

Academic Scholars and Libraries on the path to Open Access: A study

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Abstract:

The study looks into the perspectives and actions that academics and librarians have on open access publishing. According to the findings of the study, there are substantial obstacles to the implementation of open access publishing, including worries about the publication's quality and funding. There is a strong emphasis placed on the role that libraries play as crucial stakeholders in the transition to open access publication. According to the findings of the study, raising awareness and educating people about open access, as well as pushing for regulations and funding that support open access publication, are all important next steps. The findings demonstrate the importance of a scientific publishing system that is both open and fair to all authors.

Keywords: *Open Access Resources, Open resources, Open access-benefits, Open Access-Academic libraries*

Introduction:

Since the transition to digital publishing began more than a decade ago, one of the most significant shifts that has occurred in the field of scholarly communication is the birth and spread of open access (OA) publication [1]. This shift stands out as one of the most important transformations. "Open access (OA) literature is digital, online, free of charge, and free of most copyright and license limitations," which is the definition of OA that was proposed by Peter Suber in 2004, is still quite true. In the simplest terms possible, this definition is still quite correct. Early proponents of open access seized upon the potential of OA to transform the process of scholarly communication and asserted that sharing scholarly works would spur inventive scholarly practices, accelerate revelation of research findings, and enhance access to the scholarly record [2]. This was done with the overarching goal of using the Internet to eliminate barriers to accessing scholarly &, in particular, peer-reviewed scholarly works.

It would appear that the advantages of OA are advantageous not only to the primary actors in the process of scholarly communication but also to each other. The authors' scholarly writings might be shared with both academics and the general public, allowing them to reach a wider audience. An increase in the transparency of research findings would make it possible for funding organizations to report to taxpayers and governments on the advantages and return on investment of the research [3]. At the same time, university libraries would receive relief to their collection budgets as a result of the adoption of alternative business models by publishers. These models would shift the cost of subscriptions away from institutional subscribers and onto a system of fees paid by the author, the author's institution, or the funding agency that was used to support the work.

However, open access (OA), in spite of all of these benefits, has not yet established itself as the preeminent model for scholarly communication, despite making significant progress over the course of the past decade. There are still several significant obstacles in the way of accomplishing that aim. Both authors and publishers are hesitant to publish their work in journals that may have a negative impact on decisions regarding tenure and promotion, and both groups are wary of the implications that open access may have on copyrighted material [4]. Publishers are resistant to changing cost recovery models that have been in place for a long time.

Academic libraries have a vested interest in supporting open access publication, and they are playing key roles in the expansion and progression of open access publishing. The primary objective of any library is to provide access to knowledge for its patrons, and the goals of open access (OA) make librarians a natural advocate for increasing the number of individuals who have access to scholarly publications [5]. The evolution of advocacy & support for open access exemplifies the innovative ways in which libraries are adjusting to the changes in the process of scholarly communication, as well as their partnerships with publishers & authors, and the distribution of knowledge.

The Importance and Implications of Open Access to Academic Literature:

The term "open access" (OA) refers to the practice of making the entire text of scholarly articles freely available online, both immediately and permanently, to anybody in the world with internet connection [6]. Maintaining perpetual availability of scientific content is facilitated by

open access. Libraries can make local copies as well as institutional repositories of these resources, unlike licensed articles in standard article databases. By pooling resources to create archives of freely accessible literature, libraries can guarantee future access to important research materials. To put it simply, open access (OA) refers to the fact that academic journal articles published online are available without cost to the reader at any time. Open Access (OA) publications do not restrict who may read them or how often they can do so, making them available online without restriction and without any fees. Budapest Open Access Initiative (BOAI) defines "Open Access" as including the following elements: "Electronic distribution of the peer-reviewed journal literature around the world, with open and free access for all researchers, academics, librarians, students, and the general public.

Open access is defined by the 'Bethesda Statement' from 2003 as the following: "The author(s) & copyright holder(s) grant(s) to all users a free, irrevocable, globally, perpetual right of access to, as well as a license to copy, use, distribute, transmit, and display the work publicly and also to make as well as distribute derivative works, in any digital medium for any held to account purpose, subject to proper attribution of writings as well as the right to make small numbers of printed copies ".

"Information, which is Free, instantaneous, permanent, full-text, on-line and accessible," as defined by "Harnad" (2008), is an example of Open Access. The maximization of "uptake, usage, applications, and impact" of a university's research output; the measurement and reward of such "uptake, usage, applications, and impact" (research metrics); and the collection, management, and exhibition of a permanent record of the research output as well as impact of such an institution are the three main justifications he proposes for OA [7].

"Open-access literature is digital, accessible, free of charge, & free of most copyright and license limitations," as "Peter Suber" (2010) explains. Suber adds that the scope of open access content is not limited to scholarly journal articles but encompasses all forms of information, including but not limited to text, data, software, audio, video, & multi-media. In spite of the fact that the majority of OA activists are concerned with scholarly content, such as peer-reviewed research articles or their preprints, OA can also be used for non-scholarly content, such as music, movies, and books.

