Diamond open access in the Finnish scholarly publishing landscape

Janne Pölönen[*] and Mikael Laakso[#]
[*]*Federation of Finnish Learned Societies,* [#]*Tampere University*

Abstract

Diamond open access, where institutional publishers (typically universities and learned societies) make content immediately available at time of publication and no payment is asked from either readers or authors, is in stark contrast to the open access publishing models utilised by large commercial publishers. This paper presents a bibliometric mapping study focusing in particular on the current presence and characteristics of Diamond open access journals and book series in Finland. Utilising national data sources, the study identifies 201 active peer-reviewed journals in Finland, of which 146 (73%) are open access and the vast majority, 139 (69%), are more specifically Diamond open access. Additionally, 63 active peer-reviewed book series are identified, for which the open access share and Diamond open access share was 34 (54%) and 32 (51%) respectively. We find that a high share of all Finnish journals is published by learned societies, and are hosted on the Journal.fi national platform (62%), with a high proportion (75%) of all Diamond open access journals being hosted on the platform. The paper contributes with the first targeted study and openly available dataset on this particular segment of scholarly publishing channels.

1. Introduction

1.1. Prologue

Throughout his career Johan Rooryck has contributed to the research landscape on many levels, from the very grassroots level of producing and facilitating original research, to the top of international science policy. His actions have created ripples of momentum that grow and will continue to reverberate long into the future. In this paper we focus in particular on Diamond open access journals – i.e. journals that are "community-driven, academic-led and -owned", and that do not "charge fees to either authors or readers" (Ancion et al. 2022). Diamond OA is an area of scholarly publishing where Johan has been a key figure in advancing the practices from multiple fronts, and still continues to do so through the European Diamond Capacity Hub (EDCH) and a strong presence in international projects. Actions speak louder than words. In 2016 Johan's passion for Diamond open access was tangibly demonstrated through his leadership in the mass editorial exodus from the Lingua journal (Rooryck 2016) and the founding of Glossa as a Diamond open access journal, which he has continued to edit until this day. This was a seminal moment in the actions around open access publishing, demonstrating that also individual scholars can make a difference.

1.2. Aim of the study

Despite the increased attention and emphasis that Diamond open access publishing has received in recent years, there is still a lack of studies and data that would provide comprehensive mapping of the presence of Diamond open access. The most comprehensive study to date is the Diamond Open Access Journals Study with data from 2020, but also that study relied on estimations rather than confirmed observations for the total number of Diamond open access journals in the world (Bosman et al. 2021).

In this study we provide the most comprehensive and up to date bibliometric mapping of Diamond open access journals and book series active in Finland, a country where Diamond open access publishing is already at an advanced stage due to a number of reasons that are documented in the next section. As more of these national studies on Diamond open access crop up with associated datasets (e.g. Frantsvåg 2022, Taubert, Sterzik, and Bruns 2024), stakeholders gain a more comprehensive and contextualized global perspective and can make more informed actions about the best paths forward both nationally and internationally.

There is no official exact definition on what constitutes 'Diamond open access', but often the lowest common denominator is that readership and authorship should not come with any associated financial costs. In this study we identify Diamond open access channels based on open availability of all content and without costs for authors or readers. In addition, we will analyse to what extent the identified Diamond

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open access channels also meet the set of operational criteria developed in collaboration between the DIAMAS and CRAFT-OA projects (Armengou et al. 2024).

1.3. A brief history of Diamond open access in Finland

The overall journal publishing landscape in Finland is characterised by most journals being published by individual small non-profit learned societies and associations, active within the domain of social sciences and the humanities (Late et al. 2020). There is also a practice stemming back to the 1800s of providing government subsidies for supporting non-profit scholarly publishing in Finland, which on average has covered roughly a third of publishing expenses (Ilva and Lilja 2014). This practice is exceptional on the European level where, if there is any support for national journals, it is managed through competitive grants or through support channelled through universities (Laakso and Multas 2023). While non-profit-driven subscription income has been a key source enabling publishing activity among these organisations, it is an income source which the growth of open access publishing risks eroding over time. A further complication is that subscription-access has often been bundled into the learned society's membership. As subscription-based content becomes less relevant, scholars may be less inclined to join or remain members of learned societies, with implications beyond the publication model.

Finland, like several other Nordic countries, has a copyright organisation (Kopiosto) responsible for managing compensation collection from primarily the public sector and educational institutions for their copying and digital distribution of copyrighted materials in their activities. Kopiosto is also responsible for the distribution of collected funds towards publishers who publish copyrighted materials. In the case of scholarly publications, the collected funds are paid out to the Association of Finnish Scholarly Publishers that funds e.g. development projects of publishers in the country through competitive funding rounds. Publications that are published with a Creative Commons license do not contribute to this compensation model. As the share of such content has been growing there has been a decreasing amount collected to be able to distribute back into the publishing sector through this established mechanism. As such there is a system-level disincentive and friction for the growth of Diamond open access with Creative Commons licenses seen through this particular lens. This is likely one of the reasons for why the vast majority of Diamond open access journals in Finland have been found to not have adopted open licensing while still remaining free to read and access (Linna et al. 2020).

