FOLEC

Latin American Forum for Research Assessment

CLACSO

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TOWARD THE TRANSFORMATION OF EVALUATION SYSTEMS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

TOOLS TO PROMOTE NEW EVALUATION POLICIES

TOOL 2: PROMOTING BIBLIODIVERSITY AND DEFENDING MULTILINGUALISM

La nueva serie de documentos "HACIA LA TRANSFORMACIÓN DE LA EVALUACIÓN DE LA CIENCIA EN AMÉRICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE. HERRAMIENTAS PARA PROMOVER NUEVAS POLÍTICAS EVALUATIVAS", producida en el marco del Foro Latinoamericano de Evaluación Científica – Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales (FOLEC-CLACSO), es promovida por la Secretaria Ejecutiva de CLACSO, Karina Batthyány y coordinada por el Área de Investigación, dirigida por Pablo Vommaro. Los documentos que conforman la serie han sido elaborados por Fernanda Beigel, especialista en evaluación académica e integrante del Comité Asesor de la UNESCO para la Recomendación sobre Ciencia Abierta. Conformaron el equipo de trabajo: Laura Rovelli, Coordinadora del FOLEC y Dominique Babini, Asesora en Ciencia Abierta, con la colaboración de Ana Luna González en la asistencia técnica y el equipo de diseño de CLACSO: Gustavo Lema, Director de Comunicación e Información, Marcelo Giardino, Coordinador de Arte y Jimena Zazas, Núcleo de Diseño y Producción Web.

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TOOL 2: PROMOTING BIBLIODIVERSITY AND DEFENDING MULTILINGUALISM

After the launch of the Latin American Forum for Scientific Research[1] (FOLEC), in November 2019, the Latin American Council on Social Sciences[2] (CLACSO) has been playing a key role in the discussions surrounding academic research. Three foundational documents were published in June 2020: 1) *Evaluating Scientific Research Assessment*[3], which focused on gathering the main elements in basic discussions within academic evaluation in Latin America and the world; 2) *Diagnosis and Proposals for a Regional Inititative*[4], a propositional document that constitutes a basis for regional discussion to formulate recommendations; and 3) a *Declaration of Principles*[5], which aims at building a common horizon and set the stage for the regional initiative and its interaction with the world. These documents argue that the dominant forms of evaluation stimulate the publication of articles in English, in detriment of other formats and communication languages, thereby excluding a large part of knowledge production in many countries and regions of the world. Within this framework, Tool 2 sets out to zero in on the current trends of scholarly publishing in Latin America and the Caribbean and initiatives promoting bibliodiversity and multilingual scientific production.

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>
> (CLACSO-FOLEC, 2020)

Two milestones have spurred a global debate on the intercultural loss resulting from the growth of English-only publications, and the downgrading of books as a format of publication. On the one hand, there is the Helsinki Initiative on Multilingualism in Scholarly Communication (2019) launched by the Federation of Finnish Learned Societies- TSV[6], the Committee for Public Information- TJNK[7], the Finnish Association for Scholarly Publishing, Universities Norway-UHR[8] and the European Network for Research Evaluation in the Social Sciences and the Humanities- ENRESSH[9]. This initiative, signed by more than one hundred organizations and 600 people, basically states that scientific research is international in nature, and as such must be **multilingual**, as this helps keep locally relevant research alive. Furthermore, communicating in a native language creates impact and interaction with society, beyond academia. This initiative

also seeks to protect local not-for-profit publications and the infrastructure for scientific communication in local languages, since this structure is fragile and requires public funding. Finally, they argue that there is a need to promote linguistic diversity in evaluation processes, thus ensuring that language is not a determining factor of quality but rather the opposite, and that books are given adequate importance.

The second milestone involves the development of the Draft UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science, from early 2020, which included a series of forums, surveys and regional consultations, and involved different stakeholders in order to achieve global consensus on the very definition of open science (UNESCO, 2021a). In this sense, specialists, country representatives and observers from associations and different sectors discussed the basic principles as well as the tensions involved in the transition towards **open science**.

Componentes de la ciencia abierta

Source: **https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/open_science_brochure_sp.pdf**

> ***basic concerns regarding international inequalities in terms of digital infrastructure, as well as the growing commoditization and the predominance of English as a requirement for inter-operability.***

(UNESCO, 2021a)

These include basic concerns regarding international inequalities in terms of digital infrastructure, as well as the growing commoditization and the predominance of English as a requirement for inter-operability. For this reason, the UNESCO draft project specifically states the need to stimulate the diversity of formats and means of communication, including peer-reviewed journals, reports, lectures and books, usually more developed by social and human sciences (SHCs). This list could go on to include preprints and other forms of communication managed by the academic, non-profit community. The project also sets forth the need to promote multilingualism, both in scientific practices and scholarly communications. Furthermore, it warns against the use of Article Processing Charges, (APC) and Book Processing Charges (BPC), because of the effects that this transfer of costs has for authors and/or their institution, and the inequalities this causes among the scientific communities of developed and developing countries (UNESCO, 2021a).

