

A SHARED EUROPEAN RESEARCH SPACE FOR THE SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES? ENGLISH LANGUAGE PUBLISHING AND THE USE OF EUROPEAN JOURNALS



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SUMMARY. This study explores whether there exists a European space of social sciences and humanities (SSH) scholarship in terms of journal use by focusing on journals that explicitly position themselves as Europe-oriented or internationally oriented. We gauge the prevalence of publications in Europe-oriented journals and to what extent the same scholarly journals are used in the SSH across different European countries. We analyze bibliographic metadata of 8,101 SSH journal articles collected from five research-intensive universities in Finland, Flanders (Belgium), Norway, and Spain for the period 2014–2015. We compare the results overall as well as at the level of SSH disciplines to find out to what extent a shared European journal space is emerging between the national and the international level. Differences between broad fields and individual disciplines as well as the institutions are discussed. With regard to journal sharing, the results are partially negative in the sense that we did not find extensive shared journal spaces. In this limited shared journal space however, Europe-oriented journals are of considerable importance. We include reflections on what the value of comprehensive bibliographic data would be for research into the European SSH.

KEYWORDS: social sciences, humanities, Europeanization, internationalization, journal articles, academic journals.

INTRODUCTION

The internationalization of the social sciences and humanities (SSH) has been repeatedly pointed towards by scientometricians, as bibliometric indicators deliver

strong proof for this process: there is an increasing share of publications in English (Engels et al. 2012; Sivertsen 2016), an increasing number of English-language journals, and an increase of international collaborations (globally, see: Mosbah-Natanson, Gingras 2014; for the case of Flanders, Belgium see: Ossenblok et al. 2014). These patterns of internationalization, however, are not the same for all SSH disciplines or all regions in the world. In other words, there is no homogeneous globalization of all SSH fields (Heilbron et al. 2017; Heilbron and Gingras 2018). Which factors lead to differences in the degree of internationality?

Not all disciplines undergo the same transformations with regard to English language use, as some remain more focused on national contexts (Kulczycki et al. 2018; Kulczycki et al. 2020) and, in some disciplines and regions, other languages than English play the role of lingua franca (Sivertsen 2018). Moreover, different regions and continents do not contribute equally to the production of the SSH. Instead, the picture of international collaboration in, and the production of, SSH research looks more like a core-periphery model (Keim 2010; Mosbah-Natanson and Gingras 2014: 630), in which the US and Europe function as two established central hubs, leading to an equally strong internal regionalization within these centers.

The increase of extra-European (international) collaborations in which European researchers take part, for example, runs parallel with increased intra-European collaboration (Heilbron et al. 2018). This European integration through collaborations in the SSH follows from, on the one hand, historical developments and geographical characteristics and, on the other, policy initiatives. Historically, many Western European countries have long traditions of SSH research that come with established organizational structures for intra-European dissemination of SSH scholarship, such as professional associations and journals, which in their turn foster European collaboration. The geographical proximity of countries and the relative density of universities in the different regions is another important catalyst. More recently, policy initiatives of the European Commission like the Framework Programmes for Research and Technological Development in the context of the ERA (European Research Area) and the installation of the ERC (European Research Council) aim to further incentivize the European orientation of the SSH.

OUTLINE

In this article we study the SSH at five research-intensive universities in Europe in terms of the ‘Europeanization’ of journal use. By Europeanization of journal use we mean two things: (a) that European universities use similar journals and (b) that these journals have a European scope. We thus explore whether processes of European integration of the SSH can be observed in terms of the journals in which SSH

scholars publish their research. We examine whether a shared European journal space is present, and how this shared journal space looks in terms of language used, and of regional or international orientation of the journals. The Europeanization of the SSH has received considerable attention in the recent literature and has been proposed as a process which is part of, but distinct from, the increased internationalization of the SSH (Heilbron et al. 2017; Heilbron et al. 2018). Much like internationalization, aspects of Europeanization can be operationalized bibliometrically.

The past three decades have seen a steady increase in the number of journals that have the explicit ambition of bringing together research on European societal issues or geographical regions within Europe (see: Heilbron et al. 2017). These journals often carry the predicate ‘European’ in their titles. As an indicator for ‘Europeanization’ we can thus study to what extent scholars make use of these journals. Little is known about the importance of these fora in terms of integrating the European SSH. To what extent do they serve as a common space for communicating research?

