



Copyright © 2023 by Cherkas Global University
All rights reserved.
Published in the USA

European Journal of Contemporary Education
E-ISSN 2305-6746
2023. 12(3): 1090-1096
DOI: 10.13187/ejced.2023.3.1090
<https://ejce.cherkasgu.press>

IMPORTANT NOTICE! Any copying, reproduction, distribution, republication (in whole or in part), or otherwise commercial use of this work in violation of the author's rights will be prosecuted in accordance with international law. The use of hyperlinks to the work will not be considered copyright infringement.



**European Journal of
Contemporary Education**



ELECTRONIC JOURNAL

Cherkas Global University's Academic Projects: Open Academic Journals Index (2013–2023)

Anastasiia A. Cherkasova ^{a,*}

^aCherkas Global University, Washington, DC, USA

Abstract

This paper details one of Cherkas Global University's projects – the creation and operation of the full-text international database Open Academic Journals Index (OAJI). It summarizes this activity over a 10-year period.

The principal sources for this study are the collection of documents 'Cherkas Global University (1992–2022)' and the annual report 'Academic Publishing House Researcher Today – 2013'.

The study's findings revealed that the database of open-access academic journals Open Academic Journals Index (OAJI), established in 2013, transformed into a full-text database as early as 2014. As of July 4, 2023, the database numbered 3,364 academic journals from 124 countries. OAJI-indexed journals have been divided into three groups (Natural Sciences (44.3 % of the total content), Social Sciences (42.7 %), and Multidisciplinary Sciences (13 %)). The Open Academic Journals Index platform currently contains over 200,000 articles from 360,000 researchers, which makes the ten-year old OAJI project one of Cherkas Global University's top international projects today.

Keywords: Open Academic Journals Index, Cherkas Global University, 2013–2023, academic projects, research.

1. Introduction

What is central to the history of any serious academic organization is the implementation of academic projects. These can vary in significance and form – such a project can be conducting research, holding thematic contests, implementing programs (e.g., something related to academic mobility), or creating scientometric tools. An example of the last is the full-text scientometric database Open Academic Journals Index, which is turning 10 this year, 2023. This academic project from Cherkas Global University is what constitutes the main focus of the present paper.

* Corresponding author

E-mail addresses: a.cherkasova.la@gmail.com (A.A. Cherkasova)

2. Materials and methods

The principal sources for this work were the collection of documents ‘Cherkas Global University (1992–2022)’ (Cherkas Global University..., 2022) and the annual report ‘Academic Publishing House Researcher Today – 2013’ (Academic Publishing, 2014).

The study’s methodology was grounded in the following fundamental historical principles: historicism, systematicity, and objectivism. Also, of importance was the use here of the statistical method, which was employed to create various samples on the Open Academic Journals Index platform (e.g., the number of journals across academic areas and the top 10 nations in terms of how many journals from a country are in OAJI).

3. Discussion

Up to now, there have been no dedicated publications on the Open Academic Journals Index database. The present work is intended to fill this gap in the historiography. Nonetheless, there are incidental mentions of OAJI in the literature, like those in the works devoted to Cherkas Global University and its founder, A.A. Cherkasov, Doctor of Historical Sciences. Specifically, an article was published in 2019 commemorating the 20th anniversary of A.A. Cherkasov’s academic-pedagogical activity, which does mention OAJI among a few other projects (Tarakanov, Ludwig, 2019). That same year, 2019, V.V. Tarakanov and M.A. Ponomareva published a work detailing the first 5 years of the history of the International Network Center for Fundamental and Applied Research (INCFAR) (2014–2019) (Tarakanov, Ponomareva, 2019), which provides some information about OAJI as well; it also describes a methodology for calculating the Current Global Index of the Journal (CGIJ) (Tarakanov, Ponomareva, 2019: 989-990). In 2021, K.V. Taran addressed the operation of Cherkas Global University in the period 1992–2014, but, despite the fact that OAJI was already in place in 2013, no mention thereof is made in that work (Taran, 2021: 1077-1082). In 2022, an article commemorating the 30th anniversary of Cherkas Global University, ‘Cherkas Global University (1992–2022): Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow’, was released by I.Yu. Cherkasova (Cherkasova, 2022). It describes in chronological order the history of the organization, with some attention devoted to the creation of OAJI as well (Cherkasova, 2022: 1041). In 2023, I.Yu. Cherkasova released another publication, in which the scholar focuses on the fundamental library of Cherkas Global University (Cherkasova, 2023). It is worth noting that the university currently has a library stock of more than 270,000 publications, with over 60,000 of these being in the fundamental library and over 200,000 – in the OAJI library.

