

Open Access Publishing: A new avenue to publish scholarly literature.

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Abstract:

Open access journals are growing rapidly by augmenting and complementing readers' perspectives. They are freely accessible to readers and do not impose any obligations due to copyright disputes or other publisher limitations. Because of the digital revolution, the publication of academic journals has faced dramatic change. In recent years, journal publishers have started to publish parallel electronic versions of their publications, and now electronic versions of journals through e-permitting are the standard. Open access academic publishing contains journals without any kind of publication or subscription fees, as well as electronic versions that are freely accessible to anyone, anywhere around the world. In this context, this papers discusses the characteristics of open access scholarly publications, platforms to find the open access journals and barriers to open access publications.

Keywords:

Introduction

The publishing of academic journals has witnessed a radical change because of the development of the Internet. Over the last 15 years almost the entire publishing of scholarly peer-reviewed journals has migrated to electronic Web publishing as the main channel of dissemination. However, the major revenue model for scholarly publishing, that of charging readers for the access has remained the same particularly in the case of bigger and established publishers. Standard publishers of membership journals began publishing parallel electronic adaptations of their journals around the millennium shift and today electronic conveyance of enormous group of journals through e-permitting is the ruling plan of action (Tenopir, 2002). At the same period, new investors, both individual scientists and innovative publishing companies, have launched Open Access (OA) journals, which offer the full text of the journals to anyone with Internet to access and read (Bjork and Solomon, 2012). Free access to research articles without any restrictions posed by subscriptions is commonly referred to as Open Access (Willinsky, 2005).

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Since then, Open Access has provided a significant attention and development. Open access (OA) articles are freely available for knowledge dissemination. It is crucially significant to researchers, academic publishers, and, ultimately, the wider community.

What is Open Access Publishing?

Open access is a broad international movement that seeks to grant free and open online access to academic information, such as publications and data. A publication is defined 'open access' when there are no financial, legal or technical barriers to accessing it - that is to say when anyone can read, download, copy, distribute, print, search for and search within the information, or use it in education or in any other way within the legal agreements. Open access is a publishing model for scholarly communication that makes research information available to readers at no cost, as opposed to the traditional subscription model in which readers have access to scholarly information by paying a subscription.

What are Open access journals?

Open access journals are journals whose articles are available and reusable worldwide free of charge and without restrictions immediately on publication. As a rule, contributions in journals that meet this definition are published under a Creative Commons licence granted by the authors. The publishers of these journals are granted only a non-exclusive right of use by the authors. Open access journals are the primary medium for what is known as gold open access.

Through gold open access, articles achieve the widest possible dissemination and are available to and reusable by scholars and scientists and all other interested parties as fast as possible. In this way, the visibility of research results is enhanced and their citation frequency is often increased (Piwowar et al., 2018)

Characteristics of OA scholarly publications

Some of the characteristics of Open access scholarly publications are:

- The literature is digital and online.
- They are available for free of charge.
- They are free from the constraints of copyright and licensing restrictions.
- They will be published immediate without loss of time.
- Publications will be full text not a mere abstract.

- Open access journals are scholarly
- Open access journals utilize quality control mechanisms like those of conventional journals
- They may allow authors to retain their copyrights, and
- They may use Creative Commons or similar licenses

Platforms to find OA journals

- DOAJ: You can find a list of open access journals in the Directory of Open Access Journals.
- ROAD: You can also use ROAD (Director of Open Access Scholarly Resources).
- SciELO: The Scientific Electronic Library Online (SciELO) is another option.

DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals)

DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals) is the most well-known and authoritative collection of scholarly, peer-reviewed, fully open-access journals. It is hosted by Lund University Libraries in Sweden, but is supported by donors and members from all over the world. DOAJ's mission is to improve the awareness, reliability, credibility, use, and impact of high-quality, open-access scholarly research articles worldwide, regardless of discipline, geography, or language. DOAJ will work with editors, publishers, and journal owners to make them appreciate the importance of best practices and principles in publishing and how to apply them to their own operations (DOAJ, 2021).

ROAD, (Directory of Open Access scholarly Resources)

Launched in December 2013, ROAD provides a free access to those ISSN bibliographic records which describe scholarly resources in Open Access: journals, monographic series, conference proceedings, academic repositories and scholarly blogs. These records, created by the ISSN, are enriched by information extracted from indexing and abstracting databases, directories and journals indicators (Scopus). ROAD is in line with the actions of UNESCO for promoting Open Access to scientific resources. ROAD is complementary to the Global Open Access Portal (GOAP) developed by UNESCO and providing a snapshot of the status of Open Access to scientific information around the world.

Barriers to Open access

UNESCO identified the major barriers in the developing countries are as follows;
Lack of awareness: Lack of awareness of the existence of high-quality books, journals and other publications that are freely accessible on the web.

- **Misconceptions:** Misconceptions about open access journals, books and repositories being of low quality; Internet connection must be needed to access every time; OA cannot be accessed offline or be printed into hardcopy; OA resources are not peer-reviewed, low impact factor & not published by reputable publishers. OA is not recognized by accreditation authorities as library resources.
- **Technological Barrier:** poor internet access/ low band widths; lack or obsolete ICTs; lack of skilled ICT personnel; no ICT training program.
- **Change factor:** Resistance to open access integration by personnel/ authorities; Resistance to the adoption of modern technologies by personnel/ authorities.
- **Management factor:** Willingness to release funds for Open access project; Willingness to put in place OA Policy statement; Limited support from management.

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