The *Glossa* experience

Open Science Week 2023
19 October
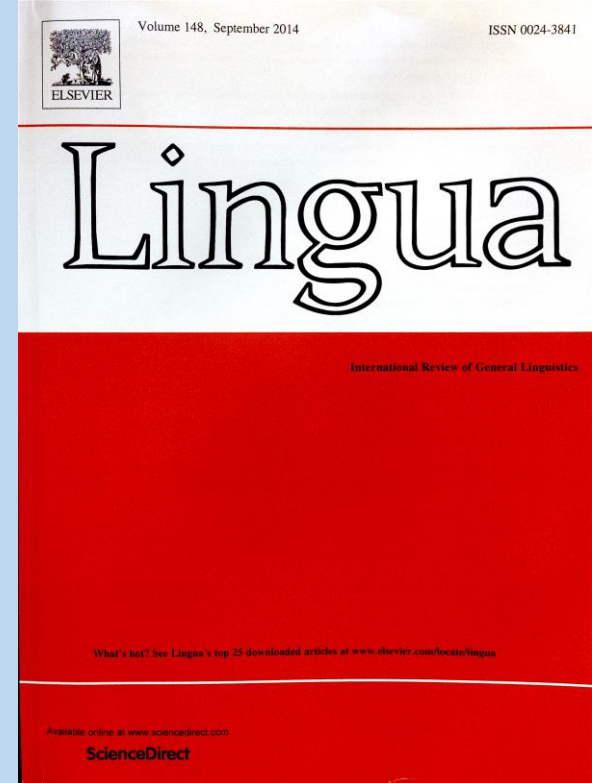
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1. From *Lingua* to *Glossa*

Before the flip

- ❖ *Lingua*: Executive Editor from 1999–2015

- ❖ Founded in 1949 by Albert Willem de Groot (1892-1963) and Anton Reichling (1898-1986), two Dutch linguists

- ❖ Originally published by North Holland, acquired by Elsevier in the 1980s

- ❖ Until 2001, royalties were paid for the journal

- ❖ From 2010, increased interference by Elsevier

- ❖ 2012: The cost of knowledge & the Elsevier boycott

1. From *Lingua* to *Glossa*

Preparing the flip
LingOA was founded, conditions of Fair Open Access:

- ❖ *"The journal has a transparent ownership structure, and is controlled by and responsive to the scholarly community.*

- ❖ *Authors retain copyright. All articles are published open access and an explicit open access licence is used.*

- ❖ *Submission and publication is not conditional on the payment of a fee from the author or their employing institution, or on membership of an institution or society.*

- ❖ *Any fees paid on behalf of the journal to publishers are low, transparent, and in proportion to the work carried out."*

1. From *Lingua* to *Glossa*

From subscription to Open Access

❖ 2015: 4 linguistics journals flipped to Diamond Open Access

1. From *Lingua* to *Glossa*

From subscription to Open Access

❖ Financial support for 5 years by the *Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research* (NWO) and the *Association of Dutch Universities* (VSNU).

❖ Radboud University Library provided a journal manager for the 4 journals for 5 years.

❖ Long-term support provided by the Open Library of Humanities (OLH).

❖ 2020: all journals are well established.

❖ the *Lingua* community was successfully moved to *Glossa,* publishing ±120 articles/ year.

1. From *Lingua* to *Glossa*

A *Glossa* family of journals

❖ 2020: *Glossa Psycholinguistics* (eScholarship, CDL)
❖ 2023: *Glossa Contact* (LIC, NKUA, Athens)
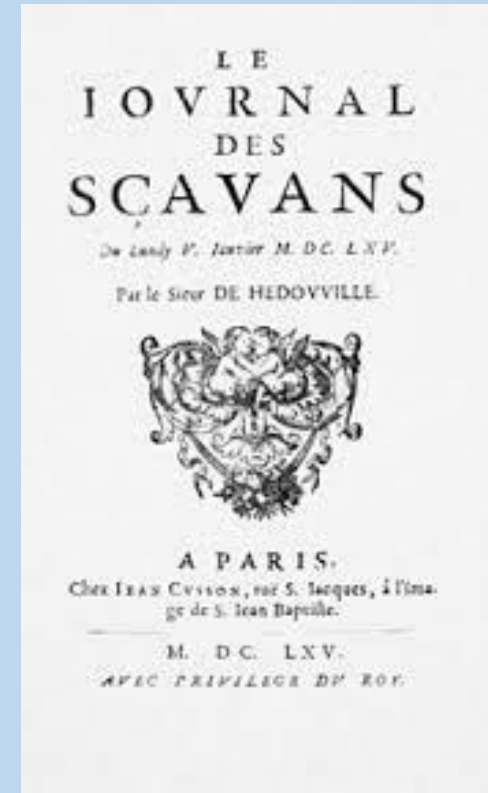
1. From *Lingua* to *Glossa*

Lessons learnt

❖ We founded MathOA and FOAA, and flipped *Journal of Algebraic Combinatorics* (Springer) to *Algebraic Combinatorics* (Mersenne) in 2017. Then the *Journal of Informetrics* to *Quantitative Science Studies* in 2019.