The idea of **bibliodiversity** refers to the existence of a multiplicity of formats, languages and distribution circuits of scientific knowledge. The concept appears to have been first coined in Chile by the "Editores independientes de Chile"[10], a collective of independent publishers created in Chile at the end of the nineties. The *International Alliance of independent publishers*[11] made a significant contribution to the dissemination and promotion of this project, which took form in the Declarations of Dakar[12] (2003), Guadalajara[13] (2005), Paris[14] (2007) and Cape Town[15] (2014), and the Jussieu Call[1] (2017). Over time, these initiatives in favor of bibliodiversity found common values and principles with the voices defending multilingualism, given that the diversity of publishing formats is strongly tied to the use of local languages.

Concerns about the increasingly central role of English as an academic language are not new. However, this has gained new momentum with the debates on open science and the need to produce a more socially relevant science. The growing use of the impact factor in assessments, and the hierarchy applied to the publishing of "mainstream" journals have effectively made the academic elites in non-hegemonic countries lean towards publishing in English (Ortiz, 2009; Gingras, 2016). This has even created linguistically segmented production and distribution circuits for the Arab world (Hanafi y Arvanitis, 2014). The world Science Report recently published by UNESCO (2021b) also underscores the inequalities produced by the

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globalization of English as a publishing language and describes its intensification by region in comparison with the report of 2010. On the other hand, the Organization of Ibero-American States[16] has an ongoing project[17] where in 2020 it was reported that 95% of the total articles published in scientific journals were written in English, and 1% in Spanish or Portuguese. The situation of Portuguese stood out as even more complex because of the growing trend of Portugal and Brazil to publish in English. Various studies point out that even in the social sciences and humanities, the publication of articles in English is increasingly being chosen as a format (Gimenez-Toledo, Mañana-Rodríguez & Sivertsen, 2017).

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In Latin America and the Caribbean, Spanish and Portuguese subsist as languages of publication, mostly due to a regional infrastructure with its own indexing system (Latindex[18], SciELO[19], Redalyc[20]) and thousands of predominantly university-based journals managed by the community itself, with what is currently known as diamond or platinum open access. These journals do not charge for their reading or publishing, and exist in different regions of the world. Indeed, in the recent report of Open Scholarly Communication in the European research area for social sciences and humanities[21] (OPERAS), it is observed that the Latin American circuit accounts for a significant proportion of the total (Bosman, Frantsvåg, Jan, Kramer, Langlais and Proudman, 2021). Advances in open

access institutional repositories that reflect the production of each university give more visibility to the bibliodiversity and multilingualism of scientific-scholarly production in Latin American universities. In the region, there is a long standing tradition of publishing books through university or specialized publishing houses such as the Fondo de Cultura Económica[22](FCE), Siglo XXI[23] and CLACSO[24]. More recently, the advent of platforms for the indexing of scientific books such as SciELO Livros in Brazil fueled the production of university books, which plays a key role in the region for the circulation of knowledge produced by social and human sciences.

However, the individuals who do research and the institutions that fund this research and support these journals and books have for some time now faced obstacles in their attempt to extend international distribution and attain the valorization of these publications in the **academic evaluation** systems. This happens to a great extent due to the power that has been given to heteronomous assessment indicators, used in ranking systems and accreditation of institutions. These indicators, based on international commercial services such as WoS and Scopus, only reflect a small percentage of quality publications in our region. In this document, we set out to show the potential of Latin America and the Caribbean to promote a more diverse dissemination of knowledge in terms of format and language, with a quality seal that strikes a better balance between global standards and local or national needs. At FOLEC, we have stated that expanding this potential depends, to a great extent, on the generation of new integrated information systems, and on the political willingness of our countries and institutions to review their assessment and promotion policies. This perspective also argues that new bibliodiverse assessment indicators must be created and included in the agenda, to complement traditional indicators which only reflect a part of the region's scientific output, specifically works published in English, within the so-called "mainstream" context.

