

European publication issues from an Austrian perspective

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Abstract

Publishing in Austria faces several barriers: Austria (1) has a small number of scientists compared with the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) average and only recently benefited from higher research intensities, (2) it has not yet made the full switch to English as lingua franca, (3) it has not yet developed an efficient Open-Access strategy, (4) it has a lower number of journal gatekeepers than expected by publication output, (5) it faces several legal barriers which interfere with scientific publications. The present article describes the publication situation in Austria in detail and develops strategies for successful publishing in the highly competitive scientific community of future Europe.

Key words: scientific communication, psychology, information dissemination; online publishing; open access; journals; Austria, Europe, ISI Web of Science, lingua franca, language; gatekeeper, publisher, scientometrics

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European Publication issues from an Austrian perspective

The present article describes the current European publication situation in psychology, particularly referring to the German speaking country Austria. This will comprise benchmarks of Austrian research and publication efforts, influencing research politics and law factors, and research strategies. Extra paragraphs will discuss open-access publication issues and the question of which lingua franca will be the most suitable for future Austrian publication strategies. The paper will end with a short summary and some conclusions on the discussed issues.

Science politics in Austria

Austria is one of the smaller countries in Europe (8.3 million inhabitants) with a relatively low number of academics (18% of the adult population compared with the OECD average of 26% OECD, 2007). Although Austria has made a great effort in increasing the number of people with tertiary education by 50% in the past 10 years (1997-2007; source: Statistik Austria), this group still amounts to only 3.0% of scientists (and engineers) compared to the total labor force (EU-27 average: 4.8%; Germany: 5.7%) (Eurostat, 2008). Annual expenditure on educational institutions per student relative to GDP per capita in tertiary education has reached the OECD's average in 2007 (see Figure 1) and will steadily grow over the next three years.

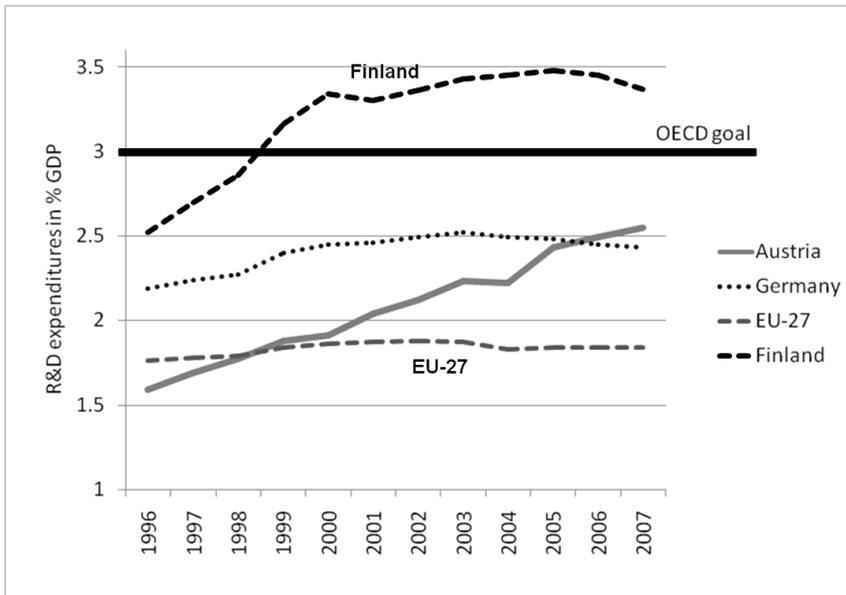


Figure 1:

Increase of Austria's R&D intensity (% of GDP) over the past 12 years, compared with the EU-27 average and selected countries (OECD, 2007).

Strong efforts have also been made to follow the guidelines of the Lisbon European Council strategy in March 2000, which set a strategic goal for the next decade of becoming the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world. For instance, the Lisbon strategy asked for an increase of Research & Development (R&D) activity to 3.0% of the respective national GDP; Austria responded with an increase from 1.91% to 2.45% over the past eight years, thus hopefully meeting the 3% level criterion in 2010 (Eurostat, 2005).

Publishing in Austria

Austria's University based psychological research landscape consists of five major institutes located at the following sites: Innsbruck (3,234 students; 501 scientific personnel), Graz (22,059; 524), Klagenfurt (8,431; 282), Salzburg (13,178; 547) and Vienna (73,504; 1,408) (winter term 2007/2008 Bundesministerium-für-Wissenschaft-und-Forschung, 2008).