Science policy in Finland has been strongly in support of open access publishing since the early days of the movement. Hedlund and Rabow (2007) provide an early overview of the development of open access in the Nordic countries, where also a description of the major steps that had been taken in Finland are included. In 2005 a committee appointed by the Ministry of Education provided recommendations to research funders, universities, research institutes, and publishers to transfer towards open access for research outputs (Ministry of Education 2005). The Council of University Rectors for the universities in Finland signed the Berlin Declaration of free access to research information in 2006 (openaccess.mpg.de n.d.). Experimentation with a centrally managed journal platform based on Open Journal Systems (OJS) was funded by the Ministry of Education in 2006, with the Federation of Finnish Learned Societies (TSV) being the main organisation in charge of development which included a pilot with the journals participating in using the platform (Hedlund and Rabow 2007).

Hedlund and Rabow (2007) is also the earliest study that includes some measurement of open access publishing among journals published in Finland. The authors used Ulrichsweb to establish that there were, at that point in time, 98 peer reviewed journals in Finland, 40% of which had an online version and 6% of which were open access. All of the Nordic countries had their open access shares in the single digits so the situation of Finland was roughly in line with the others. At the time of the study Finland had 6 journals indexed in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). Björk (2019) – another open access measurement of Finnish journals with data collected in 2018 – utilised the Finnish Publication Forum (JUFO) list to identify 334 peer-reviewed journals published in Finland placed at quality levels 1–3 (see section 2 for more information on the JUFO system) and manually checked for their open access status by accessing their webpages. The study could establish that 97 were open access which resulted in an open access share of 30%. With a comparable methodology to Björk (2019), Linna et al. (2020) utilised the JUFO

list to identify Finnish journals placed on quality levels 1–3 and assessed their open access status during 2020 by visiting the journal webpages. The study included 332 journal titles as its baseline, of which 177 (53%) were immediate open access, 19 (6%) delayed open access, and 8 (2%) were hybrid open access. Journals that had author-side fees were 7, with one additional journal implementing fees only for special issues. As such open access journals in Finland were found to be Diamond open access almost exclusively, with only 8 of 177 (5%) open access journals implementing APCs on any basis. The increase of open access journals from 97 found by Björk (2019) in 2018 to 177 journals found by Holopainen et al. (2020) in 2020 is a massive jump for which we do not find an explanation in any substantial methodological difference in the studies. Rather, during this time period three factors substantially contributed to a lot of journals opening up access to their content. These factors are described in the three following paragraphs: policy, funding, and technology.

Since 2020 there has been a national policy in place striving for full open access to journal articles (Open Science and Research Coordination 2019) with an updated version in the final drafting stage as of May 2026. This in conjunction with the national research funder, the Research Council of Finland, being an early Plan S signatory, and there being a financial incentive for universities in the public funding model since the year 2021 to make any peer-reviewed outputs open access (Ministry of Education and Culture 2019), has created a particularly strong demand for publishing practices to migrate towards open access models.

Ever since the early days of discussing open access in the context of Finland there has been a concern for how publishing based on this model would be funded as subscription income decreases while the state subsidies are not enough and also require journals to declare through financial documentation that they have other income to be eligible for the subsidies (Hedlund and Rabow 2007). Ilva (2018) provides a good description of what to date has been the most extensive and formal attempt at launching a funding model for Diamond open access journals, a consortial model where enrolled research performing organisations from which researchers publish in enrolled journals would be invoiced annually based on their publishing activity on a per-article basis. The proposed model and pricing did not get sufficient support from universities and despite there being reports written and attempts made at building new models since then (e.g. TSV 2023), the commitment from universities to assist in funding domestic journals has remained weak. Enabling open access has been a criterion of the state subsidies for publishing activities facilitated by TSV since 2014, with increasingly specific requirements added over time (Ilva and Lilja 2014, TSV 2025).

Even though piloting a common OJS platform was already initiated in 2006 as described by Hedlund and Rabow (2007), it was in 2015 together with the launch of the Journal.fi portal based on OJS version 3 that migration among journals started. 50 journals were part of the initial cohort of journals that moved to or launched on the platform during its initial years, with it hosting over 150 open access journals as of May 2026. A snapshot of the profile of journals publishing on the platform in 2020 is provided by Pölönen et al. (2021) when 98 journals were publishing on the platform operated by the Federation of Finnish Learned Societies with funding from the Ministry. Use of the platform is free for journals, with a requirement for open access that content should be freely accessible with a maximum delay of one year of publication.

The most recent and holistic summary of the circumstances of Diamond open access publishing in Finland is provided as an 18-page country overview within a report by Taşkın et al. (2024) stemming from the EU-funded DIAMAS-project. Drawing on bibliometric data from various international sources, collected web survey responses with publishers, and discussions with national focus groups, the publication provides an overview of how Diamond open access is developing and being sustained in Finland, with similar overviews provided for 9 other European countries enabling comparisons to be made. What were particularly distinctive features for Finland in comparison to any other studied country was the emphasis on social sciences and humanities among national publishers, a large share of institutional publishers (commonly learned societies) that only publish one journal title, with publishing supported by a substantial amount of volunteer and in-kind work, and the presence of a strong national IT platform combined with the inclusive public subsidy funding mechanism that has been described earlier in this introduction. However, the study did not use national bibliometric sources for identification of journals, nor separated out Diamond open access within the bibliometric analysis, which instead the present study is set on doing.

