
Open Access: Types Of Journals Published

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Abstract

The Open Access (OA) aims at removing restrictions that exist on the access to article and knowledge to the worldwide scholarly community, in particular to those in developing countries. Scientists in these countries still have difficulty in publishing their work due to the lack of access to the network, to their institutional economic difficulties or to the lack of awareness of available Open Access (OA) solutions. One hopes that Open Access (OA) will enhance educational and research opportunities and bring the world together. This paper mainly discusses an overview of the open access and the awareness of the potential of open publishing.

Keywords: Open Access, General Journals, Specialized Journals, Regional Journals, Institutional Journals, annual Reviews, Publication Type.

1. Introduction

Our knowledge about the world has been improving more and more rapidly with time and is becoming increasingly reliable. It is clear that the adaptation of societies to the knowledge base has become ever more critical for sustained growth. It is sad to note, however, that access to knowledge is becoming to restrict and large functions of the world are being left behind in this enormously exciting enterprise of our time. It is critical to bridge the knowledge-gape in every possible way, especially because every segment of the world today depends on the other. A means of achieving some semblance of balance is offered by implementing Open Access solutions.

Open Access (OA) solutions are desirable from another point of view as well. The visibility, usage and impact of researchers' own findings can increase with Open Access, as does their power to find, access and use the work of others. Thus, universities and Research centers also benefit from their researchers' increased impact, which also increases the return on investment of those who fund the research- such as governments, foundations and scientific societies.

Open Access (OA) literature is digital, online, free of charge, and free from most copyright and licensing restrictions. It can be delivered through Open Access journals, which perform peer review, or through OA archives or repositories, which do not. One of the achievements of the worldwide OA movement is to persuade 80% of non-OA journals to let their authors deposit the peer-reviewed versions of their work in OA repositories.

2. What is Open Access

About 25,000 peer-reviewed journals are published worldwide, in all disciplines and all languages. They publish about 2.5 million articles per year. Most universities and research institutions can only

afford to subscribe to a fraction of those journals, so all those articles are accessible to only a fraction of their potential users. That means that research is having only a fraction of its potential usage and impact and is achieving only a fraction of its potential productivity and progress. If 100% of research articles were freely accessible through OA, then the usage, impact, productivity and progress of research

In the paper era there was no way to remedy this, but in the web era there is a way: "Open Access" provides free web-wide access to research journals articles, immediately and permanently.

In 2002 the Open Society Institute initiated the Budapest Declaration, supported by a group of scholars and seconded since then by thousands of signatories. The declaration stated:

"Open Access to peer-reviewed journal literature is the goal. Self achieving (I) and anew generation of open-access journals (II) are the ways to attain this goal (Budapest Open Access Initiative 2002)."

This set the basis of OA and was later complemented by the Bethesda Statement on Open Access publishing (2003) and the Berlin Declaration to Open Access to knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities (2003). These all aimed to provide definitions and commitments related to the OA paradigm. The discussion was transposed to a development context through the Salvador Declaration on Open Access: the developing world perspective (Brazil 2005), later revisited in the Bangalore Declaration: A National Open Access Policy for Developing Countries (2006). There are two roads to OA:

- ◆ the "golden road" of OA journal-publishing, where journals provides OA to their articles (either by charging the author-institution for refereeing/publishing outgoing articles instead of charging the user-institution for accessing incoming articles, or by simply making their online edition free for all);
- ◆ the "green road" of OA self archiving, where authors provide OA to their own published articles , by making their own e-prints free for all.

The two roads to OA should not be confused or conflated; they are complementary.

OA self-archiving is not self –publishing; nor is it about online publishing without quality control (peer-review); nor is it intended for writings for which the author wishes to be paid, such as books or magazine/newspaper articles. OA self-archiving is for peer-reviewed research, written solely for research impact rather than royalty revenue.

3. Benefits from Open Access

Society as a whole benefits from an expanded and accelerated research cycle in which scientists can advance more effectively because they have immediate access to all the findings they need.