As Europe-oriented journals aim to bring together scholars studying concepts like ‘European society’, the ‘European public sphere’ or ‘European history’, they could restructure the European SSH by offering new possibilities for research orientation (Heilbron et al. 2018). This raises the question of whether these journals are (increasingly) important to the SSH in Europe. In this article we therefore explore (i) the use of English in journal articles across universities from different countries and disciplines, (ii) the number of Europe-oriented journals for the different fields, and (iii) the number of journals shared by the universities together with the language and orientation of journals present in these shared journal spaces. In the next section we describe the data and methods which are used for the analysis.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DATASET

The bibliographic data used for our analysis were collected in the context of the ENRESSH-VIRTA pilot (Puuska et al. 2018). The pilot’s primary aim was to investigate the possibilities of a comprehensive European bibliographic database for the SSH. It is one of the outcomes of a collaborative effort resulting from the COST Action ENRESSH (CA15137 “European Network for Research Evaluation in the Social Sciences and Humanities”). The project has been initiated by Working Group 3 (“Databases and the uses of data for understanding SSH research”, see: <https://enressh.eu/working-group-3/objectives/>). The dataset which was compiled for the pilot consists of bibliographic metadata of 25,496 SSH publications from six research intensive European universities: the University of Antwerp, the

University Carlos III of Madrid (UC3M), the University of Oslo, the University of Jyväskylä, the University of Helsinki, and Tampere University of Technology. Data for Tampere University of Technology are omitted in this study, as we focus on the SSH. Tampere University of Technology is largely inactive in these fields.

Unlike data collected from commercial indexing services, for example, Web of Science (WoS) or Scopus, national databases aim at comprehensiveness, by accounting for local publication channels, multiple publication types, and multiple languages (Aksnes and Sivertsen 2019; Sile et al. 2018). Different publication types (i.e., articles in peer-reviewed journals and popularizing outlets, books and book chapters, edited volumes, and conference proceedings), and publication languages are included for the two-year period 2014–2015 and four countries are represented (i.e. Belgium, Finland, Norway, and Spain).

The importance of comprehensive data stems from differences in publication practices in the SSH. Unlike STEM fields, the research output in the SSH is more diverse in terms of publication types and languages (Hicks 2004; Ossenblok et al. 2012). Our dataset representing SSH publications from the universities contains a total of 25,496 publications, of which 26.22% are book chapters, and almost 10% are non-refereed journal articles (9.86%). 8,101 records are articles in peer-reviewed journals – almost a third of the entire collection (31.62%). In this study, we identified SSH publications by means of field classifications provided by each university’s data. The field classification is not entirely uniform across the institutions, as some use a cognitive classification and others the organizational affiliation of the authors to determine fields and disciplines. For more background on cognitive and organizational classifications we refer to Guns et al. (2018).

Table 1 displays some clear differences in publication volume between the institutions. The University of Helsinki has the largest output. The analysis in the present paper focuses on articles in the peer-reviewed journals. Hence, all results only refer to this subset of the data. For the sake of simplicity we refer to this part of the collection as journal articles.

Table 1. Number of peer reviewed journal articles per university and broad fields

	Antwerp	UC3M	Oslo	Jyväskylä	Helsinki	Total
Social sciences	915	764	1,547	715	1,751	5,692
Humanities	320	93	737	311	948	2,409
Total	1,235	857	2,284	1,026	2699	8,101

As we are interested in a shared journal space, which is used by several universities, it is important to know to which extent the different organizations and disciplines publish their work in either English or other languages, and in which

disciplines the universities are most active. Both bibliographic characteristics can be thought of as boundaries for academic communities (i.e., language communities and/or academic disciplines respectively) and might be decisive for the (non-) existence of a shared journal space.

Given the geographic spread of the universities in the dataset, it is expected that a shared journal space involving all four countries will be almost exclusively in English, except for specific subfields focusing on a specific language or cultural topic. An earlier study based on national bibliographic databases for example found a larger shared journal space between the Flemish and Finnish universities in SSH fields, with a high share of journal articles in English language. The most prevalent fields included psychology, economics and business, and social and economic geography (Pölonen et al. 2017). Consequently, we will direct most of our attention to English-language journals. Similarly, we pay attention to the fields where a university is active in. If a particular university is very active in, say, economics and business and researchers from other universities are not involved in this field, it is highly unlikely that the other universities publish research in the journals dedicated to this particular niche.