Latin American scientific output in Spanish, Portuguese and English

Concerns about the dissemination of knowledge produced in the official languages of Latin America and the Caribbean began in the mid 20th century, together with new national research councils where documentation centers were created. These centers sought to standardize the rules for indexing in order to favor the circulation of research papers from each country. Major public universities and specialized inter- and non-governmental organizations such as ECLAC[25], CLACSO, BIREME[26], IICA/SIDALC[27], CELADE[28], FLACSO[29] contributed to the creation of the first regional libraries. Soon after, the indexing systems from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México[30] (UNAM) emerged, covering a wide range of disciplines: Clase[31] (1975) and Periódica[32] (1978). A few decades later, the creation of Latindex (1994), SciELO (1998) and Redalyc (2003) offered a space for digital scientific journals available free of charge on the internet, marking a clear path towards diamond open access. Over the last decade, most countries in the region have promoted the creation of repositories that will eventually make available all the scientific output of institutions. Three countries passed open Access and repository laws between 2013 and 2014 (Peru, Argentina and Mexico) and other have moved forward in this direction by implementing different actions. The federation of repositories, LA Referencia[33], created in 2012 through an inter-governmental agreement, was a turning point in this process. It currently continues to grow and features repositories from 750 institutions in 10 countries of the region. More recently, projects for scientific information integrated systems were developed in

Brazil and Peru, much like Current Research Information Systems (CRIS)[34], in order to articulate, through permanent ties, scientific output with information on the persons, projects and institutions which are generally separated into systems created by different governmental organizations (See Tool 1-FOLEC).

However, this process of integration and inter-operability of databases and repositories is a recent, ongoing process which still fails to disseminate and provide visibility to the output published in scientific journals in Spanish and Portuguese in our region. This is why science reports continue to be based only on information from Scopus or Web of Science, where English is predominant, as if a "global" landscape of scientific output could be determined from these databases. There are four major indexing databases for journals in Latin America with similar evaluation criteria and which guarantee the quality of the articles published: Latindex Catálogo 2.0.; SciELO, Redalyc and Biblat[35].

A significant part of the active **scientific journals** in our region are indexed by two UNAM services: Latindex and BIBLAT. The latter is made up of the two older indexing systems mentioned above, Clase and Periodica. Clase groups together all the journals focusing on social sciences and the humanities, whereas Periodica includes exact, natural and health sciences. Latindex currently features 2,508 journals in its 2.0 catalogue, which is constantly growing and in the process of being updated. This portal, however, does not include full text journals or document-level metadata. Biblat, on the other hand, has 4,087 indexed journals (of which 1,013 are from Brazil) and has accumulated more than 900,000 indexed documents since 1975. All together, these databases reflect the history of these publications, including non-active and active journals, which allows us to fully grasp the academic heritage in the region's vernacular languages. Of the total 713,265 documents in their original language[36], 593,738 are articles, of which 58% (344,666) are in Spanish, 23% (136,533) in Portuguese and only 14% (88,157) in English.

Scientific Journals

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The indexing databases Redalyc and SciELO offer a total of 908,982 documents published with the participation of almost three million authors. The predominant language is Spanish, followed by Portuguese and English (Beigel, Packer, Gallardo and Salatino, 2021; Shearer and Becerril García, 2021). When considering articles alone, a little over 43% of them are in Spanish, while 32% are in Portuguese and 24% in English. It is of interest that the total number of articles in Spanish in these two regional databases combined is 345,391 articles, a number similar to the total of Spanish language articles available in Scopus (373,419) and remarkably higher than that of articles indexed in WoS (270,632)[37]. The case of Portuguese is even more noteworthy due to the low incidence of this language in mainstream publications. In Scopus, Portuguese only reaches 0.49% of the total (120,613) and in WoS, 0.45% (131,204). Contrary to this, Scielo and Redalyc double this output with 253,648 articles in Portuguese.

LA Referencia, on the other hand, features 1,255,468 articles with language information[38] of which a significant number come from Brazil. There are 531,981 in Portuguese on this site, almost five times the number of articles available on Scopus in this language. This network also has 367,517 articles in Spanish and 353,318 in English. The increase in English language publications in Latin American journals is mostly due to Brazilian journals included in SciELO[39]. Indeed, 50% of the articles published in this collection are in English. Publishing in English is associated with a higher number of authors and is much more common in "hard" sciences than in social or human sciences. In the SciELO collection, it is common to find an average of 4 authors per article, as a large part of the documents comes from exact, natural and health sciences. However, an increase can also be observed in co-authorship in social and human sciences, and in Brazil this phenomenon extends to all areas (Beigel et al., 2021). Writing in collaboration with other authors must not only be seen as an adaptive process of the English publication but rather like a growing trend towards international and inter-institutional collaboration of each country.

Finally, it is worthwhile mentioning that French and Italian have a very limited presence in Latin American journals, whereas the rest of the languages have an even more marginal participation. It is unfortunate that very few articles are published in indigenous languages in our continent. Although there are shared articles between LA Referencia and other databases analyzed, the described scientific output clearly reveals a linguistic tripod with a significant presence of English, although Spanish and Portuguese are predominant in journals published and the output harvested from repositories in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Production of books on social and human sciences in Latin America and the Caribbean

Given their characteristics and extension, books are the most adequate format to present a long-term research study or to convey arguments that make up a general theoretical essay. According to Gingras (2016), almost three fourths of the references contained in articles related to disciplines of the social and human sciences at a global level redirect to books and not journals. This proportion has remained relatively stable for the past thirty years. It is a phenomenon that does not apply uniformly to all disciplines, given that for example in economics, the number of references to books has decreased steadily during that period, going down from 55% to 30%. The resilience of books also relies upon institutional traditions, given that in the United States, for example, sociologists from private universities prefer publishing books, whereas those from public universities generally choose to publish articles.

