

Social Work Journals: A Key Disciplinary Resource

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Abstract

Social work journals are repositories of disciplinary knowledge. The recent critiques of Western and anglophone dominance in knowledge production and publication barriers experienced by scholars from the Global South and those non-anglophone have implications for journals and the knowledges they (re)produce. The lack of comprehensive lists of journals adds a further obstacle to the dissemination of non-dominant social work knowledges. To deal with this concern, we offer a novel list of international social work journals that includes journals omitted from existing English-language Northern lists and situates them as credible sources of social work knowledge.

Keywords: social work journals; social work knowledge; global list of social work journals

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Introduction

We needed the data set of all international social work journals for a study investigating the types of knowledge reproduced in the social work canon. A consolidated international list of social work journals did not seem to exist, and we found only partial lists (mostly in English, covering the anglophone realm). Noting Lindsey and Kirk's (1992) rare perspective that social work journals are repositories of disciplinary knowledge, the absence of such a list is concerning. Beyond curation, they typically foster debate and knowledge generation and are therefore central to constituting social work knowledge. The absence of such a list compromises disciplinary knowledge, effectively reinforcing dominant knowledge(s). Comprehensive international lists of social work journals ensure that disciplinary knowledge is both inclusive of and contextualises international social work education and practice. Furthermore, only a polyphonic social work voice can resist professional imperialism and advance indigenous relevant social work (Arce 2020; Price and Artaraz 2013). In this article, we provide a novel comprehensive list that we subsequently compiled and discuss the value of international access to social work journals.

We use a critical post-modern social work lens (Fook 2002; Pease and Fook 1999) to critique the access to social work journals, assuming that there are multiple situated realities that comprise the social work disciplinary and professional philosophical base. Instead of supporting traditional notions of a unified theory and practice foundation, post-modern critical theory legitimises and incorporates difference, multiple perspectives, multivocality and marginalised voices (Fook 2002; Morley and Macfarlane 2012; Pease and Fook 1999). It also makes visible sites of knowledge production as well as the flow of knowledge dissemination. It does so through stressing multiplicity, contradictions, fluidity, contextualising and change (Fook 2002; Morley and Macfarlane 2012). Using this lens necessitates resisting universal concepts promoted by Western social work and including voices and discourses developed in non-dominant contexts as social work knowledge (Gray et al. 2013; Osei-Hwedi 1993; Spitzer et al. 2014). This includes attending to language. We use the term "Global North" to refer to Eurocentric and dominant social work perspectives usually emanating from the geographical north, while recognising that the realities regarding knowledge hegemony are not neatly captured in a global North–South dichotomy or in such terms as "Western" or "Eurocentric" (Arce 2020).

A critical contextual social work lens further requires reflexive positionality. Coming from non-dominant contexts, we are biased towards the sensibilities of the Global South, but as white people and two of us being immigrants to Canada also are inducted into Eurocentric perspectives and have privileged access to resources. The second author (Schmid) is an editor at a journal that grapples with the meaningful representation of local Indigenous and racialised knowledges, recognising the ways in which certain experiences are marginalised and occluded in Northern scholarship.

Situating Knowledge Production and Curation in Social Work Journals

Our literature review establishes what has been said about social work knowledge(s), specifically what is published in social work journals and why. It highlights conclusions regarding the representation of disciplinary knowledges in international social work journals.

The relevant literature that addresses why social work journals publish is both limited and older. Goggin (1997, 324) asserts that scholarly journals generally are a “window into the social, cognitive, and rhetorical dimensions of a disciplinary enterprise . . . responding to disciplinary practices already in place and fostering (or authorizing) particular kinds of practices by accepting some and rejecting others”. In addition, these collections of disciplinary knowledge have several purposes. Journals register, certify, legitimate, disseminate, reproduce and archive knowledge (Lindsey and Kirk 1992). Furthermore, because the knowledge exchange engendered by publication establishes, amplifies and consolidates disciplinary practices (Goggin 1997), publication has become central to scholars’ career paths (Holosko et al. 2018; Lindsey and Kirk 1992; Niles et al. 2020). There is therefore a dialectical relationship between social work journals and social work disciplinary knowledge. What is published in journals therefore informs the profession; professional knowledge guides what is published in journals.

The literature suggests that non-anglophone, non-Northern social work academics’ work is significantly underrepresented in social work journals and offers several rationales for this. This begins with the challenges simply in sourcing relevant information (Van Breda and Pinkerton 2020). As described by Butterfield and Abye (2012), Southern academics’ frequent difficulties in developing appropriate literature reviews may be because of limited access to up-to-date and expansive databases, universities often not having the necessary budgets to acquire these, local research may be limited or unpublished, or the few journals available in the Global South may not be online. Furthermore, many journals charge page fees, which often are out of reach for researchers. There may be technological barriers, including inconsistent and expensive internet access. The increasing availability of abstracts and even full articles on resources such as Google Scholar only partially compensates for such gaps.

Next, Southern scholars experience research challenges because some universities are designated as teaching rather than research institutions, there are difficulties in accessing funding, and international collaboration is limited (Butterfield and Abye 2012). Another set of barriers to publication relates to who determines social work values. Midgley (1990, 2001), who coined the phrase “professional imperialism”, highlighted the unidirectional flow of ideas and practice methodologies from the West to the Global South. Gray and Webb (2008, 62) also noted that it is “mostly social work academics from affluent Western countries” that have contributed to standards, values, knowledge and ethics, leaving those in the Global South to develop context-specific approaches. In addition, the neoliberal expectations regarding publication in only high

impact journals, and in some cases only in internationally accredited journals and thus in those produced by the large publishing houses, may be a further barrier (Niles et al. 2020; Wen, Ching, and Tang 2013).