2. Methodology

Our openly available dataset (Pölönen and Laakso 2026) consists of active academic scholarly journals and series published in Finland. The main data source is the national register of publication channels developed and maintained by the Publication Forum (in Finnish *Julkaisufoorumi*, in short JUFO) at TSV. The full list of publication channels, including over 35,000 serials, conferences and book publishers, can be browsed and downloaded via the public JUFO-portal (jfp.csc.fi n.d.). All journals and series in JUFO are required to have an ISSN code, and the basic bibliographic metadata for all the serials is derived from the ISSN International Centre.

While most serials with classifications in the JUFO-portal are published outside Finland, in this study we focus on journals and book series whose country of publishing is Finland. In August of 2025, the JUFO-portal contained 2,456 serials published in Finland. Because the JUFO-portal includes serials targeted to scientific, professional and general audiences, we have narrowed down the analysis to active academic/scholarly journals and series by combining two approaches.

Firstly, to identify peer-reviewed journals in Finland essential information can be extracted from the publicly available JUFO data. JUFO classification of journals into 4 level categories is curated by 23 expert-panels composed of nearly 300 researchers from the Finnish universities and research institutes. The expert panels have approved 329 out of 2,456 Finnish serials to JUFO level 1 or higher based on the following criteria:

1. Identifier: The publication channel has a registered ISSN or ISBN number.
2. Transparency: The publication channel's website has a transparent description of the editorial board and the peer review process. (A book publisher may meet Level 1 criteria even if the editorial board and peer review process are not described on the website.)
3. Scientific focus: The publication channel is specialised in the publication of scientific or scholarly research outcomes and it publishes peer-reviewed scientific publications on a regular basis. Channels that publish scientific data, software and methods that support the production of research outcomes are equated with channels that publish scientific or scholarly research outcomes.
4. Editorial board: The publication channel’s editorial board consists of experts, who mainly include researchers working in universities or research institutes.
5. Peer review: The entire manuscripts of scientific or scholarly articles or books are subject to peer review, which is carried out blindly or openly by external scientific experts invited by the editors. (A book publisher may meet the Level 1 criteria if it has a credible quality assessment by the book’s editors.)
6. Scope: The publication channel is used by a national or international scientific community, with over half (1/2) of the editorial board or authors coming from a different research organisation than the publisher organisation.
7. Credibility: The publication channel is scientifically relevant in its field for the international or Finnish scientific community, and its procedure for ensuring scientific quality is credible.

Secondly, to assess which of the identified serials from the first step have had any publishing activity within recent years we can rely on the comprehensive bibliometric research information data that is collected on the national level. Authors affiliated with 14 universities, 24 universities of applied sciences, 12 state research institutes, and several other organisations, have reported to the Ministry of Education and culture a total of 9,780 peer-reviewed articles in 2022–2024 in 367 Finnish serials, so we can use this information as a de facto definition of currently active academic/scholarly outlets. Here we rely on the notion that at least one author affiliated to any of the organisations reporting bibliometric information has published in the serial during 2022–2024. This is a methodological limitation of the study, however, we estimate the share of journals published in Finland with no author affiliated to any research performing organisation reporting bibliometric information to the government during the timespan to be very small. The Ministry collects this data from the higher education institutions specifically for the purpose of allocating part of

Has peer-reviewed publications in 2022–2024	JUFO level Level 1–3	JUFO level Level 0	Total
Yes	264	103	367
No	65	2024	2089
Total	329	2127	2456

Table 1: Identification of active peer-reviewed Finnish serials, utilising national publication activity records and the national JUFO classification.

their annual core funding based on publication output. For the other organisations, the main motivation of reporting publications is visibility of their output in the national Research.fi service.

In this analysis we will focus on 264 serials that are demonstrably active in the sense of having peer-reviewed publication outputs in 2022–2024, and having been approved by the field specific expert panels to level 1 or higher in the JUFO classification (table 1). These serials represent 80% of all serials on JUFO levels 1, 2 or 3 and 72% of those with at least one peer-reviewed output in 2022–2024.

In the analysis, we distinguish between publisher types, subject fields, open access and indexing status. Identification of the publisher type is based on publisher information registered at the International ISSN Centre (Kulczycki et al. 2025), while all other metadata (start year, open access, field, indexing) is from the JUFO-portal.

3. Results

3.1. Growth of the landscape and publisher types

The oldest serial in the dataset is *Suomalaisen kirjallisuuden seuran toimituksia*, a book series of the Finnish Literature Society established in 1834. Of the 264 serials in operation today, 14% were established by the end of 1920s, all by the learned societies (figure 1). The most peculiar feature of the Finnish scholarly publishing landscape is indeed the dominant role of learned societies, strengthened since 1899 by the establishment of TSV as their national umbrella organisation. In total, 75% of all serials in our dataset are published by societies.