Sivertsen (2019) argues that in social sciences, books and articles can be equally necessary at different points of a research process. In addition to the international projection of the study, it is important to consider its

social relevance for the culture and society where it is being produced. The same project could very well contribute to both dimensions and require different formats to achieve this. Social and human sciences would probably lose their *raison d'être* and the support of society if they were detached from their cultural and social context to only communicate in international journals read solely by their foreign peers. In practice, researchers from these disciplines do both things: they publish in books and journals, and in more than one language. That is why there is no reason to apply a general language or format hierarchy in the review of social and human sciences. All forms of publication and local languages are necessary to reach the fundamental purposes of this type of scientific research. In this sense, it is interesting to mention the example of social scientists from CONICET[40] (Argentina), who have transformed Latin American dissemination into a renowned internationalization circuit, publishing between 68% (economics) and 82% (sociology) of their articles in journals of the region (Gantman 2011; Baranger & Beigel, 2021).

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According to Dujovne (2021), in the intellectual tradition of social sciences and humanities, books are part of a dissemination circle that goes beyond highly specialized, specific peer-oriented texts. When considering the publishing landscape of social and human sciences, there are different types of publishing houses that reflect this wide range of audiences. Certain specialized publishing houses are predominant in the market focusing on these disciplines and addressed to a larger audience, such as Paidós[41], Nueva visión, Amorrortu[42], Manantial[43] and CLACSO. Others have earned their prestige based on their long-standing catalogues, and seek to maintain a certain internal coherence recognizable by the readers and appreciated by their authors because of their professional publishing work. The most renowned publishing houses in this sense are the Fondo de Cultura Económica, created in Mexico in 1934, and Editorial Siglo XXI, also founded in that country in 1966. There are other, smaller publishing houses, whose catalogues combine works selected by the editors or collection directors and which are funded partially or fully by the authors' own resources, or through institutional support or research grants. Finally, other recently created young publishing houses seek to intervene in the public sphere through essays and research studies written by specialists.

University presses are a specific type of publishing house, which have undergone major transformations towards professionalization and consolidation over the last decade. UNAM libros[44], for instance, is a dynamic Enterprise, which has published 1,400 books to date, most of which are in Spanish. These books are all available for free download on their website. The peer review process that guarantees the scientific quality of the books published is coordinated by Consejo de Publicaciones Académicas y Arbitradas y la Red de Directores y Editores de Revistas Académicas y Arbitradas en la UNAM[45], whose regulations and criteria can be accessed at https://publicaciones.unam.mx/servicios/es/acuerdo-del-consejo-de-publicaciones-academicas-y-arbitradas-de-la-unam.

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On a par with the largest and oldest university presses, there are new, younger academic publishing houses at universities which have proven essential in the construction of the Asociación de Editoriales Universitarias de América Latina y el Caribe[46] (Association of University Presses of Latin America and the Caribbean, EULAC). EULAC is a network made up of publishing houses from more than 20 countries in the region, which promotes the professionalization of these publishing houses and the implementation of inter-university distribution and accessibility systems for the published books. Giménez Toledo and Córdoba Restrepo (2018) studied 143 presses from different countries in the region and noted that, despite the fact that Open Access has been quite relevant with regard to scientific journals, digitalization is quite different when it comes to books. Institutional limitations are very present in these university presses, and there is legitimate concern about losing the income generated by sales which allow them to subsist. Additionally, the printed book culture still prevails among authors, who are also afraid that digitalization and open access will conspire against the intellectual property of their work. University presses are undoubtedly a central element for a regional and national policy promoting book visibilization and production in native tongues, capable of impacting the evaluation process of programs and institutions. However, they must report the peer-review process of the content of these books (Giménez Toledo, 2017; Babini, 2018).

Within the field of scholarly digital book production with open access, the work of CLACSO stands out, with a long and prolific publishing tradition. CLACSO is a pioneer in diamond access publications for social and human sciences. The total number of books published between 1967 and 2021 is 1,559, including older printed books that were digitalized to make them available at the Council's repository. During this period, 75 books were published entirely in Portuguese[47] and 74 in English. Portuguese being the official language of CLACSO, there are also numerous bilingual books, with chapters in Portuguese and Spanish[48]. The frequency of publication is quite dynamic; only in 2019, 83 digital books were published, and in 2020 this number rose to 113, all with open access. In line with these initiatives, CLACSO is in the process of consolidating the practice of reporting the peer-review process for the content of scholarly books, in keeping with the criteria of the Directory of Open Access Books[49]- DOAB.

