Be open by archiving

Enhancing the visibility of your research output through self-archiving

MIMI SEYFFERT-WIRTH
DEPUTY DIRECTOR: DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP
LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICE
MSEYF@SUN.AC.ZA
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Introduction

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A REVIEW OF METHODOLOGICAL TRENDS IN SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIOLOGY, 1990–2009

Isabel Basson
Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology
Stellenbosch University
ibasson@sun.ac.za

Dr Heidi Eileen Prozesky
Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology
Stellenbosch University
hepi@sun.ac.za

ABSTRACT

This paper reviews the research methods and methodologies employed by South African sociological researchers when conducting research, as published in academic peer-reviewed journals during the period of 1990 to 2009. Specific attention was given to trends in terms of qualitative and quantitative methodologies employed, as well as sampling, data collection and data analysis methods utilised. The paper addresses, amongst others, the concern expressed in the literature that an over-emphasis on one approach is unhealthy for the development of the social sciences in a country; this paper explores whether such an over-emphasis occurred. Data were obtained from a stratified, systematic sample of 111 research articles sourced from various online databases, and both cross-sectional and longitudinal analyses were conducted. Data analysis primarily involved the use of descriptive statistics, but bivariate analysis and chi-square tests were also employed. The main findings of the research are that, from 1990 to 2009, both quantitative and qualitative methodologies were employed to an equal extent, while amongst sampling methods non-probability methods predominated. Both local and international collaboration increased over the years, and a quantitative methodology was significantly more likely if international collaborators were involved.
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Isabel Basson
Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology
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ibasson@sun.ac.za

Heidi Eileen Prozesky
Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology
Stellenbosch University
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This item appears in the following collections:

- Research Articles (Sociology and Social Anthropology) [28]
Green Open Access

- Journals give authors the opportunity to self-archive a copy of their research in an accredited institutional or subject repository.

- Most subscription journals and major publishers do allow self-archiving of post-prints, sometimes after an embargo period between 6 to 24 months after publication.
SUNScholar institutional repository

- Digital archive for access to, and preservation of an institution’s research output
- Contain theses, dissertations, articles, conference papers and to a lesser extent book chapters
- Peer reviewed research output
### Summary of value and benefits of institutional repositories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For scholarly communication</th>
<th>For institutions</th>
<th>For individual researchers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Change scholarly communication practices for the better</td>
<td>Making institutional research output available</td>
<td>Enhances dissemination of research output</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More free online access to publishers’ products</td>
<td>Increasing visibility of institutional research output</td>
<td>Enhances visibility and impact of research output</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giving back research findings to the communities who funded it</td>
<td>Centralised storage of institutional research output</td>
<td>Central archive for research output</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advancing scholarship</td>
<td>Analysis of research performance</td>
<td>Analysis of research performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retention and control of copyright by authors</td>
<td>Increase prestige</td>
<td>Retention and control of copyright</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Benefits of self-archiving

- Potential OA citation advantage:

“Cited more because they are read more” (Davis et al, 2008)

“Increased visibility translates into increased opportunity for attracting citations” (Ale Ebrahim et al, 2014)

“Correlation between OA and more citations” (Niyazov et al, 2016)
Benefits of self-archiving

- Access denial problem:

Researchers at institutions are denied access to articles published in journals because their institutions cannot afford expensive subscriptions to these journals.
How to self-archive

- Library’s responsibilities:
  - Manage submissions on the repository
  - Address copyright and related issues
  - Create metadata (for optimal discoverability of output)
  - Ensure that submissions are harvested by search engines
  - Ensure long-term preservation
How to self-archive

- 3 Options:

- Register as submitter on SUNScholar by sending email to scholar@sun.ac.za

- Faculty or branch librarians

- Digital Scholarship office (scholar@sun.ac.za)