Among the rest of the publications mentioning the OAJI database, of particular note is the work by V.S. Molchanova, focused on e-commerce in the publishing industry, which touches upon the database as well (Molchanova, 2015). In addition, there are incidental mentions of OAJI in the context of editorial policies for academic journals in the following works: Yu.B. Melnyk’s ‘Message from the Editor-in-Chief of *International Journal of Science Annals*’ (Melnyk, 2021), V.I. Barsukov’s ‘Rules for Authors Regarding Article Submission’ (Barsukov, 2017), and G. Rajović and J. Bulatović’s ‘“History and Historians in the Context of the Time” in Thirteen Years of Existence’ (Rajović, Bulatović, 2016).

4. Results

In 2013, the city of Sochi (Russia) was witnessing the brisk development of the academic publishing house Researcher, focused on the production of open-access academic journals. This organization experienced significant growth in 2010–2016, with the number of journals published by it eventually surpassing 50 (Figure 1).

The increase in the number of academic journals carried by the organization prompted a need for new places for indexing those journals to help boost their visibility. Consequently, there emerged the idea of launching an English-language database for open-access academic journals. This database was to provide the most relevant information about each indexed journal. On June 11, 2013, the head of the publishing house, A.A. Cherkasov, signed a decree to create the database Open Academic Journals Index. Pursuant to that decree, implementing the project would require enlisting the services of IT specialists, while oaji.net would be established as the web address for the database (Cherkas Global University..., 2022: 27). The logo for the database was also adopted shortly afterwards (Figure 2).