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BETWEEN 1967 AND 2021:

75 BOOKS WERE PUBLISHED ENTIRELY IN PORTUGUESE AND 74 IN ENGLISH

IN 2019:

83 DIGITAL BOOKS WERE PUBLISHED

IN 2020:

113 DIGITAL BOOKS WERE PUBLISHED

SciELO Livros[50], for its part, has promoted scholarly publishing in Portuguese with a very important catalogue, especially considering that this is a recent initiative that started in 2014. This Brazilian collection was born with peer review and its goal is to disseminate scientific knowledge with potential value in the academic accreditation system. In this way, it strengthens the capacity for digital publishing for all countries participating in the Red SciELO. University presses are in charge of the editorial work and the evaluation of content, whereas SciELO provides the platform for publishing, indexes the books and also ensures their presence in the DOAB, the international directory of peer-reviewed scholarly books. To this end, they have the support of FAPESP[51] (Fundação de Amparo a Pesquisa de São Paulo), BIREME (Centro Latino-Americano e do Caribe de Informação em Ciências da Saúde) and publishing houses FIOCRUZ[52] (Fundação Oswaldo Cruz), UFBA[53] (Universidade Federal da Bahia), and UNESP[54] (Universidade Estadual Paulista). SCieLO Livros includes a total of 1,516 books, of which 1,383 are in Portuguese, 125 in Spanish, and contrary to the growing presence of English as the main language of journals, they have only published 8 books in this language[55].

Book indexing systems and academic review indicators

Despite the dynamism of scholarly publishing in Latin America and the Caribbean, several factors hinder the valorization of books in review processes, including the areas of social and human sciences, where books constitute a relevant publishing format. Firstly, the fact that these systems have quantitative assessment styles and organize their rewards based on bibliometric indicators only available for articles. Secondly, the reality is that whereas indexed journals ensure that the content has been peer-reviewed, scholarly books only now are starting to report the process of evaluation of their content. In 2011, the Book Citation Index was launched at the same time as the first ranking of book publishing houses based on peer-reviews, the Scholarly Publishers' Indicators[56] (SPI). For open access academic books, there is an international indexing system, the Directory of Open Access Books (DOAB), which includes more than 600 publishers, but still has a limited number of diverse presses from all regions of the world.

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Giménez-Toledo, Mañana Rodríguez and Sivertsen (2017) argue that the evaluation of scientific production and science in general has been traditionally centered on scientific journals, because books are only predominant in social and human sciences. The Norwegian model Cristin is a noteworthy experience, as it includes books for the faculty's performance evaluation, using a qualitative classification that ranks the contributions of these disciplines and their publications in the local language, including a categorization process. The experience of Norway is very valuable because its national scientific information system (CRIS[57]) includes an evaluation component that can cover the entire trajectory of the country's researchers, and does not resort to indicators or databases with well-known biases such as Scopus o WoS. Cristin contains all the necessary metadata for future review of scientific output, and addresses the specificities of each field. Both scientific journals and book publishing houses are classified into two qualitative-based categories, with only two levels (1 and 2), by disciplinary panels made up of researchers from different institutions, and reviewed annually by the National Councils and the National Publishing Board (Nordfosk, 2010). Scientific presses are classified according to the two aforementioned categories. Only 20% of the total is included in level 2, the one with the highest evaluative value. The scores given to each type of document, based on their classification in each one of the categories, oscillates between 8 points for a book or monograph in level 2 and 0.7 points for the chapter of a book. In the case of an article, the maximum score in level 2 is 3 points. Although the Norwegian model was specifically designed for the evaluation of local publications, the foundations of the system have been adopted in Denmark, Belgium and Finland, and more recently in Portugal (Sivertsen, 2018).

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The Scholarly Publishers Indicator (SPI) is an information and indicators system on scientific academic presses created by the Grupo de Investigación sobre el Libro Académico[58] (ÍLIA) of the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas[59](CSIC) in Spain. It offers different visions–through indicators and information– of scientific/academic presses, both from Spain and abroad. Quality indicators provided describe different characteristics of each publisher to the authors, so that they can have objective elements in the evaluation processes. The system, in this sense, does not seek to "automate" the evaluation of scientific production published in a book format, but rather to offer information to qualify, complete or consolidate the opinion of an evaluator.

With respect to book citation indexes, the Book Citation Index (BCI) and associated products such as Bi-publishers are instruments which, according to Giménez Toledo (2017) are controversial, as they are the result of Web of Science's (now Clarivate) venturing into the market of scientific book metrics. The BCI is a payment system offering information on citations for a group of books belonging to about 500 publishing houses. The selection of indexed books is based on their number of citations and, although the BCI does accept the indexation of books in other languages, English is predominant, which brings about significant limitations for its use in evaluation processes. The peer-review system is one of the selection criteria of indexed publishers, and in order to verify its application, BCI producers rely upon a statement produced by the editors. From a methodological perspective, BCI combines qualitative and quantitative criteria, and mixes value judgments with citation counts. This database can be accessed in any country, as can the rest of the Web of Science resources, with the clear bias that the predominance of English constitutes, as well as other elements in the selection process that limit its reach.