Another dynamic that occurs is that dominant journals privilege Eurocentric knowledge while devaluing other knowledges (Roche and Flynn 2020). Southern scholars validate this position by often uncritically applying American and British research to local situations (Schmid 2014). Furthermore, authors encounter problems in accessing major publications to print their research. For example, these journals tend to be situated in North America and Europe and publish predominantly in English (Butterfield and Abye 2012). Southern scholars may have fluency challenges with Northern writing styles and academic English, difficulties in understanding journal style guides and instructions and the associated protocols and conventions (Flowerdew 2020; Roche and Flynn 2020), and insufficient resources for revising and proofreading work before submission (Butterfield and Abye 2012; Staiman 2020). In addition, Western journals do not have traditions of documenting oral and Indigenous knowledges (Absolon 2022; Moahi 2005). According to linguistic scholars, these obstacles amount to linguistic disadvantage, linguistic injustice (Politzer et al. 2016) and gatekeeping (Strauss 2017).

Another barrier is that for publication in Northern or even “international” journals, the authors must identify the relevance of their research to the journals’ audience (Van Breda and Pinkerton 2020). By insufficiently including work of non-Western, non-English speaking scholars, the role of “local cultural orders of reflexivity” (Gray and Webb 2008, 63) is disregarded, local and indigenous skills and values are ignored, and the role of social work in maintaining local cultural diversity is undermined. Even if the work gets published, Southern knowledges are further occluded by the quantity of Northern publications and Southern writing frequently going unread (Van Breda and Pinkerton 2020). These factors result in discrimination and professional (read Western, Eurocentric, Anglo-American) imperialism.

What is foundational in social work is therefore shaped significantly by what is published in Western, anglophone journals, making it difficult for those outside of this sphere to establish their own bodies of knowledge and to resist professional imperialism. Scholars who do not publish in English or who represent the Global South thus may feel excluded and disenfranchised from the academic debate that is positioned as an international conversation. Southern scholars do, however, increasingly emphasise that the value of imposed Western approaches in other environments be interrogated (for example, Gray, Yellowbird, and Coates 2008), that models of decolonised and contextually appropriate social work be advanced (Schmid, Morgenshtern, and Turton 2022), and that global exchange include Northern academics learning from the South’s experiences. Our initial exploration suggested that to counter the above-mentioned obstacles, journals using local languages and representing regional priorities have been established. Also, social workers sometimes choose to print in allied journals (those not targeted only to a social work audience of writers and readers) if these are in their own

language or publishing in their environment. It is thus evident that a significant portion of global social work scholars encounter marked barriers in accessing dominant anglophone/Northern publications, even as there is increasing comment on what constitutes social work knowledge, and have limited alternative avenues for reproducing indigenous or subordinated knowledges.

The lack of a comprehensive international list of social work journals leaves the international social work community with a poor grasp of social work knowledge that is not positioned in the Western or more specifically the anglophone context. We conclude that the international social work community would benefit from a list of contemporary social work and allied journals. This would map all sites of social work knowledge production, offer all academics a greater arena for publication, and potentially facilitate the exchange of social work knowledge. At the same time, we recognise that such a list cannot on its own ensure greater diversity and inclusion of non-anglophone and non-Western voices.

Method

Our research purpose was therefore to gather an internationally representative list of extant social work and pertinent allied journals and to make visible where journals are published. Our hope is that the availability of such a list will increase potential access to publications and to a broader range of social work knowledge. This research formed a first step in a qualitative survey study investigating the representation of alternative knowledges in international social work journals. To develop an appropriate up-to-date international census, we engaged in exploratory research (Swedberg 2020), adopting an iterative approach, each step informing the next (Alvesson and Skoldberg 2017). Once this process was completed and the list of journals compiled, we used frequency analysis to draw existing patterns and interpreted these patterns using a critical lens.

Defining Criteria

To identify social work journals, we generated clear criteria to determine what constituted “social work journals” (Velasco 2010). We decided that for a journal to qualify as a “social work journal” it needed in its mandate or journal description to specifically name social workers as the source of scholarship and as the reading audience. Being aware that social workers often publish in interdisciplinary journals and that these might therefore also reflect the ways in which and which social work knowledges were being captured and reproduced, we aimed to develop a separate list of relevant allied journals. Here we chose those that represented a social work practice area (such as criminology or child abuse) and that specifically identified social workers as part of their reading audience. Although social workers might publish beyond what we defined as social work or allied journals, we attempted to identify those most closely related to social work and where the social work canon is most clearly reflected.

The Research Process

Having established our terms of reference and scouring several databases (JSTOR, OMNI, Directory of Open Access Journals, Social Science Research Network), we soon realised that, although several journal lists exist, these were anglophone ones that tended to highlight similar journals. Non-English journals were typically omitted. To identify who might hold lists of social work journals that spoke to other contexts, we adopted several strategies. First, we approached international social work bodies including the International Federation of Social Workers, the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW), the International Association for Social Work with Groups, the Global Social Service Workforce Alliance, and the Society for Social Work and Research. Next, using public contact information on these organisations' websites, we emailed various regional representatives. Furthermore, by utilising the IASSW list of school members and associated personnel, and establishing that 159 countries offer at least one degree programme in social work (Rautenbach 2022), we systematically searched for journals associated with each school or published locally. Sometimes, a snowball approach was used in that academics would inform us of others who could be approached in their region or continent. Next, we identified and contacted various regional or national social work groups and associations to inquire about social work journals published in their countries. Finally, to identify lists of social work journals published in specific countries or languages, we used our own language sets and installed an auto-translation browser extension to complete a web search in English and the country's official language(s) for "social work journals" along with each country's name. To establish that our search was comprehensive, we utilised a census list published by IASSW in September 2022 of social work programmes to cross reference the countries with social work programmes with those with identified social work journals. We then contacted social work programmes and national social work associations in these countries and identified additional journals.

