



Advancing Diamond OA in Switzerland

Lessons Learned from the PLATO
Project

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Agenda

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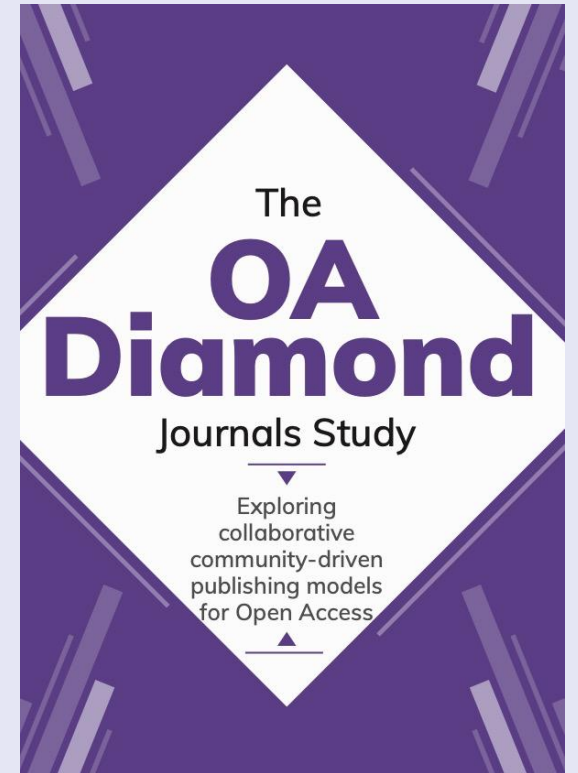
Setting the Stage

What is Diamond/Platinum Open Access?

Diamond/Platinum Open Access refers to a scholarly publishing model without fees for either authors or readers. It is scholar-led, community-owned and based on values of diversity and equity.

Advantages for researchers?

- Immediate and full open access without pay barriers
- Copyrights remain with authors
- Scholar-led initiatives without commercial interests
- Integration into local research contexts and international visibility



<https://scienceeurope.org/our-resources/oa-diamond-journals-study/>

PLATO Overview

**Initiative to advance sustainable Diamond
Open Access publishing in Switzerland**

Objectives

- Analysis of the current landscape of Diamond OA journals in Switzerland
- Devising sustainable funding scenarios for Diamond Open Access journals in Switzerland
- Stakeholder Engagement and Community Building

Co-funded by swissuniversities (Programme Open Science I) and the Partner Institutions