Another important resource in the field of book citations is Google Scholar, which a decade ago used to have some of the biases and patterns of Scopus and Web of Science, but which has currently made significant progress in adding metadata from publications of multiple sources. Vélez-Cuartas, Suárez-Tamayo, Jaramillo-Guevara and Gutiérrez (2021) underscore the vast documentary coverage of Google Scholar, as well as its ongoing aggregated data collection and the amplitude of the metrics it offers, gradually including more and more books.

> ***An important initiative for mapping scholarly publishing is "ES-CIENCIA60", an Interdisciplinary Thematic Platform developed by the CSIC, which will constitute an important resource to value and understand scientific communication in Spanish.***

An important initiative for mapping scholarly publishing is "ES-CIENCIA[60]", an Interdisciplinary Thematic Platform developed by the CSIC, which will constitute an important resource to value and understand scientific communication in Spanish. Furthermore, the tool will undoubtedly provide more visibility and presence to Ibero-American books in DOAB. Currently, only 3% of the books registered in this directory were published in Spanish.

Among the initiatives from hegemonic countries for book accessibility as a format of production, there is also the September 2021 Statement[61] from cOAlition S[62], authors of Plans S, in favor of "open access for academic books". This document states that books are an important format of publication for researchers, especially in the social and human sciences, and argues that open access books receive 2.4 times more citations and are downloaded 10 times more than non-open access books. Principle 7 of Plan S already recognizes that the timeline to achieve open access to books requires an independent, specific process. Many sponsors of cOAlition S have developed their own policies for access to academic books, and presented a series of recommendations for funders and organizations in the coalition to ensure that all academic books based on original research and which were directly supported with funding from cOAlition S organizations are available through open access when they are published. One of these recommendations is that authors or their institutions must retain sufficient intellectual property rights so that their academic books are available in open access and can be reutilized. Embargo periods on academic books must be as short as possible and never exceed 12 months. Finally, funders of cOAlition S should financially support open access to academic books via their funding schemes and business models and through specific agreements. With this, Plan S states very clearly that charges for publishing open access books (BPC) will be common procedure, just like APC in the case of journals, thus becoming yet another way of deepening the existing inequalities between countries or universities that are in a position to fund lucrative contracts of *Read & Publish,* and on the other hand, universities or countries that will not be able to afford the ever-growing costs of commercial open access.

In Latin America, the experiences of CLACSO, UNAM Libros and Scielo Livros point the way towards a more fruitful future, with more dissemination of books in a regional communication ecosystem based on public infrastructures and spearheaded by the academic community. In this sense, university presses can play a key role in promoting bibliodiversity and counteract the threats of commoditization.