To ensure the quality of our search, the research team engaged in extensive discussion to define the inclusion criteria for social work and allied journals. We kept a detailed record of every decision made about inclusion criteria and search strategies (for example, keywords used in search), noting its rationale, parsimony and feasibility. In addition, we utilised peer-debriefing and consultations at every stage of the search to ensure that intact research decisions were implemented.

Analysis

Once we compiled the journal list, we adopted a quantitative descriptive approach to our analysis. The journals gathered were sorted as social work or allied and frequencies were recorded for the type of journal (social work and allied), regions and countries of publication, and languages of publication. This information then was interpreted through the critical lens.

Limitations

A significant constraint is that our study was conducted in English. We had to identify the journal focus from non-English descriptors using our language sets and Google translate; and communication was in English because we lacked the resources for multiple interpreters. We thus reinforced the dominance of English in social work research even as we attempted to lift out non-anglophone voices. Furthermore, it is possible that some social work or allied journals were missed. Another consideration is that this list, which reflects the available journals in November 2022, is immediately potentially out of date because of the dynamism in publishing.

The Lists: Findings and Discussion

The primary product of our research is a novel international list of social work journals. We also have been able to draw some tentative inferences about what the regional and language representation of social work and allied journals may mean for disciplinary knowledge.

Countries and Regions with Social Work and Allied Journals

We identified 199 social work journals and 73 allied journals. These lists appear below in Tables 1 and 2, reflecting IASSW's regional divisions. We learnt of 11 countries that have no social work or allied journals at all (Lesotho, Mauritius, Reunion, El Salvador, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Georgia, Macau, Papua New Guinea, the State of Palestine and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar). We also identified nine additional countries that only have allied journals (Algeria, Rwanda, Cambodia, the Philippines, Belgium, Libya, Uganda, Jordan and Kuwait).

Table 1: Social work journals

Publishing Region/Country	Journal Title	Journal Web Page	Language(s)
Africa (12)			
Egypt	Journal of Social Work/ مجلة الخدمة الاجتماعية	https://egjsw.journals.ekb.eg/	Arabic
Egypt	The Egyptian Journal of Social Work	https://ejsw.journals.ekb.eg/	English
Egypt	Journal of Studies in Social Work	https://dss.journals.ekb.eg/	Arabic
Egypt	Journal of the College of Social Work for Social Studies and Research	https://jfss.journals.ekb.eg/	Arabic, English
Nigeria	Benin Journal of Social Work and Community Development	https://bjswcd.org/	English
Nigeria	Journal of Social Work in Developing Societies	https://journals.aphriapub.com/index.php/JSWDS	English
Nigeria	Nigeria Journal of Social Work Education	https://www.ui.edu.ng/NJSWE	English

Publishing Region/Country	Journal Title	Journal Web Page	Language(s)
South Africa	Social Work/Maatskaplike Werk	https://socialwork.journals.ac.za/pub	English
South Africa	Southern African Journal of Social Work and Social Development	https://unisapressjournals.co.za/index.php/SWPR/index	English
Tanzania	Institute of Social Work Journal	https://www.isw.ac.tz/journals.php	English, Swahili
Zimbabwe	African Journal of Social Work	https://www.ajol.info/index.php/ajsw	English
Zimbabwe	Journal of Social Development in Africa	https://www.ajol.info/index.php/jsda	English
Asia-Pacific (35 journals)			
Australia	Australian Social Work	https://www.aasw.asn.au/publications/australian-social-work	English
Bangladesh	Bangladesh Journal of Social Work	N/A	English, Bengali
China	China Social Work	https://www.zzmce.com/zazhi/zsgz/	Chinese Simplified
China	Chinese Journal of Social Work Research	https://www.zzmce.com/zazhi/swsg/	Chinese Simplified
China	Journal of Social Work	https://www.zzmce.com/zazhi/shgo/	Chinese Simplified
China	Journal of Social Work and Management	https://www.zzmce.com/zazhi/dgys/	Chinese Simplified
China	Society and Public Welfare Journal	https://www.zzmce.com/zazhi/shgi/	Chinese Simplified
Hong Kong	Hong Kong Journal of Social Work	https://www.worldscientific.com/worldscinet/hkjsw	English, Chinese
India	Adelaide Journal of Social Work	https://www.sswroshni.in/eng/research-publications/adelaide-journal	English, Kannada
India	Indian Journal of Dalit and Tribal Social Work	http://www.ticijournals.org/ijdtsw/	English
India	Indian Journal of Psychiatric Social Work	http://pswjjournal.org/index.php/ijpsw	English
India	Indian Journal of Social Work	https://tiss.edu/view/6/research/the-indian-journal-of-social-work/	English
India	International Journal of Global Social Work	https://www.graphyonline.com/journal/journal_home.php?journalid=IJGSW	English
India	Journal of Social Work Education and Practice	https://www.jswep.in/	English
India	Journal of the Madras School of Social Work	http://www.msswjournal.in/index.php/msswj	English
India	Social Work Chronicle	http://www.publishingindia.com/Research/ProductInfo/Journal-Info.aspx?InfoID=42	English
Indonesia	ASEAN Social Work Journal	https://aseansocialwork.com/index.php/asw	English
Indonesia	Indonesian Journal of Social Work	https://jurnal.poltekesos.ac.id/index.php/ijsw/index	English, Arabic

