



# How to Publish for Free: Diamond Open Access in Switzerland

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Affordable Open Access: Exploring Funding and Free Publishing Options





## What is Diamond/Platinum Open Access?

Diamond Open Access (or Platinum Open Access) is a publication model in which neither authors nor readers pay any fees.

In addition, this publication model is scholar-led, i.e. control remains in the hands of the scientific community, and it is based on shared values of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Pierre Mounier (OPERAS) argues that Diamond Open Access is not a new or alternative model of scholarly publishing. It is how scientists used to publish within and for their communities for the longest time in the history of science.

The industrialisation of scholarly publishing is a product of the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

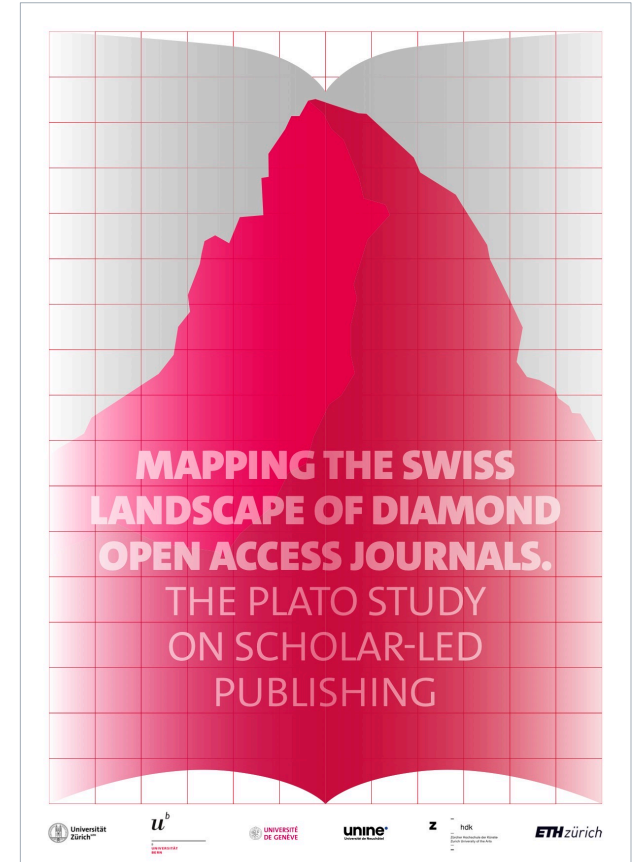


## About the PLATO Project

PLATO is a national partnership project initiated by six Swiss universities and co-funded by swissuniversities.

Its goal is to further sustainable Diamond Open Access publishing in Switzerland by

- providing an overview of the landscape of Diamond OA journals in Switzerland (PLATO Study),
- devising sustainable funding and support scenarios for Swiss Platinum/Diamond Open Access journals,
- community building.





## What are the benefits of Diamond OA for researchers?

- Immediate and full open access without fees for authors and readers
- Copyrights remain with authors (rights retention)
- Possibility of immediately sharing your article, e. g. in institutional repositories
- Integration into local research contexts while being internationally visible
- Strengthen the diversity of publication outlets in their field
- Support for scholar-led initiatives without commercial interests – journals as a “service for the scientific community”



## What are the limitations/challenges of Diamond OA?

- Currently not all disciplines are equally covered: Diamond OA less present in the physical sciences and technology compared to social sciences (44.68% of Swiss Diamond OA journals) and arts & humanities (22.55%).
- In Switzerland: Only 76 (32.34%) of 235 Swiss Diamond OA journals are indexed in the [Directory of Open Access](#) (DOAJ) and 12 (5.10%) in the Diamond Open Access Scientific Information System [Redalyc](#) which impacts findability.
- In certain communities, there are preconceptions that Diamond OA or OA publishing in general is unreliable and variable in quality. But quality doesn't depend on the publishing model and high price doesn't necessarily buy high prestige.  
(Corbyn, Z. Price doesn't always buy prestige in open access. *Nature* (2013). <https://doi.org/10.1038/nature.2013.12259>)
- Lack of sustainable funding presents a challenge for journals