The earliest serial by an educational institution is *Ortodoksia*, an academic journal focusing on the theology, culture, and traditions of the Orthodox Church, founded by a department at the University of Helsinki in 1933. Currently, this journal is published by the Finnish Orthodox Clergy Association and the Orthodox Theology Study Program of the University of Eastern Finland, in cooperation with the Karelian Theological Society. Today, 17% of the 264 active peer-reviewed serials are published by universities and other educational institutions.

Other types of publishers also emerged in the 1930s. In 1939, the Union of Finnish Medical Officers launched a peer-reviewed journal *Sotilaslääketieteen Aikakauslehti* (in English, 'Journal of Military Medicine'). Other publishers than societies and educational institutions currently publish 8% of the active peer-reviewed serials. Only two of the Finnish serials (1%) are published by commercial publishers, both in the legal domain: *Verotus* (in English, 'Taxation') and *Edilex*, a legal information service publishing also peer-reviewed content.

3.2. Fields of science, publication languages, and publication types

Most serials, 86%, are in the fields of social sciences and humanities (SSH), whereas 14% operate in the natural sciences, engineering, agriculture and medical fields (STEM) (figure 2). A ready explanation for this is that researchers in both STEM and SSH fields publish the majority of their peer-reviewed output in foreign outlets. Nevertheless, in the SSH it is a common international pattern that a sizable share of research is published in the dominant or national language(s) of the country. Accordingly, 78% of the peer-reviewed

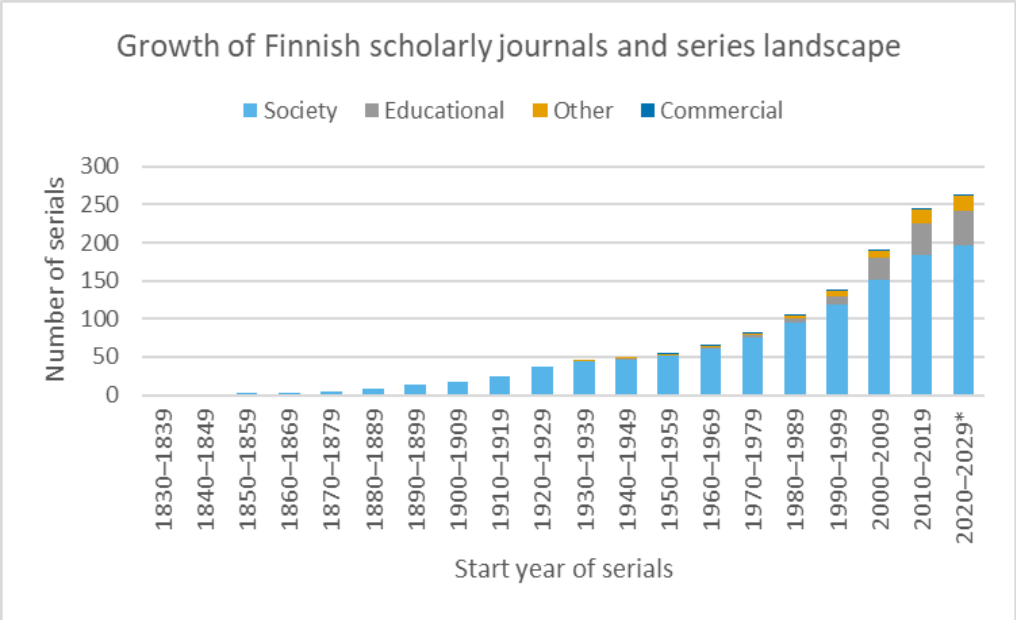

Figure 1: Growth of Finnish scholarly journals and series, categorised by publisher type.

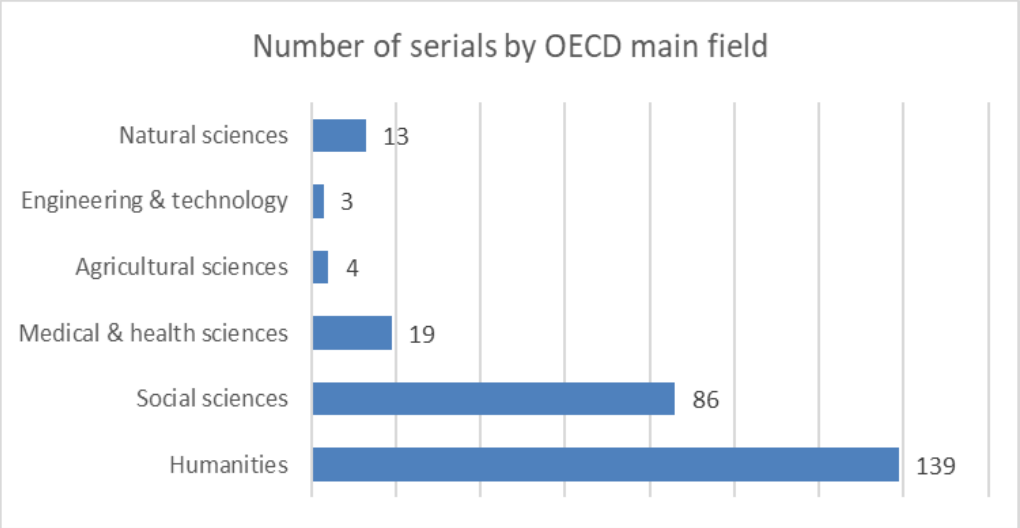

Figure 2: Number of active Finnish peer-reviewed serials by OECD main field.

output in Finnish serials is published in Finnish and 3% in Swedish (table 2). There is also one Finnish journal publishing in Sami language.

