

Introduction and some ideas as well as visions on an open access European psychology publication platform

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Abstract

After a short description of the organization, tasks, and activities of the Institute for Psychology Information (ZPID – Leibniz-Institute/Germany) possibilities of enhancing European cooperation on psychology publication issues are stressed upon. Arguments for its necessity refer to some turning points of history in the languages of science and to some problems of Anglo-American dominance in psychology publications, which are illustrated by bibliometric results on authors' affiliations and publication languages represented in the PsycINFO database. The vision of a European Psychology Publication Platform (EPPP) is developed including some considerations about its objectives and scope, principles, submission procedure and guidelines as well as review process and evaluation.

Key words: scientific communication; psychology; Europe; bibliometrics; information dissemination; databases; open access; online publishing

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1 The Institute for Psychology Information (ZPID • Leibniz-Institute) – In Brief

To give – at first – a rough idea about the organization, tasks, products and objectives of the ZPID, in a few brief words it can be explained that the ZPID is a non-profit organization, located at the University of Trier in the South-West of Germany financed by the German state since 1977. The permanent ZPID-staff refers to about 30 scientific and administrative employees with additional free-lance contributors to our internet databases. ZPID's home is the Department of Psychology at the University of Trier enhancing through cooperation with the psychology staff, the staff of neighboring sciences, and the library at the University of Trier.

ZPID is the psychology information center for the German-speaking countries (Austria, Germany and parts of Switzerland), creating electronic databases on literature, tests, audiovisual media, and web resources to meet the information needs of scientists, psychology professionals, politicians, mass media, and the interested public.

ZPID current activities include:

- Development and production of databases on psychology information;
- Exhaustive documentation – including metadata like abstracts, descriptors, phrases etc. (references to start with in the publication year 2009) – of psychological literature, psychological tests, treatment manuals and audiovisual media from the German-speaking countries (published in German or English) in *PSYNDEX*. *PSYNDEX* is available on the internet (www.zpid.de) as well as in many (scientific) libraries;
- Making comprehensive information available at www.zpid.de on psychology journals, psychology publishers, media suppliers, test suppliers, and test libraries;
- Furthermore, ZPID's homepage includes a continuously updated events calendar and job announcements in the field of psychology as well as subscription to ZPID's RSS feeds (in German);
- Annotation of quality psychology web resources in a link catalog (*PsychLinker*);
- Development and maintenance of a psychology web search engine (*PsychSpider*);
- An archive for primary research data in the field of psychology including metadata and the empirical data (*PsychData*);
- User education through e-learning material in the internet as well as personal training;
- Information search and retrieval services for our customers;
- Bibliometric publication- and citation-analyses supporting quantitatively the evaluation of psychological departments and its scientists;
- Production of electronic and printed publications – e.g., the German translation and adaptation of the Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms (ZPID, 2007; by permission of the American Psychological Association, APA);
- Yearly electronic and printed publication of the *ZPID-Monitor* describing internationality and internationalization of psychology research in the German-speaking countries;
- Information and documentation research within psychological science research on scientometrics and the history of psychology.

2 The Idea of the Workshop: Enhancing European Cooperation on Psychology Publication Issues – Why?

2.1 Some Turning-Points of History in the Languages of Science

Psychology has gone to the United States of American or – at least – to the *lingua franca* of most sciences, which the Anglo-American language (or some of its scientific idioms) has become in the last decades. History of languages in the sciences may be historically reconstructed with the help of some turning-points of history in brief

1. with the start of sciences in ancient Greece with classical Greek (500 – 200 before Christ),
2. passing to *Latin* for a very long time (roughly from 200 before Christ, including the Enlightenment, up to the 18th century),
3. passing to *various national languages* (i.e., English, French, German, Spanish, Italian) starting in the 18th century for about 200 years, and – at last –
4. passing to the *Anglo-American scientific idioms* in the second part of the 20th century (continuing to the past 50 years – a short period, at least in a historical view).

Thus, it seems sciences started and continued to be a monolingual project for more than 2.300 years. Enlightenment focused also on at first one language (Latin) but initiated sciences to be a multilingual project. However, it seems as if the circle was closed in the second half of the 20th century: not more Latin, but Anglo-American idioms made sciences a monolingual project again.

