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Open Access Journals: Need of the Hour

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Abstract:

Open access culture leads to immense growth to scientific discoveries in the near future which will certainly lead to a revolution in Science and Technology.

More number of researcher's means more published articles and OAJ offer a fast promising publishing system. If more published articles, more funds to science, and if more funds to science then ultimately results in more people opting for research leading to a better scientific communities and societies.

Keywords: OAJ, Scientific Journals, Publications.

Introduction:

What is OAJ?

These are scholarly journals that are available online to the reader without any barrier (cost, technical, or legal), free access to full text which is toll free.

The first online free access journal began appearing in the late 1980s and called as open access journal eventually.

OA allows free access to published articles where the author retains copyright of their work by employing a creative common attribution licence, therefore removing any barrier to access. It also stands for unrestricted access and unrestricted reuse.

Present scenario:

Science knowledge is locked up behind pay walls and the cost of academic publishing had been out of control. Academics often have to pay publishers to print their work and then have to pay more extra to make it OA and the extra fee can top thousands to dollars per journal article. Costs are

particularly prohibitive for many less wealthy scholars and institutions around the world.

Russian based Sci-hub website which has grown to host more than 50 million academic papers and they claim that it is nearly all the pay walled science knowledge that exists in the world. These papers are free to anyone to be viewed and downloaded.

If you have ever tried to look up an access to journal article you probably familiar with frustration, you find the study or analysis you are after only to learn it will cost you \$30 to access it. Rights of the articles are with publishers for most of the journals. If anyone needs access had to pay for that and if someone wants to use the articles in anyway must obtain permission from the publisher and is often required to pay an additional amount. OAJ are steadily growing at a pace of 20% per year. It can be seen as a good health of OAJ author-pay model, but for few it is a discouraging sign that OA is not able to takeover the world of scholarly publishing.

Two top sciences departments of India, Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and Department of Science and Technology (DST) under the ministry of science and technology had announced jointly the OA policy on 12th Dec 2011.

Objectives:

Need for open access:

1. OAJ purpose is to spread knowledge and allow that to be built upon. Finances should not be a constraint for anyone to access the knowledge they need. It helps in advancing and improving of the society with the published knowledge.
2. Aims for wide visibility: OA means open to anyone, anywhere to read, share, and reuse. It means connecting with interdisciplinary researchers in other fields as well as peers of their community.
3. Enhances discovery: with OA your work is immediately available and globally accessible. If researchers can access and use the knowledge to build on the findings without any restrictions it leads to advances in science at an accelerated pace.
4. OA benefits everyone with your advancements by providing access to students, researchers, teachers, funders and policy makers equal access to the latest research findings globally.

Results and Discussion:

Major beneficiaries of OAJ:

Researchers, teachers, professors, students, publishers, the general public, and developing countries to name a few.

For researchers: provides better visibility and studies have shown significant increase in citations with articles of OA.

Avoids duplication of work, as time can be saved if statistics are already available, no further need to probe on the same.

Research is useless if not shared but research is also ineffective if no access to other to read and build on. If cost barriers keep articles locked away science cannot achieve its full potential.

Text mining: as millions of papers are being published every year, researchers could only hope to read a small fraction of those in his field. If number of articles is inaccessible due to subscription barriers and constraints or being posted in non-computer based formats, those tools cannot reach their full potential.

Students: Are the major community who will benefit from OAJ, expanding access to them will pay greater dividends in variety of ways.

Students of any discipline needs access to the latest research to help them in their education. OA helps students to get the best possible education and not limited by the selection of their scholarly journals their campuses are able to provide.

Conclusions:

Professors and teachers: If OA is not provided, they are deprived of bringing that knowledge to classrooms. With science advancing at a greater pace, it is crucial for teaching fraternity to have access to the cutting edge research so that it can be transferred to the students for future generations and it can be built upon the knowledge which will ultimately benefit the society at large.

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