To obtain an overview of Austria's publication success in psychology, an extensive research on ISI Web Of Science listed publications was undertaken with Germany, Great Britain and the USA, the three leading scientific nations plus Switzerland as the third (partly) German speaking country, as benchmarks. The research was conducted in June 2008 and uses the years of 1997 and 2007 as reference points to also provide an impression of research development over the past ten years. The targeted journals were the top ten in terms of their impact factors within the referring psychological disciplines of applied, biological, clinical, developmental, educational, experimental, mathematical, multidisciplinary and social psychology. Table 1 shows the journal names ISSN, impact factor (ISI Web of Science SSCI of 1997 and 2007) of these journals plus detailed information on Austria's publication success in these media compared with leading science nations. For a better understanding the proportion of published items related to competing countries are shown for each discipline. Furthermore, to have a validation of general science success, the publication success in top-journals (Science and Nature) not specifically related to psychology is given in the last section of the table. First of all, as Austria's scientific landscape is rather limited, these figures should be observed with care, especially for specific psychological disciplines, as even one added or subtracted journal article can change the specific statistics significantly. Obviously, in 2007 Austria's researchers did not have much impact on the top ranked journals in the fields of applied, educational, mathematical, and multidisciplinary psychology. Compared with Switzerland, a nearly equally large country (7.42 million inhabitants; Statistik Schweiz 2004), Austria could not measure up in any psychological disciplines. Compared with Germany, a country with approximately ten times as many inhabitants as Austria (82 million inhabitants; Statistisches Bundesamt, 2008), Austria was superior in targeted publications per capita only in clinical psychology. Importantly, when statistics of general publication success in so-called "top journals" of general interests (Science and Nature) are taken into account, Austria was about equally successful, compared with Germany,. When compared with 1997, even a strong increase of publication success in these top journals could be registered.

Table 1

Benchmarking Austria's publication output in psychological key disciplines with leading scientific nations (Germany, GB, USA) plus Switzerland for a comparison of a nearly equally large country. For each discipline, the ten journals with the highest impact in 2007 were included. At left, publication benchmarks of 2007, at right, those of 1997. At the bottom of each discipline, a calculation of the proportion of publication output of Austrian relating to the referring nation's output is presented.

Journal Name	ISSN	2007					1997					
		IF	Austria	Switzerland	Germany	GB	USA	Austria	Switzerland	Germany	GB	USA
Applied												
J COUNS PSYCHOL	0022-0167	2.924	0	1	1	0	43	0	0	0	1	45
J APPL PSYCHOL	0021-9010	2.851	0	0	3	11	104	0	0	0	3	80
COUNS PSYCHOL	0011-0000	2.675	0	0	0	0	36	0	0	0	0	37
PERS PSYCHOL	0031-5826	2.392	0	0	0	4	58	1	0	1	1	83
J VOCAT BEHAV	0001-8791	2.263	0	1	4	5	36	0	0	1	0	43
WORK STRESS	0267-8373	2.156	0	0	2	5	1	0	0	0	12	3
J ORGAN BEHAV	0894-3796	1.959	0	0	2	9	38	0	0	1	4	43
J OCCUP ORGAN PSYCH	0963-1798	1.91	0	1	5	8	13	0	0	2	15	14
HUM RESOURCE MAN-AGE	0090-4848	1.855	0	0	0	0	22	0	1	0	2	49
BEHAV SCI LAW	0735-3936	1.804	0	1	1	4	37	0	0	0	1	25
Proportion			100.000%	0.000%	0.000%	0.000%	0.000%	100.000%	100.000%	20.000%	2.564%	0.237%
Biological												
BEHAV BRAIN SCI	0140-525X	14.964	0	1	7	38	118	0	1	21	52	204
PSYCHOPHYSIOLOGY	0048-5772	3.159	0	19	81	29	356	2	0	14	9	44
Q J EXP PSYCHOL-B	0272-4895	2.868	0	3	19	51	22	0	1	0	3	4
BIOL PSYCHOL	0301-0511	2.698	0	5	27	14	65	1	0	9	4	16
EVOL HUM BEHAV	1090-5138	2.586	0	0	1	19	33	0	0	0	8	18
PHYSIOL BEHAV	0031-9384	2.445	2	5	15	29	113	0	5	17	31	187
INT J PSYCHOPHYSIOL	0167-8760	2.247	0	8	23	20	28	11	1	37	41	62
J EXP PSYCHOL ANIM B	0097-7403	2.153	0	0	0	15	17	0	0	0	6	26
LEARN BEHAV	1543-4494	1.926	0	0	0	6	21	0	0	0	0	16
LEARN MOTIV	0023-9890	1.848	0	1	0	3	9	0	0	0	4	16
Proportion			100.000%	4.762%	1.156%	0.893%	0.256%	100.000%	175.000%	14.286%	8.861%	2.426%
Clinical												

Journal Name	2007				2007				1997			
	ISSN	IF	Austria	Switzerland	Germany	GB	USA	Austria	Switzerland	Germany	GB	USA
Clinical												
J CLIN PSYCHIAT	0160-6889	5.533	5	3	17	26	281	5	3	17	26	281
J ABNORM PSYCHOL	0021-843X	4.372	0	1	0	13	66	0	1	0	13	66
J CONSULT CLIN PSYCH	0022-006X	4.026	0	2	3	3	78	0	2	3	3	78
CLIN PSYCHOL REV	0272-7358	3.947	0	1	1	14	39	0	1	1	14	39
PSYCHOL MED	0033-2917	3.816	3	6	8	77	59	3	6	8	77	59
HEALTH PSYCHOL	0278-6133	3.693	0	2	3	7	83	0	2	3	7	83
NEUROPSYCHOLOGY	0894-4105	3.123	0	0	1	10	45	0	0	1	10	45
BEHAV RES THER	0005-7967	2.887	0	4	7	46	107	0	4	7	46	107
NEUROPSYCHOL REV	1040-7308	2.591	0	0	0	3	24	0	0	0	3	24
DEPRESS ANXIETY	1091-4269	2.549	0	1	5	8	52	0	1	5	8	52
Proportion			100.000%	40.000%	17.778%	3.865%	0.959%	100.000%	40.000%	17.778%	3.865%	0.959%
Developmental												
MONOGR SOC RES CHILD	0037-976X	6.143	0	0	0	4	8	0	0	0	1	15
J AM ACAD CHILD PSY	0890-8567	4.767	0	1	2	22	171	0	0	0	10	307
J CHILD PSYCHOL PSYC	0021-9630	4.404	0	3	4	42	54	0	0	0	0	1
CHILD DEV	0009-3920	3.893	0	1	7	17	81	0	1	1	12	142
DEV PSYCHOL	0012-1649	3.556	0	1	5	14	89	0	0	4	8	84
J PEDIATR PSYCHOL	0146-8993	3.157	0	0	0	4	104	0	0	0	2	56
DEV REV	0273-2297	2.939	0	0	1	3	14	0	0	1	1	16
DEVELOPMENTAL SCI	1363-755X	2.915	0	1	9	20	48					
DEV NEUROPSYCHOL	8756-5641	2.861	0	0	2	0	26	0	0	0	1	19
PSYCHOL AGING	0882-7974	2.828	1	1	9	4	65	0	0	10	1	58
Proportion			100.000%	12.500%	2.564%	0.769%	0.152%	100.000%	0.000%	0.000%	0.000%	0.000%