The visibility, usage and impact of researchers' own findings increases with OA, as does their power to find, access and use the findings of others, Universities co-benefit form their researchers' increased

impact, which also increases the return on the investment of the founders of the research, such as governments, charitable foundations, and the tax paying public. A number of funding bodies and research councils are now beginning to mandate that works funded by them should be made freely available using OA repositories. For teachers, Open Access means no restrictions on providing articles for teaching purposes. Only the URL need be provided; Open Access takes care of the rest. Publishers likewise also benefit from the wider dissemination, greater visibility and higher journal citation impact factor of their articles.

4. Why is Open Access Important?

Published research results and ideas are the foundation for future progress in science and medicine. Open Access publishing therefore leads to wider dissemination of information and increased efficiency in science, by providing:

- ◆ Open Access To Ideas - Whether a patient seeking health information, an educator wishing to enliven a lesson plan, or a researcher looking to formulate a hypothesis, making papers freely available online provides with the most current peer-reviewed scientific information and discoveries.
- ◆ Open Access To The Broadest Audience - As a researcher, publishing in an Open Access journal allows anyone with an interest in the work to read it- and that translates into increased usage and impact.

5. Open Access: “Strong” and “Weak”

The term “Open Access” is now widely used in at least two senses. For some, “OA” literature is digital, online, and free of charge. It removes price barriers but not permission barriers. For others, “OA” literature is digital, online, free of charges, and free of unnecessary copyright and licensing restrictions. It removes both price barriers and permission barriers. It allows reuse rights which exceeds fair use. Most of our success stories deliver OA in the first sense, while the major public statements from the Budapest, Bethesda, and Berlin (together, the BBB definition of OA) describe OA in the second sense.

Scientists have agreed to use the term “weak OA” for the removal of price barriers alone and “strong OA” for the removal of both price and permission barriers. The new terms are a distinct improvement upon the previous state of ambiguity because they label one of those species weak and the other strong.

On this new technology, the BBB definition describes one kind of strong OA. A typical funder or university mandate provides weak OA. Many OA journals provide strong OA, but many others provide weak OA.

Weak OA is a necessary but not sufficient condition of strong OA. Weak OA is often attainable in circumstances when strong OA is not attainable and should not be delayed until one can achieve strong OA. Strong OA is a desirable goal above and beyond weak OA. The desirability of strong OA is a reason to keep working after attaining weak OA, but not a reason to disparage the difficulties or the significance of weak OA.

There is more than one kind of permission barrier to remove, and therefore there is more than one kind or degree of strong OA.

There are a variety of different kinds of journals produced in the world of scholarly and scientific publishing. Some journals are broadly focused and cover a range of topic form a diversity of contributors. Others are more narrowly focused, on either the research interests of the contributors, all coming, perhaps, from the same academic discipline or from the same institution, or on the subject matter. It is important to select the best type of journal to meet both immediate and long-term needs.

For a new scientific or scholarly journal, deciding on the type of journal to produce is a significant decision, which will have long-term implications on the direction of the publication. A wide variety of options exist, each with their own strengths and challenges. Deciding on the best choice for the new any new journal must be based upon own research interest, the size of the potential audience for the new journal, and any institutional requirements that may need consideration. It is also important to remain flexible, as it is possible to combine different journal type, depending on the own situation.

5.1 General Journals

One option is the general journal, which may be multidisciplinary, broadly focused, and accepting contributions from many fields of research. Some examples of these types of journals include the IFE journal of Science and the Humanities Review Journal.

Both of these journals provide coverage of a variety of topics within their broad areas of science or the humanities. The IFE Journal of science covers research in the areas of chemical, biological, mathematical and physical sciences, as well as the applied areas of Biochemistry, Geology, Microbiology and such allied fields as Biotechnology, Genetics, Food Chemistry, Agriculture, Medical and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

The Humanities Review Journal includes contributions from the fields of Theatre Arts, Philosophy, English Language, English Literature, History, Music, Communication Arts, Anthropology and other relevant discipline.

