

Characterizing Canadian journals of the social sciences, arts and humanities and their role in the dissemination of Canadian research

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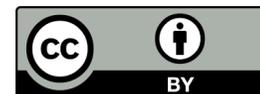
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érudit

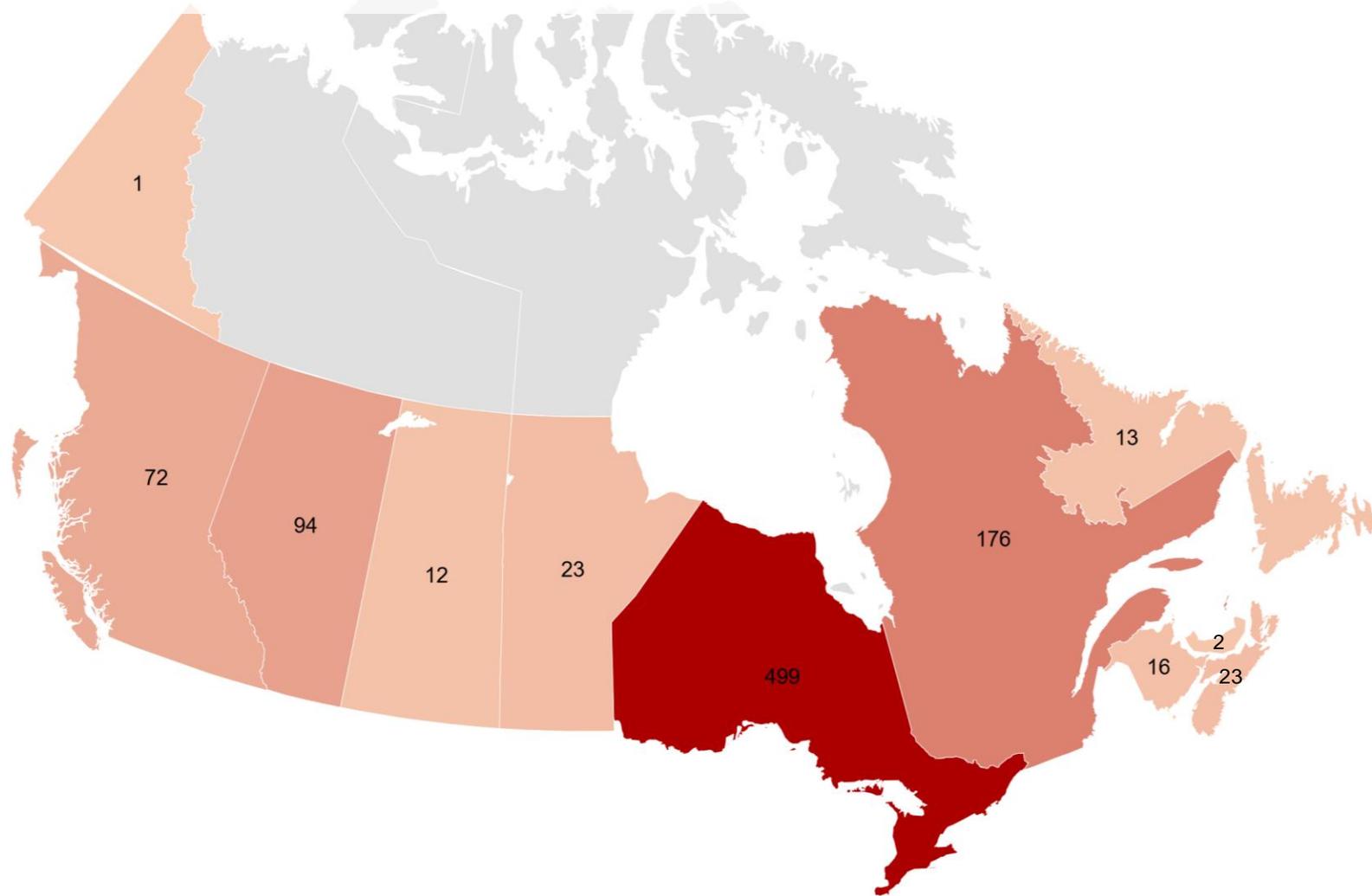


Chaire de recherche du Québec
Découvrabilité des contenus
scientifiques en français