Most great scientific innovations in methodology, empirical research and theory development, the great discoveries and inventions were published since the 18th century in national languages. International reception and citation of, as well as, reference to those publications required not more Latin, but multilingual competences – at least in reading skills. Not only excellent but rather all scientists had such multilingual competences at their disposal. Sciences diversified within this multilingual period. In addition, sciences became somewhat like a more democratic and social project, because scientific education was no longer founded exclusively on active and passive Latin skills. Thus, sciences were opened for everyone with adequate abilities and aptitudes, no longer reserved for those with the “right” social background.

Furthermore, multilingual sciences were more able to consider cultural, social and national differences – not solely in the philosophy of languages and in linguistics, but also in possibilities of a stronger consideration of cultural and national differences in educational systems, health care systems, and political systems etc.. For psychology, this is especially true for applied research as well as for test construction and validation.

2.2 Some Problems of Anglo-American Dominance in Psychology Publications

There is no denying the fact that the Anglo-American idioms make international scientific cooperation much easier, that science education requires only competences in one foreign language, no longer in many etc. However, focus on the Anglo-American publication lingua franca in sciences led and leads to some problems. Some of these problems should be mentioned at least briefly and exemplarily – here especially for psychology:

- *Limitations of research topics and areas:* Research results on topics referring to cultural and national specifics (i.e., emics in contrast to etics) can hardly be published in English for an international readership because of low interests – e.g., psychological research on test construction, on the impact of specific structures in educational systems, health care systems, political systems etc. referring, e.g., to educational placing and mainstreaming, to health care cost taking for psychotherapy, to political psychology etc.. Our scientometric analyses show on the internationalization (i.e., Anglo-Americanization) of psychology in the German-speaking countries dramatically that it is very high in *basic research areas* (i.e., experimental psychology, biopsychology, experimental social psychology) and rather low in the applied psychologies (Krampen, Montada, Schui & Müller, 2005).
- *Limitations in methodology:* Methodological limitations are connected to these content-related limitations of English psychological publications from non-Anglo-American countries. There is a strong focus on English publication with results of experimental studies (controlled experiments with randomization etc.). In contrast, English publications from non-Anglo-American countries – as well empirical – results of pre- and quasi-experimental studies, correlation studies, field studies, and longitudinal studies are rare. They are very rare for theoretical studies and test construction studies (Krampen et al., 2005). Thus, Anglo-Americanization of publications limits not only the topics and areas of psychological research output, but the research methodology as well. This in favor of making psychology – at least in English publications from not Anglo-American countries – a dominant experimental science with its focus on basic research.
- “Publish in English or perish” – A contemporary dogma (?): It can be supposed that the – at least somewhat restricted – bi- or multilingual competences of non- Anglo-American scientists (non- native speakers) may be one cause of the limitations of research areas and methodologies discussed above: It is much easier to publish experimental results of basic research in a foreign language, because experimental publications have a rather *limited linguistic standard code*, which can be repeated again and again in various papers. Thus, the lingua franca of Anglo-American idioms in sciences does not enhance English as language; rather it simplifies and reduces science in its topics, objects, and methodologies.

Presentations of the results of other (non-experimental) empirical studies and – primarily – those of theoretical and methodological considerations require much more language competences, more linguistic variations, i.e., it is linguistic much more demanding. This is especially true for the “Method”- and “Results”-Sections of papers. But not only differences in required language skills may make the difference, but also the time and energy needed. This especially true in current times, scientists working – at least partly – under the dogma of “publish (in English) or perish”.

- *A priori differences in evaluation prospects:* This “dogma” is directly related to another problem of English publishing, which refers to the political and societal requests for the evaluation of scientific outputs of single scientists, scientific departments, universities and nations. Prospects and probabilities of being positively evaluated are *a priori* differently distributed between scientists publishing in English and those publishing (also or mainly) in other languages. This becomes a real problem when this difference is strongly connected to special topics and areas of research as well as to the methodology used (see above).

- *Biases in US-American databases:* The problem increases, if scientist evaluations in application procedures and rankings of Psychology Departments (and Universities) are founded only on bibliometric analysis in PsycINFO (produced by the American Psychological Association, APA, Washington/DC) and the “Web of Sciences” (i.e., science citation index, social science citation index; produced by *Thomson Scientific, formerly Institute for Scientific Information, ISI*), both of which being US-American commercial data bases favoring markedly Anglo-American publications and citations.