Project Duration: February 2022–June 2025

Partner Institutions



Universität
Zürich^{UZH}

ETH zürich

u^b

UNIVERSITÄT
BERN



UNIVERSITÉ
DE GENÈVE

unine
Université de Neuchâtel

z

hdk

Zürcher Hochschule der Künste
Zurich University of the Arts

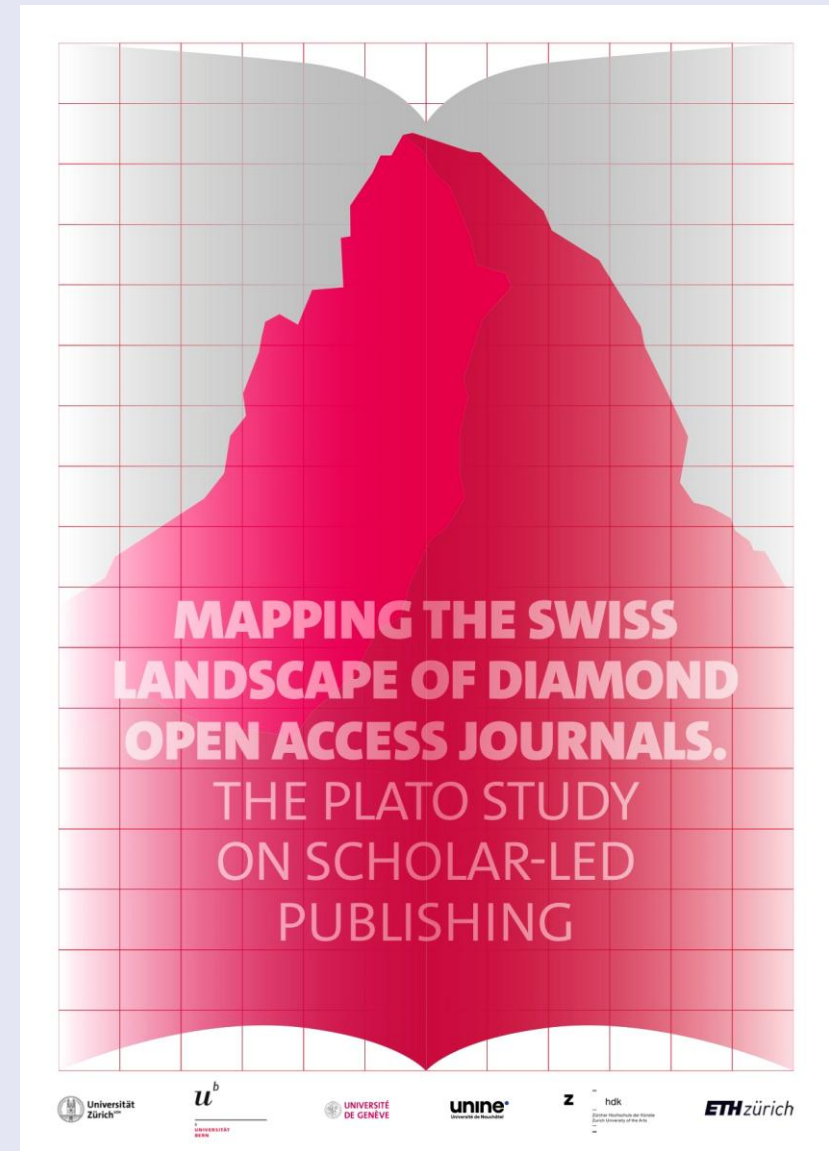
PLATO Study

Objective

- Overview of the Swiss ecosystem of Diamond OA journals, its scope, operations, business models and infrastructures
- Identification of challenges and opportunities of Diamond OA journals

Concept

- In collaboration with the Institute for Applied Data Science & Finance, Bern University of Applied Sciences
- Three parts: bibliometric, qualitative (interviews with editors) and quantitative (survey: authors, editors, hosting infrastructures)



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Ecosystem of Swiss Diamond OA Journals

Key Takeaways and Lessons Learned



In a nutshell

214 journals
60 (28.03%) are indexed
in DOAJ

Social Sciences: 45.33%
Arts & Humanities: 23.83%
Life Sciences: 20.09%
Physical Sciences: 4.21%
Technology: 4.21%
Interdisciplinary: 2.34%

Almost 50% of journals are published by
Higher Education Institutions
(10% of those by universities of applied
sciences and PHs)
17.76% by academic societies
10.28% by for-profit publishers

71% of journals publish
<25 articles per year

English is most common publishing
language (32.24%)
French 12.15%
German 10.75%
English/French/German 7.48%
English/German 7.48%
English/French/German/Italian 5.61%

50% of journals operate with less than
CHF15'000.

In their operations, most journals
mainly rely on volunteer/unpaid work.

What are the challenges?

Funding

Lack of sustainable funding options leads to lower confidence in long-term sustainability of journal operations (> 3 years)

Governance and Ownership

Scholar-led governance relies on early succession planning and requires support regarding legal aspects of OA publishing.

Preconceptions

In certain disciplines, Diamond OA journals seem to be sidelined because of focus on impact factors, despite increasing costs.

What are the opportunities?

Take back control
over scholarly
communication

Investment in a
diverse, inclusive,
and affordable
science
communication
system

Shared hosting
infrastructures as
enablers of
Diamond OA

What are the opportunities?

Take back control over
scholarly
communication



Publishing/Reviewing in and
for the scholarly community

Investment in a
diverse, inclusive, and
affordable science
communication
system



Position Diamond OA as
solid alternative to
commercial publishing

Shared hosting
infrastructures as
enablers of
Diamond OA



Increase investment in
institutional publishing
infrastructures to ensure
high quality of support

Advancing Diamond OA in Switzerland

Recommendations from the PLATO Project



Recommendations 1/2

1. Strategic Investment of Public Funds

Establishing dedicated Diamond OA budgets at institutional levels and creating a collective national Diamond OA Consortium to collectively fund journals and institutional service providers, ensuring a transparent and equitable financial model.

2. Policy Integration

Aligning funding approaches with Switzerland's revised National Open Access Strategy (2024) to facilitate Diamond OA and ensure long-term viability and support.

3. Building a Business Case

Kicking off a strategic process by a cross-functional group of stakeholders to monitor the scope of Diamond OA in Switzerland and creating a USP for Swiss higher education institutions to invest in Diamond OA and highlight return on investment.

Recommendations 2/2

4. Institutional Collaboration

Expanding shared publishing infrastructures, pooling publishing services, expanding editor training and strengthening national and European partnerships (e.g., ALMASI, CRAFT-OA, EDCH, DIAMAS).

5. Reducing Dependence on Commercial Publishers

Building researchers' trust in Diamond OA as a cost-effective alternative to APC-based models, increasing visibility, accessibility and societal impact.

What now?



Objective:

Establish a National Diamond Open Access Consortium with the aim to fund scholar-led journal through a sustainable consortial funding scheme

Work Packages:

- Governance: Developing a Framework for the Consortium
- Evaluation Procedure and Quality Criteria: Defining Eligibility and Funding Criteria
- Financial Flows: Pooling and Distributing Funds
- Communication: Creating Visibility and Outreach

Project Duration: July 2025 – July 2026

Co-Funded by swissuniversities (Programme Open Science II) and the partner institutions

Website: www.codoa.ch

How you can contribute

...if you're a researcher

...if you're a journal editor

...if you're a librarian

...if you're an institutional leader



Thank you!

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