

Dissemination of Spanish social sciences and humanities journals

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Abstract:

The presence of scholarly journals in international data bases promotes the dissemination of works and also facilitates requests for specific articles or journals by end users. As scientists seek optimal visibility for their work and wish their results to be published in journals with high circulation, it is important to know which are the leading journals within each scientific area. This paper contains a bibliometric study of scientific journals in the areas of Social Sciences and Humanities that are currently published in Spain, together with information concerning their production and circulation in the different national and international bibliographical data bases, publisher, scientific discipline, impact factor, frequency of publication, language and type of delivery used.

1. Introduction

Publishing new knowledge is an essential phase of the research process as it enables science to advance and also gives recognition to scientists' work. Research becomes known when it is published. An exception to this rule may be research that is done for a specific purpose and made known only to the recipient and not published. However, this paper addresses the dissemination of science and therefore focuses on research that is made public, in books, monographs, or articles published in Spanish or foreign journals, and in scientific conference proceedings. Doctoral theses and degree dissertations, although they are not published as such, usually give rise to scientific articles. All these types of publications have their own distribution and dissemination channels, but they are made known to the scientific community through their inclusion in a data base.

Studies based on citation calculations report that information from the experimental sciences is disseminated mainly through papers in journals, whereas in the social sciences and humanities, as well as in practical applications albeit for different reasons, books predominate and little research is reported in journals. However, in recent years there has been an increase in the number of articles published in scientific journals by researchers in some of these areas, possibly because the scientific output of a researcher, group or institution can be assessed by reviewing the number of papers published in important journals.

The presence of scientific journals in international data bases promotes the dissemination of works and also facilitates requests for specific papers or journals by end users. As scientists seek optimal visibility for their work and want their results to be published in journals with the highest possible dissemination, it is important that journals achieve maximum circulation.

Whereas Spanish data bases in general attempt to include all Spanish scientific journals within their area of interest and do a good job in providing access to them, international data bases, whether specialised or multidisciplinary, restrict the cover to journals that meet qualitative, quantitative and logistic criteria.

2. Aim of the Study

Controlling all the journals poses some difficulty due to their extraordinary mobility. There is a relatively small core of publications that are maintained for long periods of time, together with a much greater number that are very short-lived. New journals start and end every year in countries all over the world, and the large variety of forms of delivery currently available will undoubtedly contribute to increasing this phenomenon.

The aim of this project, which is funded by a grant from the General Directorate for Universities at the Ministry of Education and Science, is to list all the current Spanish journals in the areas of Social Sciences and Humanities, and provide information on these journals and also on electronic journals available on the Internet for researchers in these areas

The information also includes the circulation of the different journals in the main national and international data bases, and details of the issuing body and the type of delivery used, to help researchers from different scientific disciplines to choose the appropriate journal in which to report their work.

The information provided in this study is divided into two parts:

- a directory of Spanish Social Sciences and Humanities journals, with information on current Spanish journals
- a bibliometric study of the data collected.

3. Methodology

The information sources mentioned below were used in order to cover as many Spanish Social Sciences and Humanities journals as possible.

Bibliographical searches were performed in the main national and international data bases to ascertain the number of journals and the number of papers published in current Spanish journals in the areas concerned. The data collected were screened to correct duplications and errors and to check their veracity. Names of journals that are no longer published were removed from the list, although articles from them are still circulating in some of the data bases consulted. The data retrieved were included in a new data base that holds updated information on about 1500 scholarly journals in these areas.

3.1. Data Sources

The following main data bases were used in this study:

A&HCI [Arts & Humanities Citation Index]. Produced by the Institute of Scientific Information [ISI], Philadelphia. This base covers several fields in the Humanities (art, architecture, history, language, literature, theatre, music, philosophy, religion, etc.). It holds over 1.100 journals and spans the period from 1975 to the present time, with a weekly update. Abstracts are also included since 2000.

CC Connect [Current Contents Connect]. Produced by the Institute of Scientific Information [ISI], Philadelphia, provides access to complete bibliographical information on over 8.000 leading worldwide academic publications and over 2.000 books. CC Connect is available in nine collections and specific editions for each discipline.

