

Twining Digital Humanities and Humanidades Digitales:  
A Set of Actual Experiences from the South

*Oligopolies of Knowledge,  
{Digital Humanities} and Open Access:  
Looking at Scopus from the Global South...  
[form the North]*

Dr Ernesto Priego

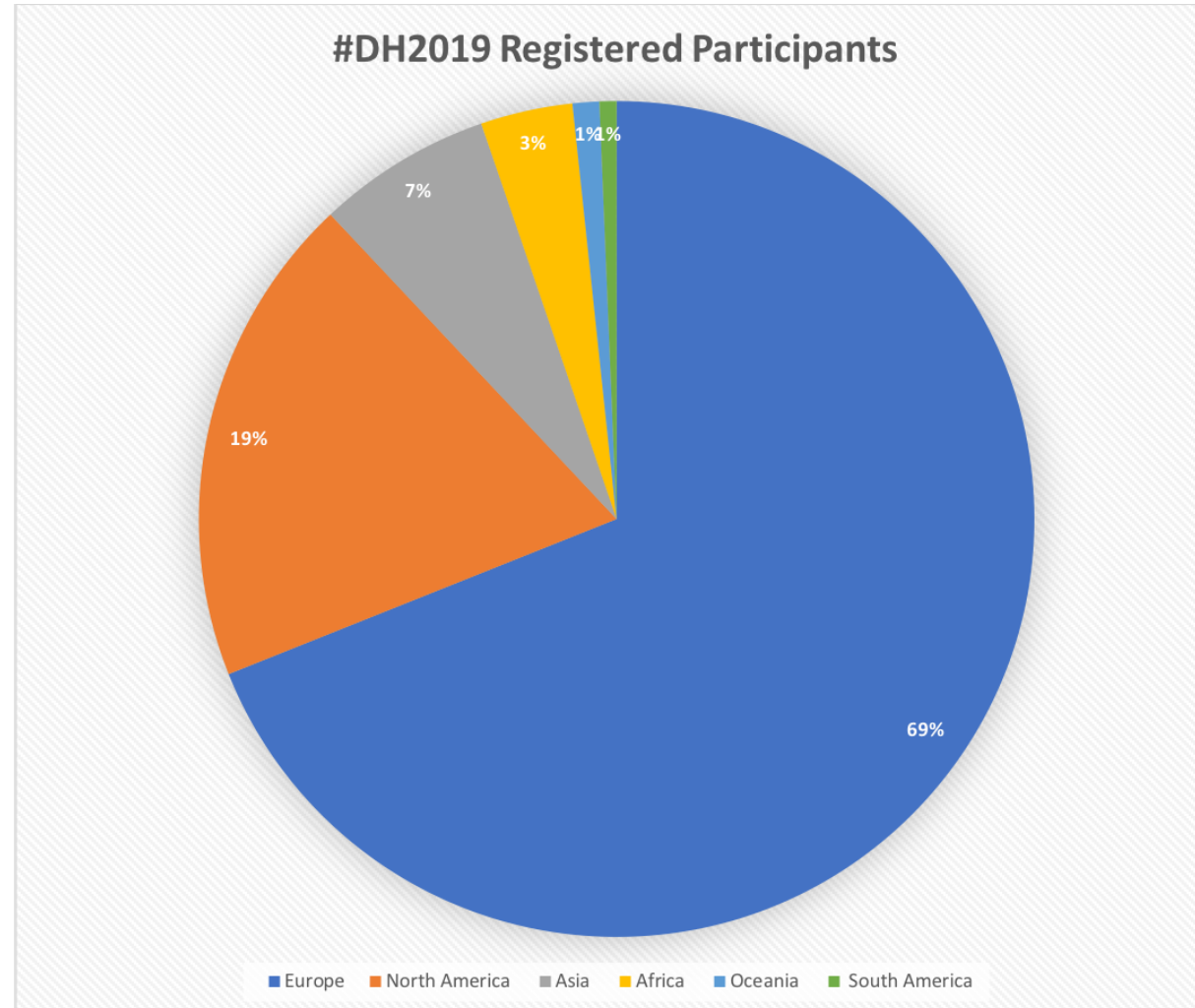
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Centre for Human-Computer Interaction Design, City, University of London

#DH2019, Utrecht, Wednesday 10 July 2019



“A total of 1066. We couldn’t be more proud!”



source: @DH2019\_NL, 3:05 PM BST - 7 Jul 2019 [https://twitter.com/DH2019\\_NL/status/1147869155321929728](https://twitter.com/DH2019_NL/status/1147869155321929728)

# Oligopolies of Knowledge

- The academic publishing market that Elsevier leads has an annual revenue of **\$25.2 billion**.
- In 2013 Elsevier reported a higher percentage of profit than Apple, Inc.
- **94 Million Pounds** is what the top 10 academic publishers received in subscription revenues from UK academic libraries in 2014 alone.
- Hybrid Publishing has allowed commercial publishers to subsume Open Access into their portfolio, transforming it into a business model and limiting its scope.

(Priego & Fiormonte 2018)

# Scopus – An Elsevier/RELX Business

- Scopus is “the largest abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed literature: scientific journals, books and conference proceedings. It covers international research output in the fields of science, technology, medicine, social sciences, and arts and humanities and has smart tools to track, analyse and visualise research.”
- It is a proprietary database owned by Elsevier, part of the RELX Group.
- Scopus is often used to calculate authors'  $h$ -index. University rankings and promotion criteria are often based on indicators from Scopus and Web of Science (also proprietary).

