

Unveiling the Path to Equitable Knowledge

Challenging Knowledge Monopoly: Access, Equity, and Quality in the Digital Era

Knowledge Privatization and Monopolization in the Digital Age: Implications for Medical Education and Practice

We want to raise the issue of knowledge privatization and monopolization in the digital age, such as influential platforms such as Amboss (comprehensive online learning platform specifically designed for medical students) and the Association for the Study of Internal Fixation AO – *Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Osteosynthesefragen* for trauma surgeons. These platforms have emerged as gatekeepers, controlling access to medical knowledge via paywalls against original intent of the contributors and potentially shaping treatment approaches. Concerns arise due to the selective dissemination of information, exemplified by AO courses where conservative treatment approaches may be downplayed. The recently emerged Swiss Medical Oath is representing professionals concerned about protecting patients from deleterious economic incentives in the struggle between industry and care delivery.

Democratizing Knowledge: Promoting Equal Access through Initiatives

On the other hand, we want to highlight initiatives in the health sciences that prioritize making knowledge freely accessible, such as the WHO Surgery at the District Hospital program, the standard textbook “Primary surgery” (the internationally most read surgical book) and the Red Cross book “War surgery”. We want to point out in particular the importance of democratizing knowledge and ensuring equal access for all.

Promoting Cooperative Authorship: Advancing Inclusivity and Diversity

We also want to shed light on the area of authorship, which is a growing concern addressed in academic discourse. Our focus is on advocating for equal cooperative authorship, challenging the hierarchical structures that currently prevail. We aim to bring into focus alternative models that promote inclusivity and diversity in the authorship process.

Prioritizing Quality over Quantity: Strategies to Address the Publication Volume

There is a pressing need to reduce publication volume in order to prioritize quality. With the increasing abundance of research output, there is a growing concern regarding the prevalence of quantity overshadowing quality. Our objective is to discuss strategies that can effectively address this issue, including the implementation of rigorous peer review processes and placing emphasis on impactful research. By engaging in these discussions, we aim to foster a scientific culture that values and upholds the highest standards of research quality such as promoted by the San Francisco declaration on research assessment (DORA) and the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (COARA).

Analyzing the Implications for the Global South: Knowledge Dissemination, Copyright Protection, and Research Availability

Another issue are Russian pirate platforms disseminating knowledge in the Global South by providing access to global publications. We want to highlight the far-reaching implications of these platforms on knowledge dissemination, copyright protection, and global research availability. By examining these aspects, we want to gain insights into the challenges posed by such platforms and explore potential solutions to ensure equitable access to knowledge while protecting intellectual property rights.

Amplifying Underrepresented Voices: Challenging Language Barriers and Prejudice in the Scientific Community

There are critical questions that need to be addressed regarding whose voices are read and heard in the scientific community. There are factors such as prestige, biases against certain regions or nations, and language barriers that contribute to this issue. Additionally, we would like to challenge the dominance of language barriers in scientific especially medical discourse, exemplified by the United Nations publishing papers in diverse languages. However, we acknowledge the complex position of colonial languages in this context. By initiating these discussions, we strive to promote inclusivity, diversity, and equitable representation within the scientific community.

Fostering Interdisciplinary Dialogue: Advancing Equitable Knowledge Access and Alternative Approaches in the Digital Era

We enthusiastically embrace interdisciplinary dialogue encompassing medicine, academia, philosophy, and technology. By promoting open discussions, our aim is to deepen our understanding of knowledge monopolies, encourage equitable access to information, and explore alternative approaches to authorship, publication, and knowledge dissemination in the digital era. Through this collaborative endeavor, we aspire to pave the way for innovative solutions and foster a more inclusive and accessible landscape for the advancement of knowledge.

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Cotton M (ed.). Primary Surgery. Vol 1: Non-Trauma. GHO Publications. 2016. page 1 (of 881).
<https://global-help.org/products/primary-surgery/>

From the updated and freely accessible standard textbook in surgery, developed collaboratively by the medical community, focuses on enhancing surgical technique accessibility in the Global South. It serves as a comprehensive guide for medical practitioners in resource-limited settings, providing essential guidance, practical advice, and valuable insights from experienced surgeons in low- and middle-income countries.

Conclusion

This poster highlights the critical issues of knowledge privatization and monopolization, emphasizing the importance of promoting equitable access, cooperative authorship, quality over quantity, addressing pirate platforms in the Global South, overcoming language barriers, and fostering interdisciplinary dialogue.