ECONLIT. Produced by the American Economic Association [AEA]. This base covers about 600 journals on Economics and Finance since 1969.

ERIC [Educational Resources Information Center]. A data base funded by the U.S. Department of Education. Its sources are Resources in Education [RIE] y Current Index to Journals in Education [CIJE]. It contains over one million references on educational research and practice.

FRANCIS. Multidisciplinary CNRS data base with bibliographical references and abstracts, book chapters, conference proceedings, theses, etc. The main topic areas are archaeology, prehistory, art history, philosophy, linguistics, literature, religion, science history, sociology, ethnology, education, administration, geography, economics and management, with over two and a half million references.

ICYT [Índice Español de Ciencia y Tecnología]. Multidisciplinary data base produced by CINDOC (CSIC), covering articles from Spanish natural science and technology journals. This data base is of interest to the areas of psychopharmacology or biological psychology.

IME [Índice Médico Español]. Produced by the Instituto de Historia de la Ciencia y Documentación López Piñero [UV-CSIC]. Specialised in Spanish medical journals and related areas. Also of interest to psychology practitioners.

ISOC [Índice Español de Ciencias Sociales y Humanidades]. Produced by the CINDOC [CSIC]. A multidisciplinary data base with over 425.000 references in all the social sciences and humanities disciplines.

JCR [Journal Citation Report]. Produced by the Institute of Scientific Information [ISI], Philadelphia. The data base is divided in two sections, Science and Technology and Social Sciences, with statistical data on about 7.000 international scientific journals. The data are based on an analysis

of the citations issued and received by the publications.

LISA [Library and Information Science Abstracts]. This data base includes over 550 journals. It currently contains over 170.000 documentation records.

PHILOSOPHER'S INDEX. An international data base produced by the Philosopher's Information Center, which indexes references to journal articles, monographs, and collective works specialised in several areas of study in philosophy since 1940. It covers over 490 periodic publications and includes authors' abstracts.

PSICODOC. A reference data base run by the Colegio Oficial de Psicólogos de Madrid [COP] in collaboration with the Facultad de Psicología at the Universidad Complutense in Madrid. This data base covers all works in psychology and related disciplines published in scientific journals, conference proceedings and books in Spain and Latin American countries.

PSYCINFO [Psychological Information Abstracts]. A bibliographic data base run by the American Psychological Association [APA], with information on over 1.500 journals and book chapters from 1987 to the present time and over one million references in psychology and related sciences.

SPORT DISCUS. Produced by the Sport Information Resource Center, Canada, in collaboration with other organisations in the International Sport Information Society. This data base contains information from 1930 to the present time on published sport science works.

SSCI [Social Science Citation Index]. Produced by the Institute of Scientific Information [ISI], Philadelphia, this data base is specialised in social sciences (law, psychology, political studies, sociology, town-planning, public health, library sciences, etc.) and covers articles published in over 1.700 journals.

The following sources were also consulted to confirm the data collected:

- ❑ The Catalogue of the Biblioteca Nacional Española [<http://www.bne.es/esp/cat-fra.htm>]. This catalogue [ARIADNA] contains bibliographic descriptions of books, leaflets, manuscript documents, journals and newspapers, drawings, prints, photographs, maps and plans, video recordings, musical scores and sound recordings. The collective catalogue of serial publications [CCPP] includes the serial publications held in about 1.100 Spanish libraries.
- ❑ The collective catalogue of the Red de Bibliotecas Universitarias [Rebiun] [<http://www.crue.org/cgi-bin/rebiun>] which contains data from 57 Spanish university libraries.
- ❑ The ISSN [International Standard Serial Number] data base [<http://www.issn.org/ISSNONLINE.html>], which covers all the serial publications worldwide that have been assigned the International Standard Serial Number. This is the most important data base on world journals.
- ❑ The Latindex Directory [<http://www.latindex.unam.mx/>]. This source collects information since 1997 on over 10.000 periodical and monographic serial publications in the disciplines of exact, natural, social and human sciences.
- ❑ MLA Directory. Produced by the Modern Language Association of America, with information since 1963 on over 3.000 international serial publications specialised in linguistics and literature.
- ❑ Ulrich's International Periodical Index [<http://www.ulrich-web.com/UlrichsWeb/>]. Produced by R. R. Bowker. The most important directory for locating information on periodical publications after ISSN.