# How to find a Diamond OA journal?

The screenshot shows the DOAJ (Open Access Journals) website. The header includes the DOAJ logo and the tagline "OPEN GLOBAL TRUSTED". Navigation tabs for "SEARCH", "DOCUMENTATION", and "ABOUT" are visible. A search bar is present with a "SEARCH" button. Below the search bar, it says "Journals" with a help icon. A filter button "Without article processing charges (APCs)" is active. The main content area displays "12,903 indexed journals" and a "Refine search results" section with various filters like "With a DOAJ Seal" and "Without article processing charges (APCs)".

[www.doaj.org](http://www.doaj.org)

The screenshot shows the zeriodo website. The header features the zeriodo logo, a search bar, and links for "Upload" and "Communities". A celebratory message "Celebrating our 10th anniversary! Send us your birthday greeting here." is displayed. The main content area is titled "List of Platinum OA Journals in Switzerland" and includes the date "August 15, 2022" and buttons for "Dataset" and "Open Access". The authors listed are Hahn, Daniela; Hopp, Christian; and Pruschak, Gernot. A paragraph explains that the list provides an overview of the Swiss Platinum Open Access landscape, established as part of the "Platinum Open Access Funding" (PLATO) project. A link to "More information" is provided.

[List of Swiss Platinum OA Journals v4.0](#)

The screenshot shows the Redalyc website. The header includes the Redalyc logo and the tagline "Scientific Information System Redalyc". Navigation links for "About", "Principles and values", "Digital publishing technology (XML JATS)", "Journals indexing", "Services", and "Open Science" are present. The main content area displays statistics: "1,580 Journals online", "749 Institutions", "31 Countries", and "796,371, Articles". A language selector "spa en" is visible in the bottom right corner.

[www.redalyc.org](http://www.redalyc.org)



25% of Swiss Diamond OA journals  
are hosted on institutional platforms

## Diamond Open Access Platforms

HOPE – Hauptbibliothek Open Publishing Environment, University of Zurich

BOP – Bern Open Publishing, University of Bern

ETERNA – Open Publishing Plattform, University of Basel

OAP – Open Access Publications, University of Geneva

SOAP2 – Shared Open Publishing Platform, University of Fribourg



## How to check the quality and compliance of an open access journal?

- Do I retain the copyrights to my work?
- Does the journal offer information for authors regarding the type of peer review it uses and submission guidelines?
- Does the journal website contain informations about the editors/publisher and the composition of the editorial board and include a contact?
- Does the journal provide informations on fees and charges? (no fees/amount of APCs/waiver options) Is the cost calculation transparent?
- Does the journal use Creative Commons licensing?
- Does the journal use persistent identifiers (PID)?
- Does the journal have a long-term archiving strategy?
- Is the journal indexed in any journal database?

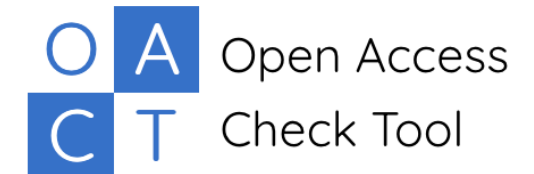
! THINK ✓ CHECK ➤ SUBMIT

### Journals

The checklist is a tool that will help you discover what you need to know when assessing whether or not a publisher is suitable for your research.

How can you be sure the journal you are considering is the right journal for your research?

<https://thinkchecksubmit.org>



<https://oact.epfl.ch/>





## What are the opportunities of Diamond OA?

Position  
Diamond OA as  
solid alternative  
to APC-based  
and other  
commercial  
publishing

Take back  
control over  
scholarly  
communication

Investment in a  
diverse,  
affordable and  
sustainable  
publishing  
ecosystem

Inclusive  
Publishing  
Ecosystem  
based on the  
Human Right to  
Science  
(UNESCO)



## Contact

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Zenodo Community: <https://zenodo.org/communities/plato-ch/>

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