

Open Access: an overview

Open Access: Definition and concept

Pritpal S Tamber MBChB

Editorial Director of Medicine, *BioMed Central*
www.biomedcentral.com

Director, *World Association of Medical Editors (WAME)*
www.wame.org

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What I am going to cover

⌘1: What is Open Access?

⌘2: Where did it come from?

☒i: journal prices

☒ii: intellectual property

☒iii: online opportunities

⌘3: How to achieve Open Access now

⌘4: Its possible future

What is Open Access?



- ⌘ Depends on who you believe
- ⌘ At the very least it's free access to primary research articles online
- ⌘ Some also say it must include:
 - ☑ A license agreement that enables unrestricted use for academic purposes (and some also include commercial purposes)
 - ☑ Guaranteed archiving in a separate place
- ⌘ Some also say it needn't be solely about research articles

Where it came from – journal prices



- ⌘ Journals have been getting increasingly expensive
- ⌘ Library budgets can't keep up
- ⌘ Less journals for more money
- ⌘ Why? Because selling fewer journals at a higher price → more revenue
- ⌘ Disquiet re publishers' profits

Where it came from – intellectual property



⌘ Researchers:

- ☑ Think of the research question
- ☑ Apply for funding
- ☑ Conduct research, analyse, interpret, write
- ☑ Submit to journal (peer review)
- ☑ Accepted → journal takes copyright

⌘ Researcher has to ask for “permission” to re-use his/her work

Where it came from – online opportunities



- ⌘ “Print” distribution costly
- ⌘ “Online” distribution far cheaper – as low as 0.3p per article
- ⌘ Publishers used the Internet to produce “pay-per-view systems”
- ⌘ Maximises profits
- ⌘ Consolidated disquiet re publishers’ profits

Advocacy groups



- ⌘ Freedom of Information conf, NY 2000
- ⌘ Public Library of Science (PLoS)
 - ☑ Attempted boycott of “guilty” journals
 - ☑ Lots of names on petition
 - ☑ Very little action!
- ⌘ Steven Harnard (self archiving)
- ⌘ BioMed Central
- ⌘ Bethesda Statement

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Bethesda Statement



- ⌘ Made in April 11, 2003, it said:
 1. "... a free, irrevocable, worldwide, perpetual right of access to, and a license to copy, use, distribute, transmit and display the work publicly and to make and distribute derivative works ..."
 2. "A complete version of the work ... is deposited immediately upon initial publication in at least one online repository ..."
- ⌘ <http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/bethesda.htm>

How to achieve it now



⌘ Two ways:

- ☑ Submit to an Open Access journal
- ☑ Self-archiving (SH)

⌘ Open Access journals

- ☑ No output revenue (subscriptions)
- ☑ No page charges (no pages to charge for!)
- ☑ Therefore: “input charge”
- ☑ Paid by author, institution, funder or waived

Its possible future



- ⌘ An alternative to subscription journals
- ⌘ Print/subscription journals will continue (probably as a subset of online journals)
- ⌘ More funders and institutions will want their articles Open Access
- ⌘ Will happen to more non-research articles
- ⌘ Institutions will self-archive more and more of their research output

What I have covered



- ⌘ 1: What Open Access is
- ⌘ 2: Where it came from
 - ☒ i: journal prices
 - ☒ ii: intellectual property
 - ☒ iii: online opportunities
- ⌘ 3: How it is being achieved
- ⌘ 4: Its possible future

Thank you for listening

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