

Welcome to the Information Age

Brian D. Nordmann*

Department of Verification & Transparency Technologies, USA

“An old tradition and a new technology have converged to make possible an unprecedented public good. The old tradition is the willingness of scientists and scholars to publish the fruits of their research in scholarly journals without payment, for the sake of inquiry and knowledge. The new technology is the internet. The public good they make possible is the world-wide electronic distribution of the peer-reviewed journal literature and completely free and unrestricted access to it by all scientists, scholars, teachers, students, and other curious minds.”

- Budapest Open Access Initiative, December 2001

The chances are great that you are NOT reading this on a piece of paper. More likely is that you are reading it electronically, either on your computer or possibly on an e-book reader. This is not a risky guess on my part. Biosafety is an electronic journal. As such, it is part of the new wave of technical publishing-Open Access Publishing. What does this mean?

Open access publishing enables the dissemination of research articles to a worldwide community. Biosafety supports the guidelines of the Budapest Open Access Initiative which called for the “free and unrestricted” access of academic research on the internet. But this is not the Wild West and unrestricted access does not mean academic rigor is ignored. All journal articles are still peer reviewed and academic

integrity is still protected. As the Omics Publishing Group website (Omicsonline.org) explains: “Community standards, rather than copyright law, will continue to provide the mechanism for enforcement of proper attribution and responsible use of the published work.”

Why is publishing in Biosafety valuable for the researcher? First, there is a worldwide readership of the e-journal-people will read your research who can, and will, use your findings. The Editorial Review Board reflects that readership with board members from around the world. The journal features a rapid review process of only 21 days your research gets seen faster and feedback is returned quicker. This, in turn, accelerates subsequent research and fosters more innovation and creative thinking. E-journal publishing does not mean you must live in a “virtual world.” The Omics Publishing Group also sponsors conferences throughout the world for scientists to meet and collaborate with their peers.

The definition of biosafety and the focus of the journal are constantly evolving and widening. Each reader has their own idea of what biosafety includes and what it excludes. This evolution of meaning demands dialogue to better define the parameters of the issue. I believe that dialogue begins with the printed (or electronic) word. I strongly encourage you to join the conversation by submitting your research for publication in Biosafety or one of the 200 other e-journals provided by Omics Publishing Group.

***Corresponding author:** Brian D. Nordmann, Director, Department of Verification & Transparency Technologies, USA, Tel: 202-647-2408; E-mail: nordmabr@state.gov

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