

SLSP

Swiss Library
Service Platform



Creating a Community of Diamond OA Practitioners

A Case Study from Switzerland

Daniela Hahn

Munin Conference on
Scholarly Publishing 2025



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).

«...we are part of the community. We understand this as our service to the community...And if the community thrives, then the journal thrives. And if the community doesn't see any value in such an enterprise anymore, then it will finish at some point in time.»

(Editor 1; Interview in the Framework of the PLATO Study on Diamond Open Access Journals in Switzerland)

PLATO Overview

Initiative to advance sustainable Diamond Open Access in Switzerland

Objectives

- Analysis of the current landscape of Diamond OA journals in Switzerland
- Exploring possible 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

Concept of Community: Bridging the Gap between Policy and Practice

- Marker of Identification: Who belongs to the community?
- Community of Practice: What connects the community?
- Community as Ecosystem: How to sustain the community?

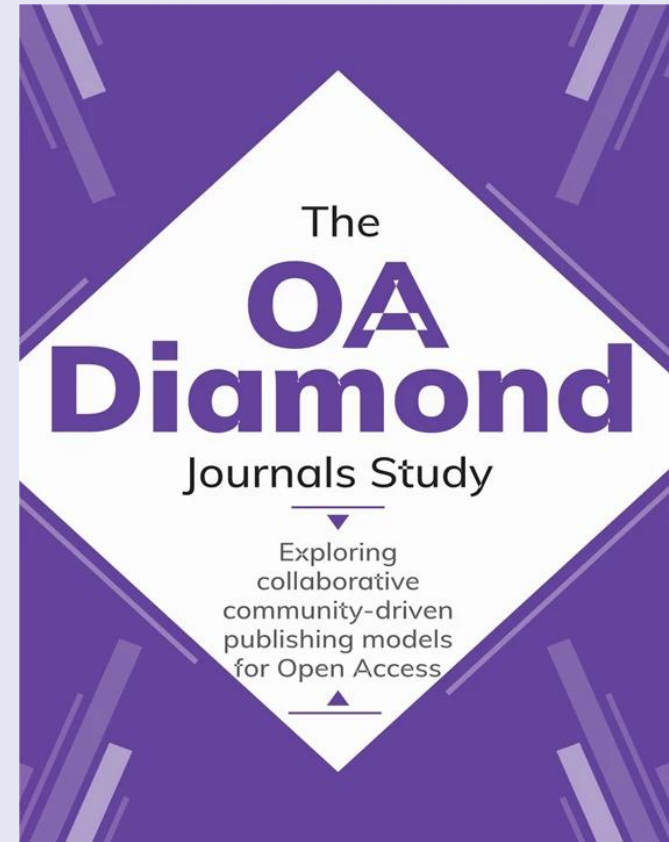
1

Defining the Terrain: Who's Part of the Community?

Diamond OA as Collective Identity

Diamond OA might be conceived as a «jargon» of open access experts and library staff.

Benefits and values of Diamond OA have to be communicated in different terms to researchers and editors.



Becerril, A., Bosman, J., Bjørnshauge, L., Frantsovåg, J. E., Kramer, B., Langlais, P.-C., Mounier, P., Proudman, V., Redhead, C., & Torny, D. (2021). OA Diamond Journals Study. Part 2: Recommendations. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4562790>

What counts as Diamond OA?

Criteria of the PLATO List of Journals

- ISSN
- Academic, practice-oriented or artistic journal or serial publication (working papers etc.)
- Affiliation with a research institution, hosting platform or publisher in Switzerland or funded by a Swiss institution
- No fees for reading or publishing content
- Scholar-led

