

SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION ON THE WEB: AN INVESTIGATION OF OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS IN MEDICAL SCIENCE

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ABSTRACT

The study focuses on the Investigation and analysis of open access journals of access and dissemination of scholarly communication in research activities for medical science. It also highlights the open access has been an important catalyst for changing models in Scholarly communication system. It further explains how open access benefits the scholars, and libraries, thereby giving scholars barrier-free access to the literature they need, and giving authors larger reader-base and greater impact. It benefits the scholars and the libraries, they should work together to bring open access to the mainstream. This paper scholarly communication examines open access journals from medical science.

Keyword: Scholarly Communication, **Open Access**, Open Access Journals and **Medical Science**

INTRODUCTION

Academic Libraries are in a transitional phase now. The impact of information and communication technology has been very high on academic library functioning. Today, users are highly specific in their needs and are also aware of other alternatives which provide information. Hence libraries are tapping all possibilities to keep the user community satisfied.

In an academic setup research is a very important component. Current information is very essential to researchers for being updated their field. Hence they depend on scholarly journals to meet their information requirements Library being the information provider have been subscribing journals in various disciplines in accordance with the thrust of the parent institution. But with the tremendous growth of specialization in various disciplines the number of journals to be subscribed has increased. The prohibitive factor for the library is the escalating cost of the journals and resources and the stringent library budget. This has led to a phenomenon called "Scholarly Crisis" where the libraries on one hand have to meet the users growing demands and the journal prices (be it print / or electronic) are shooting up and on other hand the library budgets are shrinking. At this juncture open access resources have dawned as boon to both the academic users and the library managers.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

This study aims to achieve the following objectives:

- To know of open access and take overview of open access scholarly communication.
- To awareness and find out to open access journal in medical science.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study is based on review of literature, which includes books, journals, documents, seminar papers, etc. Relevant literature will also be collected and consulted through internet browsing.

Scholarly Communication

Scholarly communication is the used by academicians and scholars to share the results of their academic and research work. Scholars and researchers have the right and responsibility to communicate about their research work. Usually they intend to give away their work to be re-used, applied and built upon, cited, etc. We can say that, scholarly communication is the method followed by academicians/researchers to share the outcome of their research work. Most of the time, this is done through journals, magazines, thesis, report and conference papers.

Thorin (2003) divided scholarly communication into three main distinct aspects:

1. The process of conducting research, developing ideas, and communicating informally with other scholars and scientists;
2. The process of preparing, shaping, and communicating to a group of colleagues what will become formal research results and;
3. The published formal product that is distributed to libraries and other places in print form or electronically.

OPEN ACCESS (OA)

As academic publishing mergers and subscription prices increase, much attention has focused on the “serials crisis” in academic libraries often cannot afford to purchase subscriptions to journals in which the university faculty publishes, and rising subscription prices can even force libraries to cancel existing subscriptions. The increasing price of scholarly information, combined with new technologies that permit widespread access to electronic information, has led to an effort to allow researchers to access scholarly information online for free.

In December 2002, the Open Society Institute (OSI) met in Budapest to discuss ways “to accelerate progress in the international effort to make research articles in all academic fields freely available on the internet” (Budapest Open Access Initiative). The OSI developed the Budapest Open Access Initiative to promote the effort of making peer reviewed research in all academic fields freely available on the internet. The BOAI defines open access to scholarly literature as

Here is the definition of "open access" from the BOAI: "By 'open access' to this literature, we mean its free availability on the public internet, permitting any users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of these articles, crawl them for indexing, pass them as data to software, or use them for any other lawful purpose, without financial, legal, or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the internet itself. The only constraint on reproduction and distribution, and the only role for copyright in this domain, should

be to give authors control over the integrity of their work and the right to be properly acknowledged and cited." ([Budapest Open Access Initiative, FAQ](#))

This definition of open access focuses on three main characteristics of open access information: it is available on the internet, there are no financial or legal barriers to accessing it, and authors use copyright only to maintain the integrity of their work and retain the right of attribution. While not everyone agrees with every aspect of the BOAI definition, it was a landmark effort to define the goal of the open access movement.

OPEN ACCESS JOURNAL (OAJ)

In addition to offering a definition of open access, the Budapest Open Access Initiative describes two methods of achieving open access: self-archiving and open access journals. Open access journals are scholarly journals that are freely available online. The increase in the free accessibility of open access journals online journals affects everyone who is involved in the publishing and use of scholarly information. Publishers, authors, researchers, scholarly communications departments, and librarians are all affected by open access journals.

OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS IN MEDICALS SCIENCE

There are several OAJ resources available in the cyberspace. While these are getting populated regularly new resources crop up for access by all. Some such resources are directories such as:

Table: 1 Name of the OA journals data base and founded year

Sr. No	Name of the Journals data base	Hosted by	Country	Founded Year
1	Peb Med Central (PMC)	National Institutes of Health's National Library of Medicine (NIH/NLM) and National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI)	USA	1996
2	DOAJ	Lund University	Sweden	2003
3	BioMed Central	BioMed Central Ltd unless otherwise stated. Part of Springer Science Business Media.	United Kingdom UK	1999
4	BENTHAM OPEN	Bentham Science Publishers	UAE	1994
5	Medindia	Medindia4u.com Pvt. Ltd.	India	1997
6	medIND	Bibliographic Informatics Division, National Informatics Centre , Ministry of Communications & Information Technology	India	1985
7	OAJSE	Dr. Badan Barman, Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University, Guwahati (Assam)	India	2010
8	OMICS Group	OMICS Publishing Group	USA	2007
9	SpringerOpen	Springer publication	Germany	2010
10	Free medical journals	AMEDEO medical literature	USA	1997
11	HINARI	World Health Organization	Switzerland Geneva	2002
12	Scientific Research Publishing (SCIRP)	Scientific Research Publishing Inc	USA	2007

Table: 2 Website (URL) and No. of available OA journals (Full -text availability)

Sr. No	Name of the journals data base	Website (URL)	No of available journals
1	Peb Med Central (PMC)	http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/journals/	2335
2	DOAJ	http://www.doaj.org/doaj?func=subject&cpId=24	623
3	BioMed Central	http://www.biomedcentral.com/journals	301
4	BENTHAM OPEN	http://www.benthamscience.com/open/JrnlsBySub.htm	575
5	Medindia	http://www.medindia.net/medical-journals/index.htm	2252
6	medIND	http://medind.nic.in/	67
7	OAJSE	http://www.oajse.com/subjects/medicine.html	327
8	OMICS Group	http://www.omicsonline.org/medical-sciences-journals.php	97
9	SpringerOpen	http://www.springeropen.com/journals/bysubject	17
10	Free medical journals	http://www.freemedicaljournals.com/f.php?f=index	4007
11	HINARI	http://extranet.who.int/hinari/en/browse_journal_titles.php?j_init=B	1500
12	Scientific Research Publishing (SCIRP)	http://www.scirp.org/journal/Index.aspx	52

PubMed Central

PubMed Central (PMC) is a free archive of biomedical and life sciences journal literature at the U.S. National Institutes of Health's National Library of Medicine (NIH/NLM). Launched in January 1996, PMC was developed and is managed by NLM's National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI). In keeping with NLM's legislative mandate to collect and preserve the biomedical literature, PMC serves as a digital counterpart to NLM's extensive print journal collection. PubMed comprises more than 20 million citations for biomedical literature from MEDLINE, life science journals, and online books. PubMed also indexes works posted in PubMed Central. Citations in PubMed have a unique identifier number called the PMID.

DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals)

Lars Bjornshauge Librarian at Lund University and founded the DOAJ in 2003. He became Managing Editor of DOAJ in January 2013. The aim of the DOAJ is to increase the visibility and ease of use of open access scientific and scholarly journals, thereby promoting their increased usage and impact. The DOAJ aims to be comprehensive and cover all open access scientific and scholarly journals that use a quality control system to guarantee the content. In short, the DOAJ aims to be the one stop shop for users of open access journals. There are now 9957 journals in the directory all discipline. Medical Science journals are 623.

BioMed Central

Matthew Cockerill, Managing Director has overall responsibility for all aspects of BioMed Central. He has been involved with BioMed Central since its launch in 1999. BioMed Central is an STM (Science, Technology and Medicine) publisher of 257 peer-reviewed open access journals. The portfolio of journals spans all areas of biology, biomedicine and medicine and includes broad interest titles, such as *BMC Biology* and *BMC Medicine* alongside specialist journals, such as *Retro virology* and *BMC Genomics*. All original research articles published by BioMed Central are made freely accessible online immediately upon publication.

Bentham Open

Bentham Open publishes over 230 plus peer-reviewed open access journals. These free-to-view online journals cover all major disciplines of science, technology, medicine and social sciences. bentham opens 575 Open Access Medical Science journals available.