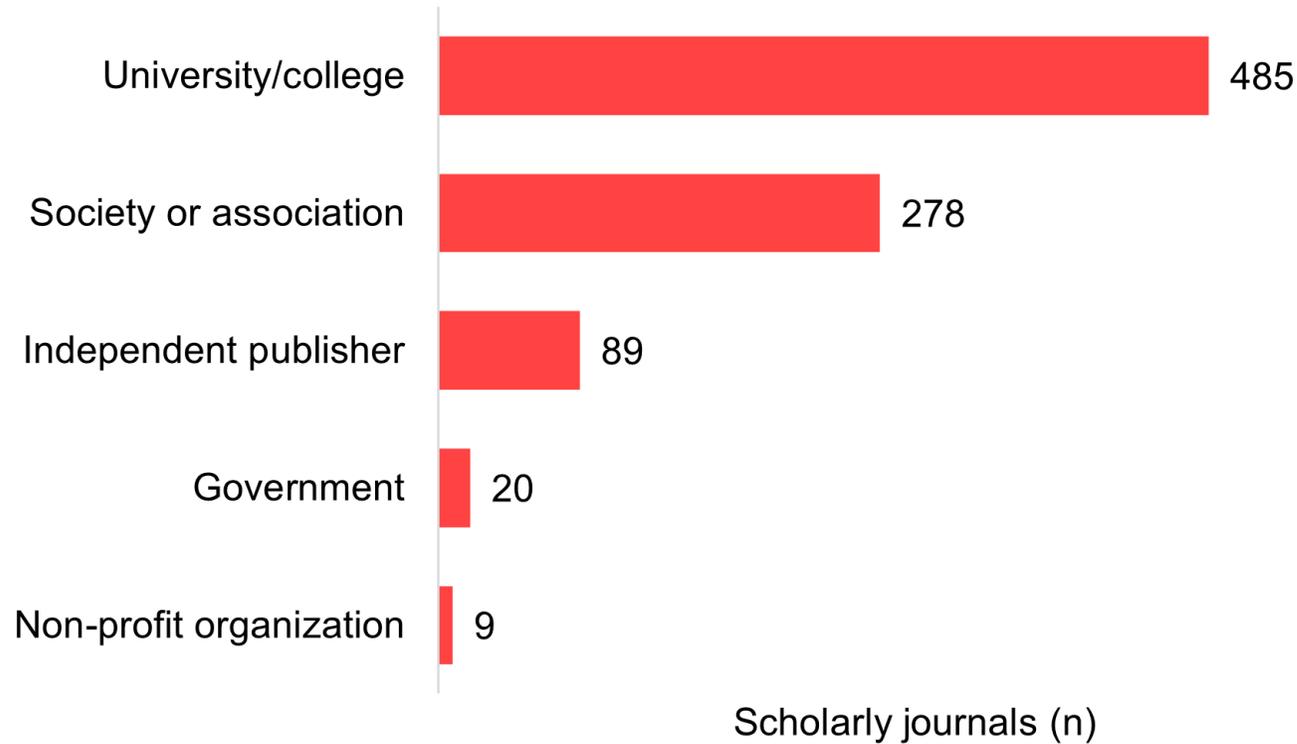
Université de Montréal



More than 900 scholarly journals in Canada



Small-scale, managed within universities and societies



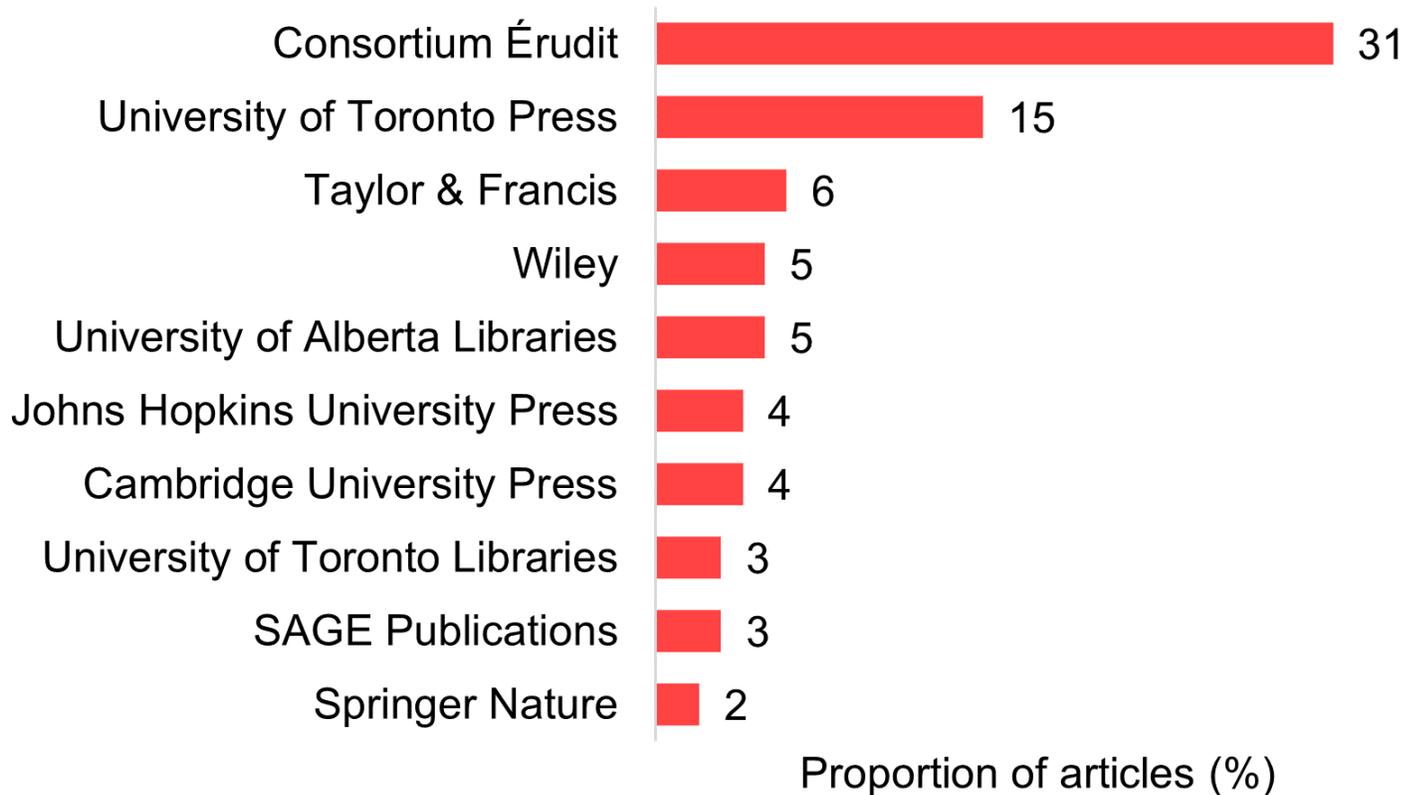
Only 5% of Canadian journals published by the five major commercial publishers

Characterizing Canadian journals

- 70% of Canadian journals are in Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts (SSHA)
- Around 50% of the articles have at least one author with a Canadian affiliation¹
- Around a third of published articles are in French
- More than half of the journals are open access, with diamond open access most prevalent
- Federal and provincial (Quebec) programs for financial and infrastructural support

¹Van Bellen, S. (2023). "O Author, Where Art Thou?" An Analysis of Affiliation Indexing in Canadian Journals and Bibliometric Research Potential. 6 p. <https://cais2023.ca/talk/04.bellen/>