Lastly, an additional effort is being made to locate Spanish electronic journals in the areas under

study by consulting different search engines, and these data have also been included in the data base. The data provided on the journals covered in the project are the following:

Title
Abbreviated title
Start year
Publishing location
Issuing body
Current frequency of publication
Language
Current delivery (paper, cd-rom, online)
ISSN
URL
Circulation in data bases
Current impact factor (according to JCR)
Notes

4. Results

As mentioned above, different sources of information were used in the present study in order to cover the maximum number of current Spanish journals in the Social Sciences and Humanities areas. The result is a data base containing the information collected on the different publications, all of which are included in the Directory of Spanish Social Sciences and Humanities journals, which can be consulted on the Internet at the following address:

[http:// citas.idocie.uv.es/difusionrevistas/revistas/index.html](http://citas.idocie.uv.es/difusionrevistas/revistas/index.html)

The directory of Spanish Social Sciences and Humanities journals can be consulted using an alphabetic journal index or a topic index. The information provided is as shown in figure 1.

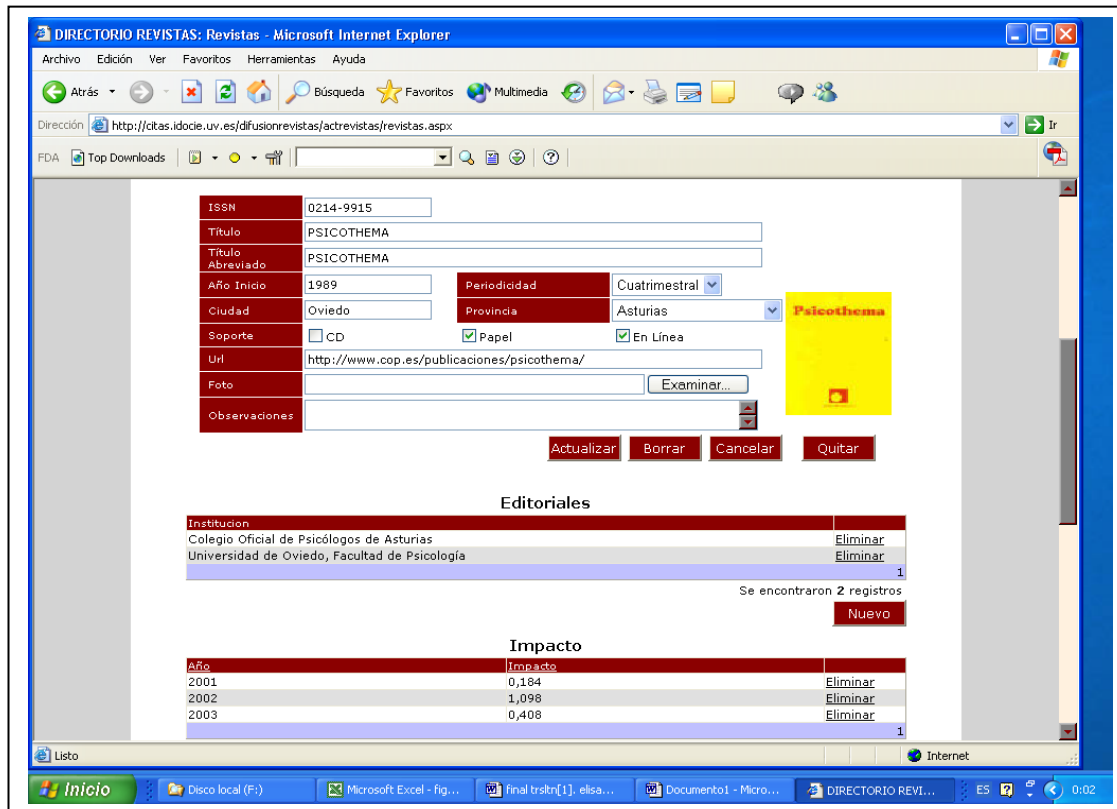


Figure 1.- Example of a record of the journal Psicothema

Many scientific journals start and end every year all over the world. This paper presents the results of the data collected to the present date in the Directory of Spanish Social Sciences and Humanities journals, with the aim of ascertaining the current situation of Spanish journals in these scientific areas. The data will be regularly updated in order to monitor the evolution, behaviour and dissemination of this type of publication.