METHODS

To study aspects of internationalization at the five universities, we calculate the proportion of English language publications relative to all journal article publications. We collect these shares for each university separately, as well as for each disciplinary category. The results of this analysis give us an indication of the degree to which, on the one hand, different universities are internationally oriented, and the extent to which this is the case for separate fields, on the other. While we acknowledge that international communication also happens in other major languages such as French, Spanish, or Arabic (Sivertsen 2018), English is the primary language through which researchers at all studied universities might be able to communicate.

In the second part of the analysis we look into the usage of Europe-oriented journals at the different universities, contrasting the social sciences with the humanities, to analyze to what extent Europe-oriented journals are of importance. The results are compared to those for internationally oriented journals. We intend to study journals' profiling as either Europe-oriented or internationally oriented. This is reflected, to some extent, in a journal's title. That is, our focus is on the ambitions set out by the editorial board as to which regions or audiences the journal aims to be of benefit. Is the journal specifically aiming at an international audience,

covering all regions in the world, or is the journal's scope narrower, specifically targeting Europe? We make use of a string matching script to look up journals with, for example, 'europ' or 'international' in their titles. The shares with respect to all English-language journals are calculated.

In addition, we study the language of the serials that are shared between the institutions. It is assumed that the ones which are situated in the shared journal spaces will rather be English-language, Europe-oriented outlets. First we present a descriptive analysis of the intersections of journal spaces by making use of UpSet visualizations, a more suitable alternative to Venn diagrams when it comes to visualizing three or more intersecting sets (Lex et al. 2014). We further elaborate on this visualization technique in the results section. In addition, we present an analysis of the language and the orientation of the journals similar to the one provided in part 1 and 2. That is, we look at the proportion of English-language journals over other language journals in these intersecting sets, and the share of Europe-oriented or internationally oriented journals.

RESULTS

ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PUBLISHING AND THE ORIENTATION OF JOURNALS

In Table 2 we present an overview of the number and share of English-language journal articles relative to the total number of articles per institution and per SSH discipline. A first observation can be made on the level of the broad fields (a) social sciences and (b) humanities. English-language journal articles are less common for the humanities than for the social sciences. This is the same across the different institutions. The usage of other languages seems to be more balanced in the humanities.

On the level of individual disciplines, the importance of English-language is quite uniform across different institutions. Starting from the top, we see that for psychology the absolute majority of research articles is published in English. This is the same for business & economics, sociology, and social & economic geography. For the other social science disciplines, articles in other languages seem to be of considerable importance too.

For the disciplinary categories within the humanities, we observe that research in history & archaeology is quite evenly published in other as well as English-language journals; the shares are quite well balanced. For language & literature, a similar conclusion can be made. This is somehow peculiar, since in these fields it is common to publish in the 'object language'. Apart from the arts, other disciplines

in the humanities thus seem to be somewhat more internationally oriented in terms of English-language publishing.

Table 2. Percentage of English-language journal articles per discipline and per university. Total number of articles, column and row-wise

University of	Antwerp	UC3M	Oslo	Jyväskylä	Helsinki	
Total	1,235	857	2,284	1,026	2,699	
Discipline	Social sciences					Total
Psychology	95.2%	-	90.9%	85.5%	95.4%	1,065
Sociology	81.0%	31.3%	81.8%	71.1%	83.0%	915
Educational sciences	50.0%	-	74.3%	79.5%	82.8%	1,012
Economics & business	94.9%	75.5%	81.4%	89.6%	81.3%	769
Social & economic geography	91.5%	-	74.8%	100.0%	79.1%	263
Political science	77.8%	-	84.4%	63.6%	75.4%	436
Media & communication	81.3%	46.8%	91.4%	83.1%	75.0%	586
Law	24.9%	22.2%	60.5%	50.0%	61.9%	1,009
Other	95.7%	-	-	78.9%	89.8%	120
	Humanities					
Philosophy, ethics & religion	74.6%	21.7%	59.0%	82.0%	76.1%	625
History & archaeology	56.3%	15.6%	66.7%	55.2%	70.3%	438
Language & literature	65.6%	-	61.5%	65.8%	61.1%	953
Art	87.8%	-	8.9%	19.8%	54.2%	213
Other	40.0%	-	74.4%	69.6%	86.2%	177

Note: OECD (2007) Fields of Science classification system is used.

On the level of institutions, the UC3M shows a somewhat unusual pattern when compared to the other four universities. Articles in other languages, mainly Spanish, are of more importance than English-language journal articles in all disciplines, except one (economics & business).

