



OWC 2020 Paper Submission - Science Forum

Topic 4 - Innovation in Organic farming: "thinking out of the Box"

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ORGANIC EPRINTS - HELPING SCIENCE GO TO WORK

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Abstract: Organic Eprints is the only archive in the world for publications based on research in organic agriculture and food systems. Organic Eprints (www.orgprints.org) is an international open access archive of electronic documents related to research in organic food and farming. The archive contains full-text papers together with bibliographic information, abstracts, and other metadata. It also offers information on organisations, projects, and facilities in the context of organic farming research. It contains more than 23,000 eprints, more than 18,000 with Open Access. The documents are mainly in English and German, mostly from conferences but also many journal papers. Almost 160,000 downloads are made per month from all around the world. It is free to use, search, download and anyone can upload their own papers if they comply with the objectives of the archive. Organic Eprints can be used for disseminating knowledge about Organic agriculture research, and both the researchers uploading their papers and the end-users downloading papers would benefit from an even wider use of the archive around the world.

Introduction: Research results regarding organic food and farming from Europe have become easily accessible – and so can results from the rest of the world. The Open Access archive Organic Eprints (www.orgprints.org) has developed since the start in 2002 so that it now includes more than 23,000 items, has more than 40,000 registered users and close to 160,000 downloads per month. The archive is free and open for all to use and registered users can deposit their research publications from refereed journals as well as non-refereed sources if they comply with the objectives of the archive (<http://orgprints.org/about.html>). The main objectives of Organic Eprints are 1) to facilitate the communication about organic research, 2) to improve the dissemination and impact of research findings, and 3) to document research efforts. In accordance with these objectives, the archive is designed to facilitate international use. Organisations, research facilities, research programmes and projects are also presented in the archive. Organic Eprints is the largest database in the world with publications about Organic Agriculture & Food Systems research (Rasmussen et al., 2014). The screenshot manual has been translated to several languages (Rasmussen & Jensen, 2013). This paper analyses the use of the database.

Material and methods: An eprint is defined as an entry in Organic Eprints. The eprint may contain more than one document, e.g. for a conference paper or abstract, the poster or presentation may also be attached. The data in Organic

Eprints was analysed by summarising the number of eprints from different countries, in different languages, types of publication and subjects using the browse function in Organic Eprints (<http://orgprints.org/browse.html>). In addition, the number of users from different countries were found through a search in the database (only available to archive administrator) and the number of downloads in total

(<http://orgprints.org/cgi/stats/report?from=2018%2F07%2F01&to=2019%2F06%2F30>) and from different countries (<http://orgprints.org/cgi/stats/report/requests?range=&from=20180701&to=20190630>) was found using the statistics module. The statistics were collected on October 18th 2019.

Results: There are more than 23,000 eprints in Organic Eprints, of which more than 18,000 have Open Access. The total number of documents is larger than this, since each eprint may contain more than one document. Eprints from Europe make up most of the publications in Organic Eprints, see also figure 1. Most of the registered users are from Europe, see also figure 2. In the year from 1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019 1.9 million eprints were downloaded. More than 600,000 eprints were downloaded from Germany, USA had more than 220,000 downloads, France more than 69,000, Brazil almost 69,000, United Kingdom almost 68,000, China 67,000 and Russia 64,000 downloads. Almost 60% of downloads came from European countries, around 14 % from North America and Asia each, 5-7 % from Africa and South and Central America each and less than 1 % from Oceania. Most of the documents are in English (9,709) or German (6,707), while other European languages make up almost all the rest. Most of the eprints, almost 8,000, are papers, posters or presentations from conferences, journal papers make up 4,400 eprints, reports including report chapters make up 2,900 while newspaper or magazine articles make up 2,500 eprints. Books and book chapters make up almost 1,300 eprints. The remaining 4,000 eprints are theses (475), web products, proceedings, teaching resources, videos, practice tools, working papers and video/audio as well as descriptions (altogether 1,650) of projects, organisations, research facilities and research programmes. A large part of the eprints are about Crop husbandry (9,960) and Soil (including nutrients, 2,683), while eprints about animal husbandry make up 4,717 and farming systems 3,599. Environmental aspects are covered by 2,941 eprints, food systems by 4,745 and knowledge management by 2,517 eprints. Finally, there are 1,690 eprints about values, standards and certification and 2,775 about organics in general including country reports. This adds up to more than the 23,000 eprints because one paper may be related to more than one subject.

