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MEASURING OPEN ACCESS TO SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS: TAKING ACCOUNT OF NATIONAL AND INSTITUTIONAL DISCIPLINARY PROFILES



> [Download the study \(pdf\)](#)

In its study, “Mesurer le taux d'accès ouvert des publications scientifiques : le cas de la France” (Measuring the share of open access scientific publications: The case of France), published today, the Science and Technology Observatory (OST) proposes a normalised open-access indicator to take account of disciplinary biases and enable more reliable comparisons. This publication inaugurates the new *Points OST* (OST Reviews) collection launched by the Observatory.

In an international context in which open science is promoted by public policies, the measurement of developments in this field is examined by contributions that adopt different approaches, from monitoring national public policy objectives to comparing different countries and producing indicators at the institutional level.

The OST's analysis focuses on the comparability of different estimates produced for France, and more generally on methodological issues. Divided into four parts, it:

- analyses the methods for tracking open access (OA) publications according to the types of open access;
- compares estimates of the OA publication rate for France and identifies the methodological choices that influence the results obtained;
- presents a normalised indicator of open access to scientific publications per disciplinary speciality, enabling more reliable comparisons between institutions and countries;
- compares the raw open access rate and the normalised indicator for the top 20 countries that are the largest producers of publications, and for French institutions.

This study is the first volume of a new collection entitled *Points OST* (OST Reviews). Each issue will present an application of recent methodological developments, with a particular focus on providing a more detailed analysis of France's international positioning in the research and innovation sectors. The next issue is to be published in September 2020 and will focus on the constitution of thematic corpora based on a textual analysis method.

HCERES
The French High Council for Evaluation of Research and Higher Education (Hcéres) is the independent administrative body responsible for evaluating all institutions of higher education and research, as well as approving the evaluation procedures implemented by other organisations. Through its analyses, evaluations and recommendations, it guides, advises and supports efforts to improve the quality of higher education and research in France.

The OST department produces analyses and indicators that contribute to the strategic reflections of stakeholders in higher education, research and innovation, the evaluations carried out by Hcéres, and the evaluation of public policies.