



## Open Access Products: Issues and Challenges

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### Abstract:

*This paper discussed about the issues and challenges of the Open Access Products and services. Further it also discussed the benefits of open access, open source, and open standards are numerous over the internet. The benefits include lower costs, great accessibility, and better prospects for long-term preservation of scholarly works It is an attempt to study the open access products over the internet and their services.*

**Keywords:** *OA initiatives, Open Access, Products and Services*

### 1. Introduction

After the development of ICT, things were changed; electronic documents are made available to everybody with help of Internet. Internet means accessing anything, anywhere without boundaries. So, Internet brought the concept of accessing information stored in the network around the world. Further, it is made to public access, private access with the help of technology. Nowadays, every field in the earth, they put their content for the public to know them. Here comes the access for content whether is it open content for public use or restricted use? This paper is made an attempt to study the open access products over the internet and their services. Open Access Journals maintain the traditional values of journals- notably peer review, but also editing and formatting and marketing.

Xia (2012) uses the h-index to rank the quality of library and information science journals between 2004 and 2008. Selected open access (OA) journals are included in the ranking to assess current OA development in support of scholarly communication. It is found that OA journals have gained momentum supporting high quality research and publication, and some OA journals have been ranked as high as the best traditional print journals. The findings will help convince scholars to make more contributions to OA journal publications, and also encourage librarians and information professionals to make continuous efforts for library publishing.

### 2. Definition

According to BOAI (Budapest Open Access Initiative) the concept of Open Access refers to "[the] free availability on the public internet, permitting any users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of these articles, crawl them for indexing, pass them as data to software, or use them for any other lawful purpose, without financial, legal, or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the internet itself" (BOAI, 2002).

The Guru of Open Access Harnad (2008) has described the characteristics of Open Access. "Information, which is Free, immediate, permanent, full-text, on-Line and accessible". Harnad suggests three main justifications of OA: "to maximise the uptake, usage, applications and impact of the research output of your university; to measure and reward the uptake, usage, applications and impact of the

research output of your university (research metrics) and, to collect, manage and showcase a permanent record of the research output and impact of your university".

Wilinsky (2003) identified nine flavors of open access. They are:

- E-print archive (authors self-archive pre – or post prints)
- Unqualified (immediate and full open access publication of a journal)
- Dual mode (both print subscription and open access versions of a journal are offered)
- Delayed open access (open access is available after a certain period of time)
- Author fee (authors pay a fee to support open access)
- Partial open access (some articles from a journal are available via open access)
- Per capita (open access is made available to countries based on per-capita income)
- Abstract (open access available to table of contents/abstracts) and
- Co-op (institutional members support open access journals)

### 3. Open Access

Open Access (OA) is the practice of providing unrestricted access via the Internet to peer-reviewed scholarly journal articles. OA is also increasingly being provided to theses, scholarly monographs and book chapters.

Open access comes in two degrees: **Gratis OA** is no-cost online access, while **Libre OA** is Gratis OA plus some additional usage rights. Open content is similar to OA, but usually includes the right to *modify* the work, whereas in scholarly publishing it is usual to keep an article's content intact and to associate it with a fixed author or fixed group of authors. Creative Commons licenses can be used to specify usage rights. The open access idea can also be extended to the learning objects and resources provided in e-learning.

### 4. Green OA Self Archiving

Authors publish in any journal and then self-archive a version of the article for free public use in their institutional repository, in a central repository (such as PubMed Central), or on some other OA website. What is deposited is the peer reviewed postprint – either the author's refereed, revised final draft or the publisher's version of record. Green OA journal publishers endorse immediate OA self-archiving by their authors. OA self-archiving was first formally proposed in 1994 by Stevan Harnad. However, self-archiving was already being done by computer scientists in their local FTP archives in the '80s, later harvested into Citeseer. High-energy physicists have been self-archiving centrally in arXiv since 1991.

### 5. Gold OA Publishing

Authors publish in an open access journal that provides immediate OA to all of its articles on the publisher's website.[8] (Hybrid open access journals provide Gold OA only for those individual articles for which their authors (or their author's institution or funder) pay an OA publishing fee.) Examples of OA publishers [13] are BioMed Central, the Public Library of Science, and Dove Medical Press.

Public access to the World Wide Web became widespread in the late 1990s and early 2000s. The low-cost distribution technology has fueled the OA movement, and prompted both the Green OA self-archiving of non-OA journal articles and the creation of Gold OA journals. Conventional non-OA journals cover publishing costs through access tolls such as subscriptions, site-licenses or pay-per-view. Some non-OA journals provide OA after an embargo period of 6–12 months or longer (see Delayed open access journals). Active debate over the economics and reliability of various ways of providing OA continues among researchers, academics, librarians, university administrators, funding agencies, government officials, commercial publishers, editorial staff and society publishers.

## 6. Review of Literature

Academic libraries are positioned to be at the forefront of the open access revolution. Numerous trends towards open access publication have emerged over the course of the past few years, confronting academic libraries with new challenges and presenting promising opportunities (Giarlo, 2005). The open access movement has turned to libraries as a haven for solutions. As published content grew more expensive and restricted, and the internet made the distribution of ideas relatively cheap and easy, avoiding the publisher as a "middle man", open access became an obvious option for libraries. Today libraries are becoming alternative publishers through institutional repositories (Cho, 2008).

