

Background



The **Impact Factor (IF)** is a bibliometric indicator that has been the **subject of much criticism**. Various **key reform-oriented texts** concerned with the advancement of research assessment such as the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA 2013), the Leiden Manifesto (Hicks et al. 2015), and the Metric Tide (Wilsdon et al. 2015), for example, have **called to stop using the IF in research evaluation**, notably because of its calculation-related deficiencies. However, **little attention has been devoted to whether the Impact Factor (IF) can be considered a responsible metric in light of bibliodiversity**. This poster critically engages with this question in measuring several variables of IF journals and examining their distribution.

We are engaged in responsible research by promoting:



- a **healthier research culture assessment**
- the development of a **more equitable and accessible** scholarly communications landscape
- better hopes to **reduce gender gap in academic promotions**

Methods



We measured the following variables of IF journals included in the 2021 Journal Citation Reports (n=12391):

- 1) Publishing models (hybrid, Open Access with or without fees, subscription),
- 2) World regions,
- 3) Language(s) of publication
- 4) Subject categories
- 5) Publishers
- 6) The prices of article processing charges (APC)

The Impact Factor poses serious threats to bibliodiversity in that it maintains a domination of the Global North, reinforces publisher concentration, and de-incentivizes fair and equitable Open Access.

Key Findings

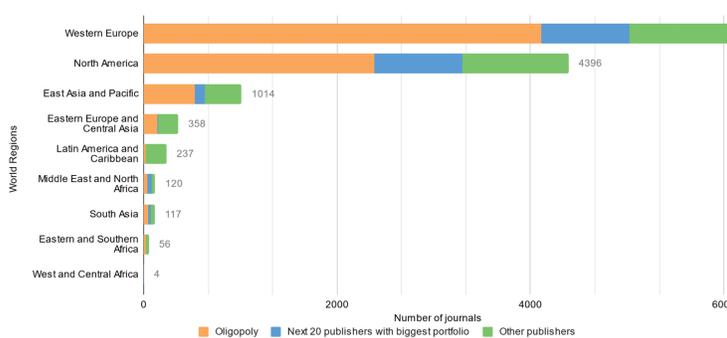


Fig.1: Distribution of journals per world region and publishers' ensemble

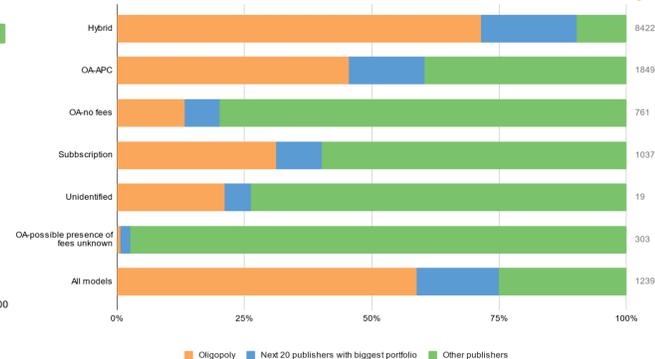


Fig.3: Distribution of journals per publishing model and publishers' ensemble

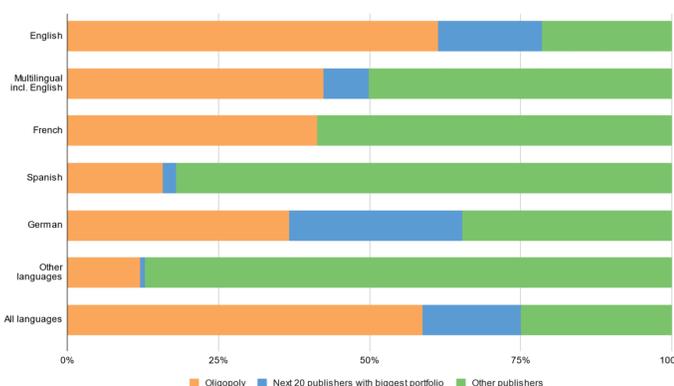


Fig.2: Distribution of journals per language category and publishers' ensemble

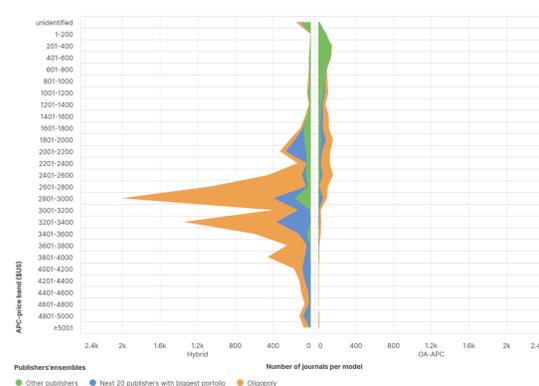


Fig.4: Distribution of hybrid and OA-APC journals per APC price range in \$US and publisher's ensemble

- Little geographic diversity and high level of **publisher concentration** (85% published in Western EU or North America; 75% published by only 25 publishers)
- **English prevails**, especially in the top 25 publishers (89% of all journals in EN)
- **The hybrid model is dominant** (68% of all journals) and is concentrated in the 25 top publishers. In contrast, "other" publishers publish 80% of OA journals without fees (APC)
- **The top 5 publishers** have more journals with **higher fees** (Hybrid: 85% between \$2201 and \$4000 and OA-APC: 74% between \$1401 and 3000\$)



La question de la bibliodiversité de l'indicateur « Impact Factor »
Bibliodiversity and the Impact Factor brand

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