Publishing Region/Country	Journal Title	Journal Web Page	Language(s)
Indonesia	Welfare: Jurnal Ilmu Kesejahteraan Sosial/Journal of Social Welfare Sciences	https://ejournal.uin-suka.ac.id/dakwah/welfare	Indonesian, English
Iran	Journal of Social Work Research	https://rjsw.atu.ac.ir/	Persian
Iran	Social Work Quarterly/ فصلنامه مددکاری اجتماعی	N/A	Persian
Israel	Mifgash: Journal of Social-Educational Work/ מפגש לעבודה חינוכית-סוציאלית	https://www.jstor.org/journal/mifgash	Hebrew
Israel	Social Security/ בטחון סוציאלי	https://www.btl.gov.il/Publications/Social_Security/Pages/default.aspx	Hebrew, English, Arabic
Israel	Society and Welfare: Quarterly for Social Work/ חברה ורווחה	https://www.gov.il/he/departments/dynamiccollectors/mol-social-and-welfare-magazine-publications?skip=0	Hebrew
Japan	Japanese Journal of Social Welfare	https://www.jssw.jp/publication/journal-e/	Japanese, English
Japan	Social Work Practical Research	http://www.meijigakuin.ac.jp/~ki-tagawa/social/magazine.html	Japanese
Malaysia	Asian Social Work Journal	https://msocialwork.com/index.php/aswj/	English
Malaysia	Malaysian Journal of Social Administration	https://ijie.um.edu.my/index.php/MJSA	English, Malay
New Zealand	Aotearoa New Zealand Social Work Review	https://anzswjournal.nz/anzsw	English
Korea	Asian Social Work and Policy Review	https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/17531411	English
Korea	Korean Journal of Family Social Work	http://www.kafsw.or.kr/html/sub01-01.asp	Korean
Korea	The Study of Korean Social Welfare	https://kasw.org/%ED%95%99%EC%88%A0%EC%A7%80%EC%86%8C%EA%B0%9C1	Korean
Singapore	Asia Pacific Journal of Social Work and Development	https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/rswd20	English
Thailand	Journal of Social Synergy	https://so04.tci-thaijo.org/index.php/thaijss/index	Thai, English
Thailand	Journal of Social Work/วารสารสังคมสงเคราะห์ศาสตร์	https://so04.tci-thaijo.org/index.php/swjournal/index	Thai, English
Europe (81)			
Austria	Annual Review of Social Work and Social Pedagogy in Austria/ Österreichisches Jahrbuch für Soziale Arbeit (OeJS)	https://www.plus.ac.at/erziehungswissenschaft/fachbereich/schwerpunkte/sozialpaedagogik-beratung-und-intervention/oesterreichisches-jahrbuch-fuer-soziale-arbeit/	German, English
Croatia	Annual of Social Work/Ljetopis Socijalnog Rada	https://ljsr.pravo.unizg.hr/index.php/ljsr	Croatian, English

Publishing Region/Country	Journal Title	Journal Web Page	Language(s)
Croatia	Social Themes/Socijalne Teme	https://hrcak.srce.hr/en/socijalneteme	Croatian, Serbian, Bosnian, English
Czech Republic	Czech and Slovak Social Work/ Sociálna práca	https://socialniprace.cz/en/about-journal/	Czech, English
Denmark	Social Work Series/Skriftserien Socialt Arbejde	https://tidsskrift.dk/skriftserien-socialtarbejde	Danish
Finland	Investigative Social Work/Tutkiva sosiaalityö	https://talentia.e-julkaisu.com/2021/tutkivasosiaalityo/#page=1	Finnish
Finland	Journal of Social Policy and Social Work Research/Janus: sosiaalipolitiikan ja sosiaalityön tutkimuksen aikakauslehti	https://journal.fi/janus	Finnish
France	Articulation(s)	https://articulations.numerev.com/edito	French, English
France	Empan: Prendre la mesure de l'humain	https://www.cairn-int.info/journal-empan.htm?contenu=about	French
France	Sociographe	https://sociographe.org/	French
Germany	Archive for Science and Practice of Social Work/Archiv für Wissenschaft und Praxis der Sozialen Arbeit	https://www.deutscher-verein.de/de/der-buchshop-des-dv-archiv-1564.html	German
Germany	Social Welfare Work Gazette/ Blätter der Wohlfahrtspflege	https://www.bdw.nomos.de/en/	German
Germany	Social Work/Die Soziale Arbeit	https://www.soziale-arbeit.nomos.de/	German
Germany	Thirteen: Journal of Youth Social Work/Dreizehn	https://jugendsozialarbeit.de/veroeffentlichungen/fachzeitschrift-dreizehn/	German
Germany	FORUM social work and health/ FORUM sozialarbeit + gesundheit	https://dvsg.org/veroeffentlichungen/fachzeitschriften/ausgabenforum/	German
Germany	Migration and Social Work/ Migration und Soziale Arbeit	https://www.beltz.de/fachmedien/sozialpaedagogik_soziale_arbeit/zeitschriften/migration_und_soziale_arbeit.html	German
Germany	New Practice/Neue Praxis	https://www.neue-praxis-shop.de/epages/64251991.sf/de_DE/?ObjectPath=/Shops/64251991/Categories/AboutUs/neue_praxis	German
Germany	Social Passages: Journal for Empiricism and Theory of Social Work/Soziale Passagen: Journal für Empirie und Theorie Sozialer Arbeit	https://www.springer.com/journal/12592	German, English

