

6-24-2017

The State of Open Access in the USA Today

Yasmeen Shorish

James Madison University, shorisyl@jmu.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <http://commons.lib.jmu.edu/letfspubs>



Part of the [Scholarly Communication Commons](#), and the [Scholarly Publishing Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Shorish, Yasmeen, "The State of Open Access in the USA Today" (2017). *Libraries*. 97.
<http://commons.lib.jmu.edu/letfspubs/97>

This Presentation is brought to you for free and open access by the Libraries & Educational Technologies at JMU Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Libraries by an authorized administrator of JMU Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact dc_admin@jmu.edu.

The State of Open Access in the USA Today

Yasmeen Shorish

Associate Professor And Data Services Coordinator at
James Madison University, Virginia.

ALA Annual, IRRT Preconference. June 24, 2017

The Questions at Hand

1. What is Open Access?
2. How is OA discussed and practiced in the USA?
3. What are key considerations?
4. What are the global implications?
5. What does the future hold?

What is Open Access (OA)?

SPARC¹: “Open Access is the free, immediate, online availability of research articles combined with the rights to use these articles fully in the digital environment.”

Suber²: “OA removes *price barriers* (subscriptions, licensing fees, pay-per-view fees) and *permission barriers* (most copyright and licensing restrictions).”

1. <https://sparcopen.org/open-access/>
2. <https://legacy.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/overview.htm>

What is Open Access (OA)?

“OA is not a kind of business model.”

In the USA, the focus of OA has, for the most part, been about negotiating Green vs Gold OA within the existing publishing landscape.

Because it was not envisioned as a new business model, it has not seriously upset the existing publishing landscape.

<https://legacy.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/overview.htm>

Green vs Gold

Gold: Publisher provided OA. “Native” OA. Access is immediately provided via the publisher website. No embargo.

Green: Self-archiving method, often to an institutional or pre-print repository. Often limited to author-accepted manuscript version. Sometimes limited by embargo.

Other OA Considerations

- ❖ Rights and permissions:
 - ❖ “Gratis” removes cost barriers – *for consumers*
 - ❖ “Libre” removes some level of permission barriers
 - ❖ Various Creative Commons licenses: CC BY ↔ CC BY-NC-ND
- ❖ Bad reputation
 - ❖ The continued popularity of Beall’s list, now a commercial product offered by Cabell’s.

Blacklists

Cabell's Blacklist Violations

GENERAL INFORMATION

This policy establishes the criteria for identifying deceptive, fraudulent, and/or predatory journals for inclusion in Cabell's Blacklist. Cabell's Blacklist Review Board uses the following criteria to evaluate all journals suspected of deceptive, fraudulent, and/or predatory practices.

The following criteria are considered when evaluating a suspected journal:

- **Integrity**
 - The same article appears in more than one journal.
 - Hijacked journal (defined as a fraudulent website created to look like a legitimate academic journal for the purpose of offering academics the opportunity to rapidly publish their research for a fee).
 - Information received from the journal does not match the journal's website.
 - The journal or publisher claims to be a non-profit when it is actually a for-profit company.
 - The publisher hides or obscures relationships with for-profit partner companies.
 - The owner/Editor of the journal or publisher falsely claims academic positions or qualifications.
 - The journal is associated with a conference that has been identified as predatory.
 - The journal gives a fake ISSN.
 - Insufficient resources are spent on preventing and eliminating author misconduct (that may result in repeated cases of plagiarism, self-plagiarism, image manipulation, etc.).
 - The name of the journal references a country or demographic that does not relate to the content or origin of the journal.
 - The journal uses language that suggests that it is industry leading, but is in fact a new journal.
 - The title of the journal is copied or so similar to that of a legitimate journal that it could cause confusion between the two.
- **Peer Review**
 - No editor or editorial board listed on the journal's website at all.
 - Editors do not actually exist or are deceased.
 - The journal includes scholars on an editorial board without their knowledge or permission.
 - The founder of the publishing company is the editor of all of the journals published by said company.
 - Evident data showing that the editor/review board members do not possess academic expertise to reasonably qualify them to be publication gatekeepers in the journal's field.
 - Have board members who are prominent researchers but exempt them from any contribution to the journal except the use of their names and/or photographs.
 - Gender bias in the editorial board.
 - Little geographical diversity of board members and claim to be international.
 - Inadequate peer review (i.e., a single reader reviews submissions; peer reviewers read papers outside their field of study; etc.).
 - The journal's website does not have a clearly stated peer review policy.
- **Website**
 - The website does not identify a physical address for the publisher or gives a fake address.
 - The journal or publisher uses a virtual office or other proxy business as its physical address.
 - The website does not identify a physical editorial address for the journal.
 - Dead links.
 - Poor grammar and/or spelling.
 - No way to contact the journal/only has web-form.
- **Publication Practices**
 - The journal publishes papers that are not academic at all, e.g. essays by laypeople or obvious pseudo-science.
 - No articles are published or the archives are missing issues and/or articles.
 - Falsely claims indexing in well-known databases (especially SCOPUS, DOAJ, JCR, and Cabell's).
 - Falsely claims universities or other organizations as partners or sponsors.
 - Machine-generated or other "sting" abstracts or papers are accepted.
 - No copyediting.

DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals)

- DOAJ operates as a safe index, rather than a blacklist.
- Journals may receive the DOAJ Seal of Approval if they:
 - Use DOIs as permanent identifiers
 - Provide DOAJ with article metadata
 - Deposit content with a long term digital preservation or archiving program
 - Embed machine-readable CC licensing in articles
 - Allow generous reuse and mixing of content (CC licenses)
 - Have a deposit policy registered with a deposit policy registry
 - Allow the author to retain copyright without restrictions

ARE YOU PUBLISHING IN A PROPER JOURNAL?

This is a guest post by [Vrushali Dandawate](#), DOAJ Ambassador, India.



All over the world researchers are spending their time in writing research papers, and everyone wants his or her work to be widely recognised. Most of the time researchers are in a hurry to publish their research papers, so they may not pay attention to whether they are publishing in a proper journal. Unintentionally many researchers are submitting their research papers to questionable journals (also known as predatory journals).

1. You may get spam emails or marketing materials from the editor inviting you to publish a paper in their journals.
2. These journals give you a guarantee to publish your paper within a very limited time period.
3. No proper information is given on journal peer review policy.
4. No affiliations are provided for editorial board members, and sometimes editors are listed without their knowledge or permission
5. These journals may not be dedicated to one discipline, but instead publish on a wide range of subjects within one journal.

What is the solution?

As a researcher, academician or librarian you must be able to identify questionable publications.

There are guidelines, tools and services available to help you to avoid publishing with questionable journals, and to choose a proper journal for your paper.

1 Think Check Submit

This website helps researchers to identify appropriate journals in which to publish their research.

2 Directory of Open Access Journals

DOAJ is a curated index of open access peer reviewed journals that is used by institutions all over the world as a guide to trusted journals where you can safely publish your paper.

3 Open Access Journal Platforms

Developing country authors can also choose to publish their article in journals available in aggregation platforms such as [African Journals Online \(AJOL\)](#), [SciELO](#) and [Redalyc](#). Journals are evaluated according to a number of criteria regarding their publishing practices before they can be included in AJOL.

<https://blog.doaj.org/2017/06/02/are-you-publishing-with-the-correct-journal/>

Global Considerations

Open Access is not a cure for
Global North / Global South
information participation
inequity

Global Considerations

- Open access addresses barriers to the consumption of information
- Open access does **not** address the barriers to contributions to information
- Biased power distribution in publishing exists in every marketplace:
Relebohile Moletsane, Louise Haysom & Vasu Reddy (2015)
Knowledge production, critique and peer review in feminist publishing: reflections from Agenda, Critical Arts, 29:6, 766-784,
DOI: 10.1080/02560046.2015.1151112

Global Considerations

- Adhering to the Gold OA model requires some fee from the author (e.g. APCs: Article Processing Charges).
- The author-pays model limits engagement from less-resourced institutions, within the USA and abroad.

As a writer, you feel disconnected when you find out that you can read and cite a good paper from this journal, but cannot publish in the same journals due to restriction of funds. As a reader, you feel satisfied that you can now get easier access without pay, but the sense of belonging and checking such journals regularly is not there. Somehow, we tend to check