# Scopus Costs Money and Creates Hierarchies

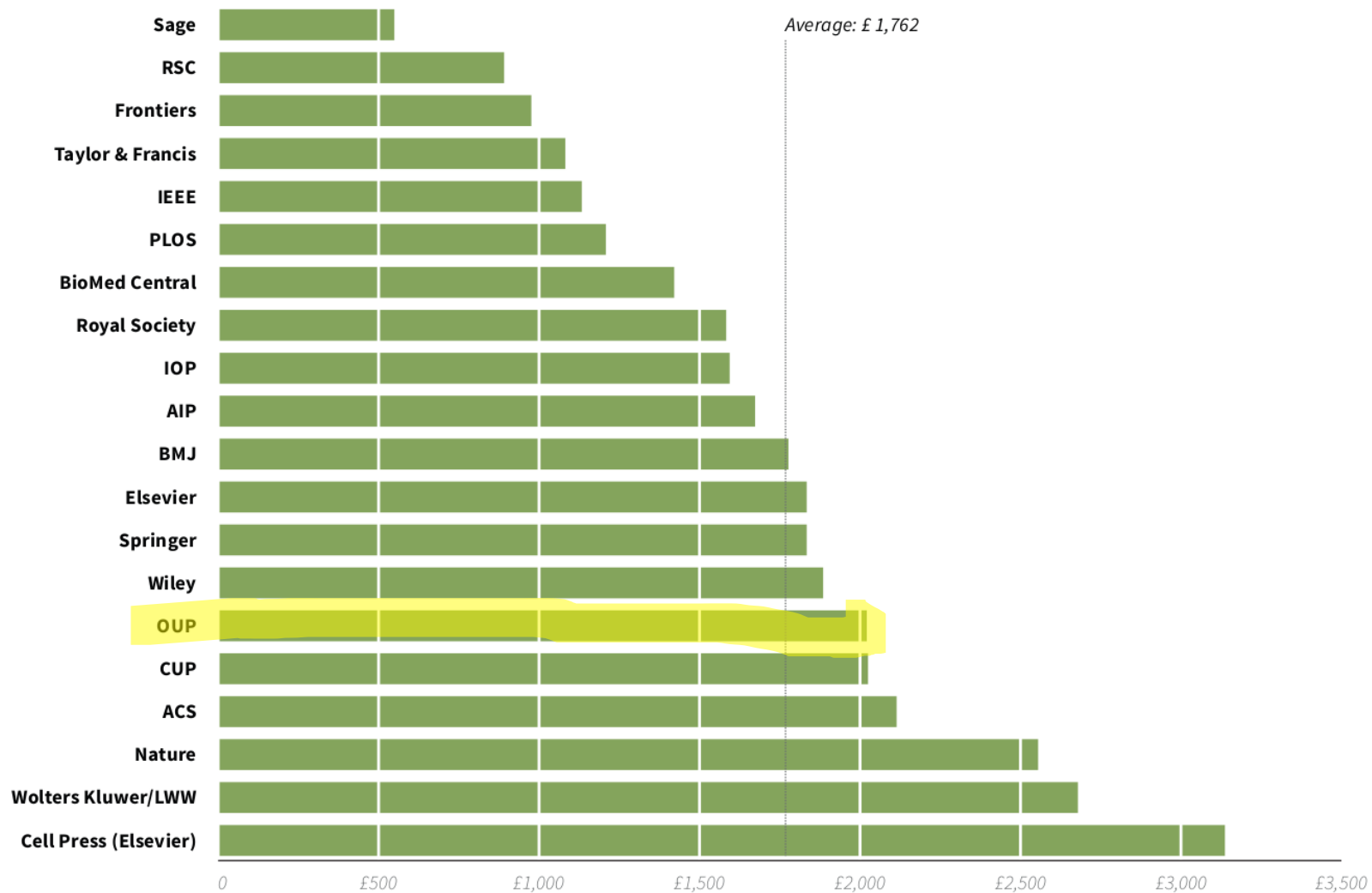
- It is available as an annual subscription. “Under the terms of the Elsevier agreement, Scopus can be used by anyone who accesses it from within a subscribing institution or organization. Remote access and/or access by walk-in users may be granted at the discretion of the library and is an option within the Scopus agreement. The subscription price for Scopus varies according to the size and research output of the institution or organization, as well as by geographic location.”
- There is a conflict of interest from those who index and measure and those who publish through specific business models (paywalls; APCs) and profit from what is indexed and measured.

<https://www.elsevier.com/solutions/scopus/support/activating-scopus>

Subscription  
expenditure  
of UK higher  
education  
institutions  
with ten  
publishers,  
2010-14  
(Lawson,  
Meghreblian  
& Brook,  
2015)

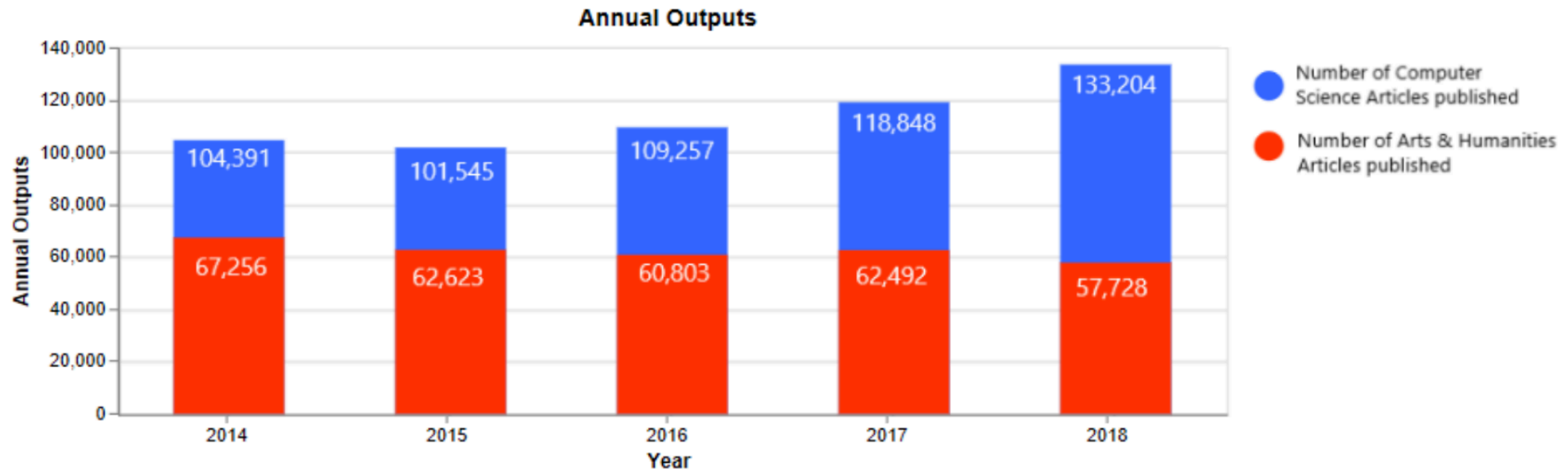
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Elsevier	£34,177,020	£36,781,827	£39,079,332	£39,476,813	£39,812,145
Wiley	£13,460,226	£14,662,250	£15,616,311	£16,369,917	£16,875,190
Springer	£7,311,046	£7,309,094	£7,906,177	£7,940,116	£8,542,997
Taylor & Francis	£8,319,095	£9,140,572	£9,710,528	£10,084,350	£10,828,334
Sage	£4,495,313	£5,085,196	£5,608,296	£5,869,791	£5,990,818
Oxford University Press	£1,996,163	£2,163,242	£2,395,136	£2,669,757	£2,925,607
Cambridge University Press	£1,447,978	£1,462,214	£1,690,078	£1,832,177	£1,885,485
Nature Publishing Group	£2,998,040	£3,593,308	£4,066,962	£4,273,822	£4,430,900
Royal Society of Chemistry	£806,129	£867,752	£1,062,237	£1,062,948	£1,101,860
Institute of Physics Publishing	£1,091,517	£1,119,070	£1,197,958	£1,279,691	£1,373,533
<b>Total for these 10 publishers</b>	<b>£76,102,528</b>	<b>£82,184,527</b>	<b>£88,333,015</b>	<b>£90,859,384</b>	<b>£93,766,870</b>

Average APC price paid to  
publishers by UK institutions,  
2015



(Lawson et al, 2015)