4.1. Age of the publications

The results of the research into dissemination of Spanish Social Sciences and Humanities journals show that about 70 per cent of the current journals covered by the data bases consulted started in the eighties. It is noteworthy that there are only 9 journals that started before 1900 still being published.

4.2. Frequency of publication

Frequency of publication is a fundamental feature in this journal study. Most of the Spanish Social Sciences and Humanities journals are published annually (35%), followed by biannually (21%), contrary to what is usual in other scientific areas such as the medical sciences, where journals are usually quarterly.

4.3. Publishing location

Madrid is where most of the Spanish Social Sciences and Humanities journals are published (34'39%), followed at a distance by Barcelona [9'517%] and Valencia [4'47%]. However, when

journal publishing is analysed according to Autonomous Communities, the highest number of publications are found in the Madrid (39%), Catalonia (13%) and Andalusia (10%) Communities, with the Valencia (7%) and Castille-Leon Communities in fourth and fifth place respectively.

4.4. Languages

The study found that 73% of the Social Sciences and Humanities journals published in Spain use only one language, whereas the remaining 27% publish the works in two or more languages (figure 2).

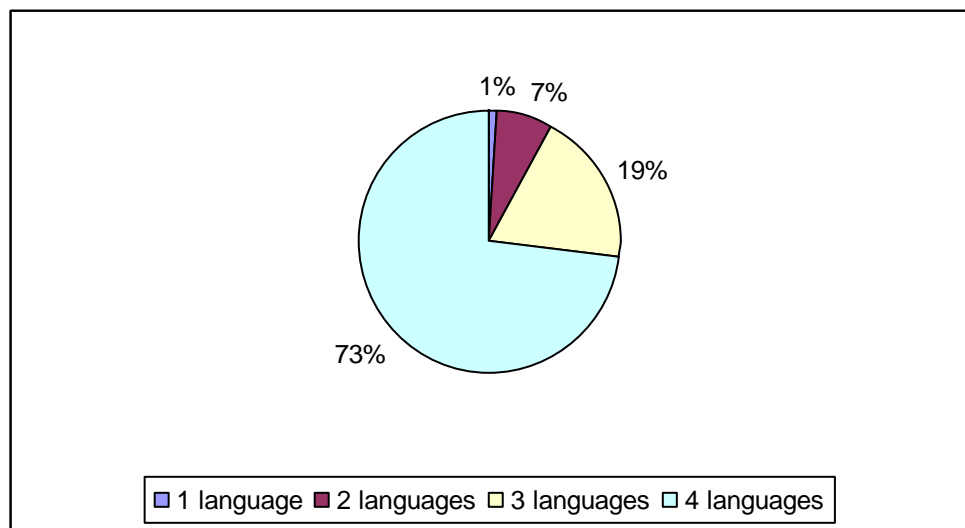


Figure 2.- Journal distribution according to the number of languages.

Spanish and English are the most frequently used languages in the journals published in more than one language.

4.6. Scientific disciplines

The journals in these areas have been distributed according to the different sciences covered. The scientific disciplines included are: Anthropology, Archaeology, Fine Arts, Library Sciences and Documentation, Economics, Education, Philosophy, Geography, History, Legal Studies, Linguistics, Literature, Political Studies, Psychology, Religion, Sociology and Town Planning.

As shown in figure 3, although there is no significant predominance of any of the scientific disciplines included, the largest number of publications circulating in the data bases reviewed belong to History (14%) followed by Psychology (9%), Education and Legal Studies, with 8% each. Religion, Anthropology, and Library Sciences and Documentation have the lowest number of current Spanish journals.