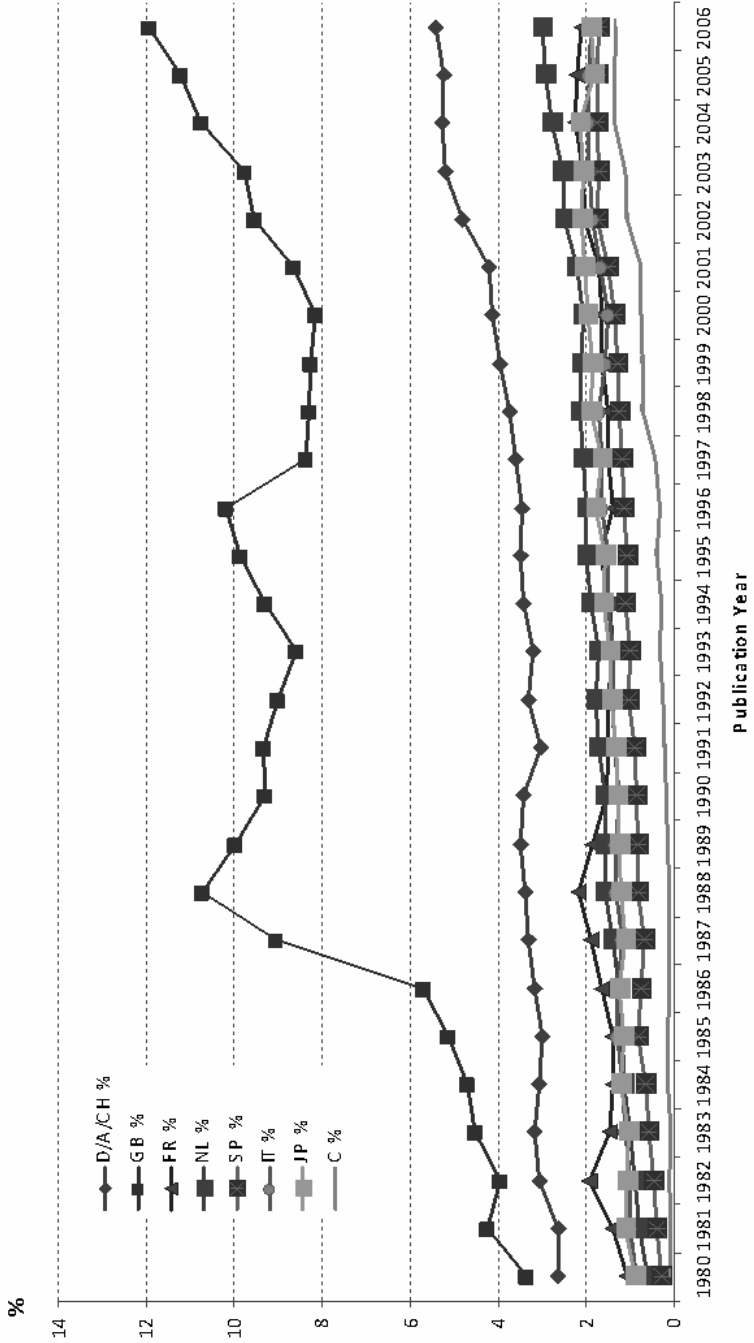
Excursus A: Authors' affiliation in PsycINFO-documents

This can be demonstrated – for example – by the results of bibliometric analyses concerning the documentation field “*author affiliation*” in PsycINFO computed in May, 2008. Figure 1 shows that – with a slight increase in the time period 1980 – 2006 pointing at the increasing efforts of non-Anglo-American psychologists to publish in Anglo-American journals – authors’ affiliations of psychological publications documented in PsycINFO refer only marginally to those from non-Anglo-American countries. In the publication year 2006, for example

- only slightly more than 5% of the documented publications stem from the Germany-speaking countries (Austria, Germany, Switzerland),
- 3% from the Netherlands,
- about 2% each from France, Spain, Italy and
- 1.5% from China.

Summed up, these are 15-16% of the psychology publications documented in PsycINFO for 2006 – all other nations are less, with the exception of authors’ affiliations in the Anglo-American countries (i.e., United States of American, Great Britain, part of Canada, Australia and New Zealand). Thus, about 85% of the authors’ affiliations in PsycINFO refer to these countries. Even if the extensive personal and economic resources of the Anglo-American countries are taken into account, these data show that Anglo-American psychology is markedly overrepresented in PsycINFO at the costs of “the rest of the world”. Overrepresentation and dominance of Anglo-American psychology in the “Web of Science” is even much more and biases the reality of psychological research and publications strongly – this in the times of increasing “globalization” in nearly all life domains, which is used by APA as well as by Thomson Scientific in their marketing strategies and advertisements as being “international” scientific databases.

Figure 1: Proportions of national authors' affiliations in PsycINFO-documents for the time period 1980 – 2006 for various countries (excluding the United States of American, Canada, Australia and New Zealand).