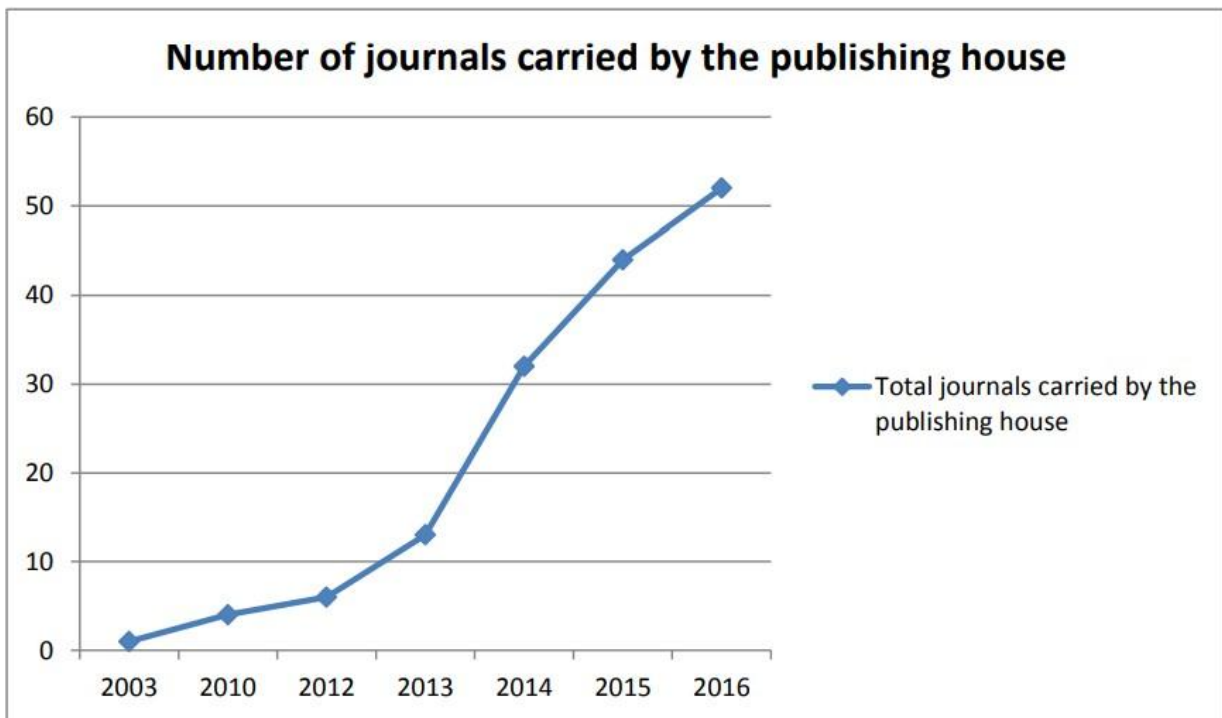


Fig. 1. Total number of journals carried by the publishing house Researcher in 2003–2016 (Tarakanov, Ludwig, 2019: 918)



Fig. 2. Logo for Open Academic Journals Index

On July 4, 2013, the work on creating the website was over and the first journal was placed on the OAJI platform – it was *Bylye Gody*, published by Cherkas Global University Press. Later on, other such journals followed suit (Academic Publishing..., 2014: 11). By August 19 of the same year, more than 100 journals from three countries (India, Iran, and Russia) had been added to the platform.

The page of a journal selected for indexing included the following information: the journal's title, its publisher, its periodicity, its short title, its publishing house's country of origin, its online and print ISSNs (International Standard Serials Number), its website's address, its editor-in-chief, its indexation by Web of Science, Scopus, and DOAJ, the date it was added to the OAJI system, the academic domain it is in, a brief description of the journal, and its indexation by other databases.

Journals in the database were subsumed into 25 academic areas across domains such as Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, and Multidisciplinary Sciences. There even was a separate niche for military sciences. A gap that needed to be filled was developing open-access academic journals, regarded as second-echelon. Back in 2013, A.A. Cherkasov put forward his own system for ranking academic journals as part of his presentation at Volgograd State Polytechnic University: "Category 1 – journals indexed by prestigious international databases (Scopus and WoS); Category 2 – journals indexed by open-access international databases (DOAJ and EBSCO); Category 3 – journals indexed by national databases (Science Index, Index Copernicus, etc.); Category 4 – journals not indexed by any database" (Tolmacheva, 2013: 28 iyunya).

By the end of 2013, the total number of journals in OAJI was 300. Ranked first in the number of journals in this database was India (164 journals), followed by Iran (45), and then Russia (37). Support for the operation of the database was provided first by specialists at the publishing house and later (starting in the summer of 2014) by those in the Department of Academic Information at the International Network Center for Fundamental and Applied Research (INCFAR). The staff

would examine journal indexation requests. Such a request would be granted if a journal met the requirements of OAJI's policy, and a letter would be automatically sent to that journal's editorial staff notifying them of the inclusion of the journal in the database, from which moment the journal could have OAJI's logo on its own website.

However, pretty soon it became clear that indexing academic journals only would not guarantee a competitive advantage. As a result, on January 16, 2014, OAJI began to transform into a full-text database, one that would index not only journals but scholarly articles in indexed journals as well. As a matter of fact, the decree on reorganizing the database into a full-text one, Decree of the Director of the International Network Center for Fundamental and Applied Research, A.A. Cherkasov, No. 7 of May 25, 2015, came out much – almost 1.5 years – later (Cherkas Global University..., 2022: 48). As a consequence, now the database was to contain not only articles by authors but also their names and the following items were to appear on a journal's page: number of articles per issue (the figure would be based on the average number of articles placed on the OAJI platform), number of articles, number of issues, language of a publication, and years from which a journal's issues are on the platform. The database was now equipped with search functionality and with such an important tool as OAJI Library. This would somewhat complicate the operation of the database, as automatic letters now included sign-in information (a login and a password) for uploading a journal's articles to the OAJI platform on one's own.