Journal Name	2007				1997							
	ISSN	IF	Austria	Switzerland	Germany	GB	USA	Austria	Switzerland	Germany	GB	USA
Educational												
CHILD DEV	0009-3920	3.893	0	1	7	17	81	0	1	1	12	142
J LEARN SCI	1050-9406	3.04	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	1	14
J COGNS PSYCHOL	0022-0167	2.924	0	1	1	0	43	0	0	0	1	45
EDUC PSYCHOL	0046-1520	2.795	0	0	0	1	10	0	0	0	0	25
EDUC PSYCHOL REV	1040-726X	2.4	0	0	5	0	18	0	0	0	0	13
J EDUC PSYCHOL	0022-0663	2.025	0	0	7	6	39	0	0	0	1	45
INSTR SCI	0020-4277	1.81	0	0	1	2	8	0	0	0	1	11
LEARN INSTR	0959-4752	1.717	0	4	12	5	8	0	3	0	1	1
J APPL RES INTELLECT	1360-2322	1.657	0	0	0	44	8	0	0	0	40	0
DYSLEXIA	1076-8242	1.615	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0
Proportion			100.000%	0.000%	0.000%	0.000%	0.000%	100.000%	0.000%	0.000%	0.000%	0.000%
Experimental												
TRENDS COGN SCI	1364-6613	9.374	0	2	4	29	46	0	0	1	0	11
ADV EXP SOC PSYCHOL	0065-2601	6.333	0	0	1	1	6	0	0	0	0	0
J EXP PSYCHOL GEN	0096-3445	6.177	1	1	5	8	29	0	0	0	1	20
J COGNITIVE NEUROSCI	0898-929X	5.197	1	5	31	39	73	0	0	5	4	39
COGNITION	0010-0277	4.229	1	1	6	39	50	0	0	0	9	26
NEUROPSYCHOLOGIA	0028-3932	3.924	4	21	45	118	122	0	5	16	35	58
COGNITIVE PSYCHOL	0010-0285	3.659	0	0	0	2	13	0	0	1	5	21
PSYCHOPHYSIOLOGY	0048-5772	3.159	0	19	81	30	356	0	0	14	9	44
EMOTION	1528-3542	3.053	0	6	7	9	52	0	0	0	0	8
PSYCHOL LEARN	0079-7421	2.938										
MOTIV												
Proportion			100.000%	12.727%	3.889%	2.545%	0.937%	100.000%	0.000%	0.000%	0.000%	0.000%

Journal Name	2007					1997						
	ISSN	IF	Austria	Switzerland	Germany	GB	USA	Austria	Switzerland	Germany	GB	USA
Mathematical												
PSYCHON B REV	1069-9384	2.229	0	1	11	28	128	0	0	2	2	49
BEHAV RES METHODS	1554-351X	1.15	0	1	12	16	49	0	0	3	6	53
EDUC PSYCHOL MEAS	0013-1644	0.921	0	0	1	0	51	0	0	0	4	70
APPL PSYCH MEAS	0146-6216	0.854	0	0	0	0	24	0	0	0	0	40
BRIT J MATH STAT PSY	0007-1102	0.805	0	0	0	9	15	0	0	0	6	6
J MATH PSYCHOL	0022-2496	0.783	0	0	10	2	12	1	1	16	2	96
PSYCHOMETRIKA	0033-3123	0.608	0	0	3	2	23	0	1	1	2	19
J CLASSIF	0176-4268	0.6	0	0	0	1	8	0	0	0	2	12
J EDUC MEAS	0022-0655	0.432	0	0	0	1	24	0	0	0	1	25
APPL MEAS EDUC	0895-7347	0.303	0	1	0	0	19	0	0	0	0	22
Proportion			100.000%	0.000%	0.000%	0.000%	0.000%	100.000%	50.000%	4.545%	4.000%	0.255%
Multidisciplinary												
PSYCHOL BULL	0033-2909	12.725	0	0	1	8	35	0	0	1	1	32
ANNU REV PSYCHOL	0066-4308	11.70	0	0	0	1	22	0	0	0	2	21
PSYCHOL INQ	1047-840X	9.688	0	1	1	2	30	0	0	1	4	49
PSYCHOL REV	0033-295X	8.825	0	1	1	10	36	0	0	1	2	24
AM PSYCHOL	0003-066X	7.829	1	0	0	3	129	0	0	4	6	161
PSYCHOL SCI	0956-7976	4.571	0	3	16	21	163	0	0	0	9	80
J ABNORM PSY- CHOL	0021-843X	4.372	0	1	0	13	66	0	0	1	3	61
PSYCHOSOM MED	0033-3174	3.857	0	7	10	26	92	1	4	13	8	144
NEUROBIOL LEARN MEM	1074-7427	3.593	0	3	11	5	51	0	1	0	7	33
INTELLIGENCE	0160-2886	2.932	0	0	6	13	28	0	0	0	6	11
Proportion			100.000%	6.250%	2.174%	0.980%	0.153%	100.000%	20.000%	4.762%	2.381%	0.165%

