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Why should a science journal be published in English?

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Introduction

- English is the modern day *lingua franca* (trade language) of science.
- It is easier to express scientific ideas and results in English than in Asian languages, mainly because modern science was invented and developed in Europe and North America.
- Non-English-language papers have a much smaller audience, therefore their chances of getting cited are minimal.
- When published in English, scientific findings are accessible to a much wider worldwide audience.
- Only journals published in English can fully exploit modern technological advances in information technology, such as electronic journal databases, XML and CrossCheck among many others.

Comparison of Impact Factors between English-language and non-English-language journals

- Impact Factor (Thomson Reuters, Journal Citation Reports): Number of citations appearing in publications in a given year to articles published in a given journal in the previous two years, divided by the number of citable articles published in those two years
- It is very difficult for non-English-language journals to be included in the JCR.
- Non-English-language journals in the JCR have substantially lower Impact Factors than English-language journals.

Example (medicine, general & internal)

- S. Vinther, J. Rosenberg, "Impact factor trends for general medical journals: non-English-language journals are lagging behind," Swiss Medical Weekly 2012;142:w13572

Table 1a: Characteristics of journals (classification: language).

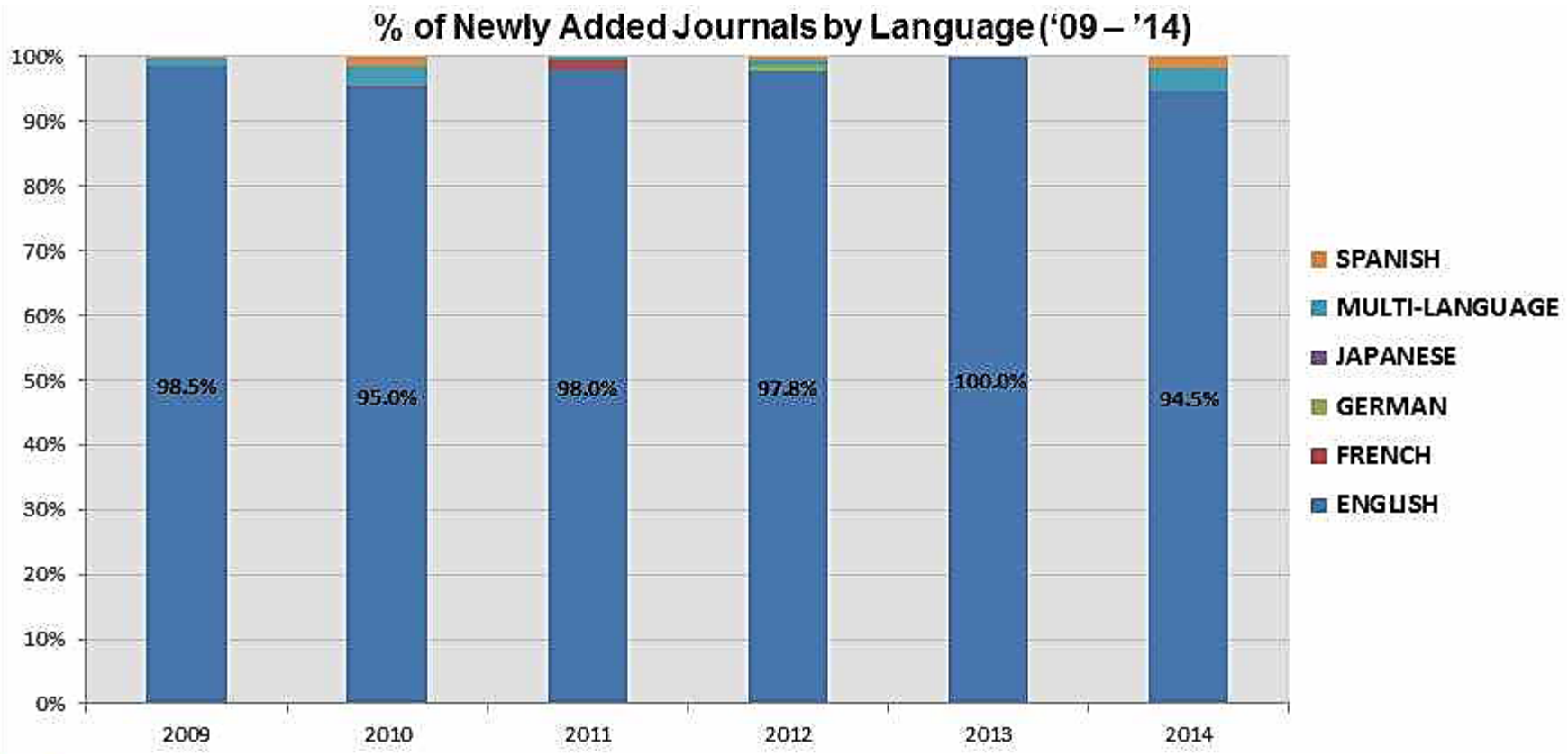
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
English-language journals										
No of journals	71	75	76	76	78	78	79	84	102	114
English:all journals	79.8%	80.6%	80.9%	80.9%	80.4%	80.4%	80.6%	80.0%	78.5%	76.0%
Median IF	0.78	0.92	1.02	1.22	1.25	1.34	1.55	1.72	1.49	1.45
25% quartile IF	0.46	0.57	0.58	0.65	0.66	0.75	0.86	1.00	0.83	0.73
75% quartile IF	2.07	1.98	1.95	2.18	2.49	2.55	2.72	2.76	2.44	2.53
Non-English-language journals										
No of journals	11	10	10	11	11	11	11	12	19	27
Non-English:all journals	12.4%	10.8%	10.6%	11.7%	11.3%	11.3%	11.2%	11.4%	14.6%	18.0%
Median IF	0.33	0.35	0.32	0.31	0.36	0.34	0.36	0.46	0.42	0.29
25% quartile IF	0.22	0.30	0.26	0.25	0.26	0.28	0.28	0.32	0.16	0.13
75% quartile IF	0.40	0.40	0.44	0.47	0.41	0.45	0.48	0.60	0.51	0.47
Multi-language journals										
No of journals	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	9	9	9
Multi:all journals	9.0%	8.6%	8.5%	8.5%	8.2%	8.2%	8.2%	8.6%	6.9%	6.0%
Median IF	0.36	0.36	0.37	0.38	0.76	0.67	0.74	1.16	1.19	0.70
25% quartile IF	0.31	0.28	0.34	0.31	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.56	0.51	0.52
75% quartile IF	0.60	0.58	0.55	0.78	1.08	1.09	1.18	1.28	1.23	1.40
Total no of journals	90	93	94	95	97	97	98	105	130	150

