

The Humanities and Social Sciences Commons: A Multilingual Space for Scholarship and Connection

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IMPLEMENTING NEW KNOWLEDGE ENVIRONMENTS

Mitacs

*Beyond Publish or Perish:
Humanities Publishing in the Age of AI*
22 April 2026

Publish (in English) or Perish

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Publish (in English) or perish: The effect on citation rate of using languages other than English in scientific publications

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Publish in English, or perish?

[David Bakewell](#)

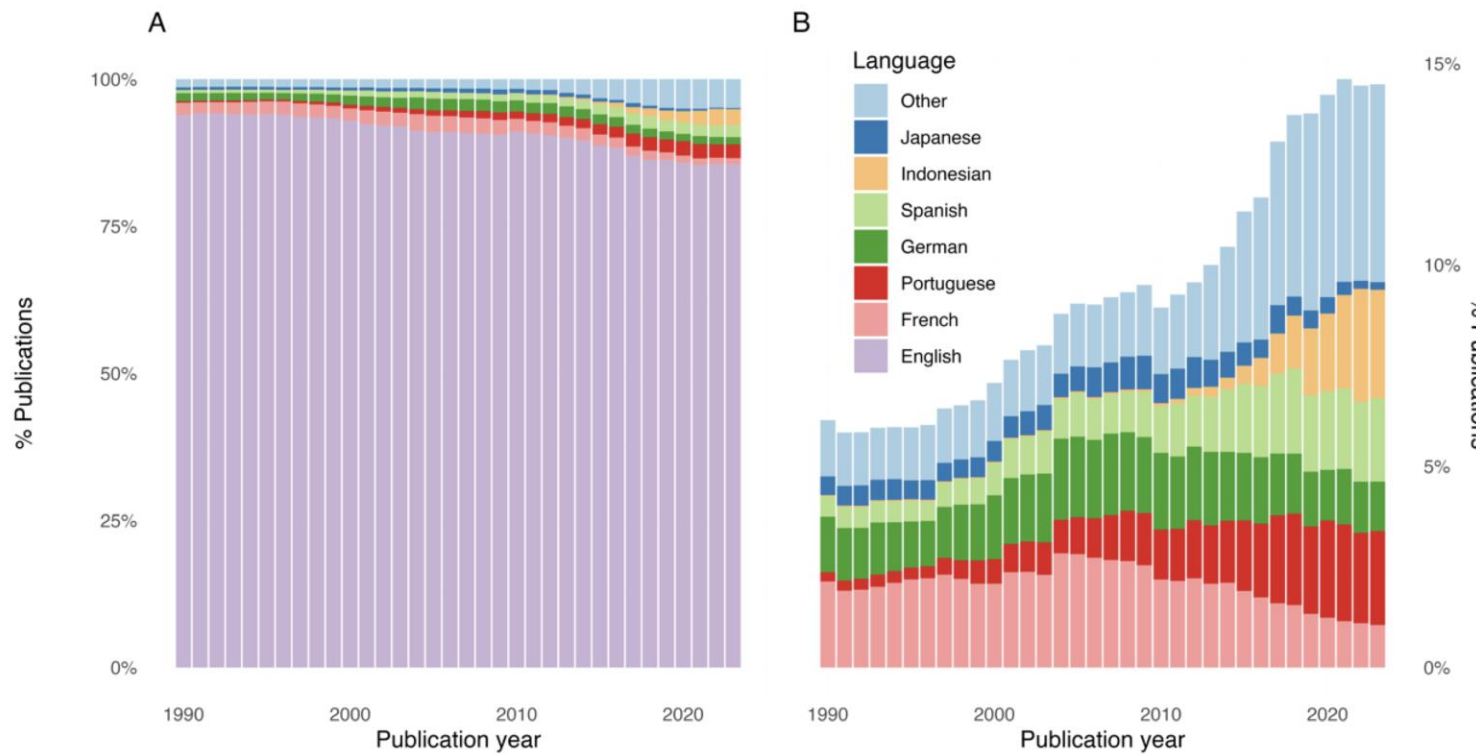
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What is lost when we publish exclusively in English?

