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What platforms and editors need

Interviews for CRAFT-OA

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Context: CRAFT-OA



CRAFT-OA

(Creating a **R**obust **A**ccessible **F**ederated **T**echnology for **O**pen **A**ccess) aims to make state-of-the-art Open Access publishing available to everyone. Running from January 2023 to December 2025 the project helps publishers by improving the technical and organisation infrastructure of **Diamond Open Access**.

www.craft-oa.eu

Craft-OA Poster

u^b Motivation and Method

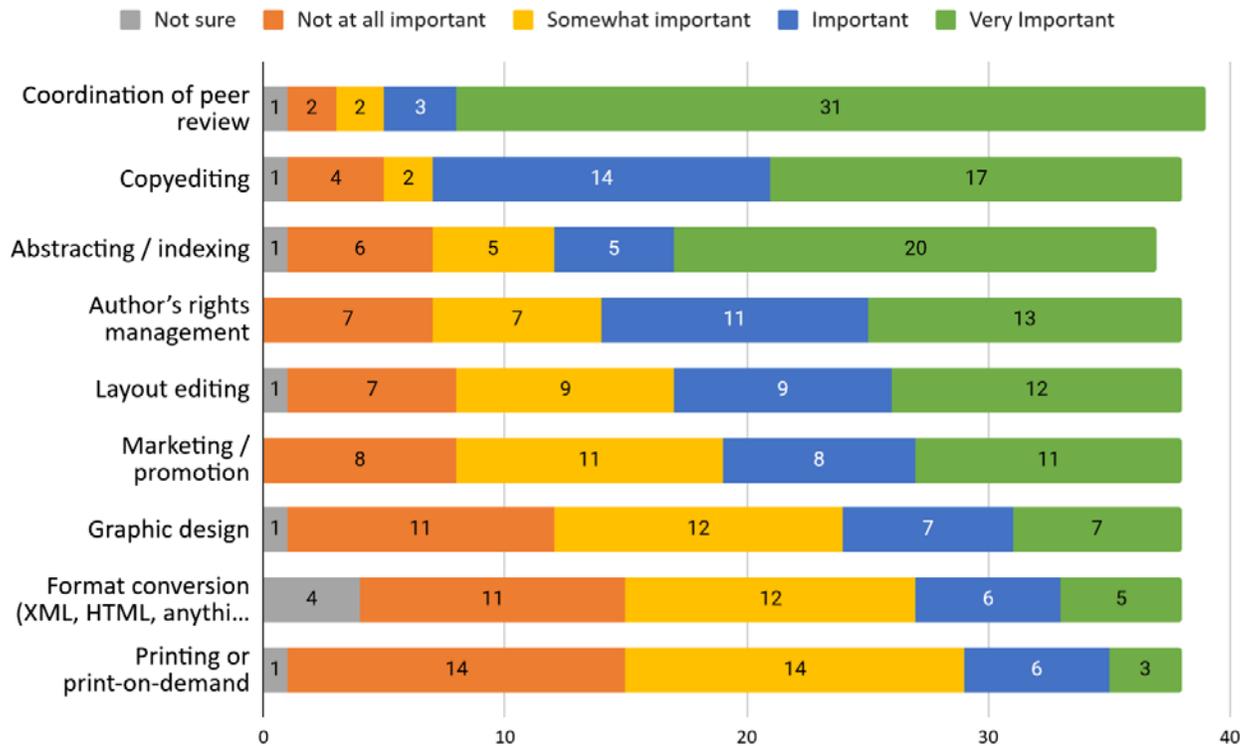
Goal: Provide feedback to CRAFT-OA to better understand the needs of platform providers and editors (in addition to Diamas).

- 11 semistructured interviews with editors and platform providers that allowed open and detailed responses.
- Two workshops in which the results will be discussed.
- Topics: hosting, submissions and reviews, production, metrics, indexing, archiving, finance, and quality management

What we know

Indexing

Importance of Publishing Services



Hunter, M.E., Dunne, L., Thomas, C., Miller, L., & Soper, D. (2022). Ask the Editors: Assessing the Publishing Needs of Faculty Editors. *Journal of Librarianship and Scholarly Communication*, 10(1), eP12912. <https://doi.org/10.31274/jlsc.12912>