Interestingly, the publication output of medicine and health in Finnish serials is comparable to SSH fields, not only in volume but also in the dominant role of the Finnish language. Two medical journals, *Duodecim* and *Lääkärilehti*, are indeed among the single most frequently used publication venues, in terms of the number of articles, by Finnish researchers also when including foreign journals. In the humanities, in addition to Finnish (67%) a considerable share (8%) of output is published in Swedish (and also other languages than English play a role). Finnish publishers also provide English-language outlets for peer-reviewed research focused on Finnish history, culture and society.

Main OECD field	Peer reviewed outputs 2022–2024	Share of outputs in English	Share of outputs in Finnish	Share of outputs in Swedish	Share of outputs in other languages
Natural sciences	204	93%	7%	0%	0%
Engineering	56	79%	21%	0%	0%
Agriculture	184	71%	29%	0%	0%
Medicine & health	2788	10%	90%	0%	0%
Social sciences	2585	11%	88%	1%	0%
Arts & humanities	3289	24%	67%	8%	2%
Grand total	9106	19%	78%	3%	1%

Table 2: Publication volumes per OECD disciplinary field, with breakdown of publication language.

As indicated earlier, the serials landscape in Finland includes both book series and journals. In addition, many books are published by societies and other types of publishers outside series – these fall outside this analysis. Distinguishing between book series and journals is not always easy, and we do not have at our disposal a ready categorization of serials. An example of this ambiguity are yearbooks, which may have a regular publishing schedule but authors perceive the product as article collections.

With some limitations we can use the nationally collected publication data to characterize serials as either book series or journals. The authors have indicated, at the time of reporting their outputs in the institutional research information system whether these are monographs or articles in journals, book chapters or conference papers. Clear cases included 35 serials (13%) having only book chapters and/or monographs reported within them, while 184 (70%) have only journal articles reported. As regards uncertain cases, most serials with majority of book articles were characterized as book series, with the exception of yearbooks. A total of 201 serials were characterized as journals and 63 as book series.

3.3. Open access, diamondization, publishing platforms and visibility

The large majority, 73%, of serials published in Finland enable open access, including 180 (68%) providing open access in the publisher service and additional 13 serials (3%) allowing self-archiving in a publication repository (figure 3). These shares are, expectedly, somewhat smaller (56%) among serials we characterized as book series than among journals (79%). In the case of journals, those published by learned societies have a smaller share of open access (76%) than those published by educational and other institutions (90–94%). Diamond open access is by far the most dominant open access publishing model in Finland, covering 65% of 264 active peer-reviewed serials (69% of journals and 51% of book series).

Almost half (49%) of the active peer-reviewed serials are published on the Journal.fi platform (table 3), including 62% of the journals and 8% of the book series. The platform is provided free of charge for TSV member societies, of whose journals it hosts 68%. It is interesting to note that more than half (53%) of the educational institutions' journals are also on the platform, probably often published in collaboration with a society. The role of Journal.fi in the open access landscape is underscored by the fact that 61% of serials enabling open access, and 64% of the Diamond open access serials, are published on the platform. For the learned societies the platform is vital, as it hosts 83% of their Diamond open access journals.

There are large differences between various global indexing services in their coverage of peer-reviewed serials published in Finland (figure 4). DOAJ includes 22% of all serials, and a larger share (34%) of those hosted on Journal.fi. TSV and DOAJ collaborated in 2019 to promote indexation among Finnish journals (DOAJ 2019). The fact that English language serials from Finland, whether published on Journal.fi or other platforms, are more frequently indexed in DOAJ can indicate that they have better resources to meet the DOAJ requirements, and that journals targeted at international audiences consider it an advantage to have visibility in DOAJ.