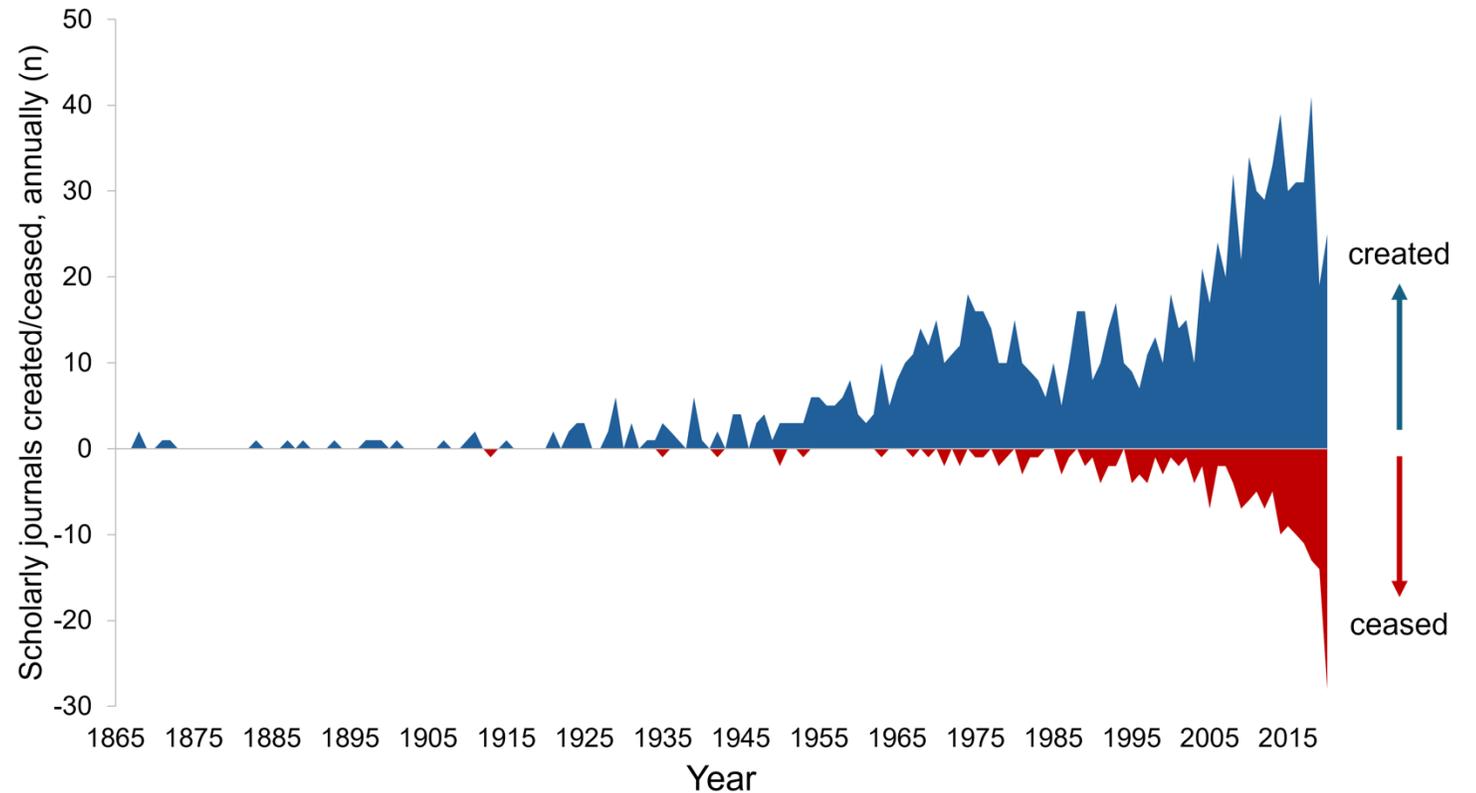
Platforms and publishers



Érudit disseminates the vast majority of French-language scholarly articles in Canada

Domestic journals face multiple challenges

- Attraction of commercial publishers
- Declining numbers of articles submitted and published in French²
- Open access mandates
- Ensuring discoverability and indexing
- Declining support from hosting organizations



²Larivière, V. (2018). Le français, langue seconde? De l'évolution des lieux et langues de publication des chercheurs au Québec, en France et en Allemagne. *Recherches sociographiques*, 59(3), 339–363. <https://doi.org/10.7202/1058718ar>

Documenting papers published domestic journals: indexing issues

- 5% of Canadian journals are indexed by Web of Science
- 85% of Canadian journals are indexed by OpenAlex

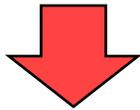
yet many articles are absent

for those that are indexed, many lack standardized author affiliations, abstracts, funding information, etc.

