

# Current Issues in Biomedical Publishing

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## Costs

- Costs of print and online journals increase annually, above the rate of inflation.
- Library's biggest budget line item is for print and online journals.
- From 1984 to 2002, journal prices rose 627% from an average price of \$125.87 to \$789.44.
- Electronic access has increased costs as many publishers charge separately for print and electronic subscriptions.
- Publishers force libraries to buy site licenses instead of just institutional copies – this often triples the price of a journal.
- Larger publishers are taking over the smaller publishers and increasing prices.

## **Impact?**

- Library can purchase fewer journals because of large price increases.
- Since few large companies control most publications, price increases impact many titles.

## **Copyright**

- Authors are required to transfer their copyright to the publisher so that publisher has “exclusive” distribution right.
- Restrictions are often placed on authors’ distribution of article, i.e. posting copies to a network, making additional copies for distribution to others.
- Restrictions are placed on authors’ use of their own intellectual output, i.e. re-using parts of paper in another work, publishing a revised version of the paper, allowing authors to use their own papers for compilations.

## **Impact?**

- Authors lose their copyright.
- Authors lose control of their work.

## **Access and Licensing Restrictions**

- Electronic access limited to specific on-campus locations or requires the use of username/password.
- Electronic copies of articles may not be used for interlibrary-loan or electronic course reserves.

## **Impact?**

- Researchers may be unable to electronically access journals, especially from off-campus locations.
- Research may be slowed or skewed.

# What Can I Do?

- Choose an open access journal for your next publication.
- Choose a journal that is aligned with alternative publishing models.
  - Check the SPARC, PubMed Central, and BioOne websites for participating publishers and journals.

# Open Access

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## What is Open Access?

- Peer-reviewed journals published on Internet and in print.
- Journals freely accessible on the Internet.
- Articles deposited in open access repository (ex. PubMed Central).
- 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.

## Impact?

- Articles are 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.

## Open Access Initiatives Include:

### BioMed Central

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/inst/gateway>

- GW Medical Center is an institutional member
  - **Publishing fee (\$500) waived for GW Medical Center faculty/staff/students.**
- Peer-review through online process shortens decision-making (average= 4-10 weeks).

- Online publication immediate upon successful peer-review; print publication may follow.
- 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>

*PLOS is a “coalition 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.

- Plans to begin publishing two peer-reviewed journals during 2003.
- Articles to be peer-reviewed and published upon acceptance.
- Reasonable author fees may apply, but ability to pay will never be considered for acceptance/denial.



# More Alternative Publishing Initiatives

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## Why Publish in a Journal Partnered with an Alternative Publishing Initiative?

- Alternative to high-cost commercial publishers.
- Wider distribution of research.
- More people may be reading/citing your research.
- Fosters greater communication between colleagues.
- Supports the development of an alternative system of disseminating quality research information.

### BioOne

<http://www.bioone.org>

- Provides integrated electronic access to titles formerly available

in print only.

- Access to journals published by smaller societies and non-commercial publishers.
  - Title list: <http://www.bioone.org/bioone/?request=get-static&name=Titles-Publishers>
- Collaborative effort between scientific societies, libraries, academe and the private sector.
  - George Washington University is a member.

## **PubMed Central**

<http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov>

- National Library of Medicine's online digital archive.
- Publishers participate voluntarily.
- Publisher provides archives to PubMed or PubMed can link to journal website.
- Journals must be indexed in a major abstracting/indexing service

- (MEDLINE, Science Citation Index, etc.), or at least three editorial board members must be principle investigators on research grants from major funding agencies.
- Sample of data reviewed and integrity ensured.

## **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.
- George Washington University is an institutional member of SPARC.
- Partners with publishers (including Open Access) to achieve

goals.

- Publisher list: <http://www.arl.org/sparc/core/index.asp?page=c0>

# WHO OWNS WHAT -- IS THIS A MONOPOLY?



## Reed Elsevier owns:

Elsevier

Academic press

Harcourt Health Sciences

Lexis Nexis

MDConsult

Churchill Livingston

Butterworth

Holt, Rinehart & Winston

Saunders

Mosby

Hanley & Belfus

# ARE FOR-PROFIT JOURNALS MORE COSTLY THAN NON-PROFIT JOURNALS?



<b>Field (year, # journals)</b>	<b>For-profit</b>	<b>Non-profit</b>
Ecology (2000, n=78)	\$1.19	\$0.19
Economics (2000, n=156)	\$0.81	\$0.16
Atmos. Sci. (1999, n=34)	\$0.95	\$0.15
Mathematics (2000, n=171)	\$0.70	\$0.27
Neuroscience (1997, n=71)	\$0.89	\$0.10
Physics (1997, n=93)	\$0.63	\$0.19

*Source: Bergstrom, CT. (2002). Cross-field comparison: prices, pages, and publisher types.*

*Retrieved April 11, 2003 from [http://octavia.zoology.washington.edu/publishing/other\\_pageprice.html](http://octavia.zoology.washington.edu/publishing/other_pageprice.html).*

# ONE-YEAR

## INSTITUTIONAL SUBSCRIPTION TO:

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Brain Research	\$19,971
J of Comparative Neurology	\$18,413
Tetrahedron Letters	\$10,345
European J of Pharmacology	\$ 9,032
Gene	\$ 8,522

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HIV aggravates poverty
BMC Public Health 2003, 3:14
A comparative study of South African households with an HIV infected individual shows that family members are more likely to suffer from infectious...

Three more journals covered by ISI
BMC Musculoskeletal...

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From The Scientist

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Cause of SARS disputed
Head of Canadian lab not convinced that coronavirus causes...

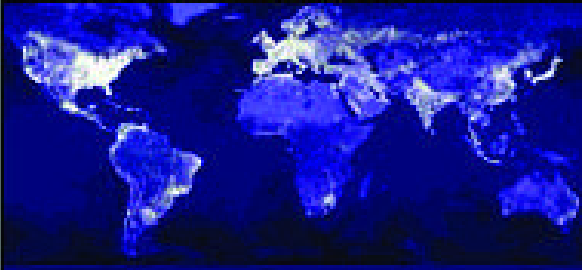


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The Public Library of Science (PLoS) is a non-profit organization of scientists committed to making the world's scientific and medical literature a public resource.

We are working to establish online public libraries of science that will archive and freely distribute the complete contents of every published scientific article, and:

- Greatly expand access to scientific knowledge by giving any scientist, physician, student - or anyone with access to the internet, anywhere in the world - unlimited access to the latest scientific research.
- Facilitate research, informed medical practice and education by making it possible to freely search the full text of every published article to locate specific ideas, methods, experimental results and observations.
- Enable scientists, librarians, publishers and entrepreneurs to develop innovative new ways to access and use the information in this immensely rich but highly fragmented resource.

On December 17, 2002, PLoS announced that it has received a \$9 million grant from the [Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation](#) to launch a new scientific publishing venture that will expand access to and greatly enhance the usefulness of the scientific literature (read the [press](#)

Start Novell... Novell... Palm D... Publi... scholar... scholar... Internet 10:21 AM



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### *What's New!*

- **SPARC E-News, February/March 2003 (4/2/03)**
- **SPARC and ARL Activities at ACRL in Charlotte**

SPARC Europe