

***EDITORIAL***

**WHY AN OPEN ACCESS JOURNAL**

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An Open Access (OA) journal can be defined as a journal that is digital, online and free of charges for every internet user, also it does not really require any copyrights or licensing restrictions. All over the world, scientists are looking for journals that maximize and emphasise the chances of their work being cited because of citations valorize their work and they somehow award the authors and give them an intellectual recognition.

Most publishers own the copyrights of the articles they publish on their journals. Therefore, everyone should pay to read them and have access to the journal. This minimizes the chances of the article citations, and was the only model available in the age of print-on-paper, it enabled publishers to disseminate journals/articles and recoup the cost. Although many researchers can have access to the journals they need via their institution, and think that their access is for free, while it is not. The institution has often been negotiating the price of their site's license. This is a big problem in developing countries, where research budgets are limited if not neglected. Paying for access to content makes sense in the world of print publishing, where providing content to each new reader requires the production of an additional copy, but when it is online it makes much less sense to charge for content when it is possible to provide access to all readers anywhere in the world.

Open access publishing works differently, and is the alternative to Closed Access (or Subscription Access or Toll Access). Researchers can publish, read and build on the findings of others without any restrictions. Its publications may reach more readers than subscription

access publishing. For greater impact and faster scientific progress, authors and publishers should aim to make researches easy to access. We should try to have a system where knowledge and the access to research articles are for free, and make publishing research articles for free as well . After all, the author spends a tremendous amount of his time and makes great efforts researching and writing about his project. Free access gives an opportunity to free collaborations amongst the researchers, which in fact will lead to better researches , better writings but also a better community. We all should aim towards free access to knowledge.

The main benefits of OA publishing are multiples : Articles are freely and immediately available online to read, download and share, which increase the visibility, and of course, the use of the published manuscript . The use of Creative Commons license enables scientists to retain copyright to the works. Publications can be reused and redistributed as long as the original author is correctly attributed.

OA publishing is a public enrichment, since scientific and medical researches are paid with our public funds that will allow taxpayers to see the results of their investment. Funding agencies can see an increased return on investment, and an increased visibility. It improves also education, so as teachers and their students have access to the latest research findings throughout the world. Publications have the same quality as long as they run through the same peer review, production and publishing processes than journals and books published under the traditional subscription-based model. Online articles mean

unlimited space for supplementary material including figures, extensive data and video footage. Final articles can be deposited into bibliographic databases and institutional repositories without any embargo periods just as traditional journals. And finally enterprises can have access to critical and latest information.

It is hence clear that the ball is now in the universities court: The sooner they extend their existing publish-or-perish policies to require also providing OA for all those published articles, the sooner the entire research community will enjoy the benefits of emphasising its research impact by maximizing user access to its research output. OA is an issue that is currently the focus of much attention and activity. OA Publishing has made a rapid growth over the last two decades [1,2]. Developments in this area may result in profound changes to the way the research is reported and used. It is of great importance, to the research community, to research funders, to scholarly publishers and, ultimately, to the public.

There is strong evidence that OA articles are more immediately recognized and cited by peers than non-OA articles published in the same journal [3]. In addition, Evan et al. clearly demonstrated that open access articles are much more likely to be cited in developing countries [4]. There is also a strong correlation between the number of downloads of papers and the citation frequencies [5].

In an updated editorial to their 2007 article, the editors of four journals published by Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute (MDPI) provide charts showing increasing impact factors from 2005-2008 for each journal after going fully open access in 2007. Since journal impact factors depend directly on the average number of citations per article, this provides further support to the open access citation advantage [6].

Digital technology enhanced access to journal content, but it did not reduce the cost of publication. Paper and postage

costs were eliminated, they were replaced by costs of online submission-and-review systems and hosting platforms [7]. Although this economical paradox, OA publishing model must be properly operational, to keep high publication standards, and avoid acceptance of weak submissions, or those of conflict of interest issue [8]. Launching this new medical journal is not an end to the work that we -editorial team- have been engaged in, since starting our electronic open access journals platform last year. We are, in touch with researchers and institutions, we will work hard to develop new journals and publications and we will share the details as quickly as they become confirmed. We have a duty to provide, the best possible opportunities to the local research world.

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