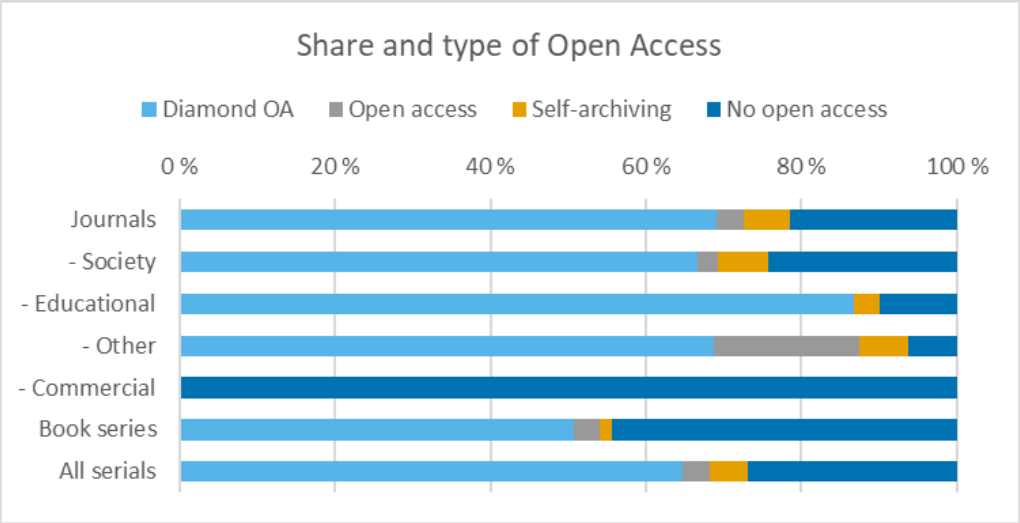

Figure 3: Share and type of Open access, per publisher and publication type.

Serial type and publisher type	All	Share on Journal.fi	Open Access	Share on Journal.fi	Diamond open access	Share on Journal.fi
Journals	201	62%	146	71%	139	75%
- Society	153	68%	106	80%	102	83%
- Educational	30	53%	26	58%	26	58%
- Other	16	31%	14	29%	11	36%
- Commercial	2	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Book series	63	8%	34	15%	32	16%
All serials	264	49%	180	61%	171	64%

Table 3: Presence on the Journal.fi platform per serial, publisher, and access type.

When it comes to the bibliometric databases, Scopus covers 17% of all the included Finnish serials and the share is slightly higher (22%) among those not included in the Journal.fi ("Other platforms" in figure 4). Despite efforts over the years to improve geographical and disciplinary coverage of journals in Scopus, journals published in English are ahead of those publishing in national or multiple languages. One reason for the relatively low coverage of Finnish journals in Scopus could be that due to the role of the national JUFO-classification there is no funding-related pressure for Finnish journals to seek indexation.

OpenAlex is an open and inclusive bibliometric database, which has shown to provide broader coverage of literature and citations across fields, geographical locations and languages than the traditional global databases, such as Scopus and Web of Science. There is indeed a striking difference between the databases in the representation of Finnish serials, of which OpenAlex covers half (50%). OpenAlex covers journals hosted on Journal.fi very extensively (81%) and quite irrespectively of publication language. Only 25% of the Finnish journals published on other platforms than Journal.fi have OpenAlex coverage, and those published in English have a clear advantage. This discrepancy may be due to use and assignment of DOI to published articles, which Journal.fi provides for journals free of charge (but it is up to journals to implement).

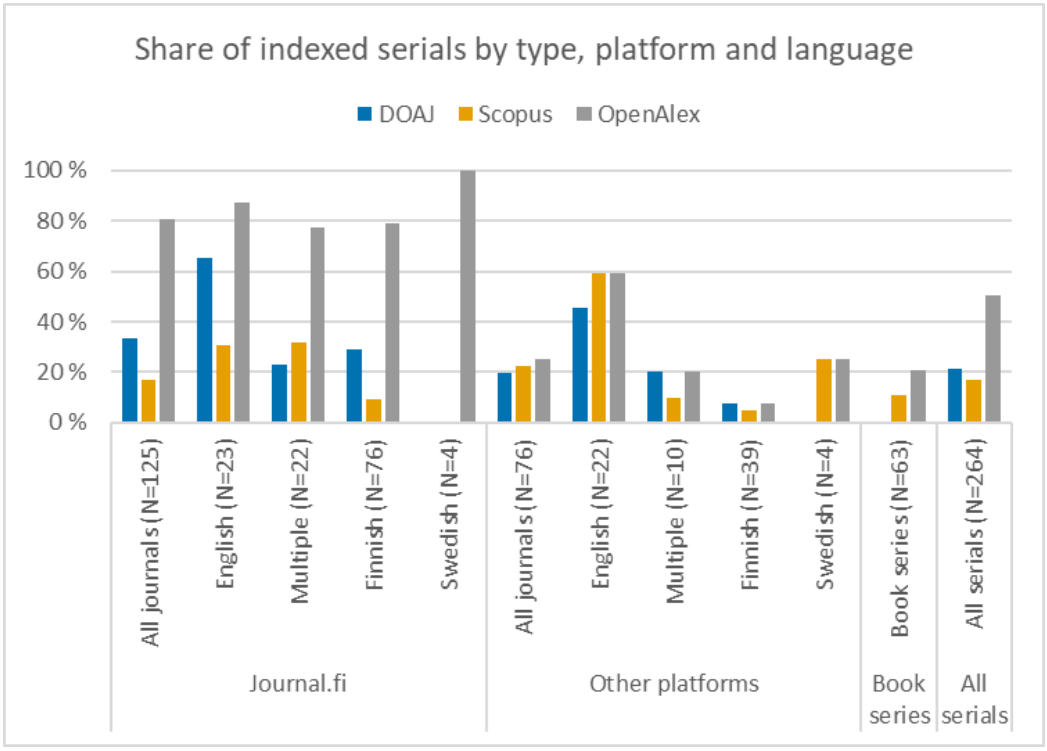

Figure 4: International indexing breakdown.