Discussion: Even though the main part of the publications in Organic Eprints is from Europe, it is being used all over the world. The fact that most of the eprints have Open Access makes it a good source of research results also for those that may not have easy or free access to scientific publications. The analysis shows that Organic Eprints is widely used for upload of papers as well as for download. This indicates that knowledge about research in Organic Agriculture and Food Systems becomes more disseminated and easier available through Organic Eprints. The wide variety of subjects also indicates that the archive covers all subjects relevant for organic agriculture. The archive would become even more relevant for the rest of the world if users would deposit more eprints from other parts of the world than Europe and this would probably increase also the download from other areas of the world.

Some of the eprints in the archive are also used for dissemination purposes, e.g. the practice tools are presented on the Organic Farmknowledge platform (organic-farmknowledge.org) (Rasmussen et. al., 2017).

Organic Eprints has many benefits:

- Open access to most articles, the possibility to contact the author for the full text in cases of restricted access;
- Possibility for institutions and projects to use it for their output and to manage their eprints themselves;
- Easy for funding bodies to check the output from projects;
- Easy for projects to make direct links to all their publications;

- Focus on organic agriculture;
- Very refined, detailed search possible; updates for the same search can be ordered;
- Easy generation of publication lists;
- Generation of RSS feeds;
- Easily findable by the major search engines and
- Metadata harvesting through OpenAire, the European Union's archive for scientific and science-related publications.

References: <http://orgprints.org/> (accessed on Oct. 18, 2019)

<https://organic-farmknowledge.org/> (accessed on Oct. 18, 2019)

Rasmussen IA & Jensen AL (2013): User guide for Organic Eprints. <http://orgprints.org/29427/>

Rasmussen IA, Jensen AL, Jørgensen MS, Kristensen H, Conder M, Micheloni C & Moeskops B (2017): OK-net Arable online knowledge platform. In: Aakkula et al. (eds) NJF Seminar 295 – 4th organic conference: organics for tomorrow's food systems, 19-21 June 2017, Mikkeli, Finland, NJF-Report, 13 (1), pp. 130-132. <http://orgprints.org/31457/>

Rasmussen IA, Jensen AL & Willer H (2014): Organic Eprints – Helping results go to work. In: Rahmann G & Aksoy U (Eds.) Proceedings of the 4th ISOFAR Scientific Conference "Building Organic Bridges" at OWC 2014, 13-15 Oct, Istanbul, Turkey, pp. 207-210. <http://orgprints.org/24032/>

Figure 1: Geographical origin of eprints

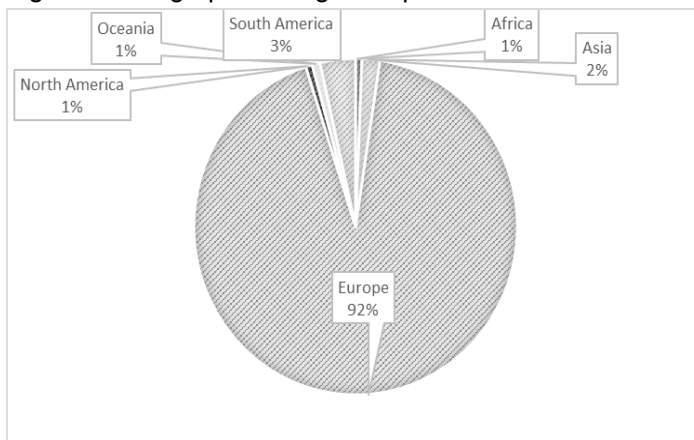
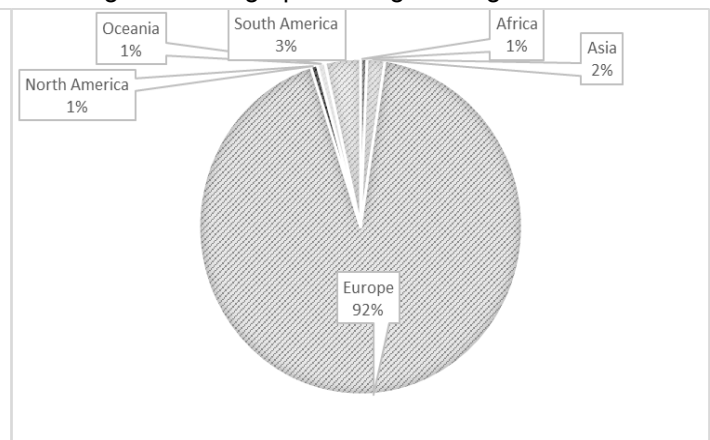


Figure 2: Geographical origin of registered users



Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

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