Publishing Region/Country	Journal Title	Journal Web Page	Language(s)
Germany	Social Work and Society	https://ejournals.bib.uni-wuppertal.de/index.php/sws/	English, "publication in other languages is possible"
Germany	Journal of Clinical Social Work/ Zeitschrift für Klinische Sozialarbeit	https://dvsg.org/veroeffentlichungen/fachzeitschriften/ausgaben-klinsa/	German
Iceland	Journal of Social Workers/Tímarit félagsráðgjafa	http://www.timaritfelagsradgjafa.is/	Icelandic, English
Ireland	Irish Social Worker Journal	https://www.iasw.ie/isw-index	English
Italy	The Social Service Journal/La Rivista di Servizio Sociale	https://www.istiss.it/la-rivista-di-servizio-sociale/	Italian
Italy	Relational Social Work	https://rsw.erickson.international/about-this-journal/	English
Latvia	Social Work in Latvia/Sociālais darbs Latvijā	https://www.socialwork.lv/raksti/	Latvian
Lithuania	Socialinė teorija, empirija, politika ir praktika	https://www.journals.vu.lt/STEP/P	Lithuanian, English
Moldova	Psychology, Special Pedagogy, Social Work/Psihologie, Pedagogie Specială, Asistență Socială	https://psihologie.upsc.md/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/cer_publicatii_ppsas_nr_60_3_2020.pdf	Romanian
Netherlands	Vakblad Sociaal Werk	https://www.bpsw.nl/actueel/vakblad-sociaal-werk/	Dutch
Norway	Journal of Comparative Social Work	https://journals.uis.no/index.php/JCSW	English
Poland	Social Work/Praca Socjalna	http://www.aps.edu.pl/media/2129669/praca_socjalna_ang_online_final_20190129.pdf	Polish, English
Portugal	Portuguese Journal of Behavioral and Social Research	https://rpics.ismt.pt/index.php/ISMT/index	English, Portuguese, Spanish
Romania	Scientific Annals of the "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iasi. (New Series Sociology and Social Work)	https://anale.fssp.uaic.ro/index.php/asas	English
Romania	Social Work Review/Revista de Asistența Socială	http://www.swreview.ro/index.php/home_en	English, Romanian
Russia	Domestic Journal of Social Work	https://www.socialmag.org/domestic	Russian, English
Serbia	Social Policy and Social Work/ Socijalna politika i socijalni rad	https://hrcak.srce.hr/spisr	Serbian, Cyrillic letters
Serbia	Social Thinking/Socijalna misao	https://www.socijalnamisao.rs	Serbian, Cyrillic letters
Slovakia, Czech Republic	International Journal of Health, New Technologies and Social Work	https://www.zdravotnictvoasocialnopraca.sk/sk/	English
Slovenia	Socialno delo Journal	https://www.revija-socialnodelo.si/en/	Slovene, English

Publishing Region/Country	Journal Title	Journal Web Page	Language(s)
Spain	Alternatives: Social Work Notebooks/Alternativas: Cuadernos de Trabajo Social	https://alternativasts.ua.es/	Spanish, English
Spain	Azarbe: International Journal of Social Work and Welfare	https://revistas.um.es/azarbe/index	Spanish
Spain	Documents of Social Work/ Documentos de Trabajo Social	https://www.trabajosocialmalaga.org/revista-dts/	Spanish
Spain	Waterfalls / Fervenzas	https://traballsocial.gal/revista-fervenzas/	Galician
Spain	Humanism and Social Work/ Revista Humanismo y Trabajo Social	http://www.eutleon.es/revista.asp	Spanish
Spain	Itineraries of social work/ Itinerarios de Trabajo Social	https://revistes.ub.edu/index.php/itinerariosts/index	Spanish, English
Spain	Journal of the College of Social Work of Navarra/Revista del colegio de trabajo social de Navarra	https://trabajosocialnavarra.org/que-ofrecemos/#revistasemestral	Spanish
Spain	Social Work Journal/Revista de Treball Social	https://www.revistarts.com/	Catalan, Spanish, English
Spain	Social Services and Social Policy / Servicios Sociales y Política Social	http://www.serviciossocialespoliticasocial.com/	Spanish
Spain	Social Work and Health	https://aetrabajosocialsalud.es/la-revista-trabajo-social-y-salud/	Spanish
Spain	Social work notebooks/Cuadernos de trabajo social	https://revistas.ucm.es/index.php/CUTS	Spanish
Spain	Social work today/Trabajo social hoy	http://www.trabajosocialhoy.com/	Spanish, English
Spain	Transformation: Journal of the College of Social Work of Seville	https://trabajosocialsevilla.es/transformacion-revista-de-trabajo-social-de-sevilla-numero-4-enero-2021/	Spanish
Spain	Trazos Digital: Canarian Journal of Social Work	https://trasosdigital.com/	Spanish
Spain	TS Diffusion	https://www.tsdifusion.es/	Spanish
Spain	TS Nova: Journal of the College of Social Work of Valencia	https://cotsvalencia.com/revista-ts-nova/	Spanish, Valencian, English
Spain	Global Social Work/Trabajo Social Global	https://revistaseug.ugr.es/index.php/tsg	Spanish
Sweden	International Journal of Social Welfare	https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/14682397	English
Sweden	Journal of Social Sciences/ Socialvetenskaplig tidskrift	https://socvet.se/	Swedish
Sweden	Nordic Social Work Research	https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/rnsw20	English
Switzerland	Clinical Social Work Journal	https://www.springer.com/journal/10615	English
Switzerland	Global Social Welfare	https://www.springer.com/journal/40609	English
Switzerland	Journal of Human Rights and Social Work	https://www.springer.com/journal/41134	English

