Support for Multilingual Journals using Open Journal Systems

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Diversity and equity considerations are an essential discussion in the library publishing field.

Language affects:

- Internal practices such as content acquisition, editorial support, tools, indexing, and metadata.
- External dissemination practices such as copyright considerations, reviews, and citations.
What does it look like in action?

We agree about the need for inclusive practices in library publishing BUT:

- Exclusion is the default
- Limited coverage in the literature
- There are not many guides
  - Library Publishing Coalition Ethical Framework v.1 coming soon
Open Journal Systems’ Language Features

Language Locales
- Apply to interface and metadata
- Machine readable
- ISO locale codes
  - ISO 639-2 (language codes)
  - ISO 3166 (country codes)
- 35+ languages in 2.x
  - 27 in 3.0 (complete or in progress)
- Language locales can be translated if you have the expertise and labor.
Open Journal Systems’ Language Features

- Language can apply to:
  - User Interface
  - Author-selectable submission option
  - Forms

- Files/content in any language
Case Studies
Open Journal Systems via Texas Digital Library
3 (2015) to 8 (2018) OA journals
2 librarians, part-time focus
Céfiro graduate student organization of the Spanish and Portuguese program of the TTU Department of Classical and Modern Languages and Literature. Céfiro has published 14 volumes in 18 years.
Texas Tech University Libraries and Céfiro

- Increasing their network and impact through online/OJS usage
- Helped establish policies and procedures for our journal program
  - Editor Roundtable = Community on Campus
Texas Tech University Libraries and Céfiro

- Editors and staff are bilingual and nearby
- Working on OJS language capabilities
  - Student assistant with skills in translation
- Interest in multimedia formats
Challenges at TTU

For Journal Editors:

- Editorial Team:
  - Yearly editor turn-over
  - ESL Editors
  - Limited personnel

For TTU Library Staff:

- Iterative training
  - OJS and publishing practices
  - Editor turnover
- Limited personnel and resources
  - Consultation >>> Services
About 40 journals
  - Both internal and external partners
- 10+ years publishing experience
- 1 dedicated staff
- Locally hosted OJS instances
University Library System, University of Pittsburgh

ULS publishes several journals with full-text multilingual content.

- **Revista Iberoamericana**: Spanish
- **Bolivian Studies Journal**: English, Spanish, Portuguese, and indigenous languages
- **Biblos**: English, Spanish, Portuguese
- **Journal of French and Francophone Philosophy**: English, French
- **Ricoeur Studies**: English, French
- **Shashi: The Journal of Japanese Business and Company History**: English, Japanese
- **Catedral Tomada**: English, Spanish, Portuguese
- **Health Culture and Society**: English content, but multilingual interface for: German, French, Spanish, Portuguese, English, Italian, Japanese, and Chinese
Challenges at ULS

For Journal Editors:

- **Content**
  - Translations require additional time and help
  - Limited resources

- **Communication**
  - Some journals have coeditors who each speak one of the languages in which the journal publishes.

For ULS Publishing Staff:

- **Content**
  - More content to review
  - Unfamiliar languages for quality control review

- **Communication**
  - Providing technical support to non-English speakers
  - Pitt now requires that a member of the editorial team speaks English
Areas for Improvement
Open Journal Systems

- Growth of language availability in OJS 3.0
- Increased use of OJS’s existing language capabilities
- What about other publishing platforms?
Remember: OJS only translates the infrastructure

Translation of content added to the site interface
  ▶ Metadata
  ▶ Author Guidelines
  ▶ Review Policies
  ▶ Copyright
    o Legal document translation
    o CC BY 4.0 International License is translated into 39 languages.
Discoverability: Indexes and Search Engines

- Multilingual and diverse authors and publications are often not supported across publishing ecosystem
  - Bias against geography or language impacts publication opportunities, indexing, and citations

- Abstracting and indexing requirements
  - I.e. Scopus requires English

- Meet vendor requirements on a case-by-case basis?

- Publisher policy change?
  - All journals should have translated titles and abstracts
Library Publishing and Multilingual Journals

- Start where you are
  - Work with existing resources on campus
  - Take a proactive stance

- Prestige vs. Trust
  - Community
  - Library publishing values ≠ commercial publishing values
Thank you!

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