This type of journal is particularly useful for those needing to draw on a wider range of authors, editors and readers. Because of the breadth of coverage, participation may be easier to encourage,

especially in the early development of a new journal. The main disadvantage of this type of journal can be its lack of focus, which may make it difficult to promote to a new audience.

5.2 Specialized Journals

The specialized journal is more common than the general journal. It has a more narrowly defined focus, and is often discipline-specific. Some examples include *Obstetrics and Gynaecology Forum* and *SAHARA J. Journal of Social Aspect of HIV/AIDS research Alliance*. This type of journal is an excellent choice when a large enough community of readers and authors exists to sustain it. Its focused content readily appeals to scholars or practitioners in the content area, making marketing and promotion much easier than for the more general journal.

5.3 Regional Journals

Another option is the regional, covering research from a particular geographic area, whether national or international. The *Uganda Journal* is a good example of a national journal interested in all scholarly aspects of the country. A Pan African example is *Africa Insight*, which examines changes happening throughout the continent. This type of journal draws on a community of scholars throughout a country, or even beyond, into several countries. A regional focus can often be attractive to institutional funders, interested in how the journal is contributing to the nation.

5.4 Institutional Journals

In addition to journals focusing on a particular discipline or coming from a specific geographic location, some journals are also centered on an individual institution. Examples include *Huria: journal of the Open University of Tanzania* and the *journal of the Cameroon academy of Sciences*. Both of these journals primarily contain content concerning their sponsoring institution. Financial support for a journal may require focusing on the issues or contributions from an association or institution. This can often be an excellent source of sustainable income.

5.5 Annual Reviews

Another possible model has less to do with content than it does with the publication schedule. Annual reviews are produced once each year, and can cover any of the areas discussed above. The main benefit to this format is the reduced publishing schedule requires fewer resources to sustain. For publishers with very limited sources of income, this could provide a way to produce their content. An example of this type of journal is *Annals Aequatoria*, which covers a wide range of subjects including Cultural Anthropology, Literature in Bantu Languages, History, Archaeology and more. Although it only produces one volume each year, each one can be as much as 600 pages in length, depending upon the content that was generated throughout the year. This format provides maximum flexibility, with the possibility of the initial volumes being more modest in length, but able to grow as alternative sources of revenue become available. This Annual Review could also be an option for the

first year or two, as the journals develop. With time, it may be able to expand to publishing more frequently each year.

5.6 Deciding on a Publishing Type

The most important considerations in determining the type of journal publish include:

- ◆ Research interests;
- ◆ Existing or potential collaborators; and
- ◆ Institutional assets and requirements.

In terms of the personal research, it is important that the journal will be allowed to participating in the scholarly exchange that will be taking place. To sustain long term interest, the area of expertise must be accommodated, whether as part of a journal focused especially in specific discipline, or within a broader journal, where contributions and those will be valuable. Another important consideration will be determining the potential audience. This would be the source readers, contributors, reviewers, and editors. The larger the pool of talented people to draw upon, the better the chance of the journal's success.

6. Conclusion

Certainly, there are large swathes of unawareness about the reality of Open Access, and not only in the developing region. So there is an ongoing need for focused advocacy, articles, lectures, blogs, workshops and technology transfer about Open Access. Open Access is trying to reform a well-established professional practice that happens to be past its self-by date. As the World Wide Web and global communication are revolutionizing every aspect of people's lives, it will take some time for human nature to adopt and accept new mechanisms. In addition to natural caution, academic communities need to assess inaccurate information being dispersed by sections of the commercial publishing industry. Lund University Library in Sweden is maintained a directory of Open Access journals. There are currently more than 2500 journals listed. Some of them change a 'front-end' publication fee, which the author's institution or grant normally pays.

Others do not change a fee but have some other business model that enables them to run the journal without changing a subscription.

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