Open Research: Making Harmful Habits History

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Today's Topics

- Disclaimer
- Ecosystem Pain Points
- Info Overload
- Proliferation of Policies
- Business Models
- Copyright Transfer - Who has the right?
- The Remedy
Disclaimer

Before we begin...

- My career has been spent in libraries helping people access the knowledge they need to make their lives better - this is the perspective that shapes my thinking

- I work at a privileged institution

- Much of what follows are generalizations (#notallpublishers) - there are many nuances in this ecosystem. This is not meant to minimize anyone's work but having tough & critical conversations will make the ecosystem stronger
Ecosystem Pain Points

INFO OVERLOAD
- Too much to read
- Preprints proliferating with little linkage
- Publish & Perish adds to volume

PROLIFERATION OF POLICIES
- This is a reaction to the inflexibility of many publishers
- Funders making concessions both for publishers & authors
- Affecting Author Choice/Freedom

BUSINESS MODELS
- Need to move past "support" for open access & actualize it
- Abandon bad models: hybrid, subscription, APC
- Highly selective model not fit for purpose
Info Overload

Pre Prints have been critical in pushing the ecosystem to change:

- The volume has made it hard for them to be ignored by publishers
- A workaround to slow traditional publishing models
- Opened a new world of instant community peer review via PubPub, Twitter, and other platforms
- Need improved linkages to other components
Proliferation of Policies

GROWTH
Many funders are adding strong mandates around openness & sharing of research output

SHIFTING
Funders are beginning to see paying for publication is a critical part of research ecosystem & funding impact

COMPROMISE
Funders want to see change. Change can be hard. Compromise leads to differing & confusing policies.

CHOICE
Doesn’t exist in the traditional system; academic freedom concerns research exploration not publication
Removal of Paywalls

Increased Use
The removal of paywalls during the pandemic has shown an increase in use of research that cannot be ignored. Data has shown that openness has greatly increased readership.

Increased Speed
Preprint submissions rose & traditional journals worked to speed up peer-review to publish COVID19 research quickly.

Increased Need for Transparency
Especially in the pandemic - but for quite some time proceeding - there is mounting evidence that we need more transparency in every aspect of research.
"If we think openness of communication is valuable in a crisis, it should surely be valuable in normal times as well".

CAMERON NEYLON
Hybrid Journals - Bad Habit to Kick

01. HAVEN'T MADE OPEN ACCESS THE DEFAULT

The percentage of OA articles in hybrid journals is not increasing enough to ensure full transition in a reasonable time frame. Hybrid maintains the status quo and shows no commitment to progress towards full OA.

02. MORE EXPENSIVE

By charging APC's for OA articles & subscription fees for closed articles these journals "double dip" in revenue. There is little data proving publishers offset costs. The average APC levied by hybrid journals is on average higher than that charged in fully OA journals.

03. MORE ERROR PRONE

For authors: articles may still be paywalled (in error or for awaiting payment), attributed a wrong license, experience unreliable repository deposits, little price transparency

For readers: Unpredictable what articles are OA, will still hit paywalls for content in the same journal
The discussion has grown as to what are good metrics for evaluating research - it's not easy!

- Funders are signaling a shift in what counts - this is difficult to quantify & shift

**Faulty Metrics**

**Peverse Incentives**

These are quite hard to shift:

- Behavior/Cultural Change is needed
- Many are “boogeyman” incentives that aren’t explicitly written down
- Research is being done on PR&T
Copyright – Who has the right?

Open Licenses

- Essentially have to pay journals to free your research for others to build upon
- Major publishers will push for more restrictive licensing
- Little evidence of misuse of the CC-BY license

Rights Retention Strategy

Ensuring that grantees from cOAlition S funders retain sufficient rights to make a version of their article open access

Who owns what?

- Estimate of peer review volunteer time
- Research is funded by private & taxpayer funds

Holding Copyright Hostage

Some publishers charge more for CC-BY & often you cannot retain copyright
Community

Focusing on those who espouse the mission and values that your organization shares

MORE AND MORE GOVERNMENTS ARE COMMITTING TO MAKE CRITICAL RESEARCH AND DATA OPEN AND ACCESSIBLE

Publish #OpenAccess
Support those making change happen

Organizations who are walking the talk
Support those making change happen

Taking risks and showing it's possible to make knowledge better
There are publishers and journals that have been successful in living their mission and placing open access and research integrity above profits.

Or, if we can all agree, why not no author fees, no embargos, and self archiving is a right of the author? We did it, why can’t others?

Such a great point/question!

It’s a hustle to get funding for our costs, ie-copyediting, etc... We’ve had great supporters. For us, it was never a question. If your work matters, everyone should be able to read it. You should be able to publish if your work is worth reading, not because you can pay.
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