



“Predatory” Open-Access Scholarly Publishers

Date of Review: February 15, 2010

Composite Score Academic Journals:	★ 1/2
Composite Score Academic Journals, Inc:	★
Composite Score ANSINetwork:	★ 1/4
Composite Score Dove Press:	★ 5/8
Composite Score Insight Knowledge:	★
Composite Score Knowledge Review:	★ 1/2
Composite Score Libertas Academia:	★★ 5/8
Composite Score Science Publications:	★ 1/8
Composite Score Scientific Journals International:	★

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Editor's Note: This unique comparative review provides a broad overview of nine different Open-Access publishers that use the “author pays” model for supporting their publishing efforts. The same author published a review of Bentham Open (which uses the same publishing model) in the July 2009 issue of *The Charleston Advisor* and he recommended an analysis of some of the other major players. Since so many publishers are covered in this single article, it is necessary to keep the profiling for each publisher to a reasonable length. However, we believe that seeing such an overview in a single article is very useful.

Scoring: The pricing scores given in the composite score boxes relate to the fees the authors pay upon publication of their manuscripts, and the contract options refer to the license under which the articles are published.

Pricing Options

Each of the publishers reviewed in this article is Open Access and each uses the “author pays” model to support the publication of the journals. The prices described here are the charges an author pays upon publication of a manuscript. Several publishers, including Academic Journals, Inc. and Knowledge Review, also make available print subscriptions to their online, Open-Access journals, but this review examines only the publishers’ Open-Access products. We sent an inquiry to each of the publishers that does not state the fee on its Web site and asked for information about fees; none responded.

Academic Journals This publisher calls the charges “handling fees.” Fees vary by journal and range from \$550 to \$750.

Academic Journals, Inc. Not stated.

ANSINetwork Not stated.

Dove Press Charges vary by country. For the U.S. and Canada, the publisher charges \$1,527 to \$1,679 per article. Fees for newly launched journals are sometimes waived. A 10 percent discount is offered to authors who join the free, “favored author program.”

Insight Knowledge Not stated.

Knowledge Review Not stated.

Libertas Academia Charges vary by country. For North America, the charge is \$1,699. However, the publisher states, “There are no fees for papers commissioned for CMT and Clinical Medicine Reviews journals.” The site also offers a “favored author program” that

offers a 25 percent discount off author fees, but authors are not eligible for the program until after they have published (and paid for) their first paper with Libertas Academia.

Science Publications The publisher states, “There are nominal page/processing charges of U.S. \$75 per 8.5 × 11 inches finally [sic] type set page.” The site also has a prominent page called “Method of Payment” that offers many different ways of sending the fee, including bank draft, credit card, Western Union, etc.

Scientific Journals International This publisher charges \$99.95 to \$199.95, plus \$99.95 for each additional author. The publisher states that “authors in developing countries are eligible to apply for a reduced fee.”

Product Descriptions

Academic Journals Academic Journals publishes 106 Open-Access, peer-reviewed, online journals. Their journals are separated into several categories, including medical sciences, social sciences, biological sciences, physical sciences, arts and education, legal studies, and “other.” The “contact us” page lists Nairobi (Kenya) and Lagos (Nigeria) addresses, but a search of the domain name registration retrieves a Decatur, Illinois, address. Many of the journals listed have little or no content and do not list an editor or editorial board. On many of the editorial board pages, it says, “The complete list of editors will be published shortly.” Every journal page has a link that says, “Call for paper [sic].” Each journal page also lists professional organizations and upcoming conferences that match the subject matter of the journal, perhaps an attempt to make the site appear more scholarly. For the journals that do have content, it is not uncommon to have only two or three articles per issue. The journals have ISSN numbers, but they do not have DOIs. The site states that all works it publishes fall under the Creative Commons attribution license. This site was down for several days in early 2010 as we were researching this review; it had been hacked and its content replaced by political and other content. The site uses Google Custom Search as its search mechanism, and the journals are listed in an A to Z list. At least some of the articles are indexed in Google Scholar.