Journal Name	ISSN	2007				1997						
		IF	Austria	Switzerland	Germany	GB	USA	Austria	Switzerland	Germany	GB	USA
Social												
ADV EXP SOC PSY- CHOL	0065-2601	6.333	0	0	1	1	6	0	0	0	0	11
J PERS SOC PSYCHOL	0022-3514	4.223	0	3	6	9	102	0	2	6	11	191
PERS SOC PSYCHOL REV	1088-8683	3.348	0	0	1	4	11					
J PERS	0022-3506	2.876	0	2	2	4	33	0	0	1	1	22
J HEALTH SOC BEHAV	0022-1465	2.476	0	0	0	0	27	0	0	0	1	31
PERS SOC PSYCHOL B	0146-1672	2.419	0	2	4	20	87	0	0	1	2	80
LAW HUMAN BEHAV	0147-7307	2.122	0	0	1	2	32	0	0	0	1	38
J EXP SOC PSYCHOL	0022-1031	2.107	1	3	11	17	65	0	0	2	3	25
J CROSS CULT PSY- CHOL	0022-0221	1.923	1	2	4	1	23	0	0	4	5	30
J RES PERS	0092-6566	1.912	0	1	6	6	71	0	0	0	1	29
Proportion			100.000%	15.385%	5.556%	3.125%	0.438%	100.000%	0.000%	0.000%	0.000%	0.000%
Top Journals (all disciplines)												
SCIENCE	0036-8075	30.028	14	61	168	298	1192	7	42	83	128	1329
NATURE	0028-0836	26.681	24	56	180	385	1025	12	61	166	593	1092
Proportion			100.000%	32.479%	10.920%	5.564%	1.714%	100.000%	18.447%	7.631%	2.635%	0.785%

One major candidate for underperforming in publishing in highly ranked psychological journals could be the relatively low R&D investments per GDP in the past 10 years; however, as described above, Austria has taken steps to remedy this problem. Another problem is the low rate of academics which will also be improved over the next years.

The role of gatekeepers

Braun and Diospatonyi (2005a; 2005b) revealed another intriguing fact. Although very strict publication policies are in place globally to prevent ethnic discrimination of authors, nation of origin, nevertheless, seems to play a very important role in the success of publishing, when compared with the journal gatekeepers' origin. They aggregated ISI Web Of Science Impact factors of 240 journals in 12 fields of research from the year 2003 and combined the data with the referring gatekeepers' nationality. The authors were able to reveal a much overrepresented number of US and British gatekeepers compared with the scientific output in numbers and citations: 53.9% of all gatekeepers were from the US while only 32.1% of the papers and 35.3% of the citations referred to the USA. Austria, in contrast, showed the reversed relationship of these indicators.

Doctoral and habilitation theses

A traditional factor in German speaking countries in general which hinders doctoral candidates to publish in peer-reviewed journals in their first years but also senior scientists in their later career is found in the usual practice of monographic doctoral and habilitation theses (a kind of 2nd doctoral degree for becoming a professor), respectively. More and more institutes now follow the guidelines of the ÖGP (Österreichische Gesellschaft für Psychologie; Austrian Society of Psychology) and DGPs (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Psychologie; German Society of Psychology) in transferring to paper-based dissertations. Monographically oriented theses do not only drastically reduce the chances of successfully publishing in peer-reviewed journals due to the focus on writing a book, universities' rules sometimes even prohibit publishing results from the thesis in a journal before publication of the dissertation itself. The amendment of these rules, which are part of novelized university programs in all German speaking countries, will help to increase the scientific output that is retrievable by the international community.

Psychological Journals in German speaking countries

Another key factor could be the excessive focus on low or no impact journals from the German speaking arena. This specific issue will be discussed in the following paragraph in more detail. To get a more profound understanding of the editorial and publication practice of German psychological journals, we conducted a survey of all psychological journals in German speaking countries (Austria, Germany and Switzerland) that are part of the ISI Web Of Science SSCI (Social Sciences Citation Index). As no Austrian publisher is listed in this index, we limited the survey to Germany and Switzerland. Of the 26 focused journals, one had no current impact factor (IF) and 16 of all journals' editorial offices responded to our survey questions. The survey inquired about the language used in the journal (eight English, two multi-lingual, 16 German; in the later analyses, English and multi-lingual journals were combined into one index "English-speaking"), typical lags during reviewing, decision and publication as well as rejection rates and publication costs. As shown in Table 2, the range of impact factors varies widely from low ranking to high ranking journals.