# Annual Documents in Computer Science and Arts & Humanities in Scopus, 2014-2018

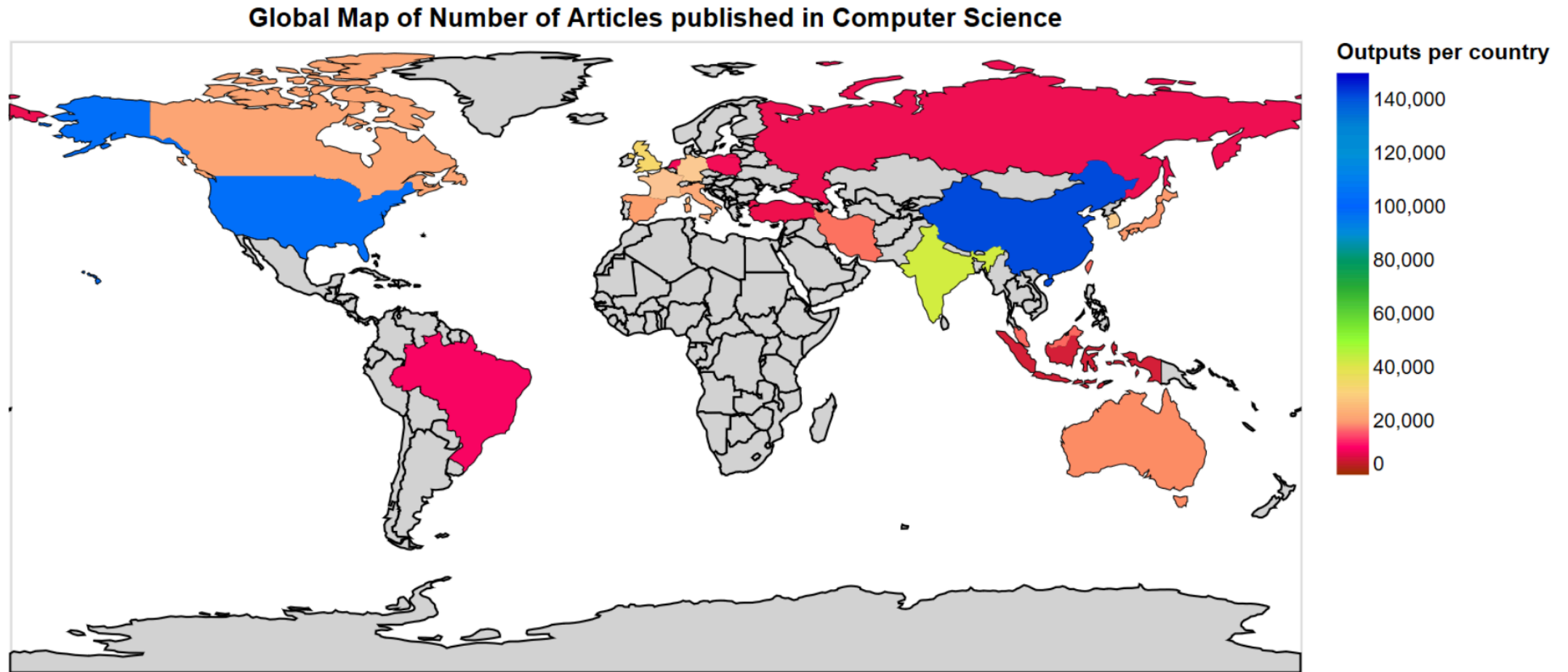


During the last 5 complete years, Computer Science saw an increase of **21%** in published articles

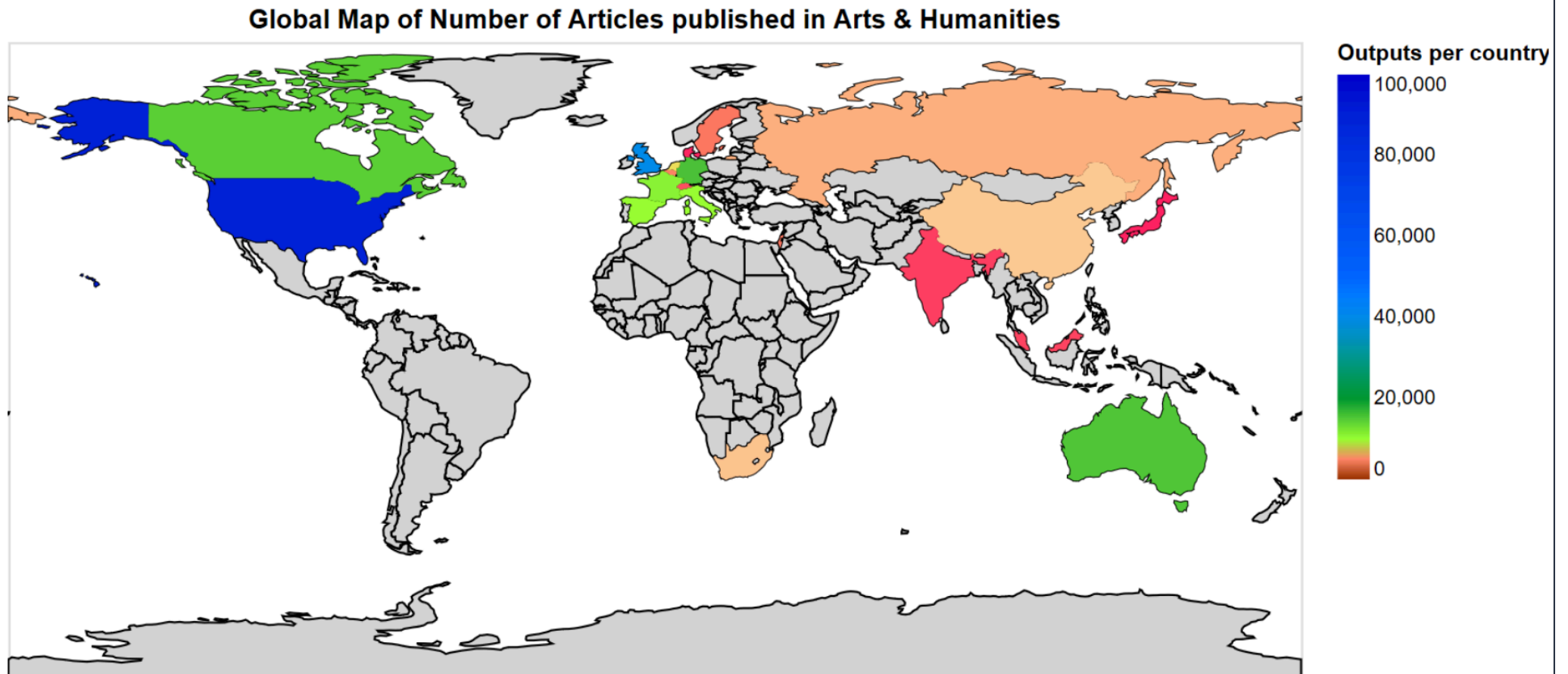
While Arts & Humanities had a decline of **-16.5%** in their published articles