Median IF in 2010: 1.45 (English), 0.29 (non-English), 0.70 (Mixed)

Getting listed in scientific databases

- In order to grow as an international journal, it is essential to get listed in databases such as Web of Science, Scopus and PubMed.
- It is very difficult for non-English-language journals to be included in such databases.
- Web of Science: Thomson Reuters, SCI, SCIE, SSCI, A&HCI, 17,240 journals (2014. 2.)
- Scopus: Elsevier, 20,912 journals (2014. 2.)

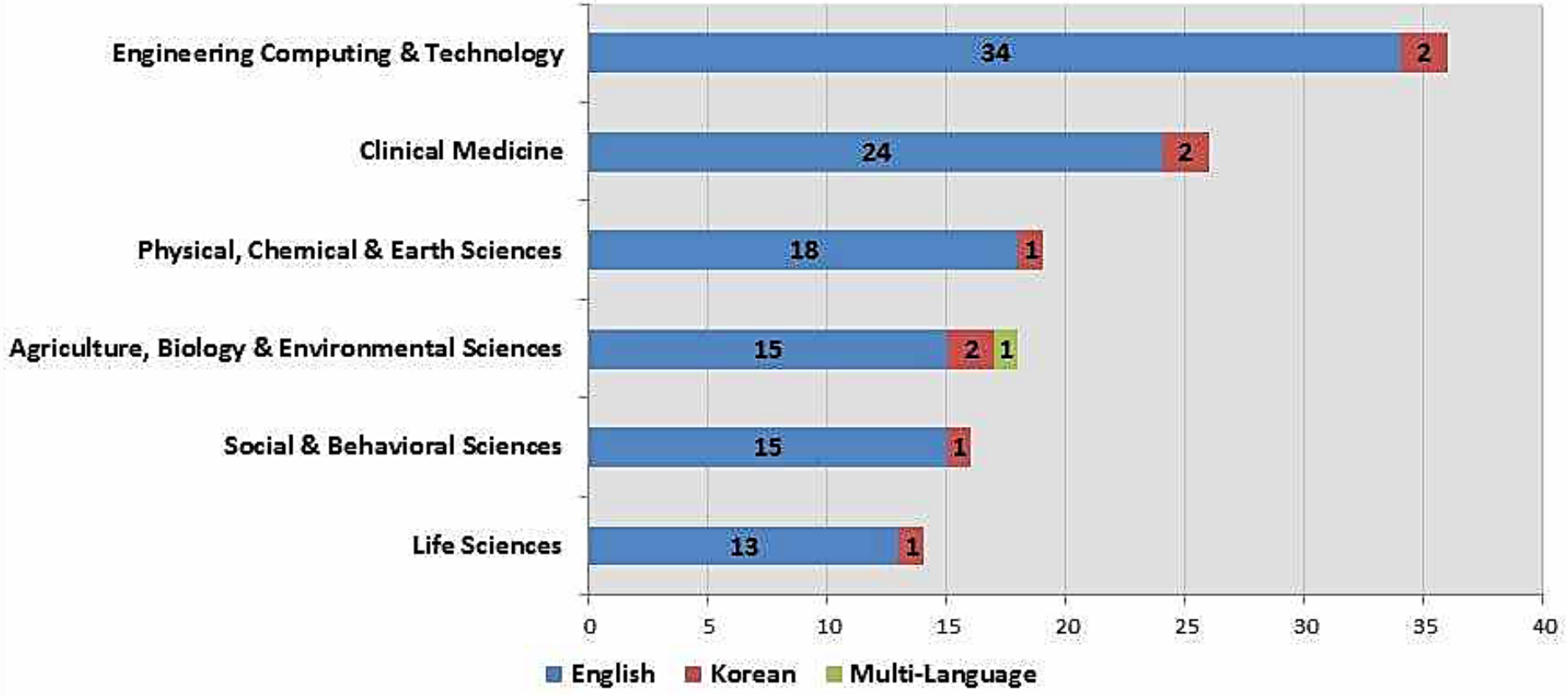
Example: Web of Science



- Almost all newly added journals are published in English.

Example

Journals published in Korea listed in Web of Science (2014)