3.4. Diamond open access journals in Finland

Finally, we focus specifically on the 171 Finnish Diamond open access journals, of which 71% are published by learned societies, 20% by educational institutions, and 9% by other types of organisations. The current Diamond open access landscape reflects the historical growth of serial publishing in Finland over two hundred years: 4% were established in the 19th century, 37% in the 20th century, and 59% in the 21st century. While Diamond open access is prevalent (80%) among the present century serials, also 52% of the 20th century and 43% of the 19th century serials in Finland are currently Diamond open access (figure 5).

As with the Finnish peer-reviewed serials in general, also the Diamond open access model serves predominantly SSH communities. Whereas the majority of serials in social sciences (73%) and humanities (65%) are currently Diamond open access, the same holds true for 41% of serials in the STEM fields. On the other hand, it is interesting to note that the Diamond open access model has been a viable option also for several Finnish STEM journals publishing in English or multiple languages (figure 6).

Diamond open access supports, as elsewhere in the world, multilingual knowledge production and dissemination. Over half (51%) of the Diamond open access journals publish in Finnish and 2% in Swedish. Also, the only journal published in an official regional minority language, Sami, is a Diamond journal. One-fourth (25%) of the Diamond open access journals publish exclusively in English, while 21% are multilingual. Interestingly, it seems that the barrier for transitioning to Diamond open access can be higher for the national language serials (figure 7): 77% of the serials published in English are Diamond open access, but the share is somewhat smaller for multilingual serials (61%) and for those published in Finnish, Swedish and Sami (62%). The explanation could be that journals published in Finnish, Swedish and Sami have a broader readership and subscription base among professionals and citizens, a source of income which these journals fear to lose by transitioning to Diamond open access.

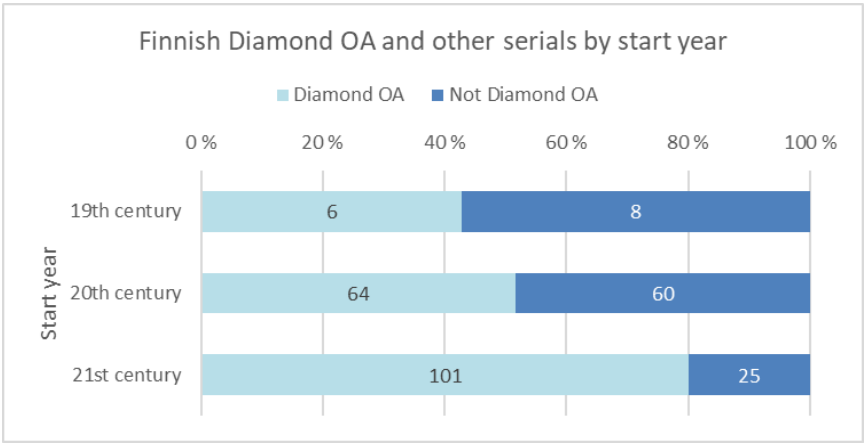

Figure 5: Finnish Diamond open access and non-Diamond open access serials by start year.

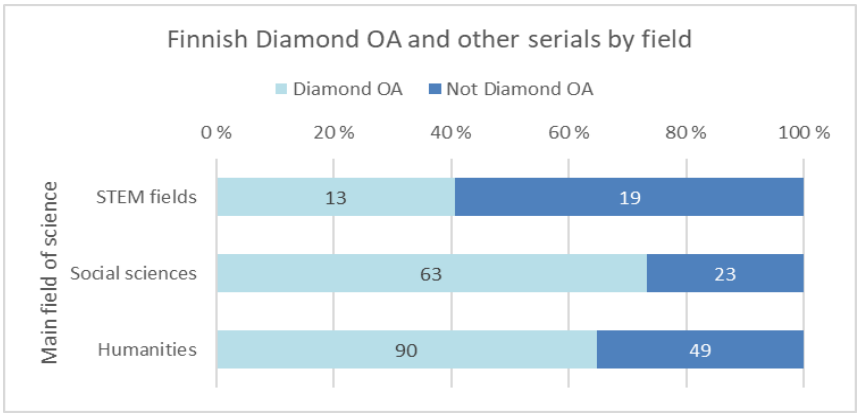

Figure 6: Finnish Diamond open access and non-Diamond open access serials by field of science.

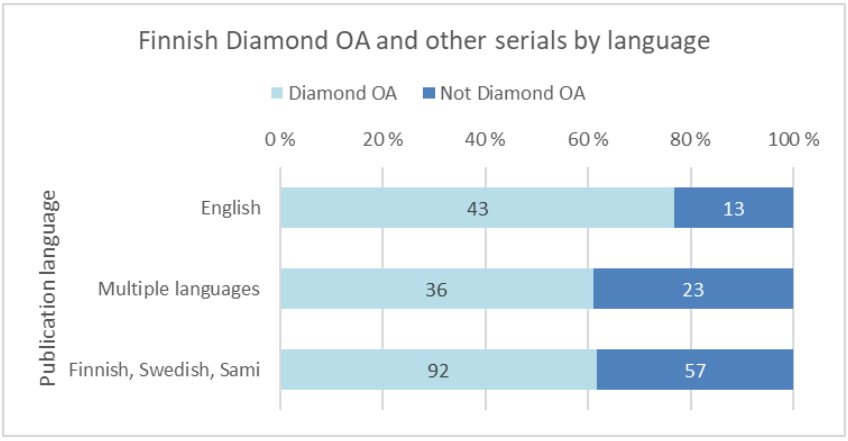

Figure 7: Finnish Diamond open access and non-Diamond open access serials by language.