But to what degree are authors from the different disciplines making use of platforms with an explicit international orientation? What is the share of journals which purposely portray themselves as being internationally oriented? And what about Europe-oriented journals? Table 3 presents the share of such journals over all English-language journals per institution and per broad field. For the social sciences we observe that both internationally oriented and Europe-oriented journals are quite common. It is also clear that within the humanities, such journals play a lesser role. The UC3M has a relatively high share of internationally oriented journals, but note that the number of English-language humanities journals for this university is small relative to the total number.

Table 3. Share of Europe-oriented and internationally oriented journals over all English language journals. Per institution and the broad fields

University of	Antwerp	UC3M	Oslo	Jyväskylä	Helsinki
Scope	Social sciences				
International ^a	15.1%	7.8%	10.8%	12.7%	11.6%
European ^b	11.2%	4.9%	6.8%	4.8%	6.7%
Not specified	73.7%	87.2%	82.4%	82.5%	81.7%
	Humanities				
International ^a	7.6%	21.1%	3.2%	5.2%	6.3%
European ^b	2.9%	5.3%	1.5%	3.9%	3.2%
Not specified	89.5%	73.7%	95.3%	90.9%	90.5%

Note: ^a Title or part thereof indicates that the journal has an international scope, ^b Title or part thereof indicates that the journal has a European scope.

For the Nordic universities the internationally and Europe-oriented journals seem to be of lesser importance than for the University of Antwerp. Both in the social sciences and in the humanities, the share of internationally oriented journals is lower. For the Finnish universities, within the humanities, the share of Europe-oriented journals is slightly higher than those of Antwerp and Oslo.

A SNAPSHOT OF SHARED JOURNAL SPACES

Let us turn to the question whether there exist shared journal spaces between the universities from different countries, and what these spaces look like. We make use of set analysis to get an idea of the extent to which journals are shared between the universities. We do so by making use of UpSet visualizations. UpSet visualizations are shown for the social sciences (Figure 1) and for the humanities (Figure 2).

An UpSet plot displays (i) the size of each set, shown to the left of the names of the universities, and (ii) the size of each intersection of two or more sets. An intersection is indicated in the matrix of dots by two or more connected dots on the right of the names of the universities. The third column, for example, contains the details of the intersection between the journals used by the University of Oslo and the University of Helsinki. The bar on top of the connected dots indicates the size of each intersection.

For the social sciences, it becomes immediately clear that most journals are unique to each university (2,237 or 65.6%). In addition, UC3M seems to occupy a quite isolated position, when compared to the journal sharing between the Nordic universities and the University of Antwerp. Evidently, most of the overlap occurs

between the two Finnish universities, next to Helsinki and Oslo. Antwerp is quite similar to Oslo and Helsinki in terms of journal use.

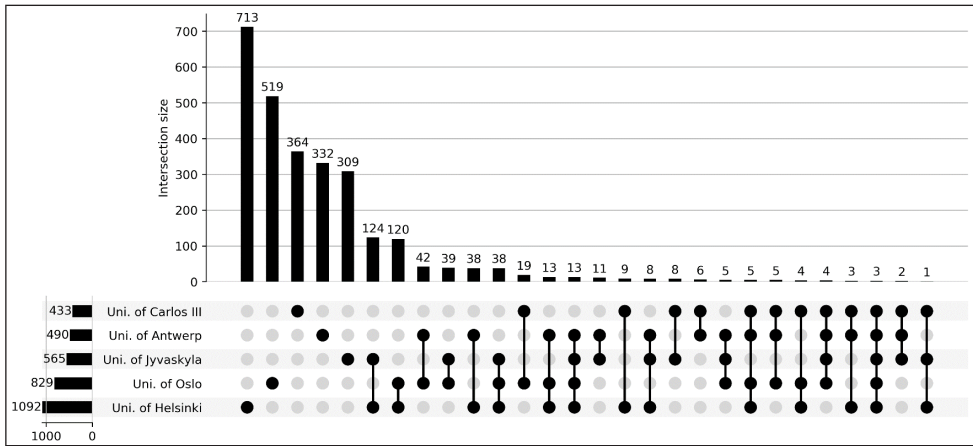


Figure 1. Intersections between journals sets of the different institutions for the social sciences, all languages

In the humanities, usage of the same journals is even less common between the institutions. The largest number of journals is again unique to single universities (1,144 or 78.1%). The largest overlap is found for the two Finnish universities, followed by a rather large overlap between Oslo and Helsinki. The UC3M is almost completely isolated. Two journals are shared with Helsinki, and one with Antwerp and Helsinki.