Academic Journals, Inc. Academic Journals, Inc. publishes 53 Open-Access, peer-reviewed, online journals. Most of the journals are in the fields of medicine or general science, but there are a cou-

ple outliers, such as one called *The Infotainment*, and a business title called *The Asian Journal of Marketing*. As of January, 2010, the link to *The Infotainment* leads to a mostly blank page that contains an HTML error message. Many pages in the site prominently display a New York City address (on Fifth Avenue), but a search of the domain registration reveals that it is registered to a company based in Faisalabad, Pakistan. The journals have ISSN numbers, and the articles have DOIs, but most of the content does not appear to be indexed in Google Scholar. The site claims its content is indexed in Scopus, ISI Web of Knowledge, and other indexes. The site offers no search functionality, other than browsing its alphabetical list of journals. The articles published on this site all sit on a domain called “sci-alert.net.” In fact, the Web pages on the site <www.academicjournalsinc.com> page list only the current issue for each journal; all earlier content (if any), is on the sci-alert.net pages. Also, no editors or editorial board members are listed on the main page, but some are listed on the sci-alert.net page; however, in many cases, the pages are mere templates and list no names. Some of the articles have a “comment on this article” feature, but we didn’t see any with comments. We were unable to find any information about licensing of the content on this site.

ANSINetwork ANSIN means Asian Network for Scientific Information. The site lists 31 journals, all in medicine and the sciences. No contact information or address is listed on the site; there is a web form on the Contact page, but no location information is listed there. The domain name is registered in Faisalabad, Pakistan, just like Academic Journals, Inc. The journals on this site are also hosted on the sci-alert.net page, so it’s probable that Academic Journals, Inc. and ANSINetwork are two brands of the sci-alert.net company, and, in fact, this publisher is very much like the previous one. Its journals have ISSNs, and its articles have DOIs. Several of the journals on this site are robust; for example, the *Pakistan Journal of Biological Sciences* has been published since 1998 and currently publishes 24 rather full issues per year. Still, this site is beset by no real search functionality and its editor/editorial board pages are empty templates. Some (but not all) of the content is indexed in Google Scholar, but the links from there lead to “404 not found” messages; the links must have been changed recently. There is no special search functionality other than the alphabetical list of journals.

Dove Press Dove Press (the name also appears as Dovepress and Dove Medical Press) publishes “Open access peer-reviewed biomedical and scientific journals.” It lists 76 titles. The Contact Us page lists two office locations, one in Macclesfield, U.K. and one in Memphis, Tennessee; the domain name, however, is registered in Auckland, New Zealand. We believe that Dove Press is one of two brands of the company that also owns Libertas Academia (discussed later in this article). The journals all list editors and editorial boards. The titles all have ISSN numbers but not DOIs. Unlike most of the other publishers described here, this one boasts full-color figures and tables in its articles, and the articles have a very professional look to them. Dove Press boasts a rapid submission to publication time. The site states, “We have one of the fastest turnaround times of any medical publisher in the world. Generally peer review is complete within 2-3 weeks and the editor’s decision within 24 hours of this.” The site offers a simple search box that searches its entire content, including the articles, but it doesn’t work very well. When we tested this search box, we found that some searches returned articles that did not contain our search term.

This publisher made the news recently when it was revealed that murder suspect and University of Alabama Huntsville professor Amy Bishop had published an article in the Dove Press publication *Inter-*

national Journal of General Medicine. The paper has since been removed from the publisher’s site. According to a report in the Wall Street Journal, the “... article was published in May 2009 and names her husband and three of her four children, all of whom are under 19 years of age, as co-authors”.¹ It’s clear that Dove Press, like the other publishers we review here, are mere vanity presses.

Insight Knowledge Insight Knowledge publishes 15 Open-Access, online journals whose titles all begin with the word “Insight,” such as *Insight Nanotechnology*. The site lists the headquarters as being in London, U.K., but the domain name is registered in Faisalabad, Pakistan. The site simultaneously claims to be “a company incorporated in England and Wales” and “a nonprofit organization dedicated to provide [sic] an active forum for communication among experts from different fields. ...” Every journal says “Volume 1 issue 1 2010.” None has any articles, despite the fact that the site boasts, “Insight Knowledge publishes 15 international, high quality, peer-reviewed scientific journals, all of which are widely read and widely cited.” The site also offers print subscriptions. There are no ISSN numbers, no editors, no editorial boards, and because there are no articles, there are no DOIs. Clearly, this is a startup. It is probably owned by the same firm that owns ANSINetwork and Academic Journals, Inc. There is no mention of a license other than the statement that the articles on the site will be Open Access. There is a search box, but there is nothing to search, so all the searches come up blank. This publisher affords us the opportunity to view a bogus, vanity press in its developmental stages.

Knowledgia Review This publisher lists 20 Open-Access, online journals. The domain name is registered to a company in Faisalabad, Pakistan, but no office location is mentioned on the site. It is likely another brand of the other publishers listed previously whose domain names are also registered in Faisalabad, Pakistan. Overall, this site offers very little content; many of the journals lack even a single article, and many of the editorial board pages