Globalized editing and publishing

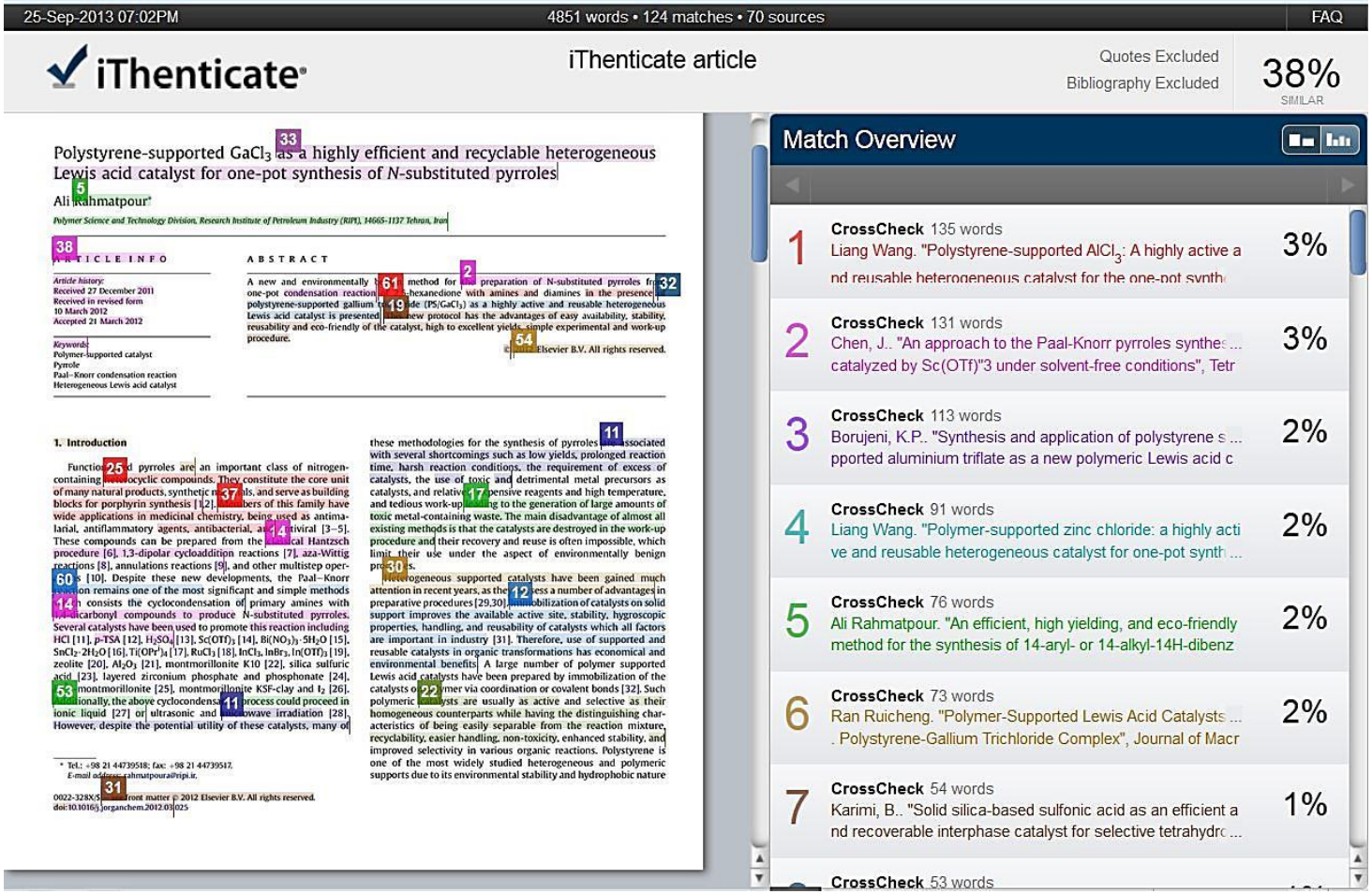
Advantages of publishing a science journal in English:

- It is possible to invite foreign scholars as editorial board members.
- Scholars all over the world are able to contribute their papers and read and cite them.
- The journal homepage can be produced through international companies.
- The detection of plagiarism using CrossCheck is much easier.
- It is much easier to produce JATS XML files through international companies. The cost ($1.5-3/page) is not high.
- It is easier to transform from JATS XML to CrossRef XML.
- Various other modern technological advances in information technology can be more easily adopted.

CrossCheck

- CrossRef: Association of scholarly publishers that develops shared infrastructure to support more effective scholarly communications.
- CrossRef services: Cited-by Linking, CrossCheck, CrossMark, CrossRef Metadata Services, CrossRef Text and Data Mining, FundRef
- CrossCheck compares submitted manuscripts against a very large database of published papers and web pages, and provides editors with a summary report that highlights the similarity to previously published work. The publisher can then follow up to isolate and review the high-scoring papers as necessary. Plagiarism detection systems are only as effective as the amount and quality of the source content within them. CrossCheck's significant advantage over all other similar services is that it includes the indexed, full-text content of participating CrossCheck member publishers.

Plagiarism detection using CrossCheck



Summary

- In order to develop a local science journal into an international journal with high impact, it is essential to publish it in English.
- When published in English, papers can be read and cited by more people in the world.
- The editorial board can be made multinational and foreign authors can contribute.
- Plagiarism can be more easily found by using CrossCheck.
- Modern technological advances can be more easily adopted.