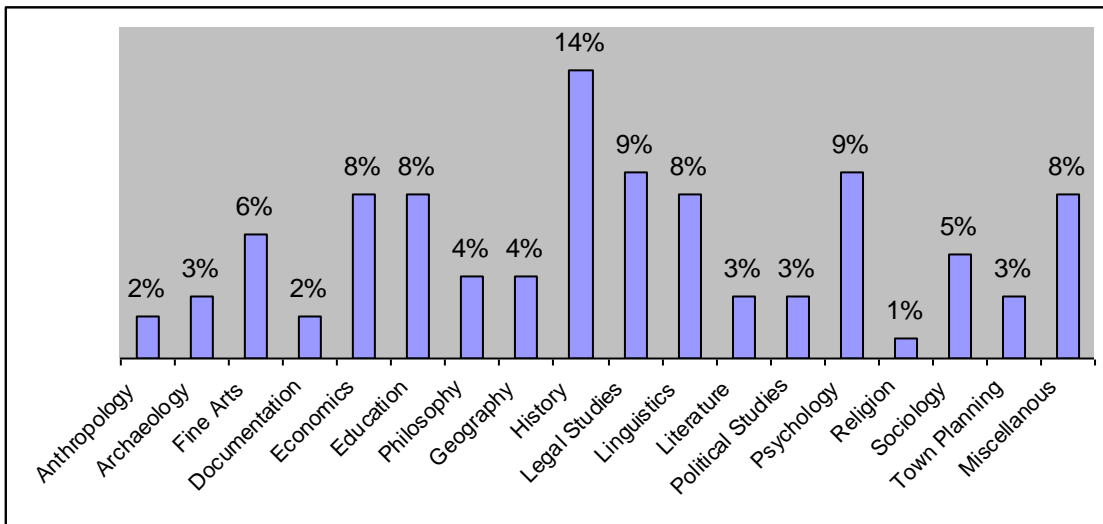


Figure 3.- Distribution according to scientific discipline.

4.7. Issuing bodies

The weight of the different bodies that issue journals is an important aspect. The institutions were grouped in the following general types according to scientific activity for the purpose of the study.

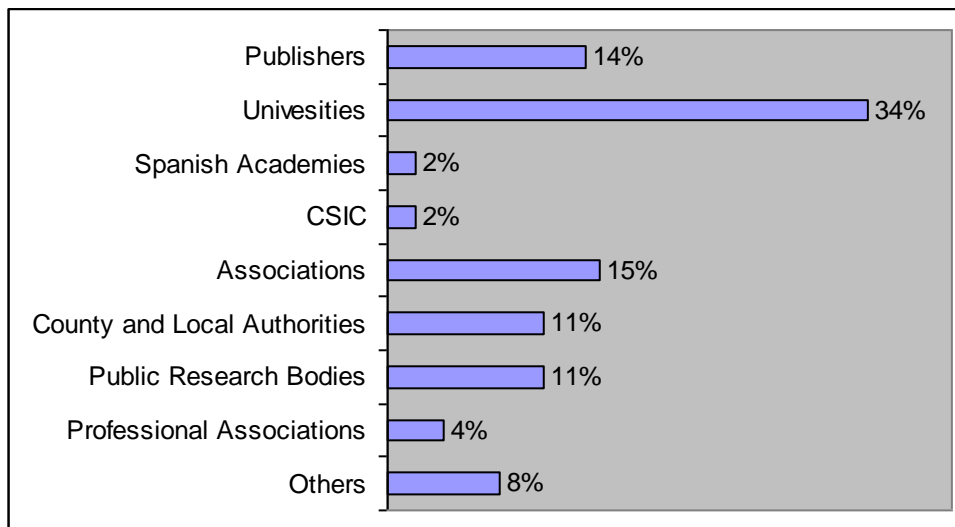


Figure 4.- Distribution according to issuing bodies.

4.8. Delivery

The study shows that paper is the main delivery used for the journals, with 86% of the publications available only on paper. However, a tendency was observed in the publishers to use more than one delivery type, especially paper and the Internet, a combination that is ahead of the use of CD-ROM in journal publishing.

4.9. Journal circulation in data bases

Figure 5 shows journal circulation in the data bases consulted. Most of the journals are included in two Spanish data bases, one of which is multidisciplinary [ISOC] and one specialised in psychology [Psicodoc].