Publishing Region/Country	Journal Title	Journal Web Page	Language(s)
Switzerland	The International Journal of Social Work Values and Ethics	https://jswve.org/	English
Switzerland	Social Current/Sozial Aktuell	https://avenirsocial.ch/publikationen/sozialaktuell/ueber-sozialaktuell/	German
Switzerland	Swiss Journal of Social Work	https://szsa.ch/	German
Turkey	Journal of Medical Social Work/ Tibbi Sosyal Hizmet Dergisi	https://dergipark.org.tr/en/pub/tshd	Turkish, English
Turkey	Journal of Society and Social Work/ Toplum Ve Sosyal Hizmet Dergisi	http://www.tsh.hacettepe.edu.tr/	Turkish
Turkey	Turkish Journal of Social Work	https://dergipark.org.tr/en/pub/scd	Turkish, English
Ukraine	Social Work and Education	http://srso.udpu.edu.ua/about	Ukrainian
United Kingdom	British Journal of Social Work	https://academic.oup.com/bjsw	English
United Kingdom	China Journal of Social Work	https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/rcsw20	English, Chinese
United Kingdom	Child and Family Social Work	https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/13652206	English
United Kingdom	Critical and Radical Social Work	https://bristoluniversitypressdigital.com/view/journals/crsw/crsw-overview.xml	English
United Kingdom	European Journal of Social Work	https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/cesw20	English
United Kingdom	Groupwork	http://www.whitingbirch.net/cgi-bin/subscribe?showinfo=ip001	English
United Kingdom	Journal of Social Work in End-of-Life and Palliative Care	https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/wsw20	English
United Kingdom	Journal of Social Work Practice	https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/cjsw20	English
United Kingdom	Practice: Social Work in Action	https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/cpra20	English
United Kingdom	Psychoanalytic Social Work	https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/wpsw20	English
United Kingdom	Social Work and Social Sciences Review	http://www.whitingbirch.net/cgi-bin/subscribe?showinfo=ip003	English
United Kingdom	Social Work Education	https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/csw20	English
United Kingdom	Social Work with Groups	https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/wswg20	English
Latin America and the Caribbean (18)			
Argentina	Escenarios	https://revistas.unlp.edu.ar/escenarios/about	Spanish, English
Argentina	PLAZA PÚBLICA: Journal of Social Work	https://ojs2.fch.unicen.edu.ar/ojs-3.1.0/index.php/plaza-publica	Spanish, Portuguese
Brazil	Revista Katálysis	https://periodicos.ufsc.br/index.php/katalysis/index	Portuguese, Spanish, English
Brazil	SER Social	https://periodicos.unb.br/index.php/SER_Social	Portuguese, Spanish, English
Brazil	Social Service and Health/Serviço Social and Saúde	https://periodicos.sbu.unicamp.br/ojs/index.php/sss	Portuguese, English

Publishing Region/Country	Journal Title	Journal Web Page	Language(s)
Brazil	Social Service and Society / Serviço Social and Sociedade	https://www.scielo.br/j/sssoc	Portuguese, Spanish, English
Caribbean Region/Jamaica	Caribbean Journal of Social Work	http://caribbeansocialwork.org/product-category/journal/	English
Chile	The Journal of Social Work/La Revista de Trabajo Social	http://revistatrabajosocial.uc.cl/index.php/RTS	Spanish, English
Colombia	Journal of Social Work of the University of Antioquia	https://revistas.udea.edu.co/index.php/revistraso/about	Spanish, English
Colombia	Social Work Journal/Revista Trabajo Social	https://revistas.unal.edu.co/index.php/tsocial	Spanish, English, Portuguese
Costa Rica	Costa Rican Journal of Social Work/Revista Costarricense de Trabajo Social	https://revista.trabajosocial.or.cr/index.php/revista	Spanish, English
Guatemala	Journal of the School of Social Work of the University of San Carlos de Guatemala	http://revistasguatemala.usac.edu.gt/index.php/rets/index	Spanish
Mexico	Social Perspectives/Perspectivas Sociales	https://perspectivassociales.uanl.mx/index.php/pers	Spanish
Panama	Journal of the School of Social Work of the Faculty of Public Administration Autonomous University of Chiriquí	http://www.unachi.ac.pa/assets/descargas/fac_publica/REVISTA-INGENIO-SOCIAL-5.pdf	Spanish
Peru	Praxis Social: Revista de Trabajo Social	https://revistapraxisocial.com/index.php/praxis	Spanish, English
Puerto Rico	Voices from Social Work/Voces desde el Trabajo Social	https://revistavocests.org/index.php/voces	Spanish, English
Uruguay	Regional Journal of Social Work/Revista Regional de Trabajo Social	http://revistatrabajosocial.com/	Spanish
Venezuela	Interaction and Perspective: Journal of Social Work	https://produccioncientificaluz.org/index.php/interaccion/about	Spanish, English
North America (53)			
Canada	Canadian Social Work Review	https://www.erudit.org/en/journals/cswr/	English, French
Canada	Critical Social Work	https://ojs.uwindsor.ca/index.php/csw/index	English
Canada	Indigenous Social Work Journal	https://www.calj-acrs.ca/journal/indigenous-social-work-journal	English
Canada	Intersectionalities: A global journal of social work analysis, research, polity and practice	https://journals.library.mun.ca/ojs/index.php/IJ	English
Canada	Intervention	https://www.erudit.org/fr/revues/interots/	French
Canada	Nouvelles Pratiques Sociales	https://nps.uqam.ca/	French
Canada	Reflets: Revue d'intervention sociale et communautaire	https://www.erudit.org/en/journals/ref/	French
Canada	Social Service Review/Revue Service social	https://www.fss.ulaval.ca/travail-social-et-criminologie/recherche/revue-service-social	French