Sample and analyses

Comparing three groups of SSHA journals:

- Domestic non-profit
- Domestic commercial ('Big five')
- Foreign commercial ('Big five')



Bibliometrics performed on the articles published by Canadian researchers (2015-2021)



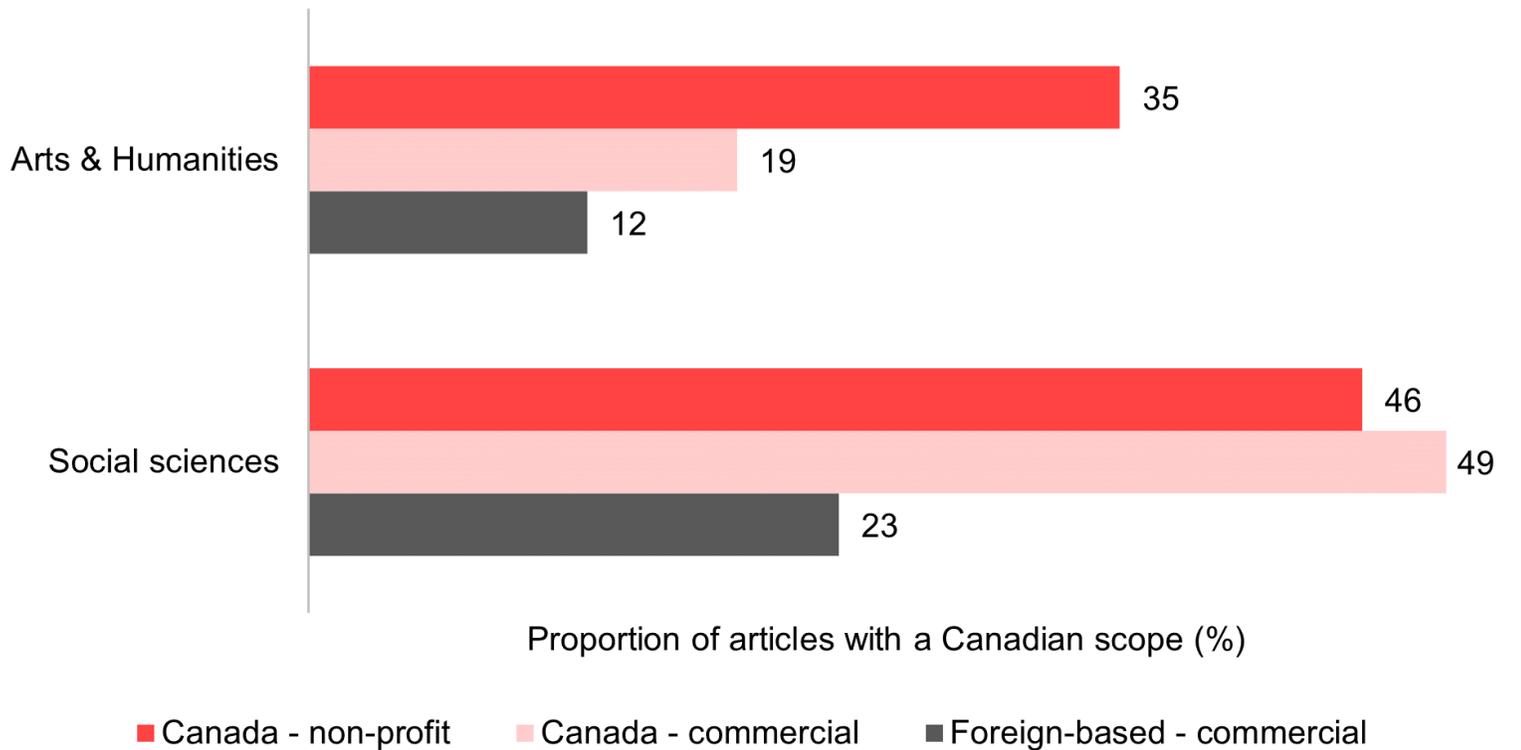
For each article:

- Scope of the topic: national or international
- Author affiliation and 'working language'