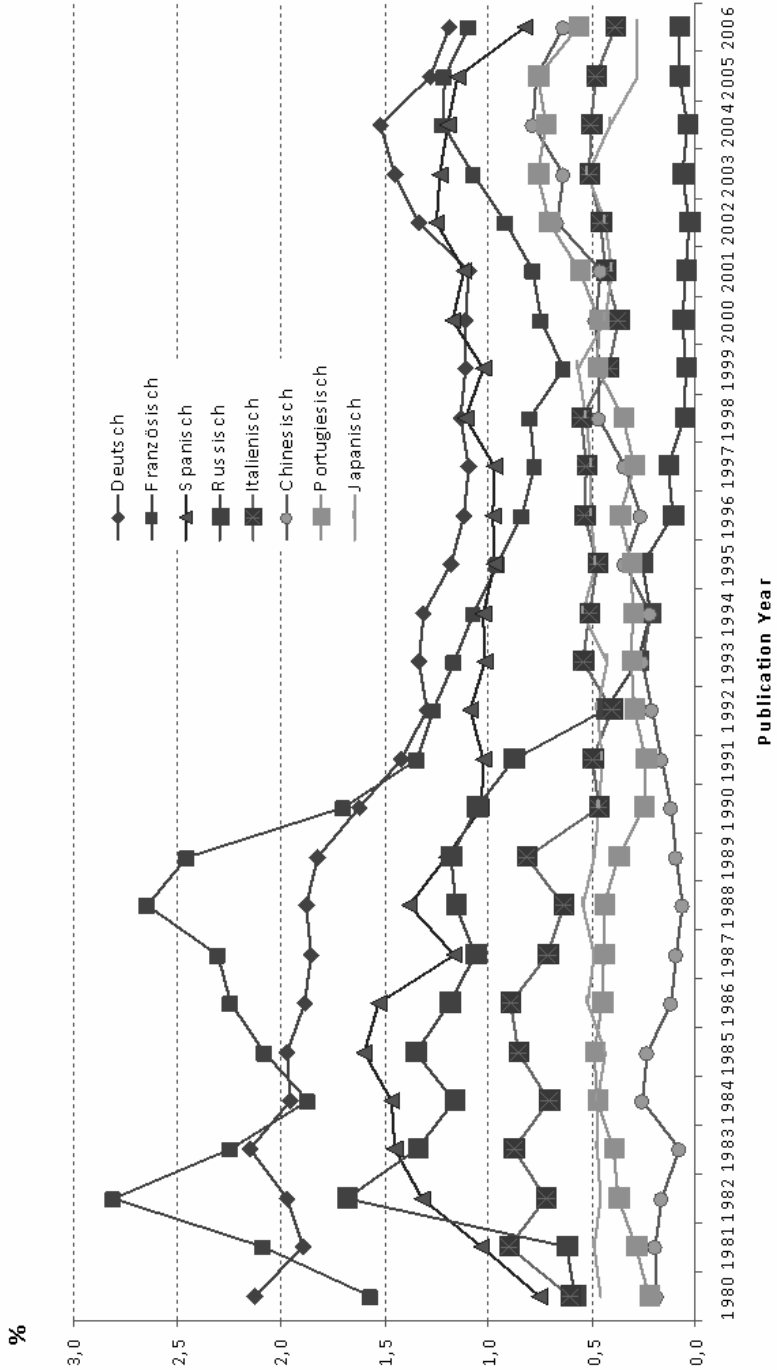
Excursus B: Publication languages of PsycINFO-documents

The last hypothesis is empirically substantiated by a bibliometric analysis of PsycINFO referring to the documentation field “*publication language*”, again computed in May, 2008. Although the APA increased its efforts to include psychological journal-publications in other than the English language since the late 90’s, the relative proportion of other publication languages documented in PsycINFO decreased markedly between 1980 and 2006 (see Figure 2): In the publication year 2006

- only 1.2% of the PsycINFO-documentations refer to publications in German,
- 1.1% in French,
- 0.7% in Spanish,
- 0.6% in Chinese,
- 0.5% in Portuguese,
- 0.4% in Italian,
- 0.3% in Japanese,
- 0.1% in Russian, and
- all other languages of the world are less than 1%.