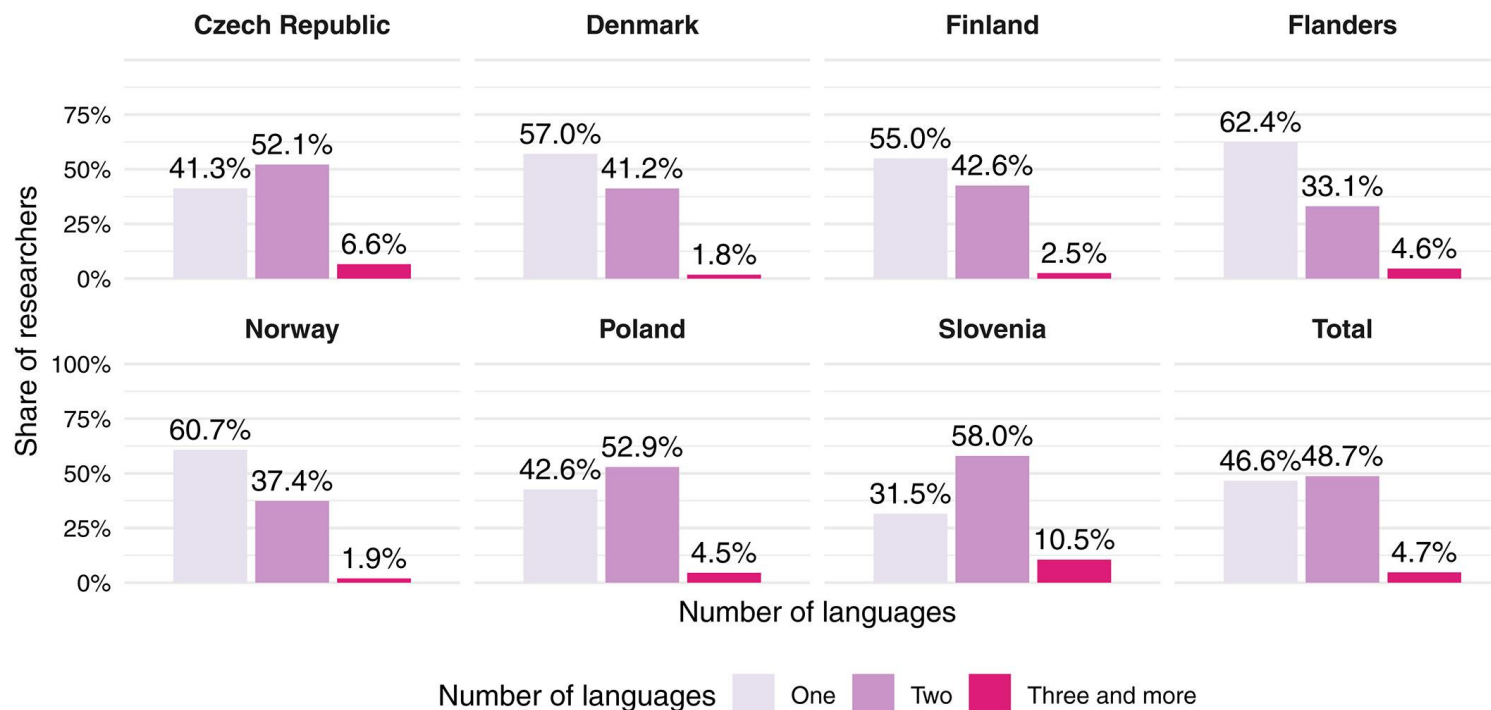
- Research about local topics decreases (Larivière, 2018)
- Reduction of the diversity of perspectives on different topics (Suzina, 2021)
- Researchers with English as an additional language spend more time writing papers, reading literature, drafting presentations (Amano et al., 2023)

Multilingualism in Scholarly Communication is Growing



Percentage of articles indexed in Dimensions by language (1990-2023)

Multilingualism in Scholarly Communication is Growing



Over half of HSS researchers (12,600+) in 7 European countries published in multiple languages between 2013 and 2015.

Academic journals

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42m Datasets	7.9m Grants	170m Patents
	2.5m Policy documents	

Multilingualism in Research Infrastructure



Preview
2026
Volume 20 Number 1

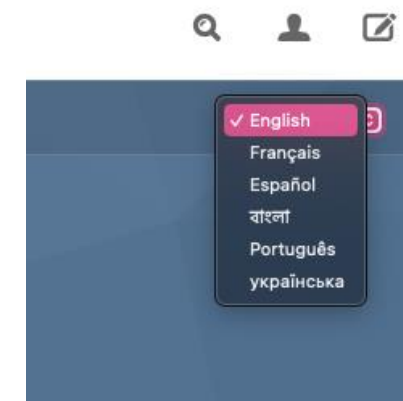
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Multilingualism as Infrastructural Imperative: Language Diversity in Digital Knowledge Commons [es] [pt]

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Abstract

Multilingualism has been gaining importance in the digital humanities and scholarly communication, but the infrastructure used to disseminate scholarship has mostly remained in English. Monolingual research infrastructure creates a language barrier for non-Anglophone speakers to access scholarly outputs and reinforces the idea that English is the only legitimate language for disseminating scholarship. Drawing from the debates on multilingual DH and scholarly publishing, we argue that any digital research infrastructure purporting to support knowledge diversity across disciplinary and national contexts must actively work to provide tools to facilitate, publish, and promote research in languages other than English. To show how multilingualism can guide infrastructure development and foster connections with diverse audiences, we describe the translation process of the interface of a research infrastructure, the Humanities and Social Sciences Commons, into four languages: French, Spanish, Bangla, and Portuguese.



Translating the HSS Commons Interface



What is the HSS Commons?

An open online space where humanities and social sciences researchers and stakeholders can gather to share information and resources, make connections, and build community



HSS COMMONS

To sign up for a free account or learn more, please visit hsscommons.ca.

Key Features

- Subject repository for OA resources (assigns DOIs, follows FAIR guidelines)
 - Ability to publish different kind of publications (articles, blog posts, reports, presentations, datasets, visualizations, etc.)
- Canadian servers / digital research infrastructure
- User profiles, with Single Sign-On through ORCID
- Research-sharing, communication, and management tools:
 - E.g., interest groups, collections, blogs, discussion forums, member-to-member messaging, Q&As, site-wide calendar, and more
- Community-governed

Thank you!
Aitäh!

Please feel free to get in touch with any comments or questions:

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For more information about the Canadian HSS Commons, or to create a free account, check out hsscommons.ca.

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