Publishing Region/Country	Journal Title	Journal Web Page	Language(s)
United States	Advances in Social Work	https://advancesinsocialwork.iupui.edu/	English
United States	Advocates' Forum – Student-run social work journal	https://crownschool.uchicago.edu/student-journal-advocates-forum	English
United States	Affilia: Feminist Inquiry in Social Work	https://journals.sagepub.com/home/aff	English
United States	Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal	https://www.springer.com/journal/10560	English
United States	Children and Schools: A Journal of Social Work Practice	https://academic.oup.com/cs	English
United States	Columbia Social Work Review	https://cswr.columbia.edu/	English
United States	Contemporary Rural Social Work	https://digitalcommons.murraystate.edu/crsw/	English
United States	Ethics and Social Welfare	https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/resw20	English
United States	Journal of Evidence-Based Social Work	https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/webs20	English
United States	Families in Society: The Journal of Contemporary Social Services	https://journals.sagepub.com/home/fis	English
United States	Field Educator	https://fieldeducator.simmons.edu/	English
United States	Health and Social Work	https://academic.oup.com/hsw	English
United States	International Journal of School Social Work	https://newprairiepress.org/ijssw/	English
United States	International Social Work	https://journals.sagepub.com/home/isw	English
United States	Journal of Religion and Spirituality in Social Work	https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/wrsp20	English
United States	Journal of Baccalaureate Social Work	https://meridian.allenpress.com/jbsw	English
United States	Journal of Ethnic and Cultural Diversity in Social Work	https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/weed20	English
United States	Journal of Family Social Work	https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/wfsw20	English
United States	Journal of Forensic Social Work	https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/wfor20	English
United States	Journal of Gay and Lesbian Social Services	https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/wgls20	English
United States	Journal of Gerontological Social Work	https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/wger20	English
United States	Journal of HIV/AIDS and Social Services	https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/whiv20	English
United States	Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment	https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/whum20	English
United States	Journal of Social Work	https://journals.sagepub.com/home/jsw	English
United States	Journal of Social Work Education	https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/uswe20	English
United States	Journal of Social Work in the Global Community	https://scholarworks.waldenu.edu/jswgc/	English

Publishing Region/Country	Journal Title	Journal Web Page	Language(s)
United States	Journal of Social Work Practice in the Addictions	https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/wswp20	English
United States	Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare	https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/jssw/	English
United States	Journal of Teaching in Social Work	https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/wtsw20	English
United States	Journal of the Society of Social Work and Research	https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/toc/jsswr/current	English
United States	Perspectives on Social Work Doctoral Journal	https://www.uh.edu/socialwork/academics/phd/doctoral-journal/	English
United States	Praxis: Where Reflections and Praxis Meet – Student-run journal	https://www.luc.edu/socialwork/praxis/	English
United States	Professional Development: The International Journal of Continuing Social Work Education	http://profdevjournal.org/content/professional-development-international-journal-continuing-social-work-education	English
United States	Qualitative Social Work	https://journals.sagepub.com/home/qsw	English
United States	International Journal of School Social Work	https://newprairiepress.org/ijssw/	English
United States	Research on Social Work Practice	https://journals.sagepub.com/home/rsw	English
United States	Smith College Studies on Social Work Journal	https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/wscs20	English
United States	Social Work (NASW)	https://www.naswpress.org/content/1405/social-work	English
United States	Social Work and Christianity	https://www.nacsw.org/publications/journal-swc/	English
United States	Social Work Forum	https://www.yu.edu/wurzweiler/research	English
United States	Social Work in Health Care	https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/wshc20	English
United States	Social Work in Mental Health	https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/wsmh20	English
United States	Social Work in Public Health	https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/whsp20	English
United States	Social Work Research	https://academic.oup.com/swr	English
United States	Voices: The Silberman Journal of Social Work – Student-run journal	https://sssw.hunter.cuny.edu/student-services/student-groups/	English

Association between the Presence of Social Work Schools and the Existence of Journals as a Predictor

There are several references in the literature suggesting that the professionalisation of social work and the presence of social work associations are connected (for example, Arce 2020). One might speculate whether there is similarly any relationship between the number of social work programmes in a country and the existence of social work journals. Of countries with social work programmes, 30 out of 45 countries in Europe and both the United States and Canada had national social work or allied journals. In

the Global South, nine out of 37 countries with social work programmes in Africa, 17 out of 41 in the Asia Pacific and 13 out of 34 in Latin America and the Caribbean had national social work or allied journals.

Having social work programmes therefore does not seem to suggest the existence of social work journals. This is perhaps owing to the low number of social work practitioners or academics in the country, the early stages of the profession, and/or limited resources for publication. Indeed, Price and Artaraz (2013) note that in the Philippines two social work journals are published intermittently, and it appears that such inconsistency was related to resource issues. A further guess is that social work scholars in several countries use local interdisciplinary journals as a source of publication if there is no specific social work journal. Noting professional imperialism, the dominance of Western constructions of social work, and in some cases the explicit instruction to do so, it is also possible that scholars choose to publish in Northern (probably anglophone) journals to share their knowledge. The relative absence of journals in the Global South might also be attributable to the issues of ongoing colonisation and neoliberalism that ensure robust publication in the North but undermine the sustainability of journals in the South. Non-social work literature affirms that power asymmetries reinforce the dominance of the global North in publication (Curry and Lillis 2019; Flowerdew 2020; Wen, Ching, and Tang 2013).

Regional and Country Counts

In reviewing regional counts, of 272 journals identified globally, Europe publishes the highest number – 98 (81 social work and 17 allied), followed by North America at 93 (53 social work and 40 allied). Confirming Van Breda and Pinkerton’s (2020) assertion, the Global North would therefore seem to produce many more journals than the South: the Asia-Pacific at 44 (35 social work and nine allied), Latin America and the Caribbean at 20 (18 social work and two allied) and Africa at 17 (12 social work and five allied).