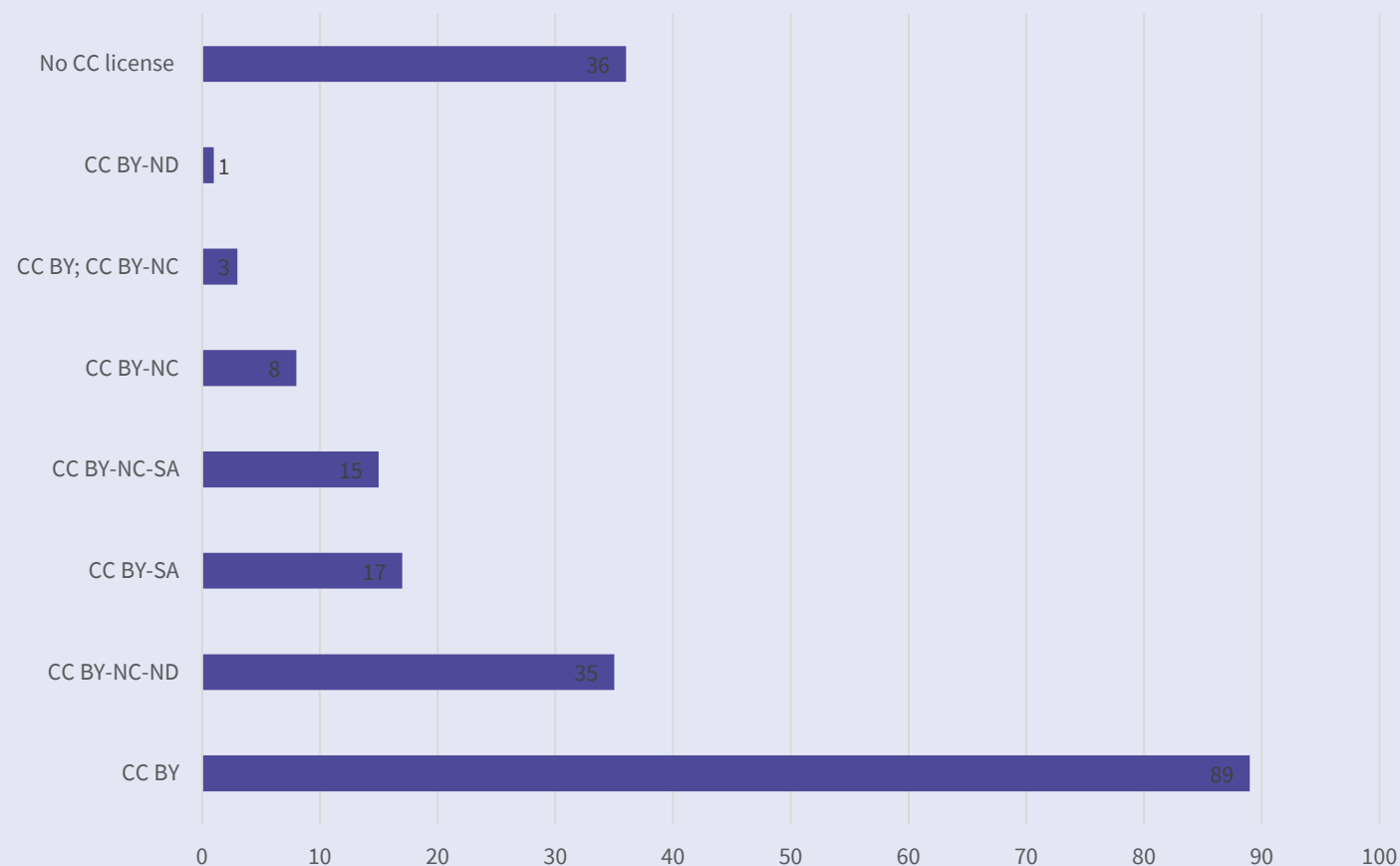


Criteria of the Diamond Discovery Hub (DDH)

- Persistent Identification (ISSN)
- Scholarly journal
- Open Access with open licenses
- No fees
- Open to all authors
- Community-owned



Currently 204 Swiss Diamond OA journals of which roughly half comply with DDH criteria



Issues

- Lack of open license
- Status as «community-owned» difficult to ascertain
- Unclear whether artistic and practice-oriented journals count as «scholarly journal»
- «Journals» do not fit neatly into a journal format in the traditional sense

Who's part of the community?

Criteria place Diamond OA at the **intersection of a policy concept on the one hand and a publishing standard on the other**, creating a **tension between its normative aspirations and the very real boundaries** they necessarily draw.

