



## What is Open Access & Alternative Publishing?

- Peer-reviewed journals published on Internet and/or in print.
- Journals freely accessible on the Internet.
- Articles deposited in open access repository (ex. PubMed Central).
- Revenue source:
  - Author pays submission fee to cover journal's operating costs.
  - NIH has mandated that their grant funds can be used to pay this type of fee.
- Author retains copyright.
- Author grants permission to others to use, reproduce or disseminate the article if author is identified and article is properly cited.
- Importance of journals will grow as use reaches critical mass and use generates higher impact factors.

## What is the impact of open access and alternative publishing?

- Articles may be available sooner – as soon as peer-review is complete.
- Wider distribution of research, possibly with more citations/greater impact.
- Authors retain copyright.
- More publishing opportunities for junior faculty.

## BioMed Central <http://www.biomedcentral.com>



- Alternative publisher of over 100 journals and databases.
- Publishing fee (\$525) waived for articles submitted by faculty/staff/students of institutional members.
- Articles indexed in PubMed/MEDLINE, Web of Science, Science Citation Index, Current Contents, BIOSIS, etc. (All journals are not indexed by all services).
- Articles archived on PubMed Central.

## Public Library of Science (PLOS) <http://www.publiclibraryofscience.org>



- Non-profit organization of research scientists dedicated to making the world's scientific and medical literature a public resource.
- Circulated open letter calling on all scientific publishers to make primary research articles archives freely available to public online libraries, such as PubMedCentral.
- Publishes two open access journals: PLOS Biology and PLOS Medicine.

# Empowering Faculty to Choose: Open Access and Alternative Publishing

Laura Abate MSLS, *Electronic Resources & Instructional Librarian*; Leah Pellegrino MSLS, *Head, Cataloging and Reserves*; Anne Linton MS, *Director*; Patricia Wilson MIS, *Associate Director, Public Services*  
Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library, The George Washington University

## Himmelfarb Library Outreach and Promotion

- Poster presentation at GWUMC Research Day to familiarize faculty and students with academic publishing environment (cost, copyright, and access) and alternative publishing venues.
- Presentations at departmental meetings (examples: Basic Sciences Faculty Senate, Department of Medicine fellows, new faculty orientation).
- Email messages to faculty listservs and from library liaisons to covered departments promoting open access/alternative publishing titles and venues.
- Newsletter articles promoting institutional membership and specific resources.
- Newsletter article on the challenge of maintaining journal collection in environment of rising costs and emerging online environment.
- BioMed Central representative visited GWU and talked with medical center faculty about open access journals and BioMed Central publications.
- Highlight open access resources in news area on Library webpage.

## Himmelfarb Library Acquisition and Identification of Resources

- Identify sources of open access journals and link to individual titles on E-Journals webpage.
- Support and publicize trials of new products from open access and alternative publishers.
- Rewrote collection development policy to reflect preference for alternative or open access publishers such as BioMed Central, Public Library of Science, etc. in light of budget constraints and emerging availability of alternative publishing models.
- Cooperative efforts with main campus to acquire, maintain, and promote open access and alternative publishing resources to all faculty.

## Open Access and Alternative Publishing Models:

**BioOne** <http://www.bioone.org>



- Online collection of full-text, peer-reviewed journals.
- Access to journals published by smaller societies and non-commercial publishers.
- Provides integrated electronic access to titles formerly available in print only.

**PubMed Central** <http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov>



- National Library of Medicine's online digital archive.
- Publishers participate voluntarily.
- Journals must be indexed in a major abstracting/indexing service (MEDLINE, Science Citation Index, etc.), or at least three editorial board members must be principal investigators on research grants from major funding agencies.

## GWU Institution-Wide Initiatives

- Membership in BioMed Central allows GWU faculty/staff/students to publish in BioMed Central journals without a publishing fee (\$525/article).
- Membership in SPARC supports “enhancing broad and cost-effective access to peer-reviewed scholarship“ and commits GWU to spend \$7,500 annually on new subscriptions to SPARC-associated journals.
- Membership in BioOne provides GWU access to an online collection of full-text, peer-reviewed journals published primarily by small society and non-commercial publishers.
- Resolution before the GW Faculty Senate:
  - Encourages faculty members to educate themselves about issues of academic journal publishing.
  - Supports libraries’ efforts to balance priorities by deciding to cancel or not to purchase journals available only through bundle purchasing, and in some cases by purchasing newer, less established journals.
  - Encourages faculty authors to consider accessibility when choosing where to publish their research, to consider more affordable publishers whose institutional pricing policies are in line with reasonable price increases, and to consider newer open access publications.
  - Encourages faculty who serve on editorial boards to be aware of and involved in decisions concerning pricing.

## SPARC (Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition)



<http://www.arl.org/sparc>

- Goal of creating alternative publishing system that disseminates high-quality scientific research to a wider audience at low cost.
- Supports high-quality low-cost journals.
- Members pledge to support SPARC-endorsed journals in their subject areas.
- Partners with publishers (including open access) to achieve goals.

## Washington DC Principles for Free Access to Science



<http://www.dcprinciples.org>

- Group of not-for-profit publishers that agreed to principles of providing free access and wide dissemination of published research findings.
- Supports several mechanisms of free access including:
  - Immediate availability of important articles.
  - Immediate access for low-income nations.
  - Open access immediately or within several months of publication worldwide.
  - Indexing by major search engines.