The three most widely recognized definitions of OA are the Budapest, Berlin, and Bethesda public statements, also known as the "three Bs," and they all agree on the fundamentals. The claims vary significantly, but all agree that OA makes it feasible for anybody with Internet connection to read, download, copy, redistribute, print, search, and link to the entire text of works for any lawful purpose [8]. The existing copyright law allows authors to keep the right to deposit their papers on institutional servers ("open archiving") or transfer rights to publishers who enable free access to their work, so OA does not apply to content for which writers expect financial reward.

Libraries and the Communication of Scholarly Work:

Since the 1970s, academic libraries have been working to find solutions to problems that can be grouped under the overarching heading of "scholarly communication." Many of the initial support programs that were developed by libraries focused on fair use and copyright restrictions; however, the scope of activities has since enlarged to include topics including such

author rights, promoting the use of institutional repositories, and, most recently, using publication metrics and other markers to analyze the impact of research. While a large number of the initial support programs established by libraries focused on fair use as well as copyright restrictions, the scope of actions has since expanded to include topics such as author rights. Because of the interest in and need for information in each of these fields, a significant number of academic libraries have established official programs for scholarly communication, complete with positions specifically reserved for librarians tasked with the development of support services [9]. Many libraries see OA-related activities as a natural extension of the scholarly communication programs they already have in place. These programs, in turn, are meant to reflect the particular interests, requirements, and prevailing attitudes of the institution. In the case of open access, this is especially true because its perception as a worldwide movement has spawned champions and detractors inside the academic and publishing communities that are equally impassioned about their positions [10]. From this point of view, the function that libraries play in serving as reliable sources of information that is both useful and impartial is an important one, and it is one that acts as a core component in many different scholarly communication programs.

The teaching and direction that libraries offer patrons regarding OA comes in a variety of forms. In a presentation given in 2010, Brian Rosenblum outlined the specific ways in which librarians are currently counselling faculty members in their roles as lecturers, authors, and publishers, as well as promoting open access practices and policies.

- Helping with matters pertaining to rights and licenses;
- Keeping websites dedicated to intellectual communication updated;
- putting on workshops about digital scholarship and challenges pertaining to copyright;
- advocacy through the governance and administrative channels of the university to shape discussions of open access policies;
- Providing instruction and education to both other librarians & students.

Libraries have always taken on the duty of educating others, and an increasing number of libraries are now playing a more proactive role in promoting the advantages of open access (OA). Academic libraries are in the process of developing mechanisms as well as services to reduce some of the barriers to open access publishing that authors face. These libraries are receiving support from initiatives such as the Scholarly Publishing & Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC), which was developed by the Association of Research Libraries as well as the Harvard University Office for Scholarly Communication. SPARC has developed a large number of educational tools, like as webcasts and podcasts, that cover a wide range of open access-related issues. Some of these topics include author rights, freely accessible funding mechanisms, & public access regulations [11]. At the local level, libraries such as the Becker Library at the Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine have formed support programs to educate authors on how to retain the rights they need to reuse and disseminate their work. These programs also provide authors with guidance on alternative and far less restrictive licensing models such as Creative Commons.

Getting Rid of Obstacles:

Although education and awareness are the cornerstones of open access (OA) assistance at the vast majority of academic libraries, an increasing number of these institutions are tackling the obstacles that writers encounter when contemplating open access (OA) as a publication option. These obstacles might be monetary, institutional, and even cultural at times, depending on the field the research is being conducted in. In this area, libraries are showing their commitment to OA by developing innovative tools and plans to decrease these obstacles in substantial ways. This is one of the areas in which they are doing so.

Funding Assistance for OA on College Campuses:

The price tag associated with open access journals is a major deterrent for many authors. Many "gold" open-access journals charge writers to publish their work. While it is true that many funding agencies do allow for use of funds to cover article publication charges, the temptation to stretch limited research expenditures makes this option unpleasant, if not impossible, for many authors to pursue. Some universities are considering creating open access author scholarships to help authors who are unable or unwilling to cover the costs of article publishing. One way that universities and libraries are committing to OA is by creating funds to subsidize article publication prices, as demonstrated by initiatives like the Compact for Open-Access Publishing Equity (COPE). There are currently more than fifty educational institutions that have signed or otherwise supported COPE. Some libraries also subsidize their institutions' supporting memberships on behalf of their patrons so that their authors can take advantage of the steep discounts offered by well-known OA publishers like PLoS and BioMed Central.