Table 2

Overview of all journals listed in the ISI Web of Science SSCI from the psychological arena located in German-speaking countries. All figures of revision lag (Rev. Lag), publication lag (Pub. Lag), rejection and costs were reported by editorial offices asked in a survey that we conducted from May-July 2008.

Journal Title	Country	Total Cites 2007	IF-Rank	IF 2007	Language	Rev. Lag (days)	Pub. Lag Online (days)	Rejection (Total)%	Costs (authors) Text
GRUPPENDYNAMIK UND ORGANISATIONSBERATUNG	Germany	27	1	0.233	German				
ZEITSCHRIFT FÜR KLINISCHE PSYCH. PSYCHIATRIE UND P.THERAPIE	Germany	78	1	0.233	German	106.75			no
ZEITSCHRIFT FÜR SOZIALPSYCHOLOGIE	Switzerland	121	3	0.237	German				
SWISS JOURNAL OF PSYCHOLOGY	Switzerland	85	4	0.239	English				
PSYCHOLOGIE IN ERZIEHUNG UND UNTERRICHT	Germany	114	5	0.304	German				
PRAXIS DER KINDERPSYCHOLOGIE UND KINDERPSYCHIATRIE	Germany	126	6	0.308	German	36	244	30%	no
ZEITSCHRIFT FÜR ENTW.PSYCHOLOGIE UND PÄDAGOGISCHE PSYCH	Germany	110	7	0.395	German	21		40%	no
ZEITSCHRIFT FÜR KLINISCHE PSYCHOLOGIE UND PSYCHOTHERAPIE	Germany	245	8	0.517	German	91.5		50%	no (only for coloured illustrations)
VERHALTENSTHERAPIE	Switzerland	141	9	0.522	German	49	76.25	15%	only for very extensive ms
PSYCHOTHERAPEUT UND JUGENDPSYCHIATRIE UND P.THERAPIE	Germany	176	10	0.523	German	36	18	35%	no
ZEITSCHRIFT FÜR PSYCHOLOGIE	Switzerland	169	11	0.545	German	28		35%	keine
DIAGNOSTICA EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT	Germany	180	12	0.611	German				
	Germany	384	13	0.85	German				
	Germany	330	14	0.855	English				

Journal Title	Country	Total Cites 2007	IF-Rank	IF 2007	Language	Rev. Lag (days)	Pub. Lag Online (days)	Rejection (Total) %	Costs (authors) Text
PSYCHOTHERAPIE PSYCHOSOMATIK MEDIZINISCHE PSYCHOLOGIE	Germany	511	15	1.043	German				
GRUPPENPSYCHOTHERAPIE UND GRUPPENDYNAMIK PSYCHOLOGISCHE RUND-SCHAU	Germany	77	16	1.067	Multi-Language	28	152.5		no
ZEITSCHRIFT FÜR PÄDAGOGISCHE PSYCHOLOGIE	Germany	145	17	1.086	German	76.25		80%	no
EUROPEAN PSYCHOLOGIST	Germany	155	18	1.118	Multi-Language	45.5	183	77.50%	no
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT JOURNAL OF PSYCHOPHYSIOLOGY	Germany	292	19	1.189	English	49	106.75	75%	no
KINDHEIT UND ENTWICKLUNG PSYCHOLOGISCHE FORSCHUNG	Switzerland	557	20	1.234	English	35	135	50%	no
EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY PSYCHOTHERAPY AND PSYCHOSOMATICS	Germany	379	21	1.634	English				
ZEITSCHRIFT FÜR PSYCHIATRIE PSYCHOLOGIE UND PSYCHOTHERAPIE	Germany	217	22	2.18	German				
	Germany	1177	23	2.267	English	100.65	37	63%	no
	Germany	303	24	2.406	English	33.4	244	80%	no
	Switzerland	1752	25	4.333	English	52.5	259.25	90%	no; ms > 7 pages; CHF 290 per printed page
	Germany	5		n.a.	German	35	213.5	75%	no

Most importantly, when German and English journals were compared in terms of impact factors, a strong advantage of the latter was revealed ($M = 1.634$ vs. $M = 0.639$; two-tailed t -test: $t(23) = 2.98$, $p = .0067$); this effect was also visible when mere IF rank orders were taken as dependent variables (see Figure 2). In fact, English journals from German speaking countries were even slightly higher in impact factors than the average of the rest of the 440 SSCI listed psychological journals ($M = 1.546$, $n.s.$).

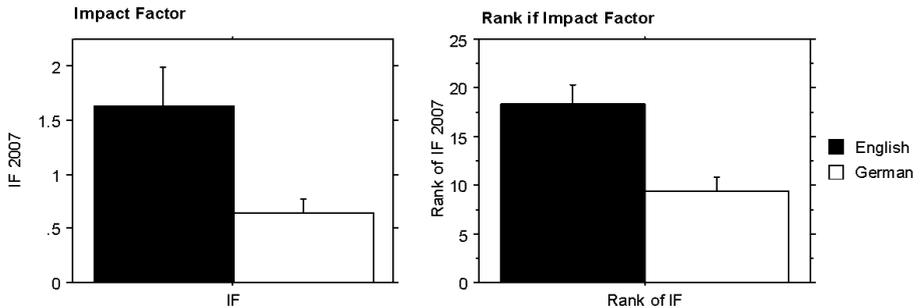


Figure 2:

Comparison of German and English journals originating from German speaking countries (Germany and Switzerland) in terms of average impact factor and mere rank of impact factor within the pool of journals listed in the ISI Web Of Science SSCI of 2007.

