (18.24%). Interestingly, 20 journals (11.76%) are published by For-Profit-Publishers, whereas 13 journals (7.65%) are published by Non-Profit-Publishers. Ten journals (5.88%) are published by research institutions that are not Higher Education Institutions. This includes, among others, CERN or the Natural History Museum Geneva. Nine journals (5.29%) are published by government agencies like the World Health Organization or the Federal Office for Agriculture. Six journals are published by dedicated organisations (e. g. non-profit associations) that specialise solely in publishing the respective journal.

Fig. 3: Journals according to type of publishing institution.



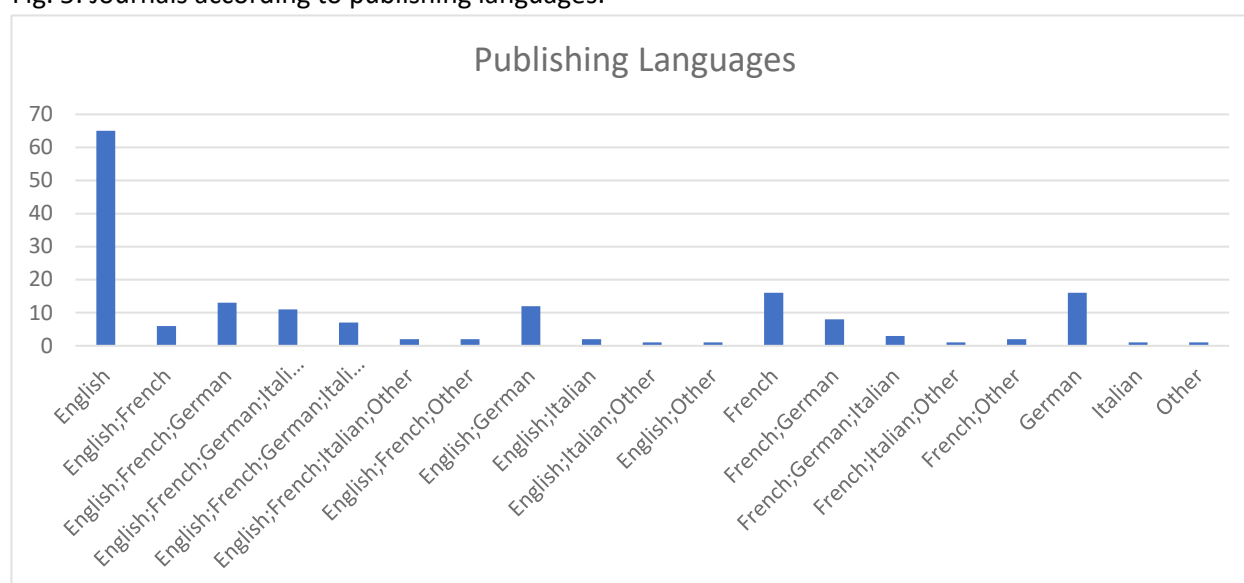
For publisher location, the list currently includes seven journals with publishers located outside of Switzerland: Austria, Germany, Singapore, the Netherlands and the United States of America. Taking a closer look at the 163 journals with publishers located in Switzerland in the following figure (Fig. 4), most journals (34 or 20.86%) appear with publishers located in the canton of Zurich. This is followed by the cantons of Bern (26 journals or 15.95%) and Geneva (26 journals or 15.95%). 15 journals (9.20%) are published in Vaud, 14 (8.59%) in Basel-Stadt and 11 (6.75%) in the canton of Fribourg.

Fig. 4: Journals according to location of publisher.



The next figure (Fig. 5) shows the distribution of the publishing languages. 65 journals (38.24%) only publish English articles while 16 journals (9.41%) publish only French articles and 16 journals (9.41%) publish solely German articles. 71 journals (41.77%) allow more than one language for publishing articles with the most frequent combinations being English-French-German (13 journals) and English-French-German-Italian (11 journals). One journal, *Babylonia*, even publishes articles in all four official Swiss languages, including Romansh.

Fig. 5: Journals according to publishing languages.



5. References

Björk, B. C., & Solomon, D. (2012). Open access versus subscription journals: a comparison of scientific impact. *BMC medicine*, *10*(1), 1-10.

Bosman, J., Frantsvåg, J. E., Kramer, B., Langlais, P. C., & Proudman, V. (2021). *The OA Diamond Journals Study. Part 1: Findings*. Brussels: Operas.

Clarivate Analytics (2020). *Web of Science Core Collection Help – Research Areas*. Available at https://images.webofknowledge.com/images/help/WOS/hp_research_areas_easca.html [14th of June, 2022].

6. Contact

In case you know any missing journals, we would be very pleased if you could let us know in the following survey form: https://bfh.fra1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0ALHvsIsbHaPINM

In case you have any questions about the Swiss Platinum Open Access study, please contact Gernot Pruschak (gernot.pruschak@bfh.ch).

In case you have any questions about the PLATO project, please contact Daniela Hahn (daniela.hahn@uzh.ch).