Summed up, less than 5% of PsycINFO-documentations refer to non-English publication languages. The huge majority of 95% is published in English (or – more exactly – in an Anglo-American science idiom). In addition, it should be noted that – if at all – only other-language journal-publications are documented in PsycINFO, other than Anglo-American language publications of books, editions, tests, manuals, theses etc. are not at all included in PsycINFO. It is nearly unnecessary to say that this Anglo-American bias is even stronger in the “Web of Science”.

Figure 2: Proportions of languages other than English PscINFO-documents referring to (1980 – 2006).



2.3 Consequences for Psychology Publications in a European Perspective

All of these problems (and some not being mentioned here) show that other languages than English and – moreover – psychological research results from other than Anglo-American countries are strongly underrepresented in the US-American data bases and the Web. This is also true for the European countries, of course with the exception of Great Britain (see Figure 1). Thus, European psychology is not or only in some selected parts, visible to the world in a reduced manner, i.e., to scientists in other parts of the world including the Anglo-American.

Optimization of European Psychology's International Visibility

Europe's interest must be to increase the scientific visibility of its research output – this not only for its own sake or for evaluation objectives, but also for the demonstration of its impacts on recent, contemporary and future science development in theory construction, methodology, and empirical innovations. This can be done as well by the increase of English publications from the European countries as by publications of research results in other European languages (at least in the above named nation-specific topics and some methodologies). The objective of such a transnational European project must refer to the optimization of the international visibility of its research outputs. European efforts will only be successful, if it is founded on intensive cooperation between scientists from European countries.

Complementation and Enlargement of US-American Psychological Databases

This European project should explicitly not be a competitive project with the objective to overcome the recent Anglo-American dominance in the science of psychology by setting something like Eurocentrism against Anglo-Americanism. Rather, this project should aim at the complementation and enlargement of the international very visible (too visible?) “Anglo-American world of psychology” making the world of psychology and its publication outputs more realistic, somewhat more true “international” and – perhaps – somewhat more diversified and colorful.

3 The Vision – What direction to take?

We have some ideas on a European Psychology Publication Platform (EPPP), which are widely open for suggestions and changes as well for participation. Of course, such a European project can only succeed in intensive transnational cooperation between scientists and scientific organizations from the European countries.

3.1 A European Psychology Database in Direct Analogy to the Anglo-Americans?

At first glance, the idea suggests itself to develop and to produce a European database similar to those in the United States of America, i.e., PsycINFO or Web of Science. However, this would not only need much personnel and economic resources and would also take a lot of time until its presentation in the World Wide Web. During this developmental times, technology makes continuous progress, and we would be in danger of rushing and hurrying for days, weeks, months, and years. In addition, there could be the danger that we produce only a surrogate of the Anglo-American databases without innovations.

To make matters worse, we have to realize that there are only a few national projects dealing with these issues (e.g., in Spain, France, the Netherlands and for the German-speaking countries), which – however – should be linked quickly (and have been recently – at least partly – linked in fact). European reality – not only on that topic – shows a great diversity including many differences in science publication strategies, procedures, databases and so on. Along the way to something like an innovative European psychology database it might be wiser to start at a lower level, from which – step by step – higher levels can be reached in the case of success at the lower ones. Advantages of such a procedure refer not only to the fewer personnel and economic resources needed at the start, but also to the possibilities to start the project very soon under consideration of the very different developmental status and prospects of psychology publication issues between European countries. Mid-term and long-term results could be an innovative European psychology publication database fit for the future of our science.

3.2 A First, perhaps a Better, Significant Step: Vision of a European Psychology Publication Platform (EPPP)

In our vision, EPPP aims at the development of a path-breaking multilingual and peer-reviewed European Psychology Publication Platform, capturing the advantages of highly successful Anglo-American natural science journals (e.g., Science and Nature). It adopts an open source approach to publication of scientific psychological papers of any length, viewing research as a cooperative enterprise between scientific authors, editors, peer reviewers, and readers. EPPP might have the following advantages

- *EPPP should be peer-reviewed:* Without exception, only peer-reviewed papers and materials are included, guaranteeing high scientific standards and quality, as well as permitting much more information security, reliability, and seriousness than in the case of not peer-reviewed open access repositories and commercial public-oriented search engines.
- *EPPP should be free:* It should be without cost to both authors and readers, to deal with the demands for Open Access, because research is a public good.
- *EPPP should be European:* It should become the direct source of information about both applied and research psychology throughout Europe, increasing the integration of psychological research and application in Europe, as well as the international visibility and impact of European research.
- *EPPP should be multilingual:* It should reflect the multilingual reality of research and application in the European countries, integrating the advantages of the reflexion of national and cultural specializations, as well as the advantages of increasing global visibility by *general English metadata for all publications* (i.e., English titles, abstracts, uncontrolled terms, as well as minor and major descriptor terms with reference to the Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms).
- *EPPP should be economical:* Its publication-process should be simple and efficient, including peer-reviewing and evaluation indices for papers.
- *EPPP should be quick:* As it uses electronic peer review processes, publication lags could be radically reduced to a minimum.
- *EPPP should be widely disseminated internationally:* In addition to Open Access for anyone, papers could be electronically sent to all interested (e.g., registered) individual

readers, libraries, and other institutions, permitting a far wider and target-group specific readership than in the case of traditional journals and publications.

