

OA academic books in Ibero-America

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In the last two years

the first research on the publication of open access books in Ibero-America

has been conducted by

the Research Group on the Academic Book (ILIA) of the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), in collaboration with the Regional Center for the Promotion of Books in Latin America and Caribbean (CERLALC)

Association of University Presses in Latin America and Caribbean (EULAC)

Association of Colombian University Presses (ASEUC)

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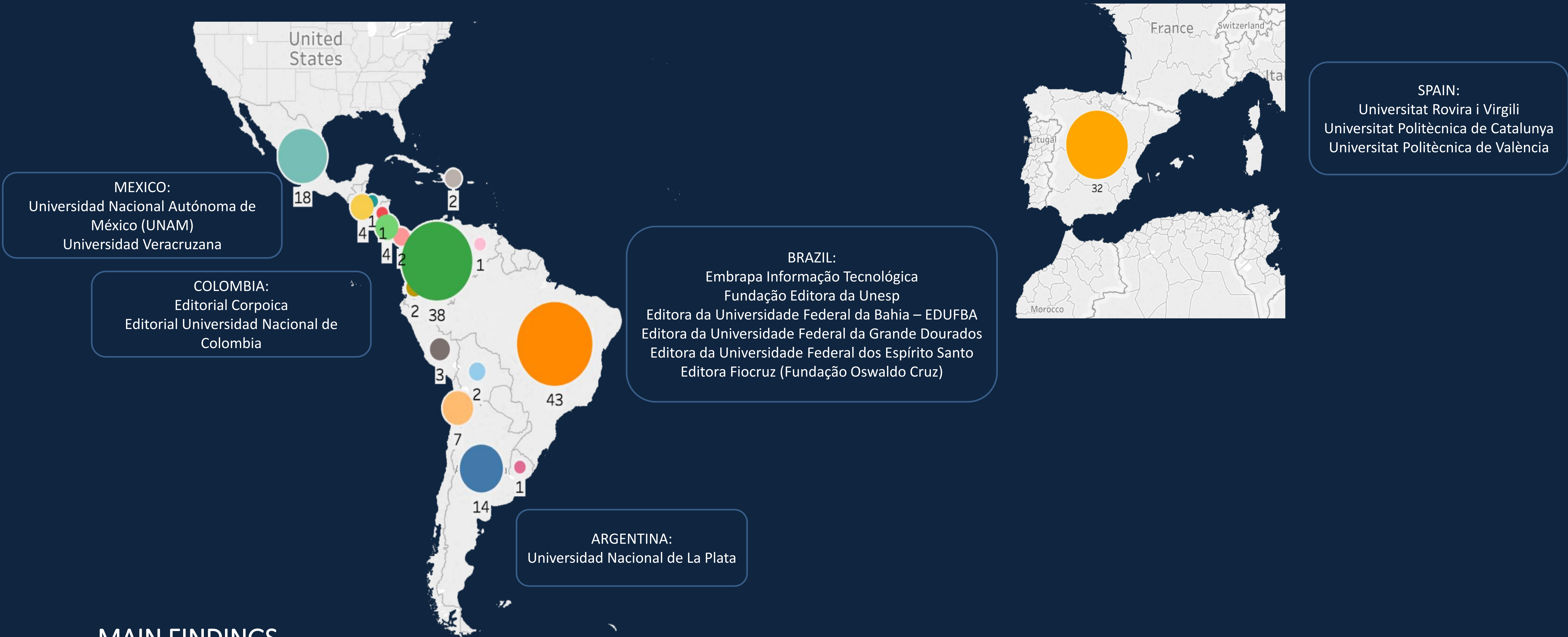
AIMS

1. Identifying the strategies of digital publication and the status of open access book publishing in Ibero-American countries
2. Analysing the degree of knowledge that university editors have about open access monographs and the challenges they represent
3. Knowing the differences between countries as well as the distance or proximity to the international trends in the open access in academic books.

METHODOLOGY

1. Survey. Questionnaire sent to all identified university presses in almost all Latin-American countries & Spain
2. Interviews with editors of university presses
3. Analysis of university presses websites

Nº of Ibero-american university presses participating in the survey per country & most productive university presses in terms of OA books



MAIN FINDINGS

1. While the development of open access journals in Latin America has been remarkable, the same cannot be stated in the case of books.
2. The development of open access books is strongly unbalanced and there are few university presses firmly supporting the model.
3. Around 60% of the publishers participating in the study do publish in open access, although in different degrees and with different intensity.
4. There is a lack of detailed knowledge of what OA involves as well as the opportunities and threats for the book publishing sector.
5. Mistrust by the publishers towards the publication of their monographs or edited volumes in OA.
6. Low coverage of Ibero-American university publishers by international directories such as DOAB, Open Edition Books or even Scielo Books due to the lack of strategy by publishers, the insufficient use of Creative Commons licenses and lack of information on their manuscript selection processes.
7. Editors from university presses believe that subsidies by their universities or others will remain active and that sales will provide a source of income, but they are not confident on – or are not considering- more innovative funding models.
8. BPCs do not seem particularly viable for Ibero-American countries in this moment. The editors place the payment of BPCs as the less effective path for the sustainability of the model and research funds are scarce and not enough for covering these charges.
9. Collaboration among funding agencies, academic publishers and university libraries is required for addressing the big issue of funding of open access books.
10. there is a lack of clear policies, publishers training and –importantly- authors training and there is a lack of collective action in order to make the publication of open access books in Spanish and Portuguese a powerful, visible and competitive reality.
11. Although a majority of Spanish universities and a part of the Latin American ones have signed OA declarations, institutional policies or specific regulations are not sufficiently developed. A greater impulse is required for publishing open access books, foreseeing specific policies and resources. Designing a joint strategy of open access to knowledge in Ibero-American academic books is a necessary action for the strengthening of the academic book in Spanish and Portuguese.

HOPEFUL SIGNS

1. Social commitment of publishers and institutions regarding OA
2. Outstanding of some institutions in the publication of open access books (see the map)
3. Development of Scielo Books
4. Interest and commitment of publishers associations and CERLALC for boosting the academic book in Spanish and Portuguese (including open access publishing) and all the underlying issues: culture, values and relevant topics for the region

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