Criteria are relevant not only for the **indexation of journals** but also underlie **funding schemes** for Diamond Open Access. However, these criteria might not be consistent over different platforms or funding schemes.

From a practice perspective

- **Review on a case-by-case basis**
- **Alignment of criteria**
- **Demonstrate benefits**

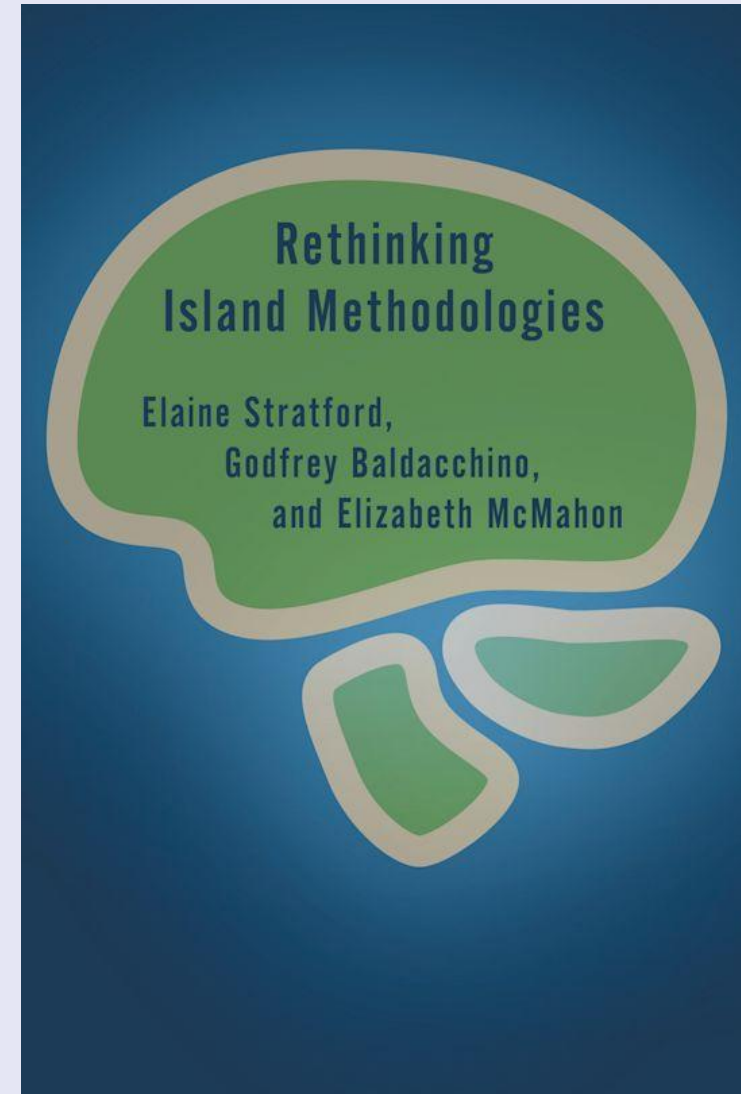
2

From an Archipelago to a “Community of Practice”



Thinking Island-ness

- emphasises the **multiplicities and connections rather than single stable identities** and
- invites us to **build infrastructures of relation and support** that ideally allow these different entities to connect, share knowledge, and pool publishing services without erasing their autonomy.



Elaine Stratford, Godfrey Baldacchino, Elizabeth McMahon (2023): Rethinking Island Methodologies. Lanham et al.: Rowman & Littlefield.

Diamond «Communities of Practice»

- **Swiss OJS Community of Practice**

BOP (University of Bern), ETERNA (University of Basel), HOPE (University of Zurich), SOAP2 (Université de Fribourg), OAP (Université de Genève)