On February 23, 2014, the first thousand articles were uploaded to the full-text database. In all, it now indexed 423 journals from 42 countries. As testimony to the rapid pace of increase in content in the database, as early as March 11, 2014, the total number of journals indexed by it reached 500 from 50 countries.

On March 14, 2014, the staff at the publishing house launched a methodology for calculating the Current Global Index of the Journal (CGIJ). Individual for each journal, this value was to be calculated automatically based on factors such as indexation by other databases and the number of articles placed on the OAJI platform. The maximum and minimum CGIJ values within the OAJI system were to be 1.000 and 0.000, respectively (Figure 3).

OAJI Open Academic Journals Index
 .net Founded 2013

Search by Journal Title [Advanced search](#)

Home
 About Us
OAJI Library
 Journals List
 Statistics
 Our Journals
TOP 50 Most Downloaded Articles
 For Publishers
 Apply for Evaluation / Free Service
 Journal Search
 OAJI Logo
 Contact Us

Animal Research International

Published by [Department of Zoology and Environmental Biology, University of Nigeria, Nsukka](#)

Year publication	2004		
Frequency	3		
Article Publishing Frequency	11	CGIJ OAJI	0.201
Abbreviation	Anim Res Int	Country	Nigeria
ISSN (print)	1597-3115	ISSN (online)	-
Journal Website	https://www.ajol.info/index.php/ari		

Volume 10 Number 2
 August 2021
 An International Peer-Reviewed
 Multidisciplinary Open Access Journal
 Publishing Original Research Involving
 the Use of Animals and Animal Products
 ISSN 1597-3115 Website: <http://www.ajol.info/ajournals>
 Article # 100220210002000100010001

Fig. 3. Page of a journal in OAJI, with the Current Global Index of the Journal (CGIJ) shown on it

On March 28, 2014, the number of authors in OAJI surpassed 10,000. A month later, on April 30, the number of journals indexed by OAJI reached 700 from 61 countries. In terms of content, there now were more than 8,500 articles and 15,000 authors.

On May 21, 2014, the number of articles in the database reached 10,000. It now indexed 772 journals from 65 countries.

Five months later, by October 20, 2014, the number of articles in OAJI had doubled, reaching 20,000, with the number of journals indexed by the database totaling 1,146 from 73 countries.

On November, 14, 2014, the number of journals indexed by OAJI surpassed 1,200. There was a change in the top three – India, Russia, and USA.

On December 8, 2014, the number of articles indexed by OAJI reached 25,000, with the database numbering 1,253 journals from 73 countries and containing 40 GB worth of content.

On January 20, 2015, the number of journals on the Open Academic Journals Index platform reached 1,300 from 75 countries, and as early as February 2, 2015, the number of authors therein surpassed 50,000.

The reorganization of the database into a full-text one had a positive effect in terms of the website’s traffic, with the figure continuing to be high – an average of 2,000 visitors daily, peaking at 5,000.

Subsequently, the numbers of journals, articles, and authors in OAJI continued to grow. In 2017, as a result of the launch of the content cleaning process, the indexation of some of the journals was discontinued, with new ones being admitted in their place. As early as by 2020, the number of journals indexed by the database had reached 3,000 – as against the initial plan of indexing 3,000 to 3,500 journals.

On December 31, 2022, the database numbered 3,343 journals from 122 countries, with the numbers of authors and articles therein reaching 363,000 and upwards of 200,000 articles, respectively.

On the eve of its 10th anniversary, on July 4, 2023, OAJI contained 130.5 GB worth of content. It indexed 3,364 journals from 124 countries. Over the period the database has been in existence, there have been more than 13,000 requests from journals to be indexed by it, or about four requests per day. The approval rate has been around 25 %.