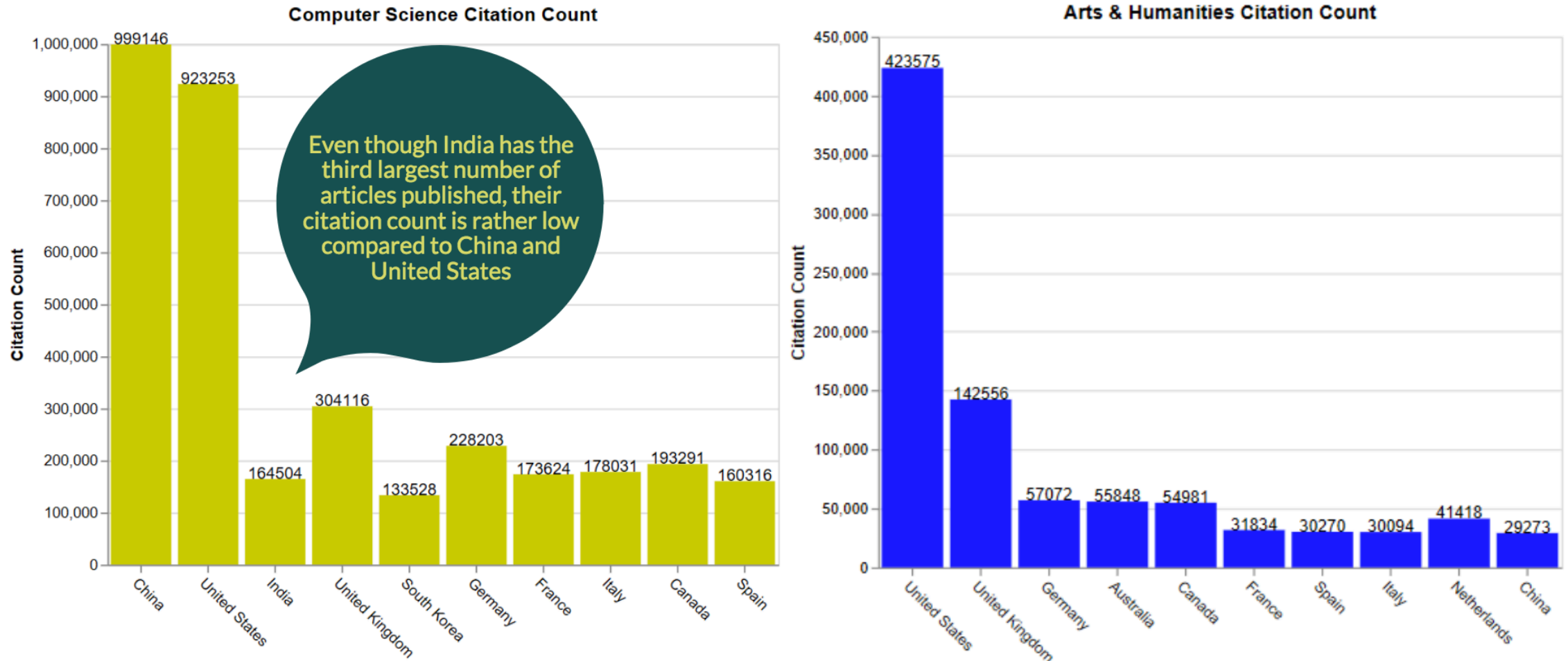
# Scopus, 2014-2018



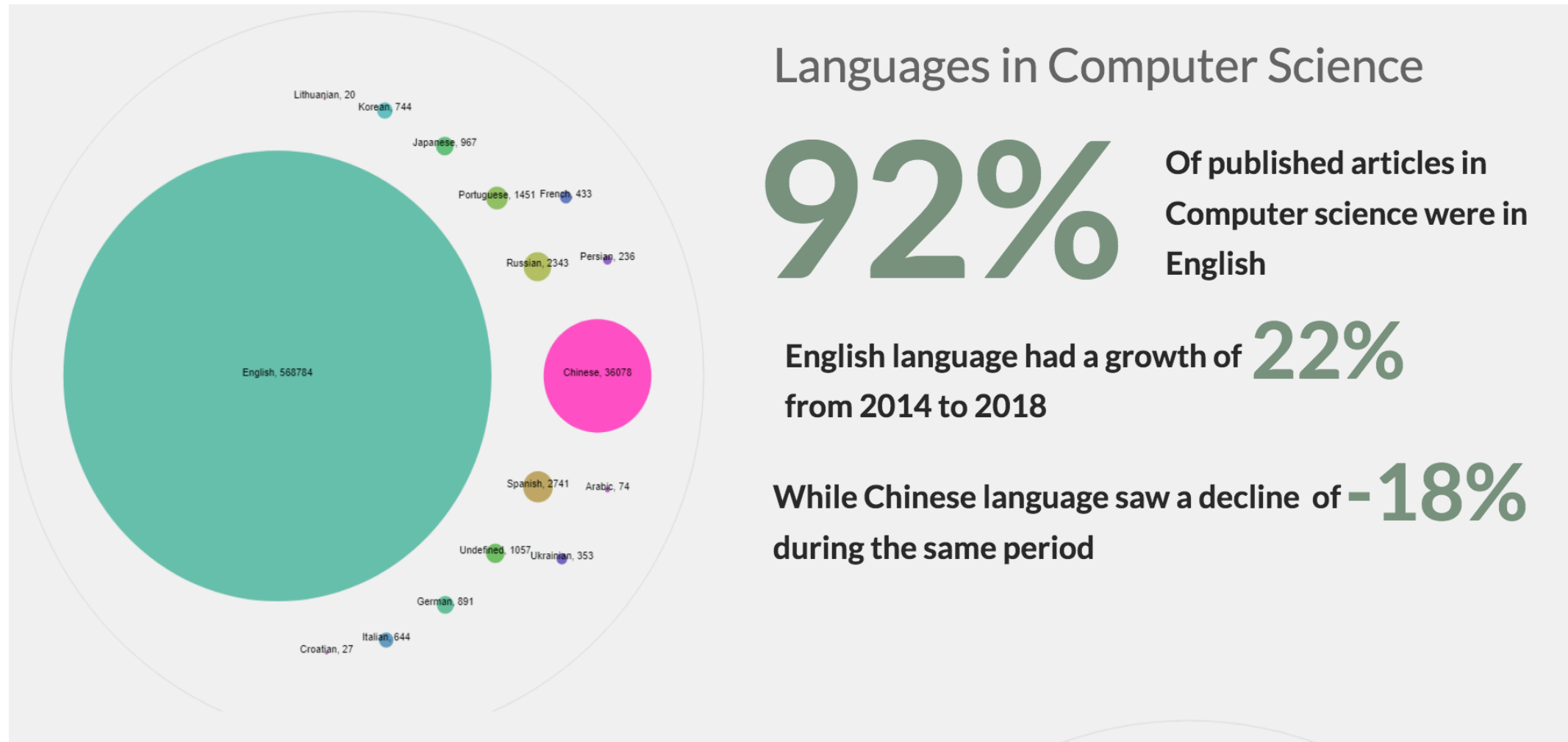
# Scopus, 2014-2018



# Citation Dominance - What Happens with India?



# Dominance of the English Language, 2014-2018



# Dominance of the