When taking reviewing and publication lags into account (Table 2 shows, for a better comparison, communicated lags in recalculated number of days), only three journals seem to take more than three months for reviewing, but six journals wait more than five months before publishing their papers after having them accepted. Although these lags are relatively long compared to other disciplines such as medicine (Kljakovic-Gaspic, Hren, Marusic, & Marusic, 2003) or food research (Amat, 2008), they do not seem to be unusual within the usual practice of psychological peer-reviewed journals. On the contrary, the table also reveals some ultra-fast reviewing of journals that have only quite recently been transformed from German to English journals: *Experimental Psychology* (formerly: *Zeitschrift für Experimentelle Psychologie*) and *Psychological Research* (*Psychologische Forschung*), but also journals published in German such as *Zeitschrift für Entwicklungspsychologie und Pädagogische Psychologie*, *Zeitschrift für Kinder- und Jugendpsychiatrie und Psychotherapie* or *Gruppenpsychotherapie und Gruppendynamik* seem to be prompt in terms of reviewing times.

Open-Access publications

The European Commission's Lisbon strategy also promotes the mobility of researchers and the interchangeability of scientific publications. With the advent of the digital age, the strategy comprises the reduction of law-related barriers for an efficient circulation of scientific publications, shifting from exclusive-paper based to hybrid (electronic and paper-based) or pure electronic versions, establishing Open-Access publishing and improving the

peer-review policies by quality and speed. These changes are expected to enhance the dissemination of research findings and maximize the returns on investment in R&D. Many psychological organizations and research funding agencies have adopted Open-Access strategies. For instance, the German research foundation DFG (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft) (Fournier, 2008) and the Austrian research foundation FWF (Fonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung) explicitly ask for publishing funded publications on Open-Access servers to increase the possibility of circulation and citation of these papers. Unfortunately, many national laws restrict authors' autonomy in making their papers public (Pfeifer, 2008). For instance, the German "Second Act Governing Copyright in the Information Society" ("Second Basket") explicitly prohibits circulation of papers by the authors. Even retrieving papers from official paysites such as 'Subito' are strongly limited by old-fashioned fax or postal services (Carbon, 2008a). These regulations hindering effective circulation of intellectual property must be overcome. Thus, DFG urges their grant holders to start negotiating with their publishers in order to have authors' rights preserved (Fournier, 2008). Alternatively, following the Berlin declarations for Open-Access of scientific knowledge, the usage of Open-Access servers or repositories (Schirmbacher, 2006) should be increased to spare money for retrieving scientific papers. Currently, the Directory of Open-Access Journals (www.doaj.org) comprises 3490 journals with 1186 journals searchable at article level (July 13, 2008). Table 3 shows all relevant Open-Access journals for psychologically relevant research.

Table 3

Overview of Open Access journals which are relevant for psychological research listed under www.doaj.org with information about retrievability via Web Of Science, PubMed and PsycInfo and the referring country of origin.

Journal	Web of Science	Pubmed	Psycinfo	Country
activities	-	-	yes	France
Acta Colombiana de Psicología	-	-	yes	Colombia
Advances in Cognitive Psychology	-	-	yes	Poland
Anales de Psicología	yes	-	yes	Spain
Applied Psychology in Criminal Justice	-	-	-	USA
Athletic Insight: The online Journal of Sport Psychology	-	-	yes	USA
The Australian E-Journal for the Advancement of Mental Health	-	-	yes	Australia
Australian Journal of Educational & Developmental Psychology	-	-	-	Australia
Advances en Psicología Latinoamerica	-	-	yes	Colombia
Agora	-	-	yes	Brazil
The Behavior Analyst Today	-	-	-	USA
Behavior and Social Issues	-	-	yes	USA
Behaviormetrika	-	yes	yes	Japan
Brains, Minds & Media	-	-	-	Germany
Coaching Psychologist	-	-	-	UK
Comparative Cognition & Behavior Reviews	-	-	yes	Canada
Current Psychology Letters/Behavior, Brain & Cognition	-	-	yes	Belgium