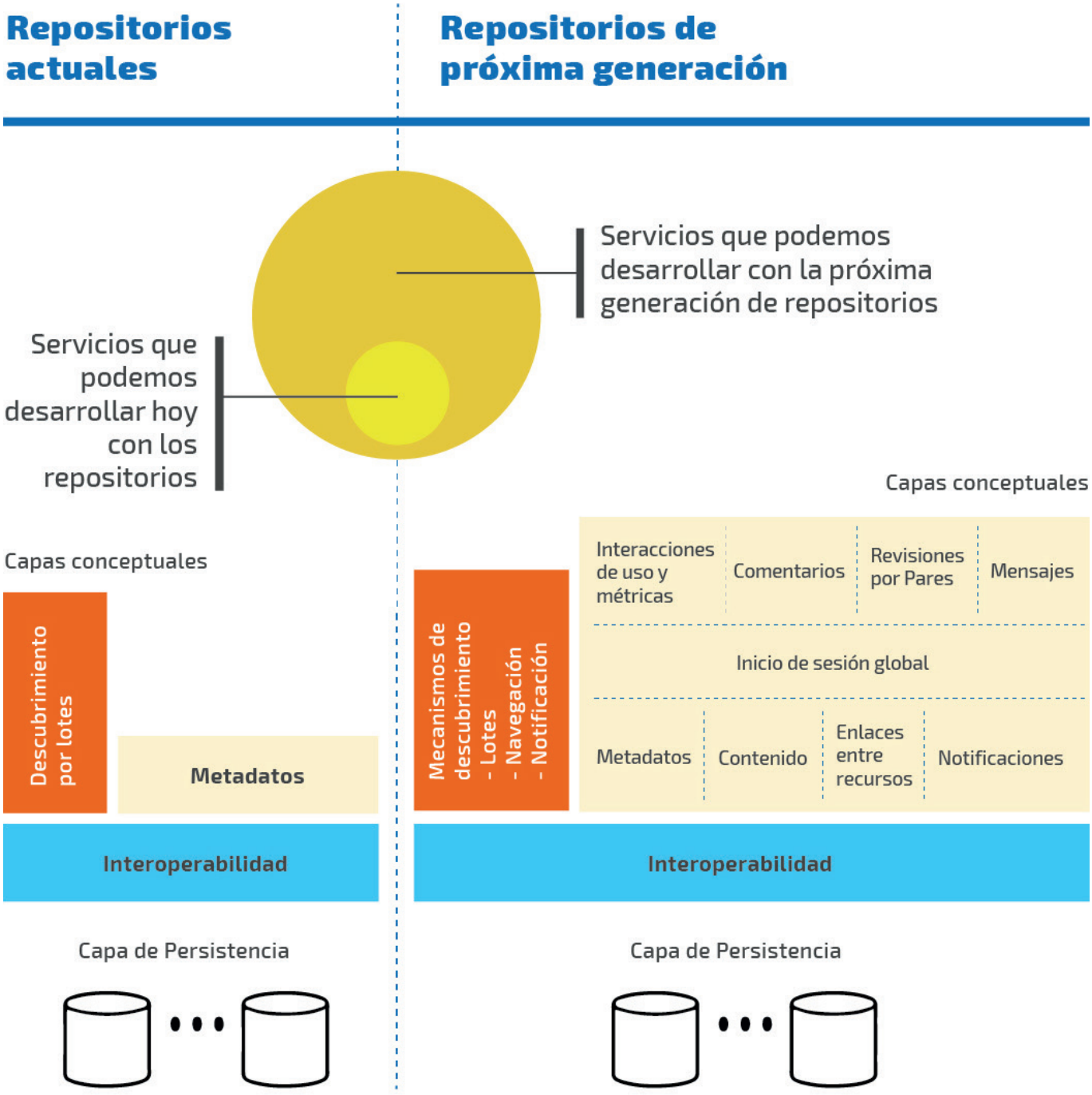
As we have seen, the transition towards open access for academic books is highly complex and exposed to commercial obstacles imposed by the publishing industry. In Latin America, the experiences of CLACSO, UNAM Libros and Scielo Livros point the way towards a more fruitful future, with more dissemination of books in a regional communication ecosystem based on public infrastructures and spearheaded by the academic community. In this sense, university presses can play a key role in promoting bibliodiversity and counteract the threats of commoditization.

Recent initiatives and proposals to promote bibliodiversity and revalorize multilingualism in non-commercial open access

The analyzed trends display the existence of multiple publishing circles for journals and books that illustrate the large bibliodiversity and linguistic richness of Latin America and the Caribbean. However, this also reveals the great loss that results from this production not being appreciated in evaluation systems because of the hegemonic use of commercial services such as Clarivate or Scopus. This is partially due to the predominance of a mainstream-oriented concept of internationalization, which has become more widespread over the past decades as a result of university rankings. This has deeply affected academics, reviewers and officials alike. Furthermore, there are technical obstacles to knowing and valuing all the modes and languages of production. The main one is the lack of regional, inter-operable databases, and of national, integrated scientific information systems with permanent linkages between institutional or national repositories that can promote a bottom-up approach to assess complete scientific careers.

> ***Repositories have made systematic progress in harvesting and curating institutional output, but still require major investments to achieve their integration at a national or inter-institutional level.***

Repositories have made systematic progress in harvesting and curating institutional output, but still require major investments to achieve their integration at a national or inter-institutional level. It is because of this that they fail to reach their full potential as providers of a globally articulated academic communication infrastructure. Promoted by the working group on "Next Generation Repositories" (NGRs), within the framework of the Confederation of Open Access Repositories[63], COAR, there have been discussions since 2016 on what the main functionalities should be, as well as the architecture and technology required to develop a new repository format that can provide new services including different evaluation formats. A repository manages and provides access to a wide range of resources including articles or published books, preprints, data sets, working documents, images and other products of academic work. However, it is essential to develop this repository as a network with permanent linkages aimed at identifying people, projects, products and institutions—something that has been occurring in countries or universities with a CRIS system. Latin America and the Caribbean offer unrivaled conditions to develop NGRs with qualitative evaluation components to move towards high-quality open science, considering that a large part of their repositories have already been harvested by LA Referencia (See Tool 1 - FOLEC).