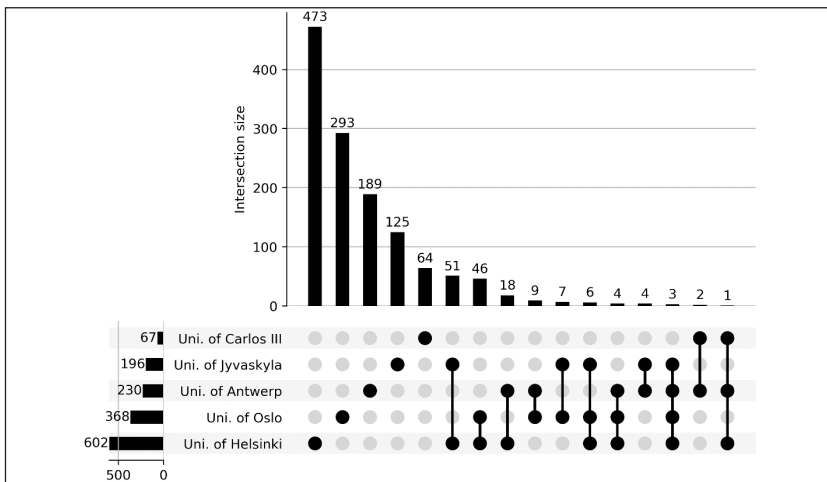


Figure 2. Intersections between journals sets of the different institutions for the humanities, all languages

What kind of journals can be found in these intersecting sets? Are they mainly English language journals with an international or European scope? Or are these other language outlets with a non-specified scope? Table 4 presents the number of unique journals which can be found in, starting from the column on the right, at least five universities. The second column on the right displays the number of journals which are used by at least four universities, etc. As expected going down to three universities, these are all English-language journals. The set of journals which are shared by at least two universities contains Finnish language journals as well as Spanish, Norwegian, and Dutch ones. For the humanities, this picture looks quite similar.

Table 4. Number of unique journals in the intersections between N universities per language category

Intersection	Two universities	Three universities	Four universities	Five universities
Social sciences				
English	456	104	25	3
Finnish	29	0	0	0
Norwegian	2	0	0	0
Dutch	2	0	0	0
Other	6	0	0	0
Spanish	2	0	0	0
Humanities				
English	113	14	3	0
Finnish	25	0	0	0
Norwegian	1	0	0	0
Dutch	0	0	0	0
Spanish	2	0	0	0
Other	10	0	0	0

Table 5 presents the results of the title analysis. What is remarkable here is that Europe-oriented journals seem to be somewhat more important than the internationally oriented ones. For the social sciences, for example, Europe-oriented journals which are shared by two universities outnumber the international ones. The same is true for journals which are shared amongst three or four universities. For the humanities, although the number of shared journals is considerably lower, this picture is quite similar.

Table 5. Scope of English-language journals in the intersections between universities (unique number)

Intersection	2 universities	3 universities	4 universities	5 universities
	Social sciences			
International	37	4	1	0
European	42	10	2	0
Not specified	369	87	22	3
	Humanities			
International	8	0	0	0
European	5	1	0	0
Not specified	97	11	3	0

DISCUSSION

Publication practices largely differ between the social sciences on the one hand and the humanities on the other. In previous research, it has already been shown that humanities scholars make use of a more diverse range of genres as well as publication types when compared to social scientists. Much like the sciences, social scientists primarily make use of journal articles, while humanities scholars also publish a lot of their work in book format. Within these broad fields, differences between the individual disciplines can be found as well, where more professionally oriented disciplines within the social sciences, such as for example law and the educational sciences, tend to make more use of the local language to communicate their findings also among a broader, professional and more local public.

Based on a comparison of SSH publishing patterns in eight European countries, Kulczycki et al. (2018) have concluded that “publication patterns differ both between fields (e.g. patterns in law differ from those in economics & business in the same way in Flanders and Finland) and within fields (e.g. patterns in law in the Czech Republic differ from patterns in law in Finland)” (Kulczycki et al. 2018). Our results presented in Table 1 are largely consonant with, and contribute to these findings. On one hand, in all five universities, psychology, economics & business, and social & economic geography are among the fields with the highest shares of English-language articles, while law, history & archaeology and language & literature exhibit a rather low share of English-language articles. On the other hand, for all fields we find a lower share of English-language articles in the UC3M than for the other universities.