- **Diamond +. Association of Swiss Diamond Open Access Journals**

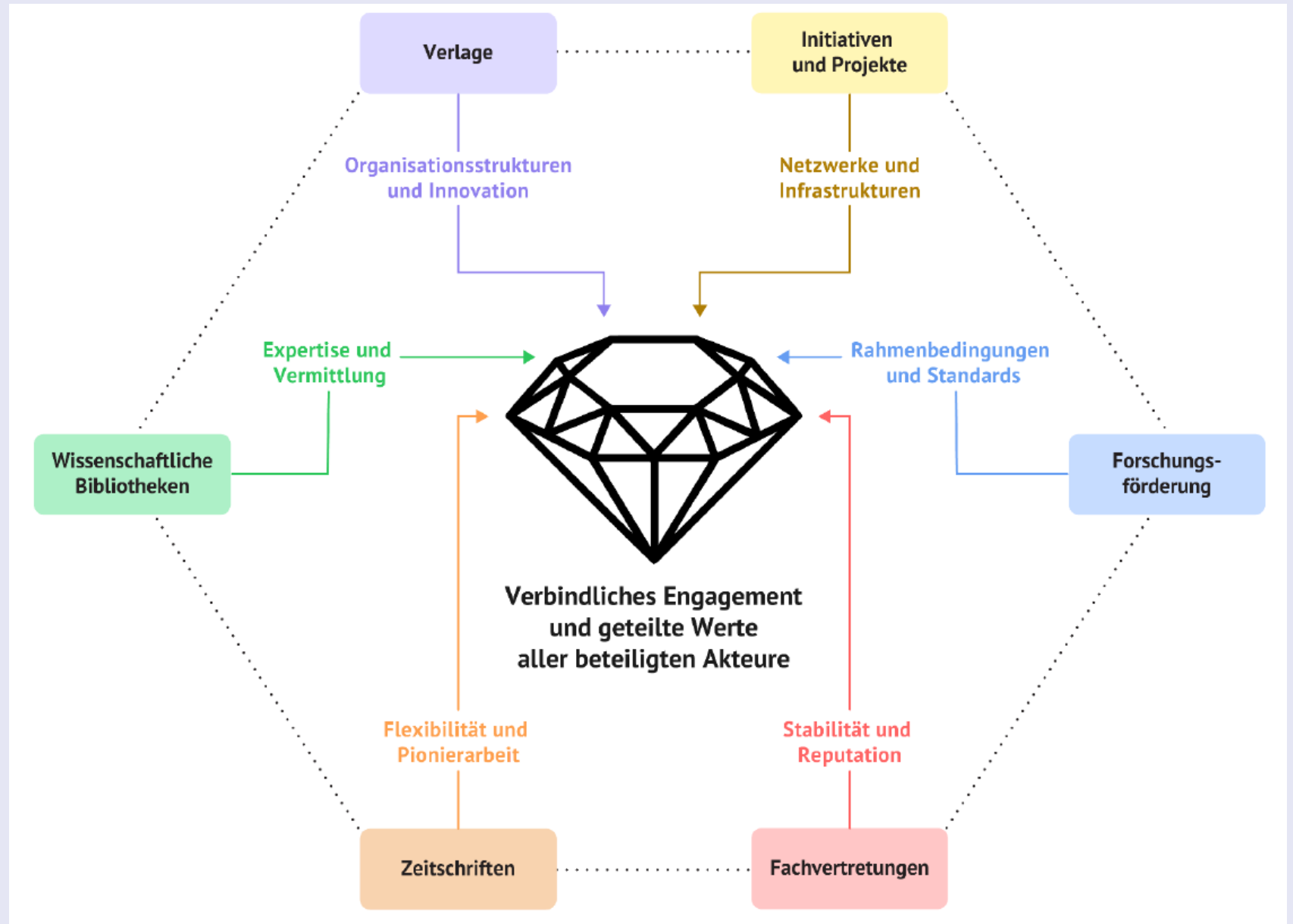
Promotion and networking of Diamond Open Access in Switzerland

3

Reaching the Critical Mass: Community as Ecosystem



Actors of the Diamond OA Community



Henkes, L. M., & Holscher Blackman, K. (2025).
Wissenschaftliches Publizieren neu denken.
Blaupause für gemeinschaftliches und faires
Diamond Open Access. Zenodo:
<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17240865>

Sustaining Connection

- If the metaphor of the archipelago helps to see how individual journals and initiatives connect, the metaphor of the **ecosystem helps to understand what it takes for these connections to become sustainable and resilient.**
- Policy discussions emphasise collaboration among these stakeholders and communities of practice as essential for advancing Diamond Open Access, in practice, such **collaboration requires a willingness and spaces to collaborate as well as an alignment of objectives and the general direction of travel.**

From a practice perspective

- Translate Diamond OA into **concrete benefits for the different stakeholders**
- Actively **address concerns** of stakeholders to **create trust**
- **Patience is needed:** Even if stakeholders share the overall values of Diamond OA, their organisational priorities and demands might hinder them to act upon them (for now).