If we reflect on how well the Finnish Diamond open access journals align with the criteria for Diamond open access journals developed as part of the CRAFT-OA and DIAMAS projects (Armengou et al. 2024), we can see that the Finnish Diamond open access journals included in this study cover them to a large degree. One of the results of the CRAFT-OA project is the recently launched Diamond Discovery Hub (DDH), in which journals fulfilling the following set of criteria can be included: 1. Persistent identification; 2. Scholarly journal; 3. Open Access with open licenses; 4. No fees; 5. Open to all authors; and 6. Community-owned. The decisive criterion from the perspective of Finnish journals is the use of open licenses.

The Finnish Diamond open access journals all have persistent identification (i.e. an ISSN), they are all scholarly journals (have peer-review and formal publication processes), they are open to all authors (no exclusivity in terms of authorship), and they are largely community-owned (most of them by learned societies). Outside of a handful of open access journals in Finland (7), none of them require fees for publishing in the journal. The final criterion is associated with the use of open licenses (all content open access with article-level open license metadata). According to Linna et al. (2020), the majority (108) of open access journals in Finland did not have any specified license while the rest utilised some version of a Creative Commons license. Data based on DDH compliant journals suggests that the situation has improved since the Linna et al. (2020) study was conducted, as now 60% of the Diamond journals use an open license.

4. Conclusions

In Finland, Diamond open access has largely been the default model for open access from the very start when journals started transitioning away from closed-access models. From the review of previous research measuring open access in Finland (Hedlund and Rabow 2007, Björk 2009, Linna et al. 2020) combined with the results of this study it is possible to see indication that the growth of Diamond open access has been continuous and is still ongoing (methodologies slightly differ across the studies so there is some room for variance in numbers due to this). A strong facilitating factor is the Journal.fi platform which launched in 2015 and is free to use for journals but requires at least delayed open access to be in place for all journals publishing there. However, one should not discount the impact that broader national science policy has had for facilitating journals to transition to open access publishing: within the available options, Diamond open access has been the most obvious option for the Finnish journals. The national-level policy for journal publications that came into effect in 2020 made it clear that there is a strong commitment among many central stakeholders that open access publishing is the desired present and future (Open Science and Research Coordination 2019). This policy in combination with Plan S commitment from the Research Council of Finland, and the Ministry of Education and Culture implementing financial incentives for universities to make every reported peer-reviewed output available open access starting from the year 2021 (Ministry of Education and Culture 2019), an environment was created where national journals were pointed toward the direction of Diamond open access publishing.

Finnish Diamond open access journals are a good example of the diversity that national publishing landscapes contribute with in comparison to the more uniform profile of commercial international publishing. The bibliometric investigation provided in this paper highlighted that Finnish Diamond open access journals are largely driven by non-profit organisations such as learned societies, publishing in national languages or multilingually, and having a strong emphasis on the social sciences and humanities. Finnish researchers also publish a lot in international journals published by large commercial publishers (Pölönen et al. 2020), which taken as a whole represent the opposite of all these attributes, and both types of outlets serve different purposes in scholarly communication (Pölönen 2022). According to Pölönen et al. (2020), in total Finnish publishers account for 11.6% of the Finnish universities' peer-reviewed output, a share comparable to major commercial publishers like Elsevier (14.4%) and Springer Nature (12.9%).

For Diamond open access publishing to continue to grow and prosper in Finland and around the world, what is needed is building bridges and collaborations, across countries, disciplines, and stakeholder groups (Laakso and Taşkın 2025). For Europe, the European Diamond Capacity Hub (EDCH) and associated regional- and national-level service centers for Diamond open access that are being set up are key to create fertile ground for pooling actors, knowledge, and strengthen the visibility and common voice

for Diamond open access. Also, reform of research assessment, advocated by CoARA, DORA and CLACSO-FOLEC, is needed to remove incentive structures that disadvantage Diamond open access publishing. However, creating change can come from many different avenues, and not all need to happen through established top-down means. Researchers have a lot of autonomy in their work and can collectively shape the landscape through their actions, as was exemplified with the founding of the Glossa journal led by Johan Rooryck (Rooryck 2016). While there have not been any similar examples of editorial walkouts for publications in Finland, the actions and choices that local researchers make are what is keeping Diamond open access journals alive and prospering. This concerns both researchers choosing to submit and publish their research in Finnish journals (Pölönen 2022), as well as all the time that researchers put into running the journals as in-kind and volunteer effort (Taşkın et al. 2024).

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