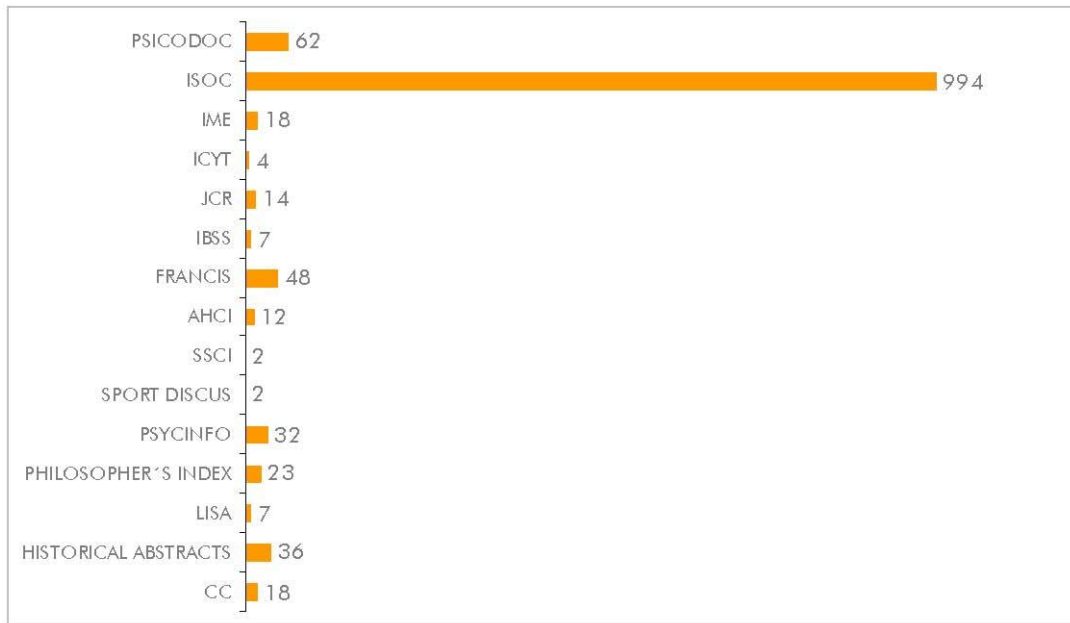


Figure 5. - Journal circulation in data bases

Figures 6 and 7 show national and international journal circulation in the data bases consulted in greater detail. Predictably, the Spanish data base with the greatest number of journals from the social sciences and humanities areas is ISOC (91%), a multidisciplinary data base in all the disciplines in these areas. Psicodoc, in second place, is a reference data base covering works published in scientific journals on psychology and related disciplines. The international data base with the highest number of journals was Francis (25%), a multidisciplinary data base in the disciplines under study, followed by Historical Abstracts (18%) and Psycinfo (16%) in second and third place.

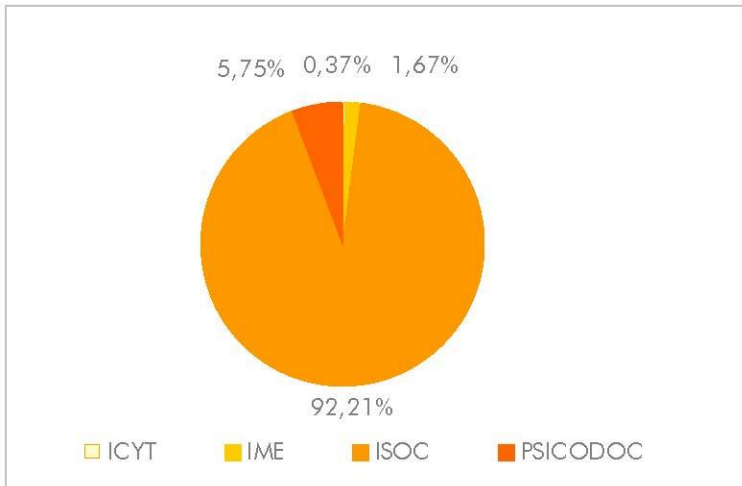


Figure 6 .- Journal circulation in Spanish data bases.