Journal	Web of Science	Pubmed	Psycinfo	Country
Current Research in Social Psychology	-	-	yes	USA
Cyberpsychology: Journal of Psychological Research on Cyberspace	-	-	-	Czech Republic
Diversitas	-	-	-	Colombia
Dynamical Psychology: an international, interdisciplinary journal of complex mental processes	-	-	-	USA
E- Journal of Applied Psychology	-	-	-	Australia
E- Journal Philosophie der Psychologie	-	-	-	Austria
Education Sciences and Psychology	-	-	-	Georgia
Education Journal of Research in Educational Psychology	-	-	-	Spain
Ensenanza e Investigacion en Psicologia	-	-	yes	Mexico
Estudos de Psicologia	-	-	yes	Brazil
Evolutionary Psychology	-	-	yes	USA
Forum: Qualitative Social Research	-	-	-	Germany
Fundamentos en Humanidades	-	-	-	Argentina
Gay and Lesbian Issues and Psychology Review	-	-	-	Australia
Interacao em Psicologia	-	-	-	Brazil
Interdisciplinaria	-	-	yes	Argentina
International Journal of Behavioral Consultation and Therapy	-	yes	-	USA
International Journal of Clinical and Health Psychology	yes	-	yes	Spain
International Journal of Mental Health & Addiction	-	-	yes	USA
International Journal of Psychology and Psychological Therapy	-	-	yes	Spain
The Internet Journal of Mental Health	-	-	yes	USA
Interpersona: An International Journal on Personal Relationships	-	-	-	Brazil
Janus Head	-	-	-	USA
The Japanese Journal of Personality	-	-	-	Japan
Jornal de Ciencias Cognitivas	-	-	-	Portugal
Jornal für Psychologie	-	-	yes	Germany
Jornal of Articles in Support of the Null Hypothesis	-	-	-	USA
Jornal of Credibility Assessment and Witness Psychology	-	-	-	USA
Journal of Early and Intensive Behavior Intervention	-	-	-	USA
Journal of Indian Association for Child and Adolescent Mental Health	-	-	-	India
Journal of Social, Evolutionary and Cultural Psychology	-	-	-	USA
Journal of Speech and Language Pathology and Applied Behavior Analysis	-	-	-	USA
Journal of Technology in Counseling	-	-	-	USA
Judgement and Decision Making	yes	-	yes	USA

Journal	Web of Science	Pubmed	Psycinfo	Country
JUNG: the e- journal of the Jungian Society for Scholarly Study	-	-	-	USA
Medio Ambiente y Comportamiento Humano	-	-	-	Spain
Mens Sana Monographs	-	-	-	India
Mental	-	-	-	USA
Open Psychology Journal	-	-	-	USA
Paideia (Ribeirao Preto)	-	-	yes	Brazil
Papeles de Trabajo sobre Cultura, Education y Husarollo Humano	-	-	-	Spain
Papeles de psicologo	-	-	-	Spain
Papers on Social Representations	-	-	-	Austria
Pensamiento Psicologico	-	-	-	Colombia
PLoS Biology	yes	yes	-	USA
PLoS Clinical Trials	-	yes	-	USA
PLoS Computational Biology	yes	yes	-	USA
Plos Genetics	yes	yes	-	USA
PLoS Medicine	yes	yes	-	USA
PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases	yes	yes	-	USA
PLoS One	yes	yes	-	USA
PLoS Pathogens	yes	yes	-	USA
Pragmatic Case Studies in Psychotherapy	-	-	yes	USA
Psic: Revista de Psicologia de Vetor Editora	-	-	-	Brazil
Psichologija	-	-	yes	Lithuania
Pisco	-	-	yes	Brazil
Psicologia	-	-	-	Spain
Psicologia	yes	-	yes	Spain
Psicologia y Salud	-	-	-	Mexico
Psicologia & Sociedade	-	-	-	Brazil
Psicologia Clinica	-	-	yes	Brazil
Psicologia em Estudo	-	-	yes	Brazil
Psicologia: Reflexao e Critica	yes	-	yes	Brazil
Psicologia: teoria e Pesquisa	-	-	yes	Brazil
Psikeba: Revista de Psicoanalisis y Estudios Culturales	-	-	-	Argentina
PsyArt	-	-	-	USA
PYCHE: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Research on Consciousness	-	-	yes	USA
PsychNology Journal	-	-	yes	Italy
Psychofenia: Ricerca ed Analisi Psicologia	-	-	-	Italy
Psychology Science	-	-	-	Germany
Psychology Science Quarterly	-	-	-	Germany
Psykhe (Santiago)	-	-	yes	Chile
Revista del Departamento de Psicologia - UFF	-	-	-	Brazil
Revista Interamericana de Psicologia	-	-	yes	Brazil
Revista Intercontinental de Psicologia y Educacion	-	-	yes	Mexico
Revista Internacional de Psicologia	-	-	-	Guatemala
Revista Latinoamericana de Psicologia	yes	yes	yes	Colombia

Journal	Web of Science	Pubmed	Psycinfo	Country
Revista Mal-estar E Subjetividade	-	-	-	Brazil
Salud y Drogas	-	-	-	Spain
Sexual Offender Treatment	-	-	-	Germany
South African Journal of Industrial Psychology	-	-	-	South Africa
Terapia Psicologica	-	-	yes	Chile
Universitas Psychologica	-	-	yes	Colombia

However, Open-Access strategies such as PloS or BioMed Central do not always seem to result in the expected reduction of costs as such initiatives also have to be financed. Although libraries will save money for download licences, authors, on the other hand, have to pay for publications. Currently, costs for prominent Open-Access journals range from several hundred US\$ up to several thousand US\$ per publication (Bauer, 2006; Gradmann, 2006). Other solutions are offered by traditional publishers such as Springer, where each author can make their articles open access by paying a flat fee of €3000,- per article for the so-called Open-Choice system (Velterop, 2008). Many organizations such as the DFG, Max Planck society (Schimmer, 2006) and the FWF provide grants for financing publications. As Bauer (2006) convincingly demonstrates by calculating costs for three Austrian universities (Vienna University of Technology, University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna, Medical University of Vienna) Open-Access publishing could even entail higher costs for the whole research system. He calculated expansion of costs between 260-650% for the targeted cases. Thus, paper-based journals, especially those with short reviewing and publication lags, with no costs for the authors (cf. Table 2), still could be good harbors for high quality articles, even from a monetary perspective.