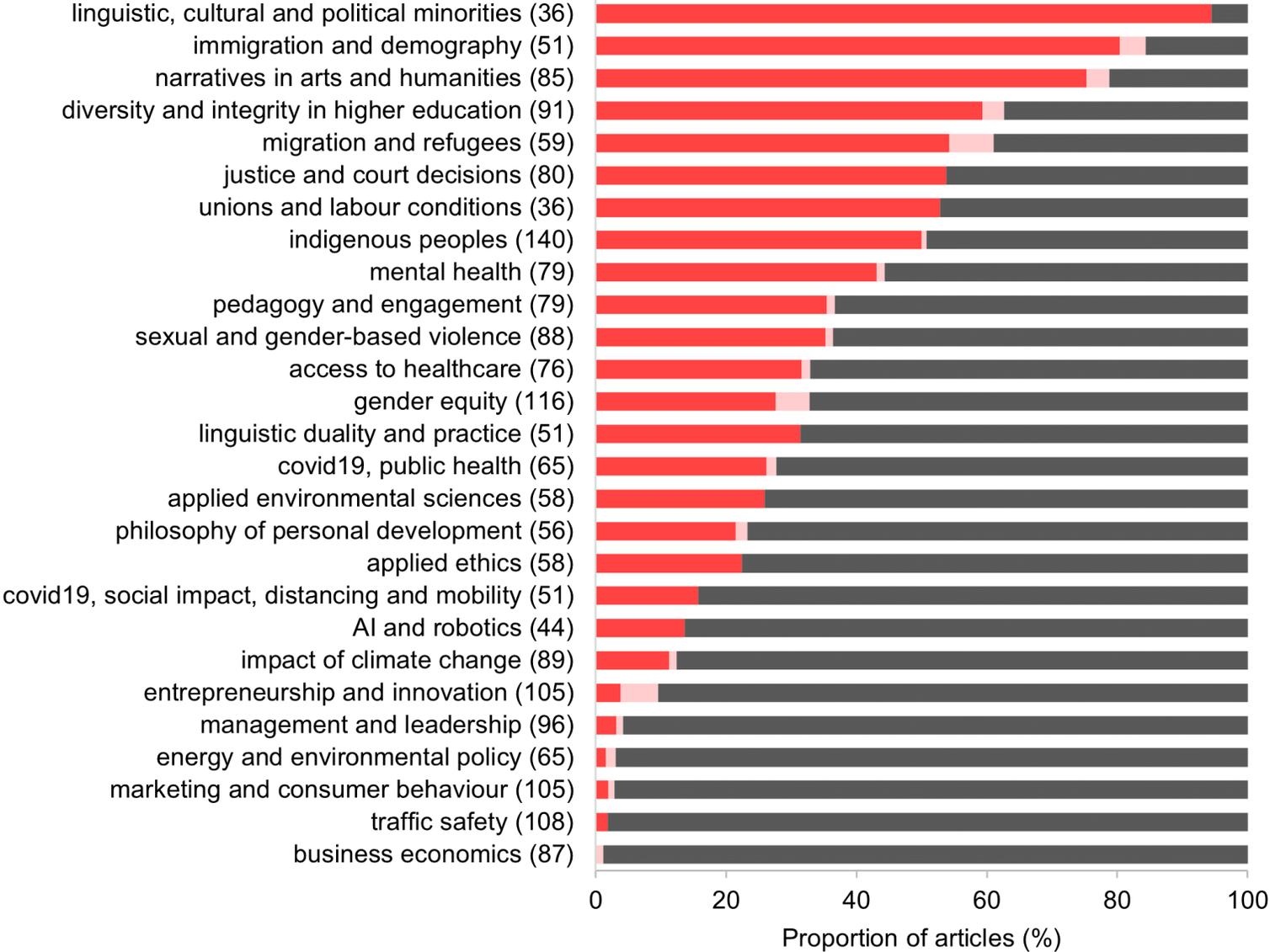
Sources: Dimensions.ai
and
Érudit

Canadian journals publish local and national-oriented topics

When Canadian researchers publish in domestic journals, their scope is two to three times more nationally oriented compared to foreign-based journals