Bonaccorso, E, Bozhankova, R, Cadena, CD, Čapská, V, Czerniewicz, L, Emmett, A, Oludayo, FF, Glukhova, N, Greenberg, ML, Hladnik, M, Grillet, ME, Indrawan, M, Kapović, M, Kleiner, Y, Łaziński, M, Loyola, RD, Menon, S, Morales, LG, Ocampo, C, Pérez-Emán, J, Townsend Peterson, A, Poposki, D, Rasheed, AA, Rodríguez-Clark, KM, Rodríguez, JP, Rosenblum, B, Sánchez-Cordero, V, Smolík, F, Snoj, M, Szilágyi, I, Torres, O, Tykarski, P. (2014). Bottlenecks in the Open-Access System: Voices from Around the Globe. *Journal of Librarianship and Scholarly Communication* 2(2):eP1126. <http://dx.doi.org/10.7710/2162-3309.1126>

Global Considerations

- International influence of OA is tempered by consortia and large package publishing deals
- Have Dutch negotiations¹ with Elsevier moved the needle on a global scale?
- Would a similar effort by the USA have a larger impact?
 - Is this remotely feasible?

1. <http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2015/12/unique-deal-elsevier-agrees-make-some-papers-dutch-authors-free>

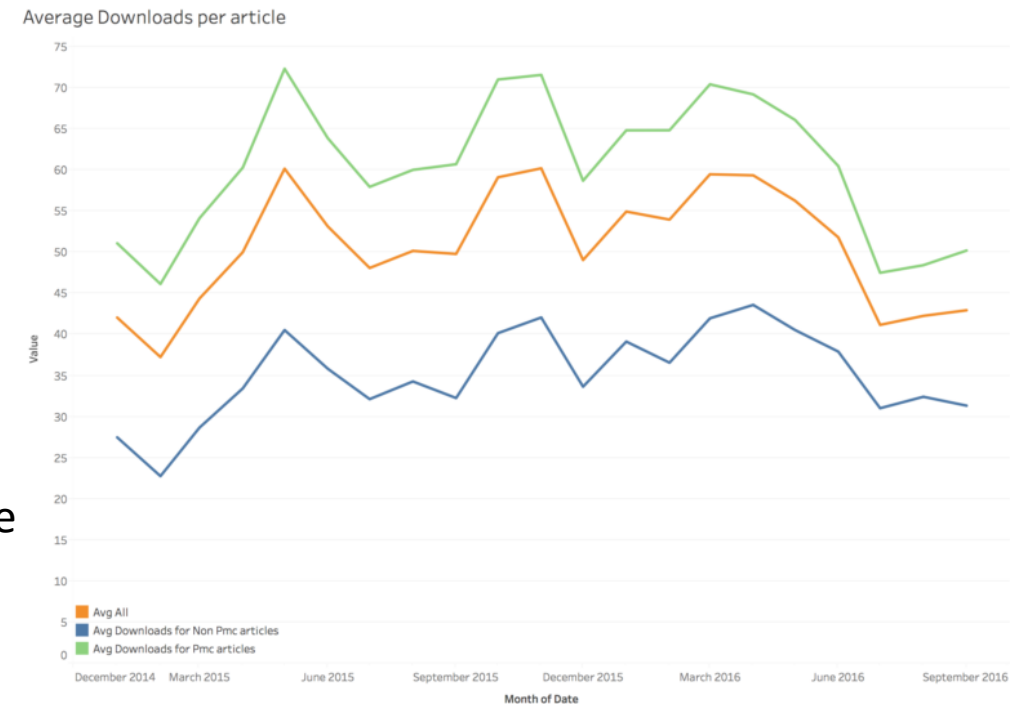
The Future

- The biggest large-scale success of OA in the USA may be the NIH OA policy
- Requires public access to NIH-funded research via PubMed Central after a 12 month embargo
 - Green OA
- The Obama administration enacted two public access policies governing research data and publications
- Publication policy follows the NIH model
 - Green OA, 12 month embargo
 - <http://datasharing.sparcopen.org/articles>

The Future

- We are still years out from being able to analyze the effect of the most recent public access policy

2014-2016 comparative download performance on Hindawi.com, looking at average download per article data comparing articles in PubMed Central (green), articles that are not (blue), and the average (orange).



<https://about.hindawi.com/opinion/pubmed-central-role-in-readership-amplification/>

The Future

- In order to establish a publishing ecosystem that supports the equal ability of all to contribute to and consume quality research – in all disciplines – a complete restructuring is required
- Open Access as it currently exists has been a launching pad for exploration into alternative paths in this ecosystem:
 - Open peer review
 - Post publication peer review
 - Promotion and tenure requirements evaluation

Thank you!

Yasmeen Shorish, James Madison University

Email: shorisyl@jmu.edu

Twitter: [@yasmeen_azadi](https://twitter.com/yasmeen_azadi)