

## ROAD – Activity report 2017

As of 31 December 2017, ROAD has crossed a threshold with **24,060** registered publications, showing a global increase of **6,710** new publications compared to December 2016. The number of scholarly open access publications in the ISSN database has tripled since the ROAD website was opened in December 2013 (see Fig. 1 below).

Among the five types of resources referenced in ROAD, journals are mostly represented. The breakdown in types of publications demonstrates a clear evolution in favour of scholarly blogs. Indeed, this type of resource has risen tremendously from 85 in 2015 to 1332 in 2017. This is due to the ISSN assignment policy in favour of the OpenEdition scholarly blogs (see Fig. 2,3 and 4 below).

The breakdown by academic disciplines and types of resources shows that all fields of knowledge are covered, with a strong prominence in social sciences and STM (sciences, technology and medicine). This trend has not curbed since 2014 (see Fig. 5 below).

The top 10 contributing countries have changed since 2014 with a strong development of French OA publications, and with the emergence of Iran and Indonesia. Moreover, a diversification of languages of the publications can be observed (see Fig. 6 below).

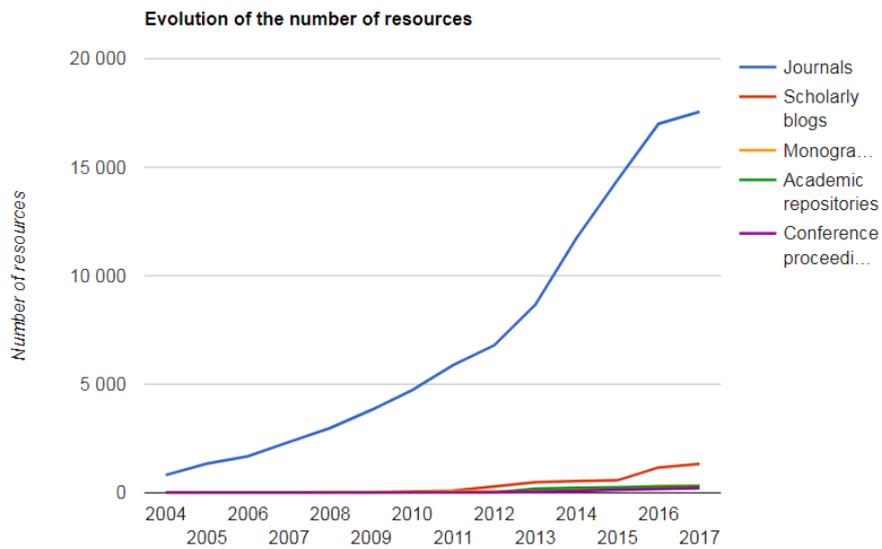
Open access resources only represent 1% of the ISSN Register. As a matter of fact, numerous online continuing resources remain unidentified by an ISSN, notably in Africa, in Arab States and in a certain way in Latin America. This lack of identification for online resources can be observed as well on regional open access platforms like AJOL for the African continent, and Scielo and Latindex for Latin America.

Therefore, the participation of all ISSN National Centres is crucial to develop the coverage of the ISSN database. ISSN National Centres should widen the scope of their ISSN assignments to online resources, and notably to open access scholarly resources. This is a way of developing the ISSN database in terms of geographic and thematic coverage, as well in terms of types of identified resources. It is a good opportunity to highlight the work accomplished by the ISSN Network, which is the first link in the information chain. In order to promote this participation, a workshop dedicated to ROAD was organized during the ISSN Directors' Meeting in Rabat. Besides, ROAD was presented in the framework of the training sessions organized by the ISSN International Centre in 2017.