Medindia

Medindia is a leading provider of health information services that serves consumers, physicians, allied healthcare professionals and corporates through our websites, applications and product offerings. Medindia are Open Access Health Journals List of 2252 health journals with full access to their articles that can be viewed and accessed without any cost. Medindia is owned and operated by Medindia4u.com Pvt. Ltd.

medIND

medIND journals are hosted by Bibliographic Informatics Division, National Informatics Centre (Ministry of Communications & Information Technology) Provide Online access to full-text of Indian biomedical periodicals to the users in within and outside India. IndMED indexes Indian Biomedical journals. It is accessible from (<http://indmed.nic.in>) to the medical professionals, free of cost. The database aims at covering peer-reviewed journals from 1985 onwards. To supplement IndMED with full text of articles, a resource was developed to host full-text of indexed Indian biomedical journals. This medIND portal is accessible free of cost to the medical community in India as well those outside the country.

OAJSE (Open Access Journals Search Engine)

The Open Access Journals Search Engine (OAJSE) service covers free, full text, quality controlled journals. The project by named "Link Library of Open Access Journals" was developed. In the first part of 2010 its name was changed to "Open Access Journals Search Engine". From January, 2011 it is funded by the Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University. Since its inception, it is maintained by Dr. Badan Barman. We aim to cover journals in all subjects that are published in English language. There are now 4,775 journals in the directory. All are searchable at article level. According to 20% of peer-reviewed articles across all disciplines are now freely available. However these valuable collections are difficult to consult from a single platform. Medical Science journals are 327.

OMICS

OMICS Group International is an amalgamation of Open Access publications and worldwide

international science conferences and events. Established in the year 2007. OMICS Group International 97 Open Access Medical Science journals deal with a wide variety of research aspects in medical science and its related fields. OMICS Group International medical science journals accept and publish only those manuscripts that are approved by the peer-reviewing committee and the quality control team. All the medical science journals are available online for reading, downloading, and printing at no cost.

Springer Open

Springer Open, launched in June 2010, includes Springer's portfolio of 130+ peer-reviewed fully open access journals across all areas of science ranging from very specialized titles to SpringerPlus, our interdisciplinary open access journal that covers all disciplines. The open access medical science journals are 17 available journals in Springer Open

Free Medical Journals

AMEDEO has been created to serve the needs of healthcare professionals, including physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and administrators, other members of the health professions, and patients and their friends. They can easily access timely, relevant information within their respective fields. AMEDEO's core components include weekly emails with bibliographic lists about new scientific publications, personal Web pages for one-time download of available abstracts (see example), and an overview of the medical literature published in relevant journals over the past 12 to 24 months.

HINARI

HINARI Programme set up by WHO together with major publishers, enables low- and middle-income countries to gain access to one of the world's largest collections of biomedical and health literature. HINARI was launched in January 2002, with some 1500 journals from 6 major publishers: Blackwell, Elsevier Science, the Harcourt Worldwide STM Group, Wolters Kluwer International Health & Science, Springer Verlag and John Wiley, following the principles in a Statement of Intent signed in July 2001. Since that time, the numbers of participating publishers and of journals and other full-text resources has grown continuously. Today more than 150 publisher partners are offering more than 15,000 information resources in HINARI and many others are joining the programme.

Scientific Research Publishing (SCIRP)

Scientific Research Publishing (SCIRP) is one of the largest Open Access journal publishers. It is currently publishing more than 200 open accesses, online, peer-reviewed journals covering a wide range of academic disciplines. SCIRP serves the worldwide academic communities and contributes to the progress and application of science, by delivering superior scientific publications and scientific information solution provider that enable advancement in scientific research. More than 5000 professional editorial board members support our publishing activities, and 32000 authors already published with SCIRP.

CONCLUSION

The open access movement has gained considerable traction in the last ten years. It has become

the most successful scholarly publishing reform movement in modern times, and it has begun to transform the scholarly communication system. The open access movement is not the only potential solution to the serious problems that libraries face in the conventional scholarly communication system, but it is a very important one, and it does not require that other strategies be abandoned. Open access (OA) is the practice of providing unrestricted access via the Internet to peer-reviewed scholarly research. It is most commonly applied to scholarly journal articles. Medical Science is a vast field and the scholars doing research in this field should know the current happenings. Open access journals are a way to help the scholars know about the happenings and refer previous researches for their own research free of cost.

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