- *EPPP should be democratic*: The quality of a paper could be decided not just by the editors and reviewers, but also by the entire scientific community of the registered readers, increasing international scientific communication and discussion.
- *EPPP should not be anonymous*: With the exception of anonymous peer reviewers, all commentators (registered readers only) and authors should give their personal identification including academic status and affiliation. Peer reviewers can (but must not) disclose their anonymity.
- *EPPP should be convenient*: Articles could be linked to related material, e.g., data sets, mathematic derivations, software, related publications, references, full-texts, tests and data gathering methods used in the article and offered by authors, reviewers, or registered readers.
- *EPPP should be up-to-date*: Authors can upload further remarks, additions, errata, and revised versions of their publications, either in response to scientific peer feedback or in their own initiative.
- *EPPP should give citation advice*: Each paper, review and comment should be attended by a citation download including copyright and license agreements (e.g., under the “Creative Commons License – Attribution-Non-Commercial 2.0 Germany”), which permits unrestricted non-commercial use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original authorship and source are credited.
- *EPPP should be exhaustive*: All types of scientific publications could be represented, including traditional journal articles (but without restricted manuscript length), manuscripts of any length, psychological tests, e-learning and multimedia publications, etc. as well as dissertation thesis and master thesis (perhaps including their academic reports and marks being used as peer-review equivalents).
- *EPPP should not be commercial*: Public funding and strong cooperation with (non-commercial) scientific associations should guarantee seriousness and bias-free scientific information.
- *EPPP should be transparent*: All authors, reviewers, and commentators (registered readers) should disclose their funding and competing interests or confirm that there are none respectively.
- *EPPP should be lasting*: Public and/or scientific associations’ funding should guarantee lasting repositories, continuously up-dating electronic archiving media.

3.2.1 The Practice – Implementation of EPPP

Objectives and Scope of EPPP

Thus, the *European Psychology Publication Platform* (EPPP) could be a new type of academic publication forum, including the advantages of traditional scientific publications and the advantages of the Worldwide Web. By involving the large European psychological research community in an innovative and quick peer review process, EPPP aims to provide fast access to top-quality papers including both applied and research psychology throughout Europe.

Modern information and communication technologies should be used to find for every research issue the best virtual team out of a network of highly motivated researchers from Europe. Thus, scientific publishing is seen as a cooperative enterprise between authors, editors, reviewers, and registered readers. EPPP should offer Open Access to everyone all over the world and should take the form of an extended e-journal, i.e., submissions, peer review processes, publications, and evaluations are all electronic.

EPPP could become the multilingual voice of psychology in Europe, providing reviews of special fields and original papers from any subfield of psychology as well as overviews, psychological tests, e-learning and multimedia materials, dissertation theses, master theses, etc. Thus, EPPP should accept any kind of contribution, dependent only on its quality. Therewith, EPPP could provide a European perspective on many dimensions of new work done in psychology, making European psychology globally visible. It promotes scientific and professional cooperation among European psychologists and their interdisciplinary research partners. At least, perhaps one author of each publication should be affiliated with a European country. European residents outside Europe and non-European researchers with residence in a European country should be accepted as authors as well.

