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Open Access Report Fall 2014

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OPEN ACCESS *Update*

from Information Services



Open Access at Connecticut College

The Open Access movement has been striving to make research available to the widest possible audience for the last two decades. Over the past several years the movement has gained momentum as institutions have pledged to make the products of their research freely available over the internet, funding agencies have increasingly required free access to published articles and data, and publishers have found ways to accommodate the movement. In 2013, the faculty of Connecticut College pledged to join the movement by approving an Open Access policy. In this update, we bring you the latest news about Open Access on campus and around the world.

Open Research at Connecticut College

Scopus and Web of Science list ninety articles published by current Connecticut College faculty since 2013. Twelve percent of the articles are currently freely available to all, through either Open Access journals or Digital Commons. A third of the articles could be made free to all today by being placed in Digital Commons and another third will become eligible to be made freely available in the coming year. This number includes several articles that are otherwise unavailable to the campus community because the College does not subscribe to the journals in which they were published. In total, about 80% of the research conducted on campus could be made free to all users worldwide.

Faculty Research in Digital Commons: By the Numbers

222
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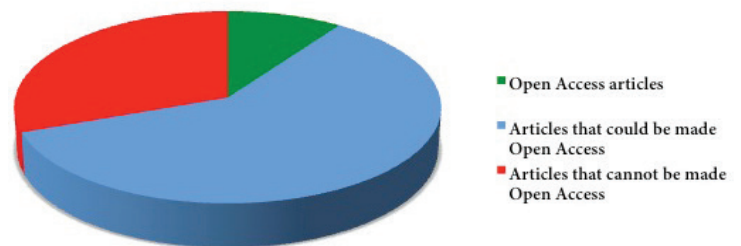
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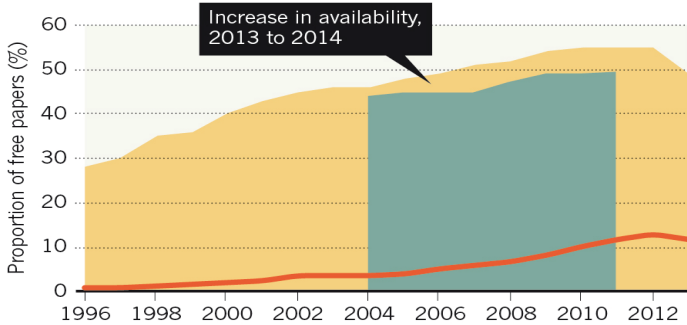
Growth in Open Access Literature

Last month *Nature* Magazine's Newsblog reported that over half of the research articles published between 2007 and 2012 are now freely available in some form. Although there has been steady growth in the use of Open Access journals, less than a fifth of that total consists of articles published in such publications. In other words, most freely available research is comprised of articles published in subscription journals that are then made available in institutional repositories like Digital Commons.

THE SLOW MARCH OF OPEN ACCESS

More than half of papers published from 2007-2012 are now free to read – a slight improvement on measurements made last year.

■ Free online, as of April 2014*
 ■ Published in open access journal
 ■ Free online, as of April 2013*



*Adjusted total, because automated software does not find every free paper

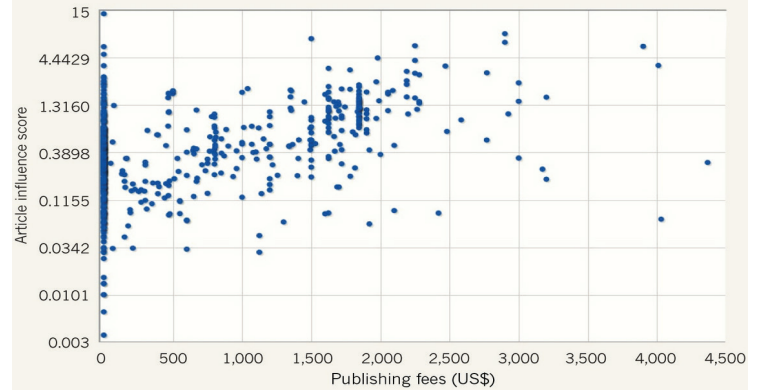
Source: <http://blogs.nature.com/news/2014/10>.