English Language, 2014-2018

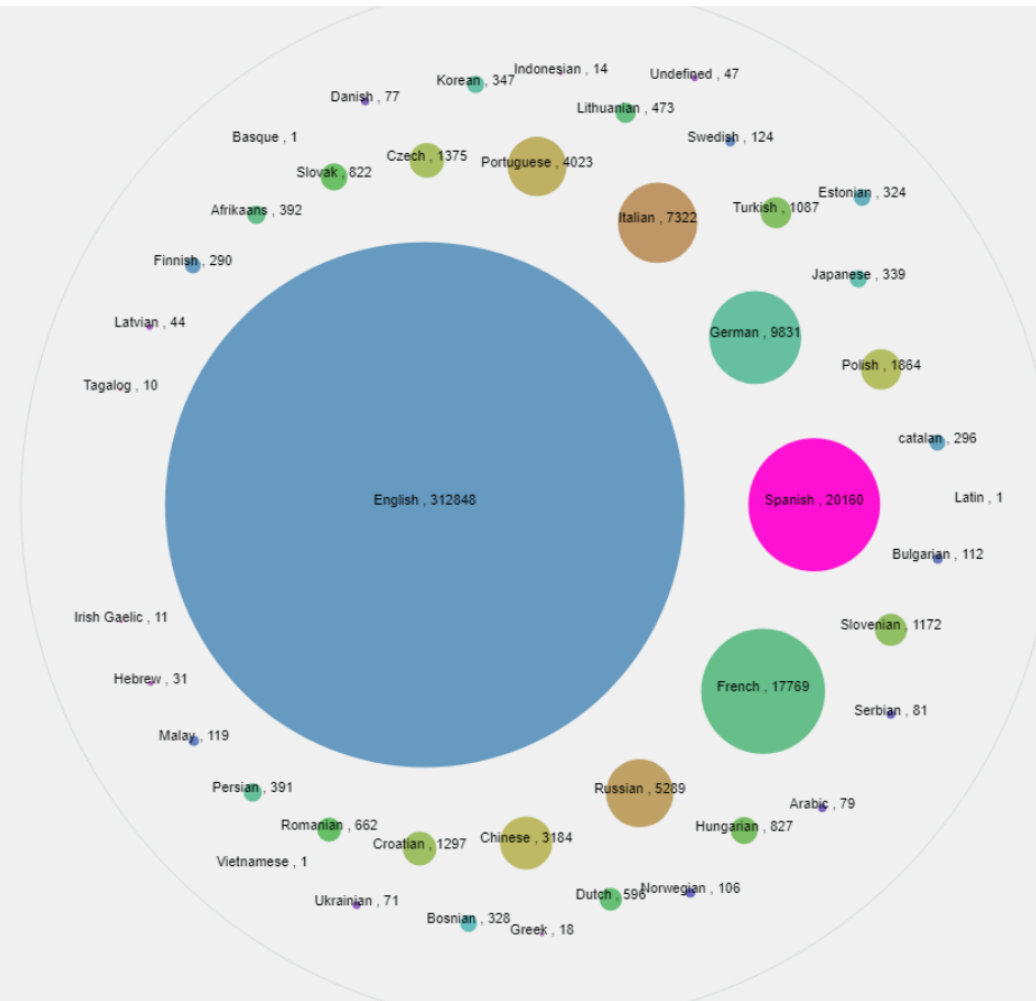
## Languages in Arts & Humanities

79%

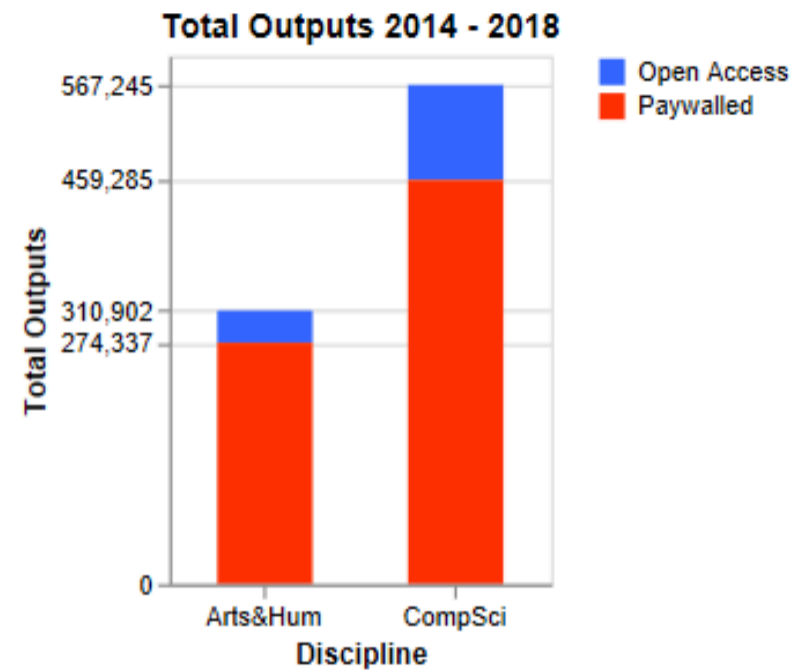
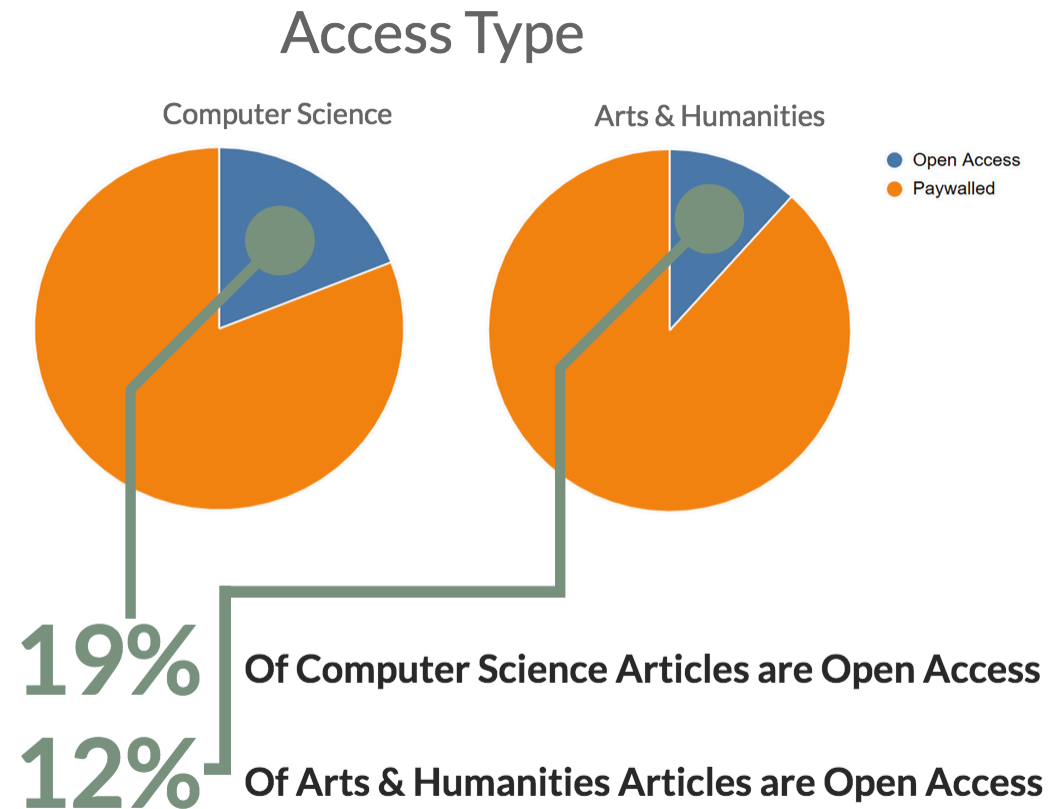
Of published articles in  
Arts&Humanities were in  
English