Institutional Repositories:

Self-archiving using an IR is an inexpensive option for authors who want to increase their work's exposure to as wide an audience as possible. Institutional repositories, sometimes known as "green" OA, can store a wide variety of documents, from preprints to post prints and everything in between. The final, peer-reviewed manuscript submitted to a non-OA publication is typically hosted in an institutional repository, despite the fact that peer review is not required. When it comes to promoting and bolstering IRs and the positive effects of self-archiving for its authors, libraries are in the forefront. Over the past decade, there has been a substantial increase in the number of academic libraries that host an IR on behalf of their respective schools. More than 2,200 online libraries were freely available to the public in 2011, as documented by the Directory of Open Access Repositories.⁶ Although many authors see self-archiving as a way to increase their work's discoverability, accessibility, and versatility, the practice's expansion has been modest. The paucity of faculty involvement in IR is generally attributed to a combination of a lack of time, a lack of resources, and worries about copyright issues.

To remove obstacles to involvement in IR, libraries are taking the lead. The Becker Library at the Washington University School of Medicine takes care of the copyright clearance, metadata development, and author submissions to the Digital Commons@Becker IR. Library staff have been able to shift their attention from training faculty in the mechanics of creating their own

collection to engaging with academics and research groups to increase the visibility and scope of their work thanks to the "full service" strategy taken by the library.

Open Access and Publication Requirements:

Institutions, funding agencies, & research programs are increasingly adopting self-archiving and/or public access mandates to promote OA. The Public Access Policy (PAP), introduced in 2008 by the National Institutes of Health, is the most well-known regulation for writers in the biosciences (NIH). According to the NIH PAP, once a journal accepts an NIH-funded article for publication, the author is obligated to upload the final, peer-reviewed manuscript version to PubMed Central (PMC), where it will be accessible to the public for 12 months after publication. Works in PMC are covered under copyright laws & access to the works is governed under fair use. The immediate impact of the NIH PAP on scholarly communication cannot be overstated, despite the fact that its specific goal represents a smaller component of the wider OA movement. Many libraries see the NIH PAP as a chance to educate their patrons about open access (OA) and other frequently misunderstood scholarly communications concerns, and as a basis for increasing support services like compliance counselling and direct submission to PMC on authors' behalf. One year following the launch of the NIH PAP, approximately half of the 123-member institutions of the Organization of Research Libraries reported having support programs still in place and the success of these programs has been obvious. Since the program's inception in 2008, Becker Library has delivered more than 1,500 individual consultations in addition to giving more than 100 formal presentations and seminars as part of the NIH Public Access Program (PAP). In addition to these events, the Becker Library provides extensive online guidelines and papers for writers and support staff who get funding from the National Institutes of Health. These initiatives are typical of library initiatives designed to help writers comply with open access requirements.

Further efforts have been inspired by the NIH PAP and its effects can be noticed across the federal government. The results of publicly financed research are to be made freely accessible to everyone within one year of publication, as per a 2013 directive from the Office of Policy on Science and Technology (OSTP). This directive was sent to all federal agencies with R&D expenditures of more than \$100 million. Similarly to the NIH PAP compliance support programs, several academic libraries are making an attempt to assist writers in meeting the OSTP directive.

One prominent and hotly contested part of the OA movement is government legislation requiring open access to publicly financed research. Libraries play a significant role in promoting open access (OA) demands by academic institutions, which are controversial despite their lower frequency.

The Academic of Arts and Sciences at Harvard University adopted an OA policy in February 2008, requiring all faculty members to submit their works to an institutional repository so that they might be made freely available online. As a result, universities across the United States started thinking about starting similar programs. In 2011, 122 organizations all across the world had mandated open access self-archiving. While only a small percentage of these schools issued requirements, many others adopted resolutions strongly encouraging writers to

investigate OA options for publishing of their scholarly works, such as the resolution voted by the Washington University in St. Louis Faculty Senate in 2011.

Libraries as Open Access Publishers:

Libraries can now take on the role of publisher thanks to the growing popularity of open access publishing. While library publishing has been around for some time, the increased accessibility and lower costs of digital publishing platforms are giving libraries the opportunity to collaborate with university authors to test out novel approaches to sharing research findings. Publishing platforms, both free and for-profit, are being utilized to disseminate open access (OA) books and monographs, make open access (OA) versions of out-of-copyright works, and launch "in-house" scholarly journals that feature the work of institutional authors such as faculty and students.

Conclusion:

Publishing in OA journals has been a common complement to more conventional forms of publication since OA was first made available to researchers a decade ago. Many authors are open to the idea of open access (OA), but others are wedded to the status quo of print publishing. Academic libraries must often strike a balance between encouraging Open Access (OA) publishing and accommodating authors who choose to use non-OA publication methods. Despite this obstacle, academic libraries are taking an active part in promoting access to intellectual works by creating service programs to decrease barriers experienced by authors and leveraging technology and licensing alternatives. Libraries have an interest in preserving the availability of the scientific record and are committed to raising author understanding of the myriad factors that affect scholarly practices in order to facilitate the unfettered dissemination of the scientific record.

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