Assessing Open Access Performance

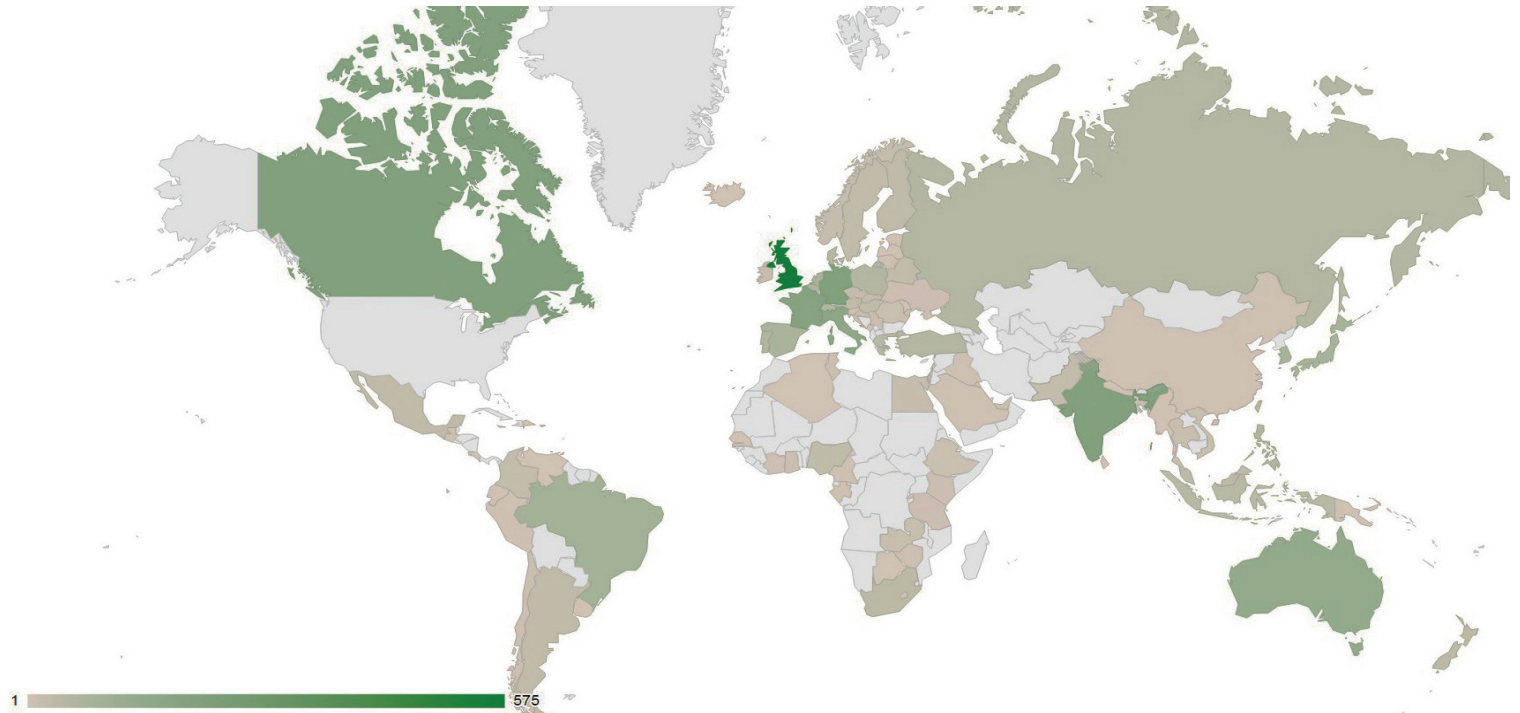
One of the ways that some Open Access journals cover their costs is by charging authors' fees to publish their work, raising questions over whether these fees can be justified by the impact their articles have. Jevin West and Carl Bergstrom at the University of Washington have plotted data on author fees and article influence on a graph for 342 fee-based open access journals and 419 journals that do not charge author fees. While the graph shows some correlation between the size of author fees and article influence among journals that charge, there is little difference in the impact between journals that charge fees and those that don't.

COST-EFFECTIVENESS FOR OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS

This plot reveals the prestige (Article Influence score) and publication charges for open access journals. More prestigious journals tend to charge higher publication fees.



The International Reach of Faculty Research in Digital Commons



This map shows the number of times that faculty research has been downloaded by users outside the United States

- Fourteen percent of those who downloaded faculty research were in foreign countries.
- Users came from 99 countries on six continents.
- Top countries for downloads were the United Kingdom (575 total downloads), Germany (205), India (203), Canada (201), and France (182).

- Open Access is of special importance to users in developing countries like Zambia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Colombia, and Egypt, which saw a higher than expected number of downloads.
- Faculty articles in the social and physical sciences are the most popular with foreign researchers.
- A quarter of all downloads in chemistry, anthropology, psychology, and sociology came from overseas.