As a country, the United States publishes the highest number of social work journals in the world – 81 (45 social work and 36 allied). It is followed by the United Kingdom at 19 (13 social work and six allied), Spain at 18 (17 social work and one allied), Canada at 12 (eight social work and four allied), Germany at 10 (all social work) and India also at 10 (eight social work and two allied). We could not ascertain from the data gathered what the volume of publication is per journal, an indicator that would further explicate regional dominance. It was a surprise to us that European journals dominated though 19 were from the United Kingdom, thus realigning the European non-Anglo numbers to 77. Even so, the social work literature asserts that “social work’s knowledge base is dominated by Anglo-American values, perspectives and epistemologies” (Mathebane and Sekudu as quoted in Roche and Flynn 2020, 307). Perhaps the key to the influence is linked also to language as we explore further below.

Language Counts of Social Work and Allied Journals

The language counts offer further insight into the potential locus of professional imperialism. The English language is the dominant publishing language – 148 journals publish in English only (94 social work and 54 allied). Among 49 journals that publish in two languages, English is one of two languages used in 47 (37 social work and 10 allied) journals. And all 12 journals that publish in multiple languages use English as one of the options (nine social work journals and three allied). Again, we are unable to make clear inferences from the latter data. For example, it may be that all the submissions are published in both languages or, as is the case for the Canadian Social Work Review, manuscripts are published typically in the original language and only rarely are translated into both. It is also not clear if the authors of English language articles are local social work scholars or from elsewhere who choose to publish in English. The reasons for such choice are also not evident from simple lists. These findings, however, underscore the global hegemony of English in academic publishing, and here in social work, and the strong pressure on scholars to publish in English (Curry and Lillis 2019). Although the existence of English as a worldwide lingua franca may have the advantage of fostering international collaborations, the linguistic injustice may limit global knowledge creation (Flowerdew 2020).

The counts for publication languages are presented in Tables 3 and 4.

Table 3: Language counts – Social work journals

Type	Language	Number of Journals
Monolingual journals (152 journals)	Arabic	2
	Chinese	5
	Danish	1
	Dutch	1
	English	94
	Finnish	2
	French	6
	Galician	1
	German	10
	Hebrew	2
	Italian	1
	Japanese	1
	Korean	2
	Latvian	1
	Persian	2
	Romanian	1
	Serbian	2
	Spanish	15
Swedish	1	

Type	Language	Number of Journals
	Turkish	1
	Ukrainian	1
Bilingual journals (38 journals)	English/Arabic	2
	English/Bengali	1
	English/Chinese	2
	English/Croatian	1
	English/Czech	1
	English/French	2
	English/German	2
	English/Icelandic	1
	English/Indonesian	1
	English/Japanese	1
	English/Kannada	1
	English/Lithuanian	1
	English/Malay	1
	English/Polish	1
	English/Portuguese	1
	English/Romanian	1
	English/Russian	1
	English/Slovene	1
	English/Spanish	10
	English/Swahili	1
	English/Thai	2
English/Turkish	2	
Spanish/Portuguese	1	
Multilingual journals (8 journals)	English/Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian	1
	English/Portuguese/Spanish	5
	English/Catalan/Spanish	1
	English/Valencian/Spanish	1
	English/Hebrew/Arabic	1

Table 4: Language counts – Allied social work journals

Type	Language	Number of Journals
Monolingual journals (59 journals)	Arabic	1
	Dutch	1
	English	54
	Khmer	1
	Russian	1
	Serbian	1
Bilingual journals (11 journals)	English/Arabic	1
	English/Dutch	1

Type	Language	Number of Journals
	English/Filipino	1
	English/French	1
	English/Indonesian	1
	English/Norwegian	1
	English/Spanish	2
	English/Turkish	2
	Spanish/Portuguese	1
Multilingual journals (3 journals)	English/Arabic/French	2
	English/French/Indigenous languages	1

Conclusion

We intended in this article to publish a novel list of international social work journals, a visual portrayal of the quantitative dominance of anglophone and Northern journals. This aggregation of journals by language and region reinforces the hegemony of Western, English-language ideas in social work and allied scholarship. However, having access to a worldwide list of journals potentially allows social work scholars and practitioners access and insight into the diverse social work perspectives and debates that currently make up social work, and therefore to expand their knowledge of social work and broaden the canon of social work. This enables social workers to critically interrogate dominant perspectives and to integrate relevant and appropriate diverse social work knowledges into their pedagogy and practice. Moreover, we trust that the availability of such a list will support global knowledge exchanges and dialogue (Van Breda and Pinkerton 2020).

Furthermore, considering that journals inform the professional knowledge base and disciplinary knowledge base informs what is published in journals, such a list helps social workers to understand what dominant influences are and to make choices about where and why to publish. Social work researchers can also see where disciplinary gaps exist internationally with regard to regions and languages and might be intentional about supplementing knowledge publication in these regions and languages. Southern voices may require supplemental resources to initiate and sustain journals and educational institutions need to validate local publication and the exploration of indigenous and other subjugated knowledges.

We do recognise that by conducting and reporting on this study in English that we are replicating patterns of dominance in social work scholarship. We appreciate that this article will be open access and hope that other journals may opt to translate and republish the article as needed, with permission of the publishers Unisa Press and the University of Johannesburg. The contact details of the Journal Editor are available on the journal website.

This list constitutes only one representation of the divide regarding the curation and generation of social work knowledges, and on its own cannot deal with the hegemony of Western, Eurocentric perspectives in social work. Shifting towards greater equity in social work knowledge (re)production requires systematically and intentionally dealing with the various sites of knowledge generation and replication.

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