

The Episciences journals an overview

Agnès Magron, Claire Dandieu

Launched in 2013, Episciences (<https://episciences.org/>) is a free platform for creating, hosting and disseminate scholarly journals, which publish articles deposited in the open archives HAL or arXiv.

Traditional peer review process for open access preprints: the editorial committees of the overlay journals (epi=overlay) organize the evaluation and scientific discussion in Episciences of the preprints that are submitted or selected.

Preprints that are selected in this way thus become peer-reviewed articles with full scientific recognition in the HAL or arXiv repositories (automatic update of bibliographic metadata).

A survey to better know our users

Questionnaire sent to the editors-in-chief of the 11 journals active on Episciences in April 2018. The results of the survey are representative of our users since we got at least one answer per journal.

Satisfaction assessment

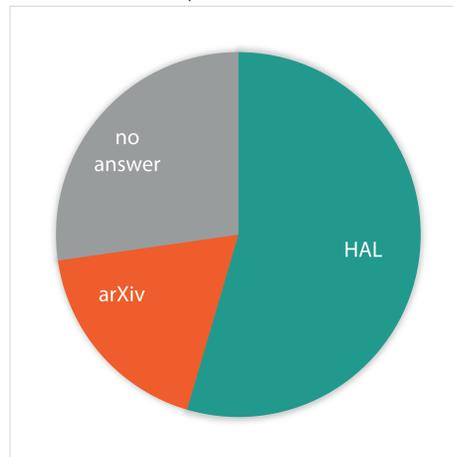
Users are globally satisfied with Episciences. The main weakness is the articulation with the open archives for the submission process.

Feature and service	Score from 1 «Very dissatisfied» to 5 «Very satisfied»
Technical assistance	4,27
Automatic reminders	4
Website customization	3,72
User interface design	3,72
User documentation	3,63
Mailing module	3,6
Sections and volumes assignment	3,45
Articles management	3,4
Users accounts management	3,27
Review process	3,1
Workflow flexibility	3
Article submission	2,9

Article submission

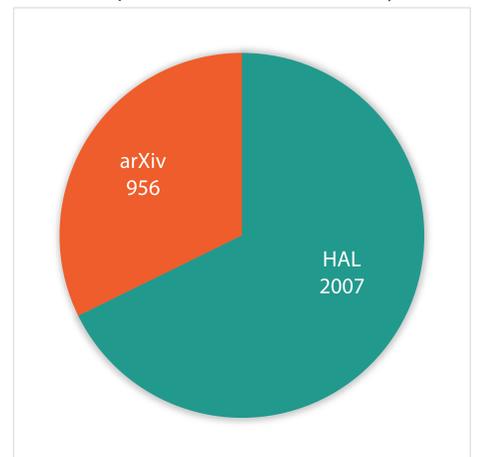
72.7% of journals recommend to their authors to use an open archive in particular. 6 journals recommend HAL.

Which archive do you recommend to your authors ?



The facts

Number of published articles distributed by archive



The majority of the articles published in the Episciences journals have been submitted in HAL.

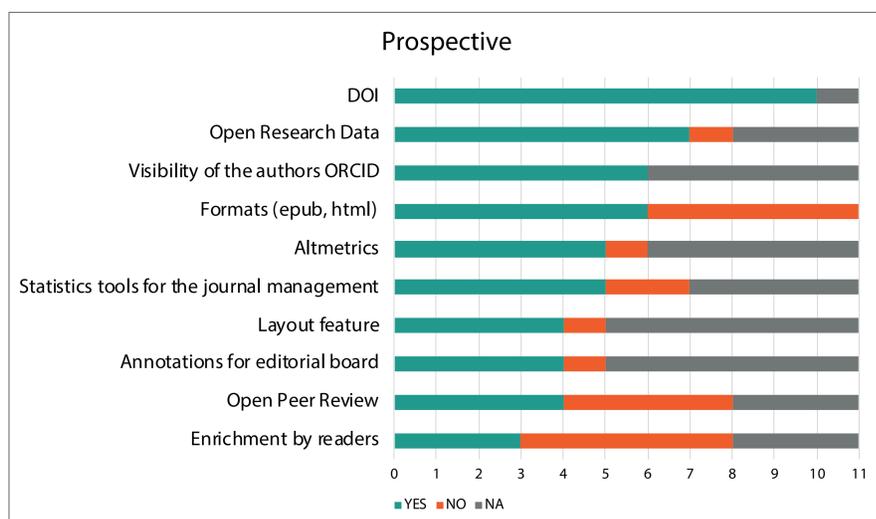
Peer reviewing

Of the 11 respondents, 9 say they use the platform to perform their peer reviewing activity.

According the data and for 2 journals, it is the same user who manages both the submission in HAL and acceptance of articles. In fact, there would be only 6 out of 11 journals that would systematically go through the platform for the evaluation process.

Prospective

The purpose was to solicit reactions from our users about future features and uses for their scientific journals. 10 novelties were thus presented:



4 key advantages of Episciences

This survey has highlighted the strengths of Episciences:

- The economic model, considered as a virtuous model by the editorial committees;
- Referencing of articles, volumes and sections on a personalized website;
- Autonomy to manage the peer reviewing activity;
- The assistance support and daily support service in the use of the platform.