28

More languages than Computer  
science

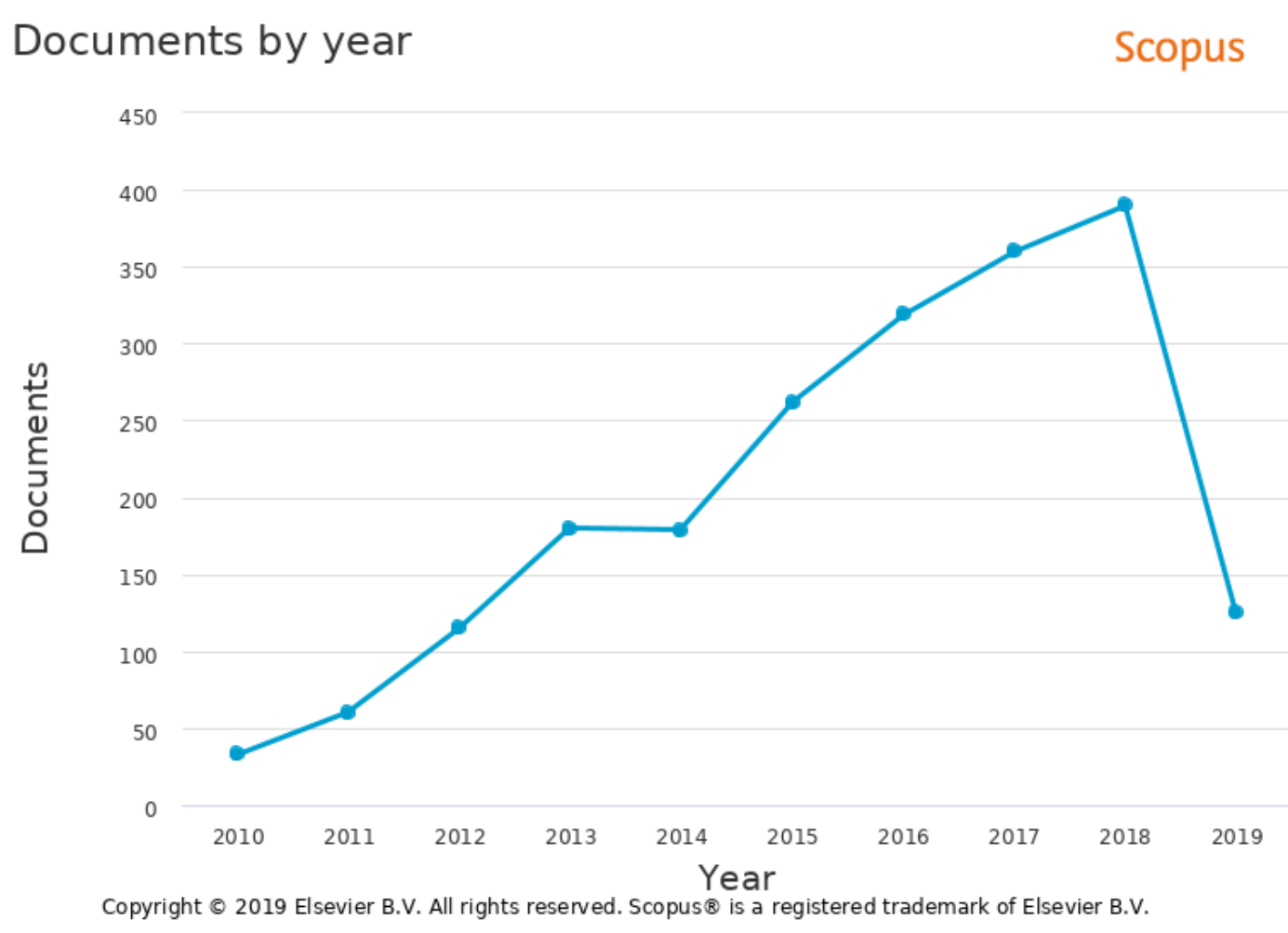


# More Closed than Open (2014-2018)



**45%** More articles published in Computer Science compared to Arts & Humanities

# Number of Documents with {Digital Humanities} in Title, Keywords and/or Abstract, 2010-2019

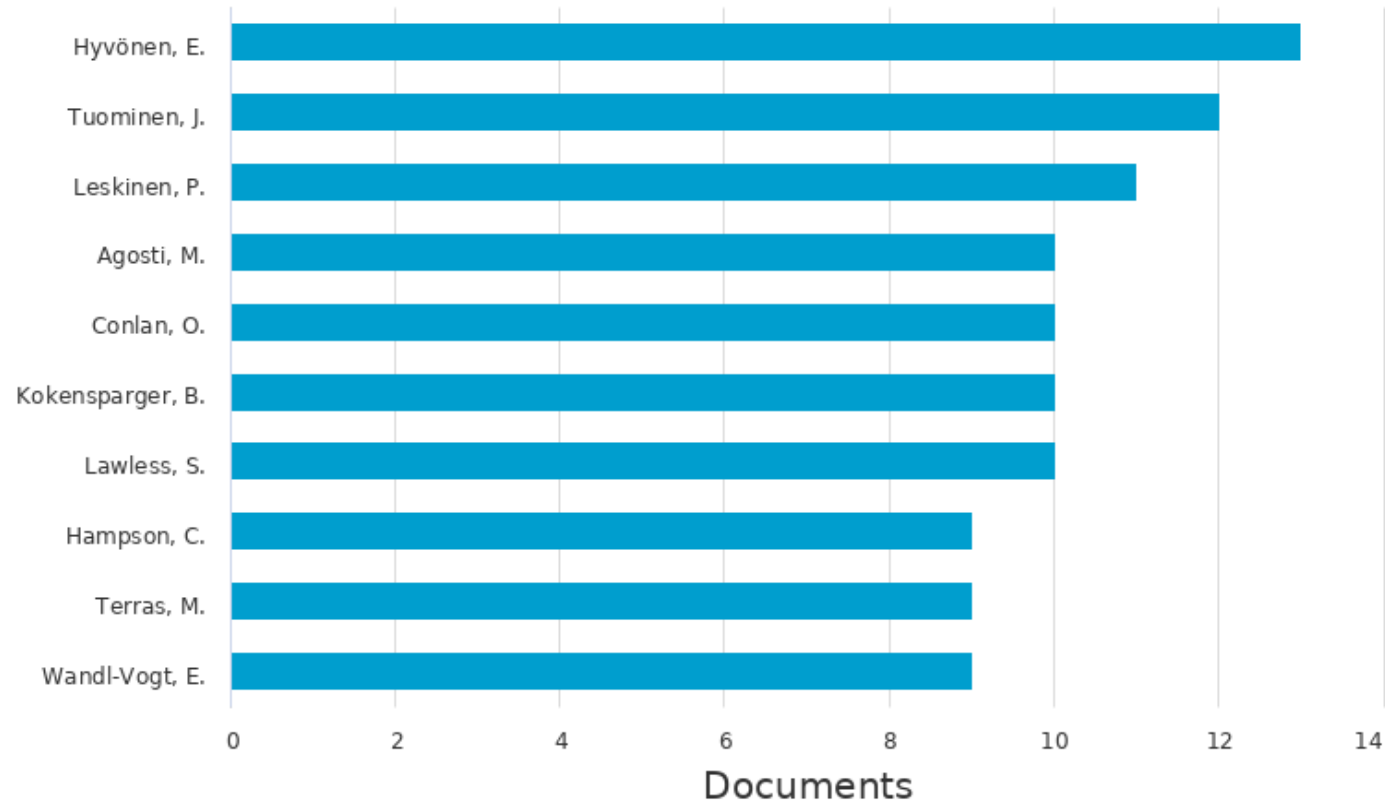


# Top Ten Authors with Most Documents with {Digital Humanities} in Title, Keywords and/or Abstract, 2010-2019

## Documents by author

Compare the document counts for up to 15 authors.

Scopus



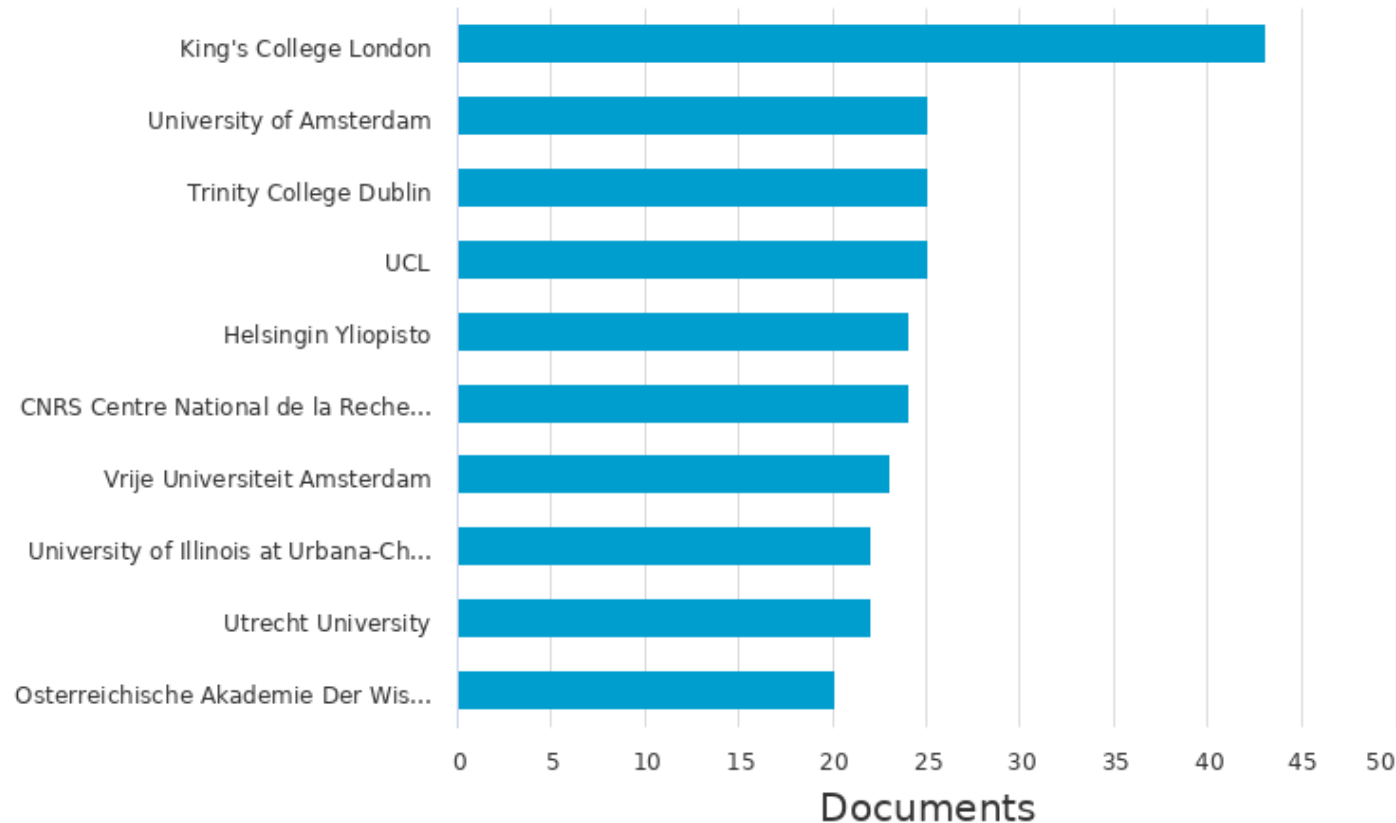


# Top Ten Affiliations of Main Author of Documents with {Digital Humanities} in Title, Keywords and/or Abstract, 2010-2019

## Documents by affiliation

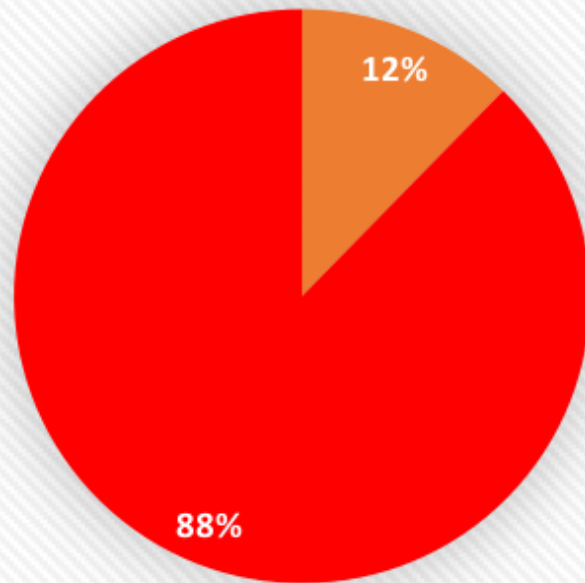
Compare the document counts for up to 15 affiliations.

Scopus



# 88% of {Digital Humanities} Documents are Closed

{Digital Humanities} 2009- Present

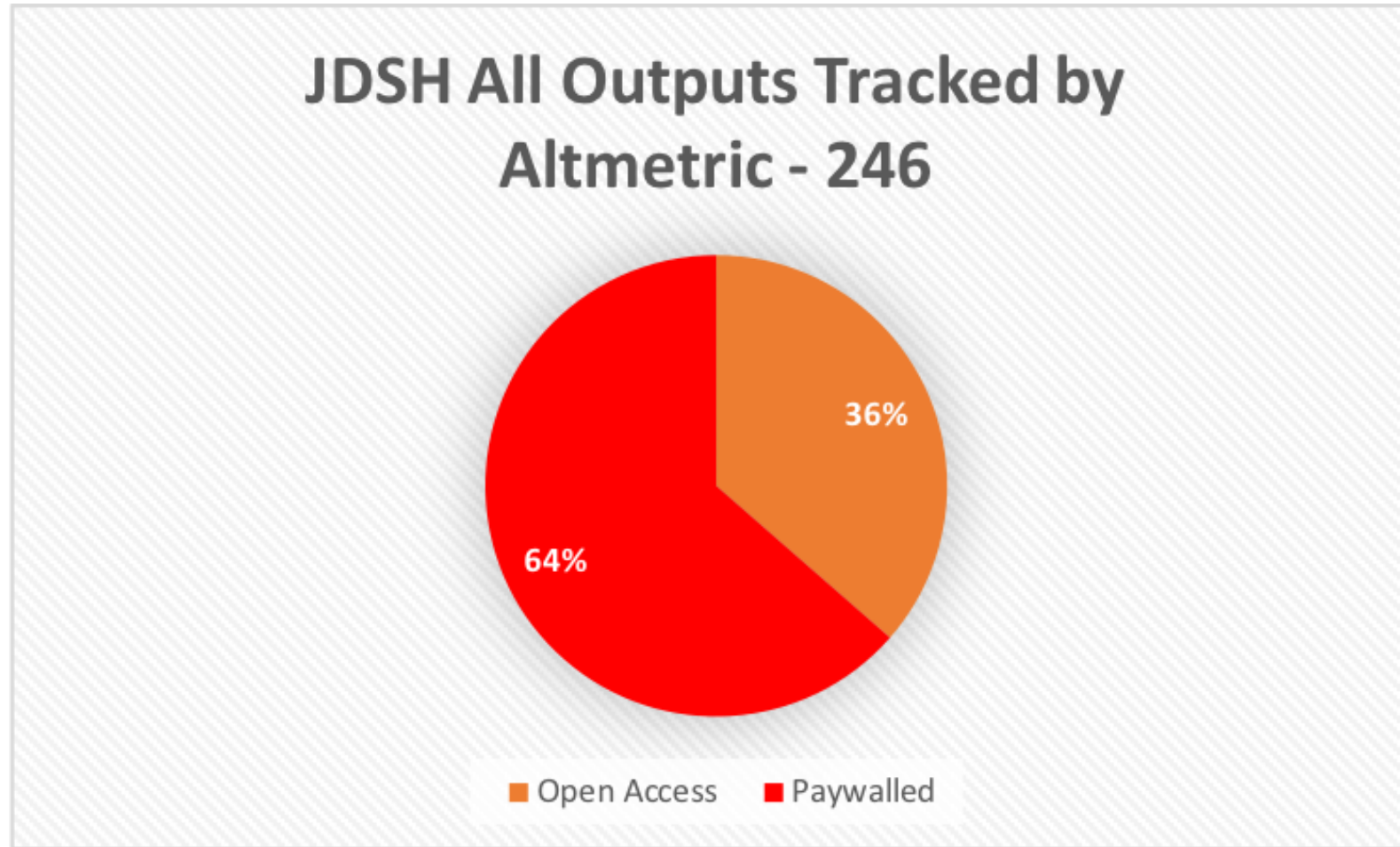


■ Open Access ■ Paywalled ("Other")

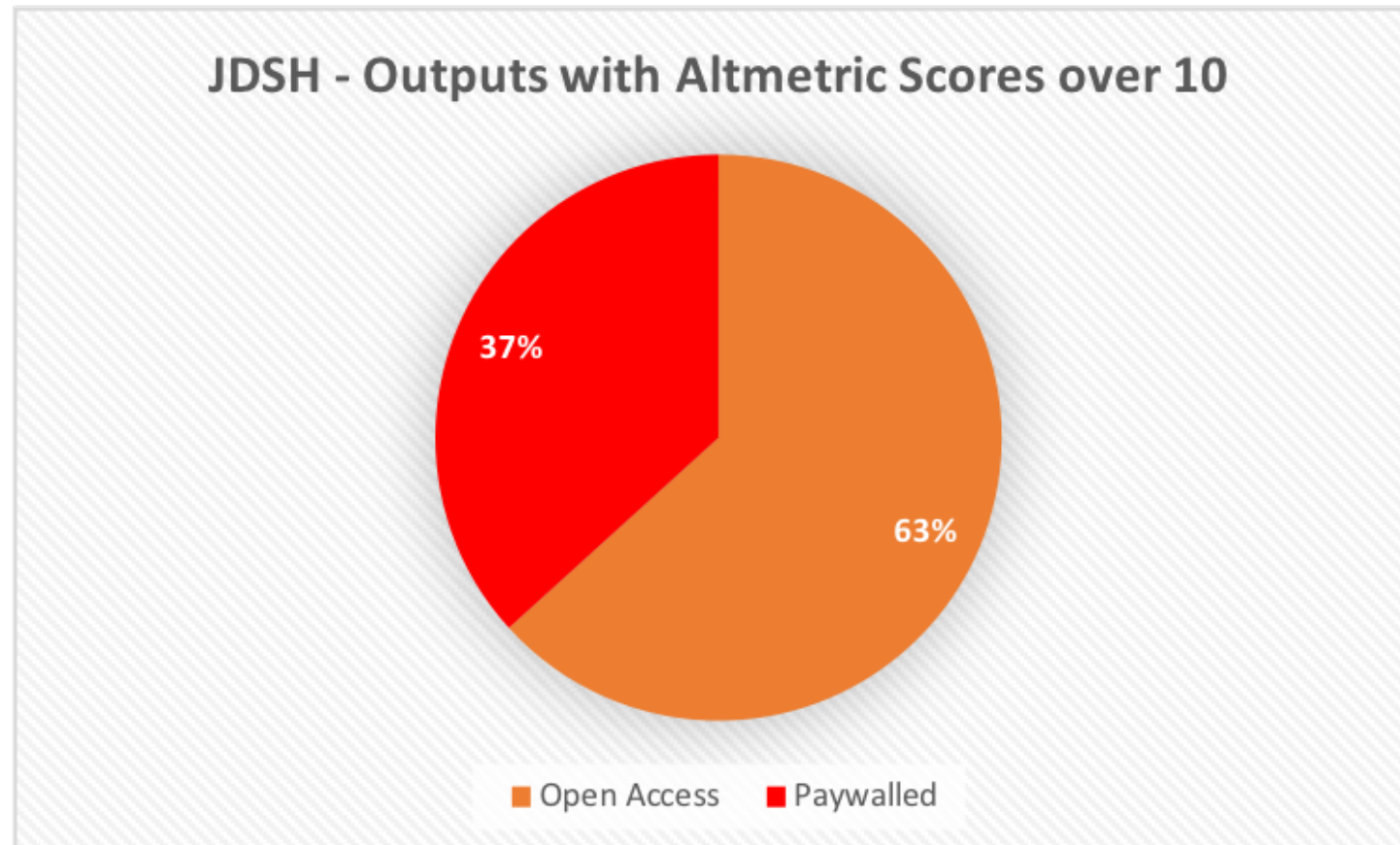
Access types currently available in Scopus are:

- **Open Access:** Articles published in "Gold" OA, including full OA journals, Hybrids, Open Archive and Promotional Access
- **Other:** Any other type of access including Subscription or Green OA (not yet supported in Scopus)

# All JDSH Outputs Tracked by Altmetric by Access Type




# Most Mentioned JDSH Articles According to Altmetric, All Time



# Cost of JDSH APC Article Processing Fee

- CC BY: £1800 / \$3200 / €2750
- CC BY-NC: £1800/ \$3200 / €2750
- Reduced Rate Developing country charge\*: £900/ \$1600 / €1375
- Free Developing country charge\*: £0 /\$0 / €0
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One journal found when searched for: **digital scholarship in the humanities**

Journal:	<a href="#">Digital Scholarship in the Humanities</a> (ISSN: 2055-7671, ESSN: 2055-768X) [Formerly Literary and Linguistic Computing]
RoMEO:	This is a <a href="#">RoMEO green</a> journal
Paid OA:	This journal is not in the list for the paid open access option.
Author's Pre-print:	✓ author can archive pre-print (ie pre-refereeing)
Author's Post-print:	✓ author can archive post-print (ie final draft post-refereeing)
Publisher's Version/PDF:	✗ author cannot archive publisher's version/PDF
General Conditions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pre-print can only be posted prior to acceptance</li><li>• Pre-print must be accompanied by set statement (see link)</li><li>• Pre-print must not be replaced with post-print, instead a link to published version with amended set statement should be made</li><li>• Pre-print on author's personal website, employer website, free public server or pre-prints in subject area</li><li>• Post-print on authors personal website immediately</li><li>• Post-print on institutional repositories or central repositories after 2 years embargo</li><li>• Publisher's version/PDF cannot be used</li><li>• Published source must be acknowledged</li><li>• Must link to publisher version</li><li>• Set phrase to accompany archived copy (see policy)</li></ul>
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<http://sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/search.php>

# The Biggest Challenge...

- Until now the under-privileged (also called 'the scholarly poor') want belong to the privileged elites: to have libraries that subscribe to the same journals, to publish in those same journals, to be succeed in the paradigms defined by Global North hegemony.
- This is one of the many reasons why open access lacks more traction in the Global South.
- It is easy to blame the Evil Multinational Corporations for all the inequalities in scholarly communications, but what are we as scholars at least trying to do differently to avoid the perpetuation of the same?

# Insights/ Recommendations

- Scopus does not capture all the scholarly production in a given field. Proprietary indexing creates hierarchies.
- Scopus is used to obtain metrics to take promotion decisions, rankings, reputational management, metricate citations, discover research
- Content not indexed by Scopus risks invisibility if Scopus is used as main source
- English language and a few institutions and countries are overrepresented
- Open Access still a minority- but Open Access outputs get more online mentions- this does not mean all OA outputs do
- APC is free for developing nations- but reason for underrepresentation is not financial – assessment/review criteria need to be redesigned to allow epistemological and linguistic differences that produce different types of work
- Digital Humanities requires a transformation of scholarly communications, digital outputs as process, result and dissemination- why are we stuck with such traditional, proprietary and exclusionary methods of dissemination and assessment?



# Some References

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Thanks! ¡Gracias! Bedankt! etc.

Questions, comments  
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#DH2019