Open-Access, 2nd Generation: Open Commentary

Nevertheless, the frequency of Open-Access journals, with their capability of presenting their papers easily and free of charge on the internet, will definitely increase over the next years as the dissemination of research findings will be considerably improved. Publishing on the internet is only one important aspect of Open-Access publishing. As demonstrated by inventors of the *Open Commentary* system, firstly established with the *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics* journal (ACP), the peer-review system can also specifically benefit from W3 community power (Gura, 2002). Before sending out newly submitted papers to the reviewers, ACP posts them online offering public debating on the paper. This commentary section can be an important information basis for further treatment of the paper and is documented for reasons of transparency along with the paper. This progressive improvement of reviewing has, however, also negative effects. The mere information load could weaken the peer-review process on return as the editor not only has to trust in his own professional opinion, but must rely on a plurality of comments, opinions and criticism. Meeting all these demands effectively, thus, seems to be a difficult task.

Lingua Franca in Psychology

The de facto lingua franca in most psychological disciplines in Austria is English, documented by the mass of journal articles published in English, the usual practice of formulating project applications in English and predominantly English-spoken conversations among scientists at international conferences and international communication. When inspecting the impact factors of German vs. English (and multi-lingual) journals from German speaking countries (see statistics above), it is clear that on average, English journals have more potential of penetrating the scientific community on an international scale. Although German was leading in the sciences until the 1920s, particularly in natural sciences, there has been an obvious trend towards a more commonly spoken lingua franca such as English for more than 80 years (Druml, 1996; cf. Garfield, 1989). Leutner (2004) discussed the changes and risks of transforming an established journal into English, as in the case of *Diagnostica*, for which he was an editor for more than seven years (1995-2002). He stresses the high quality standard (peer review since the 1990s; anonymous reviewing; high rejection rate) that *Diagnostica* had introduced early on and the continual success of the journal in terms of increasing impact factors over the years. Although *Diagnostica* is still succeeding on a high level, as shown in Figure 3, its impact nearly constantly decreased over the past seven years, while other journals that switched from German to English, e.g. *Experimental Psychology* (formerly *Zeitschrift für Experimentelle Psychologie*) increased their reputation in terms of impact factor measurement significantly (cf. Table 2).

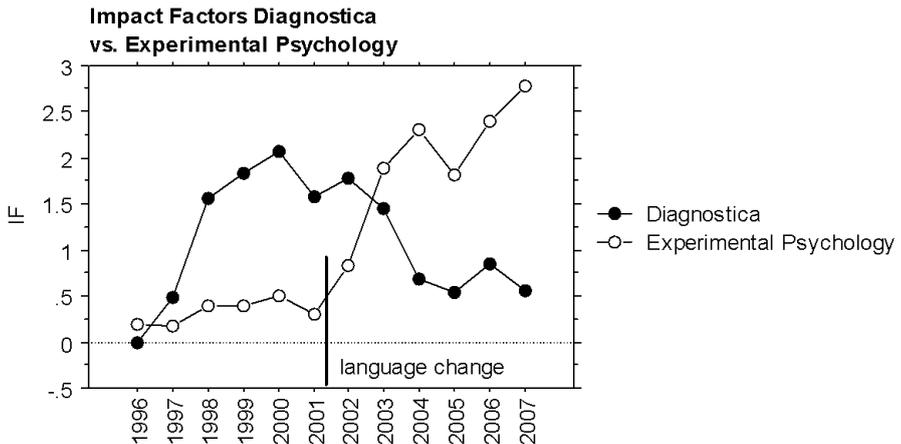


Figure 3:

Development of impact factors of two traditional German high-quality journals with *Diagnostica* as continuously publishing in German and *Experimental Psychology* (formerly: *Zeitschrift für Experimentelle Psychologie*) switching to English in 2002.

This trend is paradigmatic for the whole science business from a pure rationale point as English journals have a much wider readership. However, it should not be forgotten that ISI Web of Science impact factor should not be interpreted as the ultimate ratio for assessing

scientific quality of a journal, nor of a scientist. As Carbon (2008b) stresses, calculation and assignments of ISI Web Of Science impact factors are made by one single commercial company (Thomson Scientific Inc.) and should therefore be used with caution and never as a single tool on which we base decisions of quality and “real impact”.

Conclusion

Austria is on a promising way to increase its scientific impact by quantity and quality in psychology by increasing its R & D intensity according to the Lisbon strategy. The publication rate has strongly increased over the past 10 years, reaching, and in some psychological disciplines even overtaking, competitor Germany per capita. However, future research politics should concentrate on major research communities outside the German speaking regions, such as GB, USA and probably The People’s Republic of China. Intelligent and efficient Open-Access systems, reduction of legal barriers and increase of circulation of scientific papers will help to accelerate this process. The transfer to English as the lingua franca of scientific publication seems to be mandatory to reach international communities most effectively. With the sum of these strategies in mind, psychology in Austria will be ready for the challenges of highly competitive 21st-century research and publishing.

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