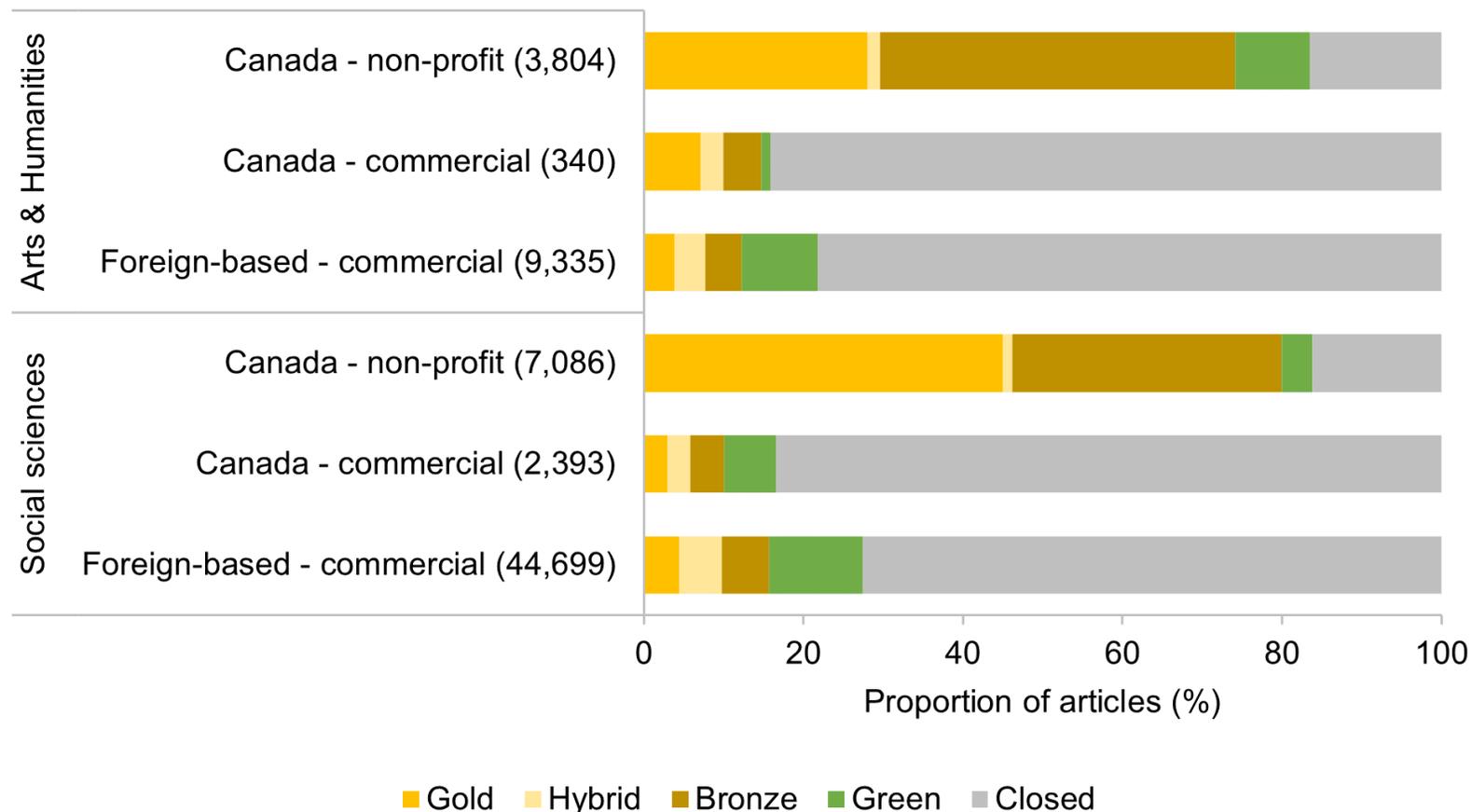
Domestic journals predominantly present research on nationally or regionally relevant topics, such as human geography, sociology, law and education



■ Canadian non-profit journal ■ Canadian commercial journal ■ Foreign commercial journal

Frequency of open access

Domestic non-profit journals allow for open access publishing, four times more frequent than commercial journals



National or local topics: societal impact

- Articles on Érudit having a national or local scope are particularly downloaded from within Canada
- Total number of consultations per article is similar to articles with an international scope and/or authorship

Scope	Author affiliation	Proportion of consultations from within Canada, median (%)	Consultations per article, median (n)
National / local	Canada	58	32
National / local	foreign-based	52	23
General	Canada	29	25
General	foreign-based	13	36

Conclusions

- Canadian scholarly journals in SSHA:
 - are essential for the publication of new knowledge on particular national or local topics
 - provide the opportunity to publish in both national languages
 - generally allow a compliant way to publish in open access according to Canadian national and provincial mandates
 - make new knowledge accessible to the society in general
- Current policies and funding opportunities to stimulate international collaboration may contribute to the shift in research scope from national to international which would, as a corollary, negatively affect the use of domestic journals in SSHA, and of French in publishing
- A reform of research evaluation should consider valuing research on national themes, which would promote the use of these journals and enhance bibliodiversity