Open access is especially important for research and academic libraries since all academic institutions are research-intensive and a library's main mandate is to support the teaching, learning and research activities of their parent institutions. All three activities are research-based. Open access is the most recent undertaking to support institutional research activities by providing information cost and time effectively at the right time in the right format. Open Access has numerous impacts on academic libraries: economic, technological, collection development and management, reference services, information literacy, and peer evaluation. Open access is a prerequisite to survive and thrive for academic libraries (Giarlo, 2005).

## 7. Features of Open Access

- All materials are available internet or online.
- Always free availability of scholarly publication.
- Anybody from anywhere the material can be accessed by without any favoritism
- Free copyright and licensing restrictions
- Full text materials are available round the clock
- Material can be freely used by anyone.
- Multi-media, scholarly articles and their preprints are provide through open Access

However, it has to be taken into account that OA publications are not free of cost or cheaper than traditional scholarly communication. The costs of publication are shifted to other sources, like universities and colleges. So, the open access is always free to readers, not to producers and it is not free of rights. The creator or author's grants permission for a broad scale use and reuse of information. The author is assigned the right to be properly and fully acknowledged and no permission is granted to change a publication or to distribute it for commercial purposes.

The ever-expanding reach of the internet and new digital publishing technologies give us unique opportunities to improve scholarly communications. Open access aims to take advantage of this new environment by making all scholarly research papers freely available to all interested readers This paper presents a overview of the concept of open access, showing how open access is compatible with peer review and all of the highest standards of scholarly endeavour. Practical examples of successful open access products and services will be given, together with a description of recent developments at the political level relating to open access.

## 8. E-Journals

The first prototype E-Journal was in 1976 (Monty 1996) the pioneering time for Electronic Journals was 1990-95 (Hitchcock 1997) mainly dominated by non-profit making groups interested in exploring the technology for its own sake. The commercial publishers joined in around 1996 and are now dominant, mainly with direct electronic copies of their print journals. Electronic journals are also known as E-Journals. Electronic Serials and scholarly journals or intellectual magazines that can be accessed via Electronic Transmission. In practice, this means that they are usually published on the web, in a specialized form of electronic document, for purpose of providing materials for academic research and are formatted approximately like journal article in traditional printed journals.

## 9. Free open-access journals

Free open access journals use a variety of business models. Some of OA journals have direct or indirect subsidies from institutions like universities, laboratories, research centers, libraries, hospitals, museums, learned societies, foundations, or government agencies. Some have revenue from a separate line of non-OA publications. Some have revenue from advertising, auxiliary services, membership dues, endowments, reprints, or a print or premium edition. Some rely, more than other journals, on volunteerism. Some undoubtedly use a combination of these means.

## 10. Issues and Challenges in Open Access Movement

- The issues surrounding open access publishing are almost as numerous as the journals it concerns. Recent mass media attention on the scholarly publishing process has brought about both internal and external examination of key aspects in the process, they are
- The extent and quality of peer review
- The technologies and cost associated with the capture and display of information
- The technologies and the costs associated with the various distribution channels
- The pricing policies and subsequent business exercised by the various types of scholarly publishers
- The ever-increasing expectations of the principal consumer with regard to the method of information delivery along with its cost, availability, and extend of access.
- The impact of new technologies and current publishing economics on other sector of the communication process, namely, authors, libraries and allied industries such aggregators and subscription agents.
- The technological challenges to ensuing the accuracy and accessibility of archives both present and future along with the potential impact of author archives and repository archives
- The overall sustainability of the scholarly communication process.

## 11. Barriers to Open Access

- High cost of ICTs infrastructures and connectivity and poor telecommunication infrastructure:
- Adequate Funding to make and promote the internet infrastructure in developing countries
- Inadequate encouragement, lack of awareness and misconceptions of the existence and benefits:
- Managing IPR (Copy right) through different publishing agreements

## 12. Indian Initiatives: Open Access Journals

OA movement has made the Indian Journals reach the target audience of the world's communities and now more than hundred Indian Journals provides provide free access to full text contents. India is placed in the 6th position in the list of open access journals which is well ahead of countries such as the Netherlands, China, Germany, Australia etc. No matter the number or quality of OA journals and repositories in India, it has shown a great commitment amongst the developing world

A number of Indian publishers are taking advantage of the improved communication networks and technology to initiate an open access policy for their journals. These initiatives are happening as isolated efforts by both society and private publishers.

- Bio Line International: (<http://www.bioline.org.br/>);
- Indian Academy of Sciences Published Open Access Journals e-journals@INSA
- Indian MEDLARS Centre: (<http://indmed.nic.in/>);
- Indian National Science Academy (<http://www.insaindia.org/>);
- IndianJournals.com hosted Open Access Journals ( [www.indianjournals.com](http://www.indianjournals.com) );
- ISI Kolkata : Sankhya (<http://sankhya.isical.ac.in/>).
- Kamalraj enterprise publishes Open Access Journals

- ([www.krepublishers.com/KRE-New-J/index.html](http://www.krepublishers.com/KRE-New-J/index.html))
- MEDIND@NIC : Biomedical Journals from India (<http://medind.nic.in> )
- Medknow Publications hosted Open Access Journals
- ([www.mdknow.com/journals.asp](http://www.mdknow.com/journals.asp) )
- NISCAIR (National Institute of Science Communication and Information
- Resources) Journals (<http://www.niscom.res.in/ScienceCommunication>)

### 13. Conclusion

The Open Source movement has tremendously influenced the information communication technology, in particularly digital library environment where the information systems and services are inevitable. The benefits of open access, open source, and open standards are numerous over the internet. The benefits include lower costs, great accessibility, and better prospects for long-term preservation of scholarly works.

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