Principles of EPPP

- *Open Access:* Following the principle that knowledge is a public good, all readers should have open access to reading papers and downloading their metadata. At the beginning, all readers should also have open access to downloading full-text papers. Later on, perhaps readers should pay some small fee for downloading to help offset costs, e.g., 1.00 Euro per full text paper downloading. The simple and free access ensures maximum readership and maximum potential high citation records for published papers.
- *Peer Review and Open Assessment:* All papers should be peer-reviewed by experts who are native speakers of the publication language. Active researchers from all over the world and registered EPPP-readers are involved in the evaluation process before and after publication. Within a three-stage publication process submitted versions could be (1) at first accepted or not accepted as a *EPPP discussion paper*, evaluated by at least two reviewers and the Registered Readers and (2) secondly after publication of the final version (*EPPP original paper*), evaluated by all readers giving comments and ratings of the papers in EPPP. Authors are free to respond to all comments and to upload errata, additional information and revised versions at any time.
- *Dissertation Thesis and Master Thesis:* Because high level academic theses are of special interest for research, full-text dissertation and master thesis from European countries could be published in EPPP as well. After written agreement to publish in EPPP by the university teachers, having supervised the thesis, these agreements should be accepted as peer-review equivalents.
- *Speed:* One of the most powerful advantages of electronic publishing, the reduction of the publication time lag, can be achieved by a high speed evaluation process. Submitted papers that have been identified as sufficiently promising for an evaluation process by the managing editors (check for formal, professional and scientific standards) are made available as discussion papers on EPPP's homepage within three weeks. Thus, time for new ideas and results to find their way to the scientific community (registered readers) is substantially reduced. Evaluation time in the second stage is limited to a maximum of eight weeks, resulting in an editor's decision on publication within a maximum of three months.

- *Add-on Services*: To promote scientific exchange, EPPP can provide links to related material, e.g., data sets, mathematical derivations, software, related publications, tests and data gathering methods used in the article and offered by authors, reviewers, or registered readers. As far as possible, EPPP also can provide hyperlinks to the referenced literature (full-texts). In addition, EPPP embeds forums on special themes, where authors and readers can communicate, exchange materials, and possibly conduct joint research. Registered readers can take advantage of alert services announcing new papers in their fields of research.

Submission Procedure and Guidelines for Authors

Manuscripts should be submitted electronically as a single PDF file without any fees. Instructions on how to convert documents into PDF format and editorial support should be given.

General guidelines for authors could refer to

1. the original character of the submitted paper (not having been published previously or submitted for publication elsewhere),
2. the essential contribution of all authors to the paper and their agreement with its form and contents,
3. holding the copyrights to their papers, including text, figures, tables, and related materials,
4. the necessity of written statements from holder(s) of the copyright indicating they have obtained permission to publish material from other sources in EPPP,
5. granting EPPP the right to store the article in its databases for an unlimited period of time and to distribute and reproduce the articles electronically,
6. the authors' retaining all remaining exploitation rights to their manuscript, subjected to the condition that any further use of the article will make reference to its original publication in EPPP ("originally published in European Psychology Publication Platform, EPPP, <bibliographic data>"),
7. the conception, that papers may be of any length but should be self-contained and not redundant. Further, they should provide new ideas, new findings or deal with new methods,
8. the addition of related materials (such as data sets, tests, software, research methods, etc.) which should be submitted together with the manuscript,
9. the disclosure of funding (or written confirmation of none),
10. the disclosure of competing interests (or written confirmation of none),
11. the necessity that authors are asked to register as Registered Readers of EPPP in order to be able to respond to comments of their paper submitted to the discussion platform,
12. the strategy that – after the discussion platform is closed – authors are free to upload errata, additional material or revised versions of their paper after information of the Editorial Office,
13. *Author's Contract* summarizing most guidelines stated above and agreement to publication (e.g., under a Creative Commons License entitled Attribution-NonCommercial 2.0 Germany).

Guidelines for manuscripts could refer to

1. electronic submission and editorial management supported by an electronic editorial system (by way of exception, papers can also be submitted via e-mail),
2. international accepted standards of guidelines for authors in psychology, following mainly the publication manual of the American Psychological Association (i.e., standards for manuscript structure, language, references, formulas, tables, figures etc.),
3. the requirement to provide mathematical and statistical derivations and underlying data sets (additional material) together with their papers to ensure that results are quickly comprehensible for readers,
4. the modus of publication in any European language guaranteeing native speaker peer reviewing,
5. the requirement to add English title, abstract, uncontrolled terms as well as major and minor descriptor terms (with reference to the Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms) for each paper written in any language.

Ideas on Review Process und Evaluation

The publication process should be simple, supplements the traditional peer review process substantially by a “public” scientific community evaluation, and is realized quickly within a three-stage process up to publication. In addition, a fourth stage refers to a market-based evaluation of published articles in the long run.

First Stage: Publication of the submitted papers as “EPPP discussion paper” (under evaluation) – less than three weeks

Authors upload their submissions with related material and the Associate Editors either accept the submissions for the *EPPP Discussion Paper Series*, or reject in less than three weeks:

1. The managing editors check for formal and professional standards and pass the paper to an associate editor (native speaker) in the relevant field of research.
2. The associate editor decides whether to accept the paper for the future peer review process by answering two questions:
 - a. Whether the paper meets basic scientific standards,
 - b. Whether it shows promise of making a significant contribution.