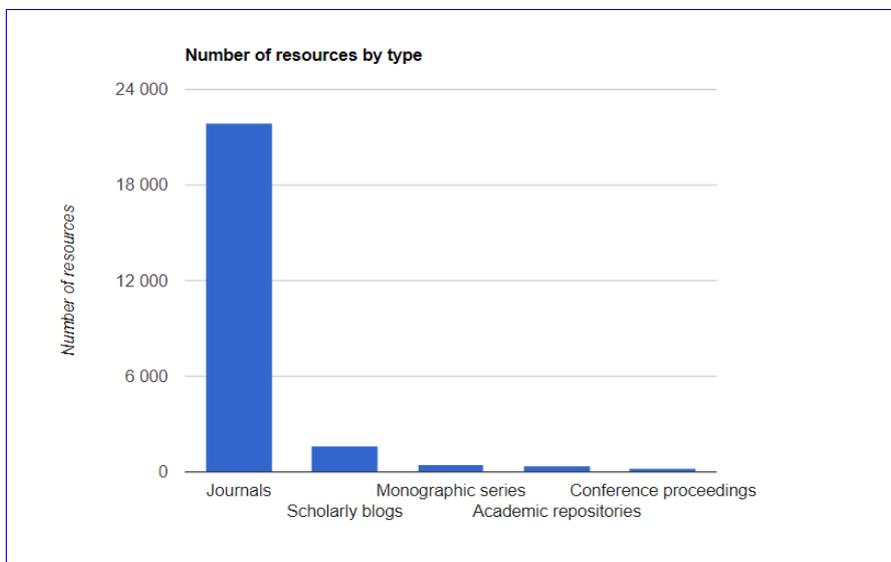
## Statistics

### Statistics about ROAD (as of January 2018)

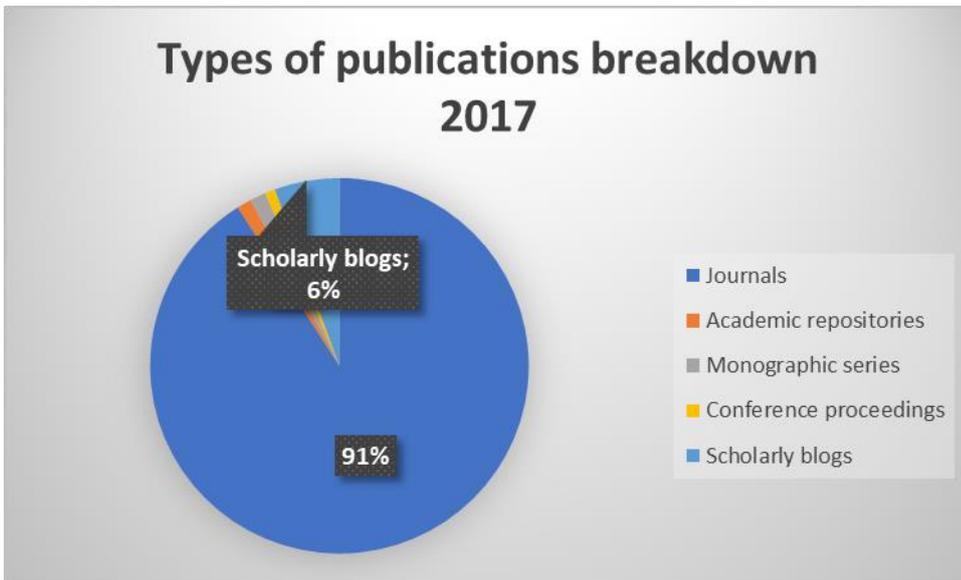
**Fig. 1 – Evolution of the number of OA resources recorded in the ISSN Register and in ROAD (2004-2017)**



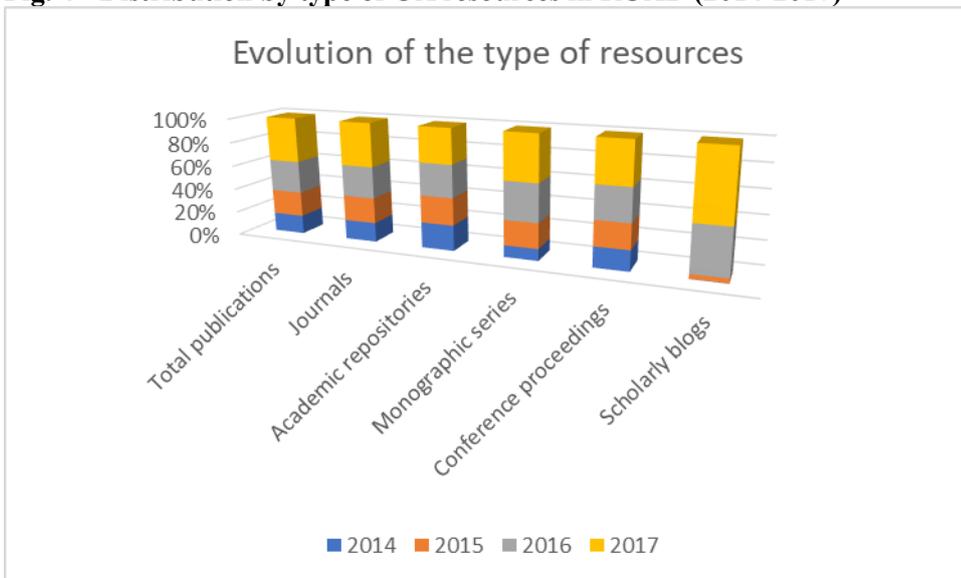
**Fig. 2** Number of OA resources in ROAD by type



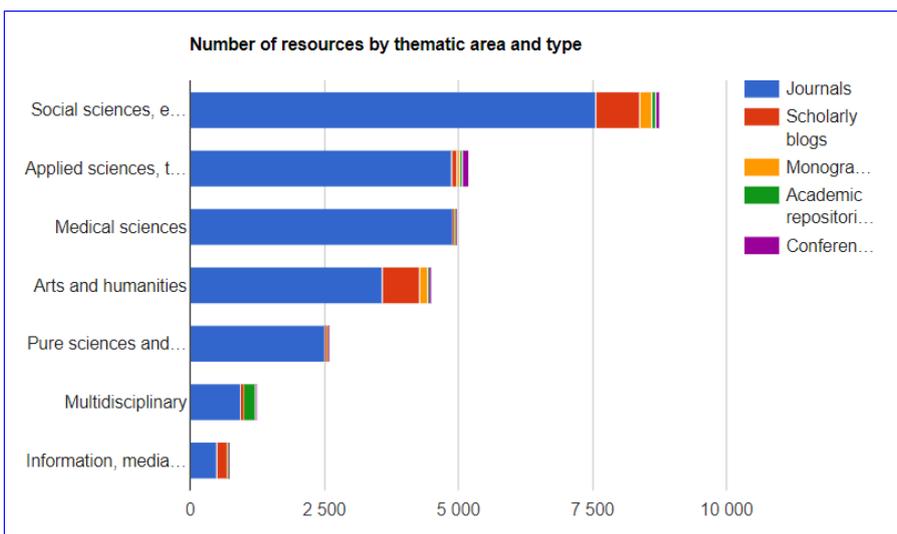
**Fig. 3 – Breakdown by type of publications**



**Fig. 4 - Distribution by type of OA resources in ROAD (2014-2017)**



**Fig. 5 – Number of OA resources by subject and type**



**Fig. 6 - Top 10 ISSN National Centres contributing to ROAD**

<i>France</i>	2,296
<i>India</i>	2,154
<i>Indonesia</i>	1,627
<i>Brazil</i>	1,183
<i>Iran</i>	1,164
<i>United States</i>	1,122
<i>United Kingdom</i>	1,088
<i>Poland</i>	976
<i>Spain</i>	774
<i>Turkey</i>	764