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OASIS

Open Accessible Summaries In Language Studies

OASIS potential impact on journal article engagement

Report for journal editors and publishers

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About the OASIS database

There is a well-documented gap between research and practice in the language sciences. Academic publications often use jargon or technical terms, are typically hidden behind paywalls, and can be time-consuming to read. OASIS works with academic journals to systematically make research findings in the language sciences accessible to audiences outside academia. The open database is easily searchable and holds non-technical, one-page summaries. Each summary gives information about a study's goals, how it was conducted, and what was found.

OASIS now has approximately 1,500 summaries online and over 57,000 summaries have been downloaded since the initiative began in 2018. Each week, more summaries are added and distributed to those subscribed to OASIS alerts. The database has attracted users from 184 countries and around 50% of downloads are by language education practitioners. Currently, 17 international journals collaborate with OASIS, as well as several professional associations. Of these journals, 8 request and 4 require authors of accepted papers to write an accessible summary of their work, resulting in a steady stream of up-to-date content and a sustainable, author- and journal-driven workflow.

More information about the history and aims of OASIS is available in a recent article in *Innovation in Language Learning and Teaching*, or in an OASIS summary of the article.

Report overview

Over the last five years, the OASIS database has dramatically expanded, in terms of contributed summaries, downloads, translations, and collaborations. However, there remains great scope to increase the reach and visibility of this excellent resource. While accessibility for non-academic audiences remains a central priority, this report outlines the potential benefits for **engagement with the original journal articles** when authors write accompanying OASIS summaries.

A pilot study, conducted with a collaborating journal (*ReCALL*), offers preliminary evidence that articles with OASIS summaries have more downloads and citations than similar articles without summaries. For example, when looking at articles that were not open access, those with summaries were downloaded statistically significantly more than those without. The following sections provide more detail about these findings and the protocol developed to create a dataset of matched-pair articles.

These initial insights suggest potential benefits of OASIS summaries for academic, as well as non-academic, audiences. Further, these findings strengthen the motivation for journals within language-related fields to collaborate with OASIS and communicate the value of the initiative to their authors.

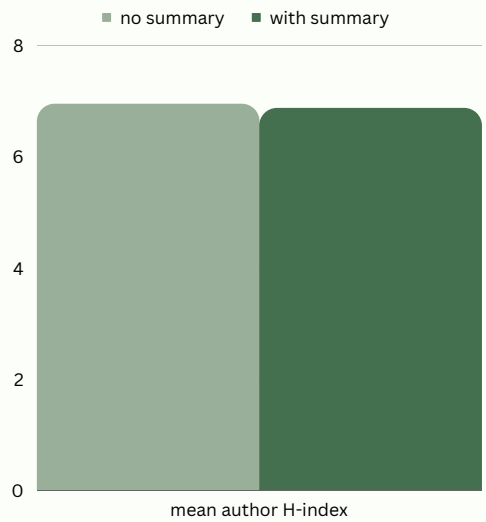
What this research was about and why it is important

Crucial to the sustainability of the OASIS database is the involvement of international, peer-reviewed journals in language-related fields. As mentioned, 17 journals currently collaborate with OASIS, varying in the extent to which they require, encourage, or invite their authors to contribute summaries of their research. This support ensures that high quality, cutting-edge research is accessible to the public, regardless of academic background or institutional access to journals. To develop this practice and extend our partnerships with new and existing journals, it is of interest to better understand the impact of OASIS summaries on engagement with the original research published in collaborating journals.

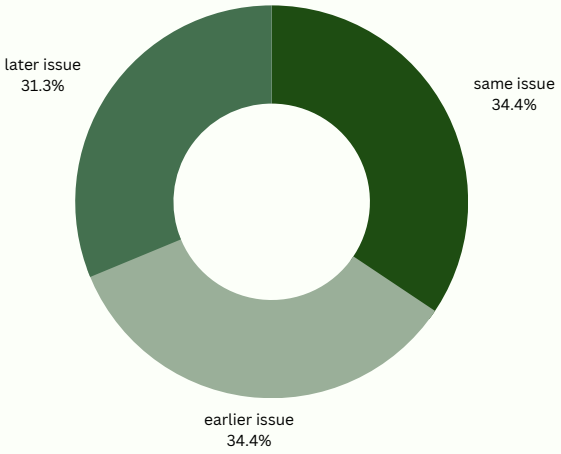
What we did

A small-scale study collected bibliometric information and engagement data for articles in a collaborating journal, *ReCALL* (journal of the European Association for Computer Assisted Language Learning). Matched-pairs were formed for the 34 articles in *ReCALL* that have accompanying summaries, where matches were made on the basis of research topic, publication timing, and author(s) research (citation) profile.

Matched-pair author research profile



Publication timing of no summary articles in relation to with summary articles



Articles with and without OASIS summaries were then compared in relation to:

- PDF views (article downloads)
- HTML views (online reads)
- Citations (ReCALL, Web of Science, and Google Scholar)

The full dataset, compilation protocol, and analysis in R are available via *the OSF*, including information about exclusions. The findings reported below are based on 31 matched-pairs, or 23 matched-pairs when open access articles are excluded.

What we found

Articles with summaries were found to have higher mean engagement in terms of PDF downloads and citations, as reported by *ReCALL*, *Google Scholar* (GS), and *Web of Science* (WoS), compared to articles without summaries. Further, when open access articles were removed, article PDF downloads were significantly higher for those with summaries (w = 174, p = 0.05, effect size r=.29, n=46) (see table and figure).

Overview of summary impact (excluding open access articles)

	No Summary (mean)	With summary (mean)
PDF views	676	1013
HTML views	301	482
ReCALL citations	23.8	33.3
WoS citations	22.7	30.0
GS citations	57.7	82.6

Things to consider

These findings indicate that OASIS summaries can be advantageous for engagement with the original journal article, particularly PDF downloads. Thus, there is evidence that providing OASIS summaries is beneficial for engaging both academic and non-academic audiences with the original article.

Future research, using this protocol with a larger sample, is needed to assess these trends.