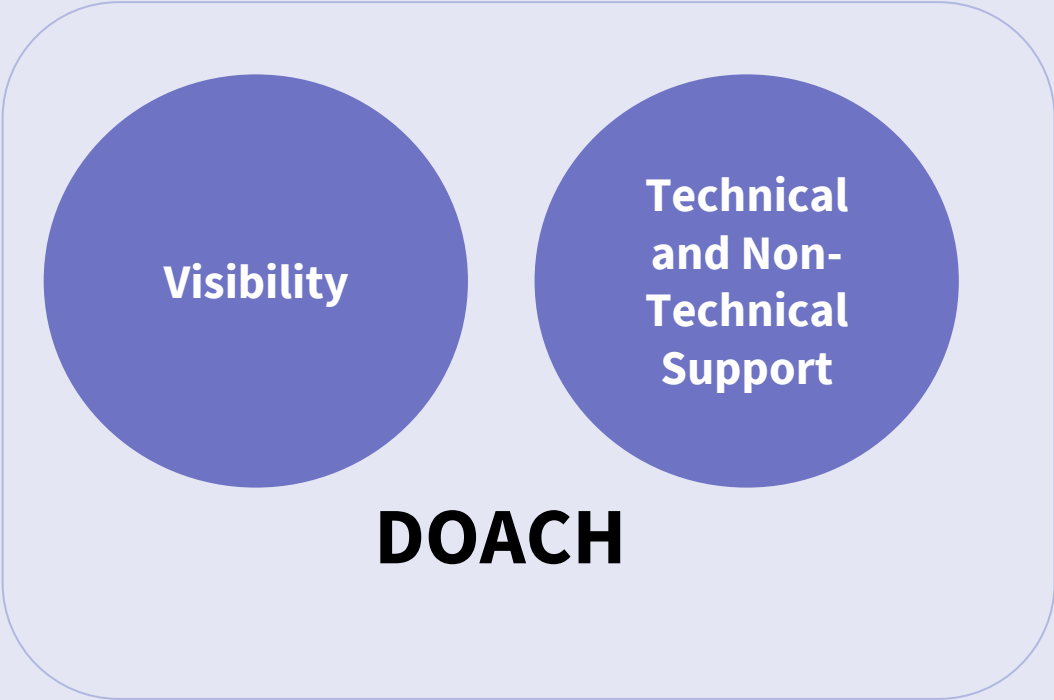
Advancing Diamond OA in Switzerland: 2 new projects



A diagram for the CoDOA project. It features a large dark blue circle with the text "Sustainable Funding" in white. Below the circle, the text "CoDOA" is written in bold black font. The entire diagram is enclosed in a light blue rounded rectangle.

**Sustainable
Funding**

CoDOA



A diagram for the DOACH project. It features two medium-sized blue circles side-by-side. The left circle contains the text "Visibility" in white, and the right circle contains the text "Technical and Non-Technical Support" in white. Below the circles, the text "DOACH" is written in bold black font. The entire diagram is enclosed in a light blue rounded rectangle.

Visibility

**Technical
and Non-
Technical
Support**

DOACH

CoDOA-CH

Objective:

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

Project Duration: July 2025 – July 2026

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

Website: www.codoa.ch

Lead Institution:

Konsortium der Schweizer Hochschulbibliotheken
Consortium des bibliothèques universitaires suisses
Consorzio delle biblioteche universitarie svizzere
Consortium of Swiss Academic Libraries

Partner Institutions:



Thank you!

Contact:

Daniela Hahn/CoDOA

Consortium of Swiss Academic Libraries

daniela.hahn@slsp.ch

