

Value Of Open Access Publication

Ediriweera Desapriya*

Clinical researcher at division of Pediatrics at the BC Children's Hospital, University of British Columbia, School of Medicine, Canada

Recent decade has evident that skyrocketing subscription prices of journals published by conventional multibillion publishing companies. The journal contents are generally subjected to restricted access. Subscription dues are unfairly expensive which is beyond affordability of average scientist.

Most university libraries, even in developed world with shrinking budgets could afford to subscribe only most essential academic journals. This unfortunate situation is unfairly barring the academic community to access to scientific knowledge. Imagine the huge impact of this on most developing nations and their research communities. Severely restricted revenue in these countries generally have very limited journal subscriptions budget. This is leading to a situation where we unfairly restrict their access right to scientific knowledge. This is truly unfair. It should be noted that scientists from developing world also publishing in restricted access journals. It is unfair that sometimes that this knowledge contribution will become restricted to their fellow colleagues. Open access Journal publishing policy has been the best solution to this growing crisis in higher educational institutions. Open access journals charge authors for publication and make their contributions freely available online. This means that scientific contents can be accessed by anyone with online access free of charge.

In June 2003 first legislation of open access was implemented in US. It is widely known as the Sabo Bill. The bill highlighted that the research papers ineligible for copyright protection if written by scientists who received substantial federal financing for their academic work. The intent of the bill was to provide free and widespread public access to the government funded papers.

When selection of journals for publication researchers are generally, looking at journal-level metrics, such as the Impact Factor. I be-

lieve that too much importance is sometimes given to this measure. However, impact factor is largely based on citations. Open Access itself equates to more citations in open access journals and their published articles due to free and wide circulation globally. Gradual expansion of potential readership will eventually, transform the impact of these journals world-wide and at the same time no doubt that increase their visibility as well. It is evident that Open Access journals can have similar impact to other conventional restricted access journals and therefore, prospective authors should target open access journal for future publication. We need to understand that core academic value of promoting broad and rapid dissemination of new knowledge. It is important that there should be effective way to disseminate new knowledge globally unrestricted way.

The major advantage of open access publication is that the opportunity to publish material that is either not compatible with the print medium (for example, video clips), or relatively very expensive in print (color graphics). Moreover, open access is significantly environmentally friendly. As you could see the benefits of open access publishing philosophy is unlimited globally. There is a need to increase global awareness of the benefits of depositing scholarly work in open access repositories.

The initiatives promoting open access that have been undertaken by OMICS group among others are commendable. Practice of making authors pay for online publication of their articles, as described above might dissuade researchers in developing countries from contributing their research with OMICS group open access journals. The next challenge of open access publishing philosophy is to continue exploring innovative ways to support progress in open access and offset their costs and financial sustainability.

***Corresponding author:** Ediriweera Desapriya, Clinical researcher at division of Pediatrics at the BC Children's Hospital, University of British Columbia, School of Medicine, Canada, E-mail: edesap@cw.bc.ca

Received April 25, 2012; **Accepted** April 25, 2011; **Published** April 26, 2012

Citation: Desapriya E (2012) Value of open access publication. Adv Automob Eng 1:e106. doi:10.4172/2167-7670.1000e106

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