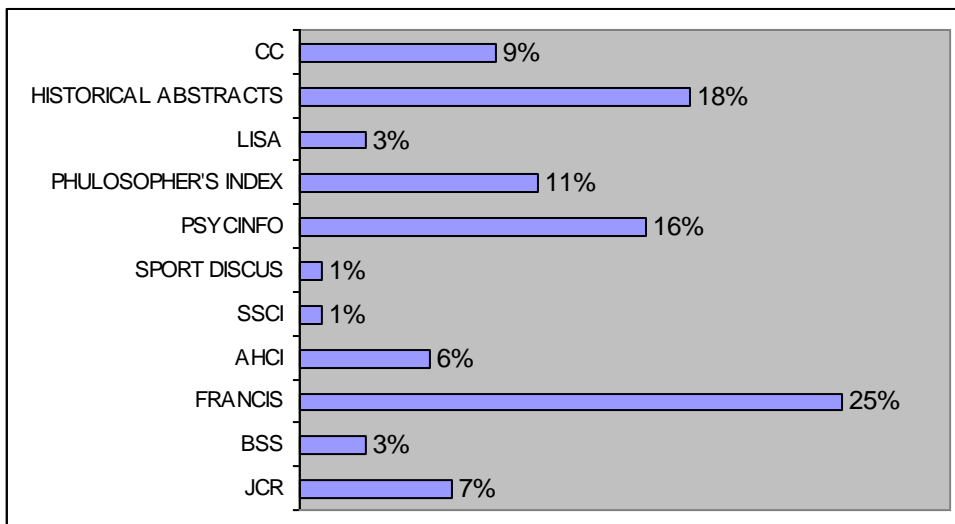


Figure 7.- Journal circulation in international data bases.

Only 16 of the journals under study are indexed in 5 or more bibliographical data bases. These journals are listed alphabetically in table 1.

Table 1.- List of journals with highest circulation in data bases

AL-QANTARA. REVISTA DE ESTUDIOS ÁRABES
 ARBOR. CIENCIA, PENSAMIENTO Y CULTURA
 DRUGS OF TODAY [Barcelona]
 EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF PSYCHIATRY
 HISTORIA AGRARIA
 PENSAMIENTO. REVISTA DE INVESTIGACIÓN E INFORMACIÓN FILOSÓFICA
 PIRINEOS
 PSICOTHEMA
 REVISTA DE DIALECTOLOGÍA Y TRADICIONES POPULARES
 REVISTA DE INDIAS
 REVISTA DE LITERATURA
 REVISTA DE PSICOLOGÍA GENERAL Y APLICADA
 REVISTA ESPAÑOLA DE ANTROPOLOGÍA AMERICANA
 REVISTA INTERNACIONAL DE FILOSOFÍA POLÍTICA
 SEFARAD: REVISTA DE ESTUDIOS HEBRÁICOS, SEFARDIES Y DE ORIENTE PRÓXIMO
 STUDIA MONÁSTICA

Conclusions

According to the initial data from this study, the total number of current Spanish journals in the areas of Social Sciences and Humanities included in the information sources consulted is approximately 1400. The study showed that 89,18% of the journals circulate in Spanish data bases and only 10,81% in international data bases.

The majority of Spanish journals in the areas of Social Sciences and Humanities are published annually or biannually, making up 56% of the total. This differs from the pattern observed in other areas, such as the medical sciences, where the majority of journals are published quarterly or bimonthly [50,9%].

Most journals in these areas are backed by a scientific, academic or professional body. Universities are the institutions that issue the highest number of journals, with 33% of the total. The Autonomous Community that publishes most journals in the areas under study is Madrid [39%], followed at some distance by Catalonia [13%] and Andalusia [10%].

The study shows that Spanish is the main language used in the journals under study, and the sole language in 70% of them. Spanish-English is the predominant combination in the journals published in two languages and makes up 14,1% of the total number.

Paper is the form of delivery used by most of the journals and 86% are published on paper alone. Although many of the journals have websites, the sites do not provide access to the articles but contain the index contents of back issues, publishing requirements and information on subscriptions.

The scientific disciplines in the areas under study with the largest number of journals indexed in the data bases consulted are: History, Psychology, Education and Legal Studies. Psychology journals are the most widely disseminated in international data bases.

Only 16 journals (1,55% of the total) circulate in five or more bibliographical data bases simultaneously. The CSIC (7 journals) together with the Universities (5 journals) are the issuing bodies with the highest level of international dissemination.

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