Source: Design and translation by CLACSO, retrieved from **https://coartraining.gitbook.io/coar-repository-toolkit/nextgen-repositories**

This type of system allows for the development of new, more contextualized and relevant indicators, where responsible metrics can be better used to support more qualitative evaluation processes (Giménez-Toledo, 2018; Ràfols, 2019). In FOLEC's propositional document, it is argued that evaluation systems should not only reward scientific production in English per se, but favor multilingualism by promoting not only official languages like Spanish or Portuguese but also production, communication and dissemination of science in the indigenous languages of the region. It is also recommended that all forms of communication be valued and considered, and not just traditional publications (new formats of scientific communication, technical reports, transfer, extension, public communication of science, artistic interventions) according to the profile of the researcher/institution to be evaluated. In order to revalue the production of collaborative books and book chapters, certain examples of indicators are proposed, such as:

- ***percentage of co-authored books and book chapters with respect to the total book production;***
- ***percentage of published books co-authored with other countries of Latin America with respect to the total book production;***
- ***percentage of published books co-authored with authors from other countries with respect to the total book production.***
- ***In order to valorize multilingualism, different examples are proposed:***
- ***percentage of publications in Spanish/Portuguese/French/German/others with respect to the total output***
- ***at least 1 publication in an indigenous language***

As we have seen, academic books have multiple publishing channels available, ranging from university presses to small, medium-sized and oligopolistic commercial firms. Giménez Toledo, Kulczycki, Pölönen & Sivertsen (2019) argue that large publishing companies control a vast majority of what is published at an international level. Their leadership in the market, in fact, is reflected in the valorization they receive by academia at a global level, given that most of their books are very well positioned in evaluation processes. However, they only account for a fraction of existing publications and of the scientific output required in research and education, as well as in cultural and social life. There is a wide range of local presses with national or regional distribution circles that would not exist without the support of public research funds or universities.

> ***The ultimate objective of "bibliodiversity" is to award value to a multiplicity of formats, languages and distribution circles of scientific knowledge. This diversity prioritizes the main goals of the global conversation on science rather than commercial profit, which characterizes publishing oligopolies.***

The ultimate objective of "bibliodiversity" is to award value to a multiplicity of formats, languages and distribution circles of scientific knowledge. This diversity prioritizes the main goals of the global conversation on science rather than commercial profit, which characterizes publishing oligopolies. As a result, the International Alliance of Independent Publishers was created. Although this enterprise still needs to ensure the sustainability of its publishers, the content of what is published remains its main priority. The alliance also offers visions and alternative voices to the works published by large, oligopolistic and hegemonic firms, thus preserving a large part of the existing richness of the academic world. In this sense, it is interesting to mention the Manifesto on journal review in Latin America, created by the Asociación Latinoamericana de Editores Científicos (Latin American Association of Scientific Publishers, ALAEC)[64].

Traditionally, scholars publish books in an attempt to transcend specialized peer readers and reach broader audiences, which is why their work is usually published by commercial firms that follow the rules of the market. However, university presses find themselves halfway between the market and non-commercial open access, which is more in line with universities as non-profit organizations. The examples of CLACSO, UNAM USP (with more than 500 titles in open access[65]) show the advantages of disseminating diamond access digital books, although much remains to be done to consolidate and professionalize the evaluation process for these works. Submitting the manuscripts for peer review and reporting this adequately for each edition will strengthen book indexing systems under development and will promote changes in the evaluative culture of the region.

> ***The transition towards open science, which could significantly boost bibliodiversity and multilingualism, also reveals other worrisome trends resulting from the hierarchies imposed by the mainstream scene, and which are aligned with the commercial interests of large international publishing houses and scientific data companies.***

The transition towards open science, which could significantly boost bibliodiversity and multilingualism, also reveals other worrisome trends resulting from the hierarchies imposed by the mainstream scene, and which are aligned with the commercial interests of large international publishing houses and scientific data companies. The hypercentral role of English has been an issue of great concern in Europe for quite some time now, but this concern has recently soared (Kulczycki, Guns, Pölönen, et. al, 2020). Ramírez Castañeda (2020) specifies that the imposition of English not only impoverishes science but also substantially affects the publishing possibilities of researchers from non-English speaking countries, who are constantly subjected to reviews requested by journals claiming that they need to have their texts proofread by "native speakers".

On the other hand, , Berger (2021),Shearer y Becerril-Garcia (2021) described the main steps to decolonize scientific communication through bibliodiversity and the permanent diatribes on the path to open access, resulting from the unacceptable licensing conditions proposed by the publisher. These obstacles, advances and setbacks can be observed on a daily basis and are part of a complex international scenario, which has implications on regional, national and local levels. In the next UNESCO General Conference[66], which will take place from 9 to 24 November 2021 in Paris, the Open Science Recommendation is expected to be approved, and there will be a global call to valorize different formats of publication, promote multilingualism and avoid the transfer of the open access costs of books and journals to authors and institutions, whose funding in low- and middle-income countries of the Global South comes mostly from public funds, which is why they cannot, and should not, have to bear these costs.

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47 An important percentage of the books published by CLACSO are collaborative works of the CLACSO working groups, including chapters mainly in Spanish followed by Portuguese.
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