❖ But flipping a journal is hard:
  - ❖ it demands persistence
  - ❖ everyone on the editorial Board must agree…
  - ❖ financial and reputational uncertainty

❖ Existing prestige indicators work against flipped journals:
  - ❖ they evaluate the past 3-5 years
  - ❖ they do not evaluate content or mission statement

2. What is a journal?

Definition

Wikipedia:

"An academic or scholarly journal is a periodical publication in which scholarship relating to a particular academic discipline is published. Academic journals serve as permanent and transparent forums for the presentation, scrutiny, and discussion of research. They are usually peer-reviewed or refereed. Content typically takes the form of articles presenting original research, review articles, and book reviews."

2. What is a journal?

Definition

A scholarly journal first and foremost represents a **community:**

- ❖ Authors
- ❖ Readers
- ❖ Editors
- ❖ Reviewers
- ❖ Editorial Board members

Montgomery & Neylon 2019: "The value of a journal is the community it creates, not the papers it publishes"
https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences/2019/03/29/the-value-of-a-journal-is-the-community-it-creates-not-the-papers-it-publishes/

2. What is a journal?

Definition

A community of scholarly discussion…

- ❖ that critically examines and validates scholarly results

- ❖ that enables authors to improve their results independently of the editorial decision

- ❖ that adopts the principle of implicit reciprocity between authors and reviewers:
  You review so that your work will be reviewed in turn

- ❖ whose editors have the confidence of the community

- ❖ with transparent procedures for selection and for handling disagreements between authors and reviewers.

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2. What is a journal?

Definition

A journal is not – or should not be –

❖ a simple vehicle of scholarly communication

❖ a legally defined object with a title that is
   the property of a publisher

❖ a tribunal that possesses and confers prestige

❖ A largely arbitrary selection machine
   (with e.g. 90% rejection rates...)

❖ A money machine…

2. What is a journal?

Definition

Functions of a scholarly journal:

❖ allow everyone to participate in the scholarly discussion without financial barriers.

❖ check and validate the quality of scholarly results by members of the community.

❖ register and date these results for the community

❖ ensure the visibility, accessibility, and long-term preservation of scholarly results for the community

❖ allow for authors to receive recognition within the community for their results

2. What is a journal?

Organisation – Ownership

If a journal is first and foremost a community, then its title should be in the hand of that community in a transparent and democratic way.

cf. *Fair Open Access Principles*
https://www.fairopenaccess.org

- ❖ a scholarly society,
- ❖ a not-for-profit organisation.
- ❖ an informal organization

2. What is a journal?

Organization – Ownership

The foundation *Linguistics in Open Access* (LingOA), a nonprofit foundation ('Stichting') under Dutch law, is the **legal owner** of the (protected) title *Glossa*.

LingOA has granted its General Assembly (Editorial Team and Board) **beneficial ownership** of the more specific associated title *Glossa: a journal of general linguistics.*

This joint or divided ownership makes it virtually impossible for the journal to be sold…

https://www.glossa-journal.org/site/governance/

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2. What is a journal?
Organization – Services

❖ Responsibilities, procedures for selection of the editorial team and board and its renewal are explicitly formulated in the journal's **Constitution**.

❖ The Editorial Board signs contracts with publishers for delivering publication services.

❖ Publishers cannot interfere with the scientific responsibilities of the journal or the composition of the editorial board.

❖ Contracts and prices should be transparent, open, and renewable.

3. Take home messages

❖ **Community:** a journal is the meeting place for a community. Communities can move to a different place/ journal title.

❖ **Equity:** journals should be accessible to both authors and readers without financial barriers

❖ **Content vs service:** All content-related elements should be controlled by the academic community. Technical services by publishing service providers can be paid for.

❖ **Infrastructure:** we need coordinated national and European infrastructures for Diamond OA journals. This will allow more journals to flip to Diamond.