Open Access

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INTRODUCTION

Open access (OA) publication continues to be the subject of an ongoing debate between the academic community, librarians and publishers of scholarly journals. One aspect of the debate involves research conducted with grant money from the Federal government. If the research is funded with Federal money than any publication should be readily available to the public and scholars working in the field for free. The same holds true for other scholarly work. Conversely, the publishers of scholarly journals maintain the reason for the high subscription prices for their journals is to insure the articles are properly peer reviewed. With the rising subscription prices many academic and research libraries are beginning to look for open access publications. The number of open access journals continues to grow as does institutional repositories for scholarly works including theses and dissertations. This article will focus on the growth of open access publications and their implications for the publishing business, users and academic libraries.

BACKGROUND

In 2002, thirteen early leaders of the open access movement signed the Budapest Open Access Initiative. This early initiative called for free and unrestricted online availability of scholarly materials. Their goal was to create new open access peer reviewed journals that would be accessible by anyone with an Internet connection. In the United States the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC) is one of the leading proponents of open access publishing. SPARC advocates for free and immediate access to scholarly materials on the Internet. Open access as defined by SPARC and others is the ability to download, copy, read, print, share or link to scholarly materials without paying a fee for the material. In recent years, there have

been a number of initiatives to make scientific research open access but the publishers want restrictions on what materials can be readily available on the Internet.

Last year a group of scholarly journal publishers opposed the Federal Research Public Access Act (FRPAA). Passage of the legislation would have provided open access to scholarly articles from federally funded research. The legislation is stalled in Congress and in February of 2013, the Fair Access to Science and Research Technology Act (FASTR) was introduced in Congress. This pending legislation would make articles written about federally funded research readily and freely accessible online. It would promote and accelerate innovation and scientific research by making the articles available through open access. Several organizations including SPARC, the American Library Association (ALA) and the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) are supporting the legislation.

The Directory of Open Access Journals http://www.doaj.org/is celebrating its 10th anniversary and has over 9000 journals and over half of them are searchable at the article level. Currently there are almost 1.5 million articles. The journals are from 120 countries and cover subjects ranging from agriculture to technology. You can search by keyword at the article or journal level. An advanced search option provides users with the ability to search in all fields or by title, ISSN, author, keywords, abstract or publisher. While the number of articles and journals may be smaller than many databases it provides users with access to scholarly resources without having to purchase the article.

A literature review provides a broad perspective on the issues surrounding open access publishing. The articles focus on not only author needs and requirements but also the impact for the publishing industry. Another focus of articles found in the literature review is the growth of institutional repositories. Scholars and students want access to the latest and best scholarship without paying sizeable fees for the information. Pub-

lishers on the other hand want to maintain their profits and copyright to the scholarly materials they publish. An issue raised in some of the articles was the quality of the journals and their impact on faculty to achieve tenure if they publish in open access journals.

ISSUES, CONTROVERSIES, PROBLEMS

A basic definition of open access is the ability to freely print, copy, download, read and share scholarly articles and materials. Mikael Laasko et al. in a recent article defined open access as unrestricted access to published scholarly articles. Anyone with an Internet connect will be able to access and download the content. (Laakso, Welling, Bukvova, Nyman, Björk, & Hedlund 2011) There are also two primary publishing models for open access journals. One is Gold Open Access journals and the other is Green Open Access journals. The difference between the two is Gold Open Access journals are available from the publisher where the article was submitted. Green Open Access is self-archiving of the work on either the author's website or their institutional repository. Green Open Access articles are pre-published manuscripts accepted for publication or the published paper. The publishing of Open Access articles is divided into three phases beginning with the Pioneering years from 1993-1999 followed by the Innovation years from 2000-2004 and ending with the Consolidation years from 2005-2009. (Laasko, et al., 2011) During the Consolidation years, the number of articles published in Open Access journals continued to increase and during this period, the infrastructure to publish Open Access journals became well established. (Lewis, 2012)

A literature review yielded many articles about open access publishing with the primary focus on why and how the open access of publications has gained momentum with academic libraries and amongst researchers. One interesting study focused on Interlibrary Loan requests for open access materials including electronic theses and dissertations. (Baich, 2012) Almost all the articles focus on the publishing models for open access journals and each article includes a definition of open access publishing along with a brief history of open access journals.(Morgan, Campbell & Teleen, 2012; Wolpert, 2013; Tomaszewski, et al., 2012; Solomon, 2012; Butter, et al., 2012; Fitzpatrick, 2012; Lewis,

2012; Laakso,et al. 2011). Several articles focus on open access of science or medical publications. One article in particular examined scholarly publishing and health sciences libraries. (Butter, et al., 2012) A keynote address at the 2012 Modern Language Association annual meeting focused on sharing scholarly communication. (Fitzpatrick, 2012) Other articles focused on open access publishing models. (Morgan, et al.) One author focused on how universities could create funding for publication costs in open access journals. (Renfro)

Advocates for open access want information to be free and are opposed to scholars losing the rights to their publications. Academic libraries no longer have the budgets to support the yearly price increases from the publishers of scholarly journals. Many journal publishers require libraries to purchase a bundle of print and electronic resources instead of allowing the library to select only the journals they need for their collection. In 2012 over 2,400 scholars signed a petition to boycott publishing or performing editorial work for Elsevier journals. (Fischman, 2012) Scholars were angry over the rising costs of the journals they submit articles to and perform editorial work without receiving any compensation. They were also angry that Elsevier supported the Research Works Act, which would prevent the National Institutes of Health from providing grant-funded articles readily available free. (Fischman, 2012) Kathleen Fitzpatrick's keynote address at the 2012 Modern Language Association annual convention proposed the idea of moving humanities publishing to an open access publishing model. She noted making such a transition would not be easy but they need to explore the financial barriers to make the transition to open access. One possibility to overcoming financial issues is to improve funding for scholarly communications from granting agencies and universities (Fitzpatrick, 2012)

In 2008, Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, and Sage sued Georgia State University for unauthorized distribution of copyrighted material through the university's course management system WebCT/Blackboard. The Georgia State University copyright case is an excellent example of the scholarly publishers attempting to protect their profits. The case is currently under appeal after the judge issued her decision in favor of Georgia State University. The publishers maintained Georgia State University allowed access to scholarly materials without password

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