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What we know

Indexing

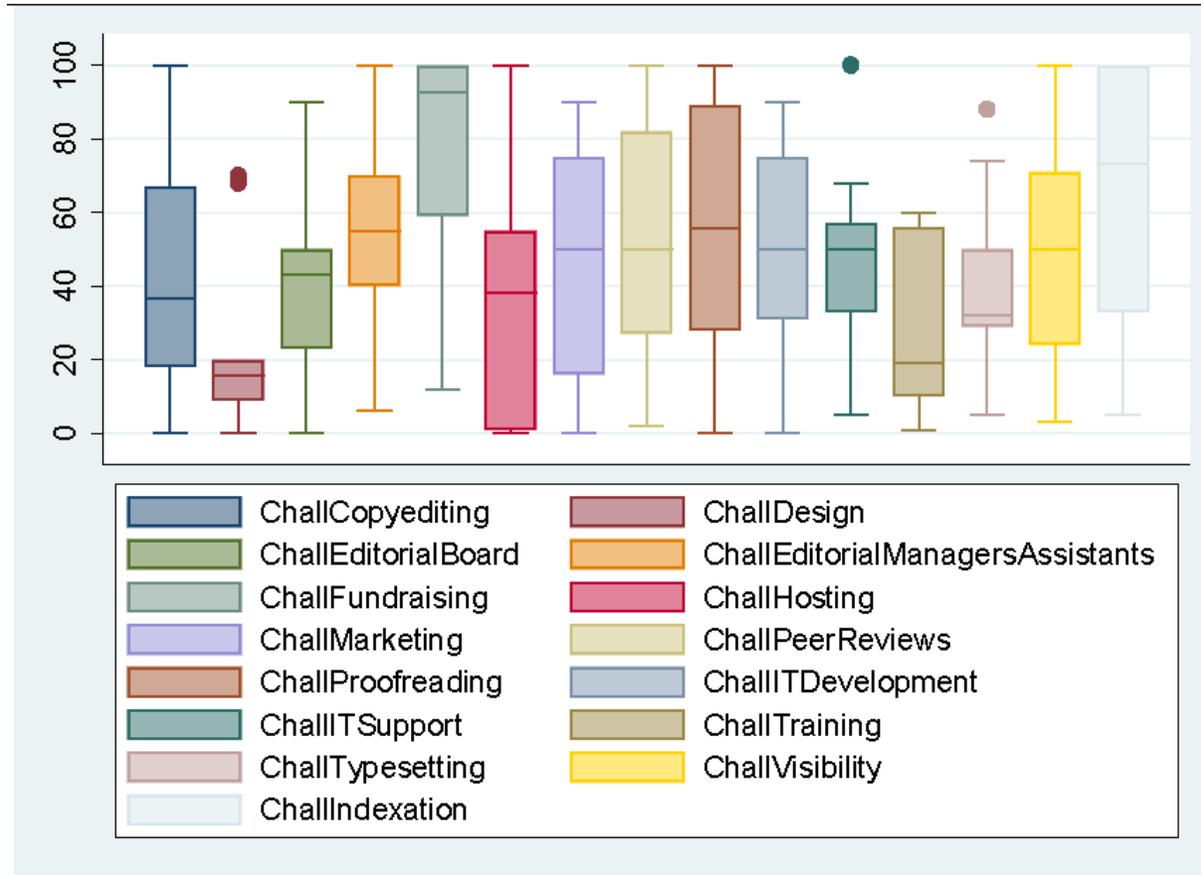


Fig. 47: Challenges with regard to tasks (editors' survey; n = 27).

Daniela Hahn, Jennifer Hehn, Christian Hopp, & Gernot Pruschak. (2023). Mapping the Swiss Landscape of Diamond Open Access Journals. The PLATO Study on Scholar-Led Publishing. Report (1.0). Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7461728>

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Results

Importance of Indexing for journals

Platform Provider 1:

“This is actually a problem, a big problem for our journals because sometimes **it will make some researchers avoid a journal** because it is not listed in indexing databases. And this is a shame because if you can’t attract new researchers, it’s difficult to provide new interesting articles, for instance.”

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Results

Importance of Indexing for journals

Editor 1:

“Indexes [are] very important, so it won't work without them. **If the journals that are scholar-led say: we won't participate, then they will provincialize themselves.** So that's a challenge, because Scopus in particular, and so all the indexes run by DeGruyter and Elsevier, of course, work very hard to include only certain journals, the ones from big publishers.”

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Conclusion:

Indexing is crucial

Two scenarios for the CRAFT-OA:

- Information and skills training
- Automated indexing via database solution

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Results

Indexing

Editor 2:

“Well, what I know is what the publishers told me and that is that you usually cannot submit your journal to those lists. So **we have tried to get more knowledge about how to get on the list but we didn't manage.**”

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Results

Indexing

Editor 3:

“In our case, it was really almost a bit arbitrary. **We [...] didn't know what the criteria were.** It was just not disclosed. At some point it was decided yes, now it will be indexed by Web of Science. Before that, it was postponed for a year - without giving any reasons.”

u^b Problems with indexing

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- Lack of information
- Obscure workflows
- Timelag

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Results

Indexing

Platform Provider 3:

“We help [the journals] and we try to reach some new databases because we don’t know all the databases from all the disciplines. So when new journals come to the platform, it allows us to discover some new databases and their own questions because no-one has the same questions, so in order to index the journals [...] we need to have some specific pages on the website. So **we work with the journals and the editors** to create these specific pages, [...] **So it takes time.**”

Results

Indexing

Platform Provider 2:

“DOAJ is the only thing we do, we assure the author we will do, otherwise, if they want to be indexed in any other databases, **they need to-do it themselves, if they can**, because for instance, one of the journals wanted to be indexed in Web of Science, and they could not because they said it was the responsibility of the service provider, so us, and here we’ve done it ourselves. But if they can do it by themselves, they should, **it’s not something that is our responsibility** other than the DOAJ.”

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Results

Indexing

Editor 3:

“[We need] not only a software like OJS, but really the **hosting with support assistance** [...] so that the scientists can actually [concentrate] on editing, reviewing, publishing.”

u^b Problems with indexing 2.

- Responsibilities not defined
- Lack of resources

u^b Feedback to CRAFT-OA

- Recommendations for publication services to clarify responsibilities
- automatical export of metadata from Diamond Journals to important indexes to compensate the lack of resources

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