

Scientific Journals and Electronic publishing. Revistas-CSIC, a case study

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The Spanish National Council for Scientific Research (CSIC²) is the main publicly funded research body in Spain. The CSIC holds a long tradition as a publisher of Scientific Journals, going back as far as to 1914. Between June and October 2007, the electronic edition of all 32 scientific Journals published by the CSIC, devoted to Experimental Sciences (8), Humanities (24), and Social Sciences (4), were made available through the Internet web site Revistas-CSIC³, following an Open Access format. CSIC so fulfills the compromise acquired in 2006 the Institution when adhered to the Berlin Declaration.

All Journals provide access to historical contents in PDF since, at least, 2006. Some offer contents going back as far as 1991. The goal is to provide access to all contents produced since the foundation date of every Journal. Four Journals provide immediate, unrestricted access to full text articles. All other Journals apply an on-line embargo period: during this time, only subscribers to the printed edition have access to full text articles. The embargo applies for 6 months in most cases, or 1-2 years in 4 cases. During the first half of 2008 the embargo will be leveled down to 6 months for all Journals.

Through this communication we want to share our experience in building and developing the electronic version of these Journals, using the OJS⁴ public software as the editing and managing tool. We will glimpse on technical and developing issues, and also on the historical background of the Journals. We will emphasize more on the possibilities that electronic publishing offers for the future, in terms of spreading and propagating scientific knowledge towards the scientific community but also towards society at large. Electronic publishing offers as well an excellent tool to improve the quality and impact of scientific Journals: on this side, metrics based on downloads and hyperlinks structures extracted from those (reader metrics) will provide new insights that parallel and complement the traditional impact and journal network metrics based on citations (author metrics).

In the following figures we summarize some significant data concerning visibility and download parameters. Journals are listed according to fields of knowledge: Experimental Sciences (1-8), Arts and Humanities (9-28) and Social Sciences (29-32).

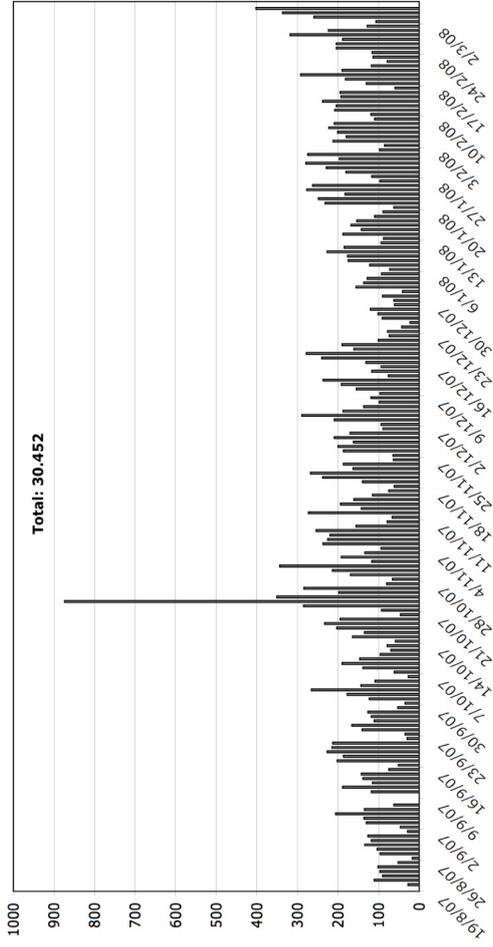
¹ <http://www.cindoc.csic.es/investigacion/grupos/5.htm>

² <http://www.csic.es>

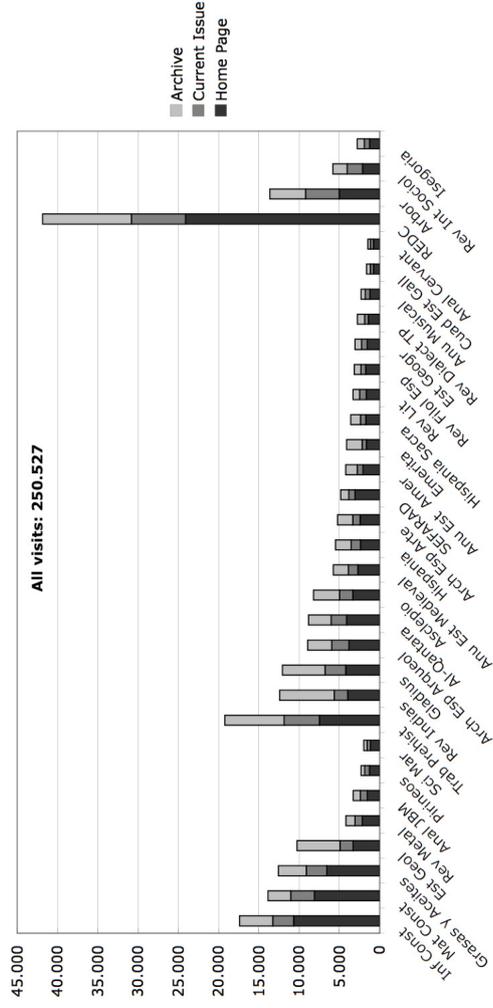
³ <http://revistas.csic.es>

⁴ <http://pkp.sfu.ca>

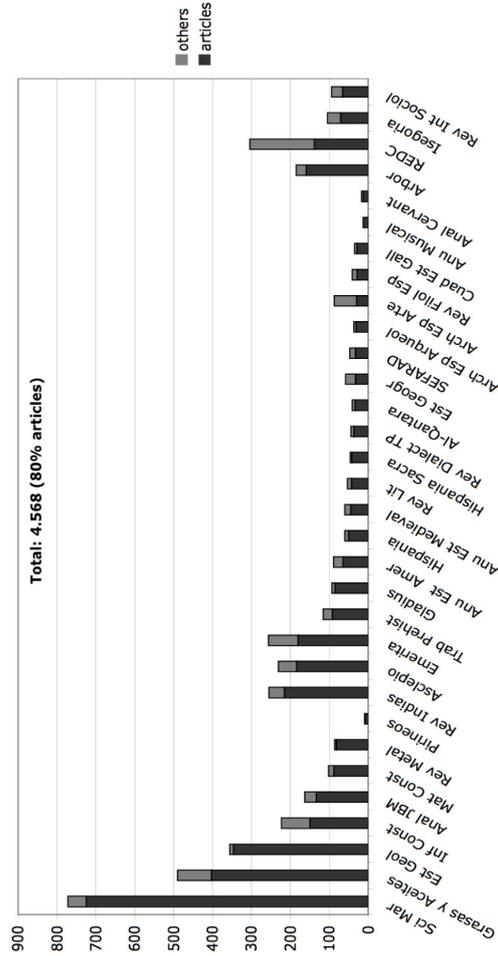
Revistas-CSIC Main Page entries



Visits per Journal (raw data)



Documents available on-line



Downloads (raw data)