The associate editor is free to ask other experts in the field for a quick opinion.

3. If these questions are answered positively, the paper is published on the platform of the *EPPP Discussion Paper Series* which has open access for the peer reviewers and the registered readers only.

Second Stage: Peer Review of the submissions – eight weeks

The associate editor appoints at least two native speaker experts for reviewing the paper and uploads their comments on the discussion forum. Reviewers’ comments may be anonymous, but they are encouraged to allow their reports to be attributed.

Reviewers are asked to provide short reports focusing on two questions:

1. Whether the analyses are correct?
2. Whether the contribution of the paper is potentially significant?

Reviewers are asked NOT

1. to give summaries of the paper,
2. to rewrite the paper,
3. to change its focus, theoretical orientation or methodology.

Reviewers are expected to provide reports before the six week deadline elapses.

While the experts are reviewing the paper, the corresponding *discussion forum of the Registered Readers* is open for eight weeks. Registered EPPP-Readers may review the paper by uploading comments with their name, academic status and affiliation published on the web. The editorial board of EPPP reserves the right to delete unacceptable comments and exclude their commentators from the community of Registered Readers. During the discussion period, the editorial board is free to send the paper to potentially interested researchers to encourage them to post a comment in the discussion forum. Authors are free to respond to all comments at the discussion forum. The discussion forum is closed after eight weeks.

Third Stage: Publication of the final version in EPPP

Based on the peer reviews and comments made by the registered readers and experts, the associate editor decides whether the paper is accepted or rejected for publication in EPPP.

In the *case of acceptance*, the associate editor prepares a short statement, e.g., containing suggestions for revisions. The discussion paper or its revised version is published in EPPP under full Open Access. The EPPP discussion paper with all comments and reviews is permanently archived and remains accessible to the public for documenting the paper's history.

In the *case of non-acceptance*, the associate editor prepares a short statement for the authors, summarizing the reasons for non-acceptance. The EPPP discussion paper with all comments and reviews are deleted from the EPPP discussion forum.

Fourth Stage: Lasting market-based evaluation of published articles

All readers (not only the Registered Readers) are asked to rate articles in EPPP on a scale from one to seven (7 = excellent) after reading. These ratings are anonymous to the public but with the name of the contributor forwarded to the managing staff of EPPP in order to exclude multiple voting).

All readers are free to upload comments with their name, academic status and affiliation published on the web. The editorial board of EPPP reserves the right to delete unacceptable comments and to exclude their commentators from the community of commentators. Authors are free to respond to all comments. Authors are free to upload errata, additional information and material as well as revised versions at any time after information of the editorial office of EPPP. Statistics on readers' ratings, downloads and citations are collected to compile rankings of papers in the various fields of psychology published in EPPP. Statistical results determine whether articles enter the one-star (*), two-star (**), or three-star (***) ranking published and continuously updated in EPPP.

3.2.2 Advisory and Editorial Board

Members of the Advisory and Editorial Board should be scientists from all European countries covering scientific expertise in all fields of psychology as well as all relevant European languages. Recruitment could be realized by strong cooperation with the *European Federation of Psychologists' Associations (EFPA)*, other European Psychological Associations (i.e., European Association of Experimental Social Psychology, European Association of Personality Psychology, European Association of Psychological Assessment, European Association of Work and Organizational Psychology, European Brain & Behaviour Research, European Health Psychology Society, European Society for Developmental Psychology, Federation of European Psychophysiology Societies) and national Psychological Associations as well as by personal cooperation with scientists in Europe and abroad.

4 Perspectives

If something like a European Psychology Publication Platform (EPPP) could be developed and produced in intensive transnational European cooperation, an innovative foundation for the optimization of the international visibility of Europe's psychology output would be achieved. Starting very soon is possible. The way is widely open for ideas and innovations. At some time it may be a good thing – for example – to integrate traditional European and/or national psychological journals, proceedings, editions and/or book series (which – perhaps – are in economic needs having low publishers' interest) to EPPP as separate sub-publications. The same may become true for research methodologies, research materials, psychological tests, treatment manuals etc.

The way to EPPP and its specifications may not only be a long one, but – due to technological as well as scientific progress – will be a never ending one. However, someone, in fact many psychologists, have to start. I hope, this workshop will succeed, becoming the first milestone of such a transnational European Project for the sake of the science of psychology and its applications.

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