An earlier study of journal publishing for the period 2011–2014 of the Finnish and Flemish universities has shown that in many SSH fields, “the majority of Flemish and Finnish research is published in different channels” (Pölonen et al. 2017). Also in our analyses no extensive sharing of journals is apparent. Instead, we find that SSH publications from the five European universities are scattered over many different journals. With regard to the shared journal spaces, however, we do find that Europe-oriented journals have become prominent when contrasted to the internationally oriented ones. Thus, while Europeanization is not noticeable from the number of journals shared between the institutions, we can conclude that this process does become apparent when limiting the attention to the shared spaces themselves.

LIMITATIONS

While the dataset at hand is comprehensive, there are important limitations to note. First, a shortcoming of this study follows from the small time-window. Only two publication years could be included for the analysis, which does not allow us to draw any conclusions about processes of change. Instead, we thus rely on a snapshot for a two-year timeframe. We have access to records from six universities, of which only five showed considerable activity in the social sciences and humanities. It follows that the results might not be generalizable to other countries or regions in Europe.

In order to further explore Europeanization, European co-operation, and publishing languages in SSH fields, a Europe-wide infrastructure for comprehensive scholarly publication data is needed. The ENRESSH-VIRTA pilot demonstrated that it could be implemented cost-effectively by integrating the high quality national publication information systems from different European countries (cf. Puuska et al. 2018).

CONCLUSION

In this article we have studied the European integration of the SSH in terms of journal use. We have analyzed English language use in different fields and at different institutions from four European countries. We have gauged the importance of explicitly Europe-oriented and internationally oriented journals. In line with previous research, it became clear that disciplines exhibit different publication patterns in terms of publication types used and the shares of English language publishing

when it comes to journal articles. No case could be made however, for extensive sharing of journals between all universities. Instead we find that publications are scattered over many different journals.

One reason for this dispersion and the emergence of sub-regions (ex. Scandinavia) might be the programmatic nature of European funding initiatives. In order to establish an integrated European research space for the SSH, more attention should be directed to sustainable intra-European cooperation. The funding of thematic structures with long term research agendas might be a possible way forward to further integrate the SSH at a European level.

Beneficial and perhaps even crucial for further Europeanization of SSH will be an integrated European knowledge infrastructure which on its turn allows smooth transmission of knowledge between the different European institutions and disciplines. A lot of knowledge is already present, but without a shared European scholarly publication infrastructure this remains mainly at disposal of the individual universities and countries.

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BENDRA EUROPOS MOKSLO ERDVĖ HUMANITARINIAMS IR SOCIALINIAMS
MOKSLAMS? PUBLIKACIJOS ANGLŲ KALBA IR EUROPOS ŽURNALAI

SANTRAUKA. Studijoje tiriama, ar egzistuoja bendra Europos erdvė humanitariniams ir socialiniams mokslams (HSM) pagal šių mokslų sričių žurnalų, pozicionuojančių kaip Europos ar tarptautinių, populiarumą. Tirdami į Europos mokslo erdvę orientuotus žurnalus kreipiame dėmesį į tai, kiek šie žurnalai yra populiarūs tarp HSM tyrėjų iš skirtingų Europos šalių publikuotis. Analizuoti 2014–2015 metų 8 101 HSM žurnalų straipsnio bibliografiniai metaduomenys, kurie surinkti iš mokslingiausių universitetų Suomijoje, Flandrijoje (Belgija), Norvegijoje ir Ispanijoje. Rezultatus lyginame tiek bendrai, tiek pagal atskiras HSM disciplinas tam, kad nustatytume, kiek Europos žurnalai skiriasi nacionaliniu ir tarptautiniu lygiu. Kalbos vartojimo tyrimų rezultatai atitinka ankstesnius tyrimus. Pastebėta skirtumų tarp plačių sričių ir atskirų disciplinų bei institucijų. Bendro pobūdžio žurnalų paieškos iš dalies neigiamos, nes nerasta labai populiarių tokių žurnalų. Tačiau į Europos mokslo erdvę orientuoti žurnalai, kuriuos mokslininkai renkasi publikuoti, yra gana svarbūs. Straipsnyje pateikiama išvalgų apie tai, kokie reikšmingi būtų Europos HSM pačios aprėpties bibliografiniai duomenys.

RAKTAŽODŽIAI: humanitariniai ir socialiniai mokslai, europietišškėjimas, tarptautišškėjimas, žurnalų straipsniai, akademiniai žurnalai.