Table 1. Distribution of Journals in OAJI across Academic Areas

Academic area	Number of journals
Agricultural Sciences	180
Architecture	17
Biological Sciences	186
Chemical Sciences	52
Computer Sciences	57
Cultural Studies	29
Earth and Related Environmental Sciences	48
Economic Sciences	262
Engineering Sciences	268
Geosciences	55
Health Sciences	92
Historical Sciences and Archaeology. Art History	97
Humanities	230
Legal Sciences	100
Mathematics and Information Sciences	33
Medical Sciences	414
Military Sciences	17
Multidisciplinary Sciences	440
Pedagogical Sciences	148
Philological Sciences	38
Philosophical Sciences	36
Physical Sciences. Astronomy	12
Physico-Mathematical Sciences	41
Political Sciences	34
Social Sciences	444
Technology	34
Total	3,364

As evidenced in [Table 1](#), the overall content of OAJI-indexed journals has been divided across the academic areas as follows: 1,489 journals focused on the natural sciences (44.3 %),

1,435 journals focused on the social sciences (42.7 %), and 440 journals focused on the multidisciplinary sciences (13 %). [Figure 4](#) provides a diagram for a visual representation of this.

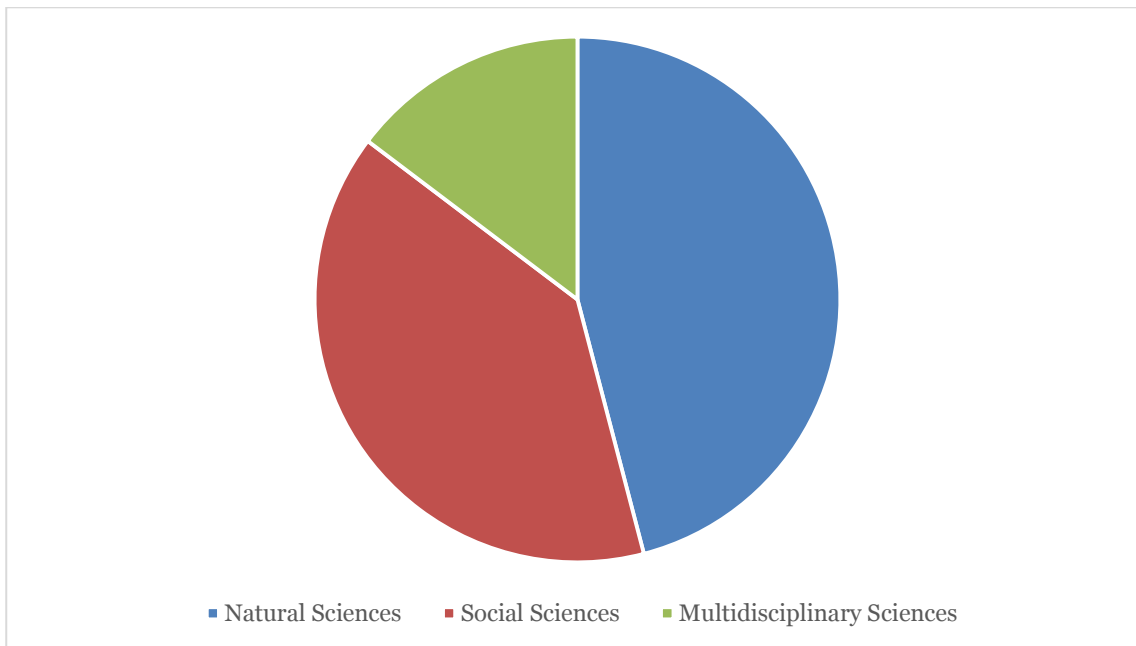


Fig. 4. Visual distribution of journals in OAJI across the three major academic domains

By July 4, 2023, OAJI numbered 3,364 academic journals from 124 countries. [Table 10](#) displays the top 10 nations in terms of the number of journals from a country indexed by the database ([Table 2](#)).

Table 2. Top 10 Countries by Number of Journals in OAJI as at July 4, 2023

Rank	Country	Number of journals
1	India	448
2	Brazil	348
3	Ukraine	227
4	Turkey	200
5	Indonesia	191
6	USA	182
7	Iran	150
8	Russia	125
9	Romania	116
10	Colombia	70

As evidenced in [Table 2](#), there are several nations that have taken a keen interest in the development of open-access academic journals. Above all, these are India and Indonesia, with Brazil, too, joining in recently. There have been many journals from Ukraine and Turkey. Note also that OAJI currently indexes just 12 journals from China, which pretty much reflects the policy followed by this Asian nation.

5. Conclusion

The database of open-access academic journals Open Academic Journals Index (OAJI), established in 2013, transformed into a full-text database as early as 2014. As of July 4, 2023, the database numbered 3,364 academic journals from 124 countries. OAJI-indexed journals have been divided into three groups (Natural Sciences (44.3 % of the total content), Social Sciences (42.7 %), and Multidisciplinary Sciences (13 %)). The Open Academic Journals Index platform

currently contains over 200,000 articles from 360,000 researchers, which makes the ten-year old OAJI project one of Cherkas Global University's top international projects today.

References

- [Academic Publishing...](#), 2014 – Academic Publishing House Researcher Today – 2013. Sochi, 2014.
- [Barsukov, 2017](#) – Barsukov, V.I. (2017). Pravila predstavleniya avtorami statei [Rules for the submission of articles by authors]. *Mediaobrazovanie*. 4: 239-247. [in Russian]
- [Cherkas Global University...](#), 2022 – Cherkas Global University (1992-2022): Collection of Documents. Cherkas Global University Press. Los Angeles. Washington DC, 2022.
- [Cherkasova, 2022](#) – Cherkasova, I.Yu. (2022). Cherkas Global University (1992–2022): Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow. *European Journal of Contemporary Education*. 11(3): 1039-1047.
- [Cherkasova, 2023](#) – Cherkasova, I.Yu. (2023). A History of the P.A. Cherkasov Fundamental Electronic Library (1992–2023). *European Journal of Contemporary Education*. 12(2): 745-751.
- [Melnyk, 2021](#) – Melnyk, Yu.B. (2021). Message from the editor-in-chief. *International journal of science annals*. 1(4): 5-6.
- [Molchanova, 2015](#) – Molchanova, V.S. (2015). Elektronnaya kommertsiya v izdatel'skoi industrii [Electronic Commerce in Publishing Industry]. *Sochi Journal of Economy*. 3-1(36): 146-151. [in Russian]
- [Rajović, Bulatović, 2016](#) – Rajović, G., Bulatović, J. (2016). «History and Historians in the Context of the Time» in Thirteen years of Existence. *History and Historians in the Context of the Time*. 2 (17): 99-102.
- [Tarakanov, Ludwig, 2019](#) – Tarakanov, V.V., Ludwig, S.D. (2019). Aleksandr Cherkasov: A Scholar, Publisher, and Organizer of Research Collaborations (to the 20th Anniversary of the Scholar's Research and Pedagogical Activity). *Bylye Gody*. 53(3): 914-920.
- [Tarakanov, Ponomareva, 2019](#) – Tarakanov, V.V., Ponomareva, M.A. (2019). INCFAR: Characteristics and Challenges (A Fifth Anniversary Tribute). *European Journal of Contemporary Education*. 8(4): 984-992.
- [Taran, 2021](#) – Taran, K.V. (2021). A History of Cherkas Global University: Its Making (1992–2014). *European Journal of Contemporary Education*. 10(4): 1077-1082.
- [Tolmacheva, 2013](#) – Tolmacheva, N. (2013). Dobro pozhalovat' v Scopus [Welcome to Scopus]. *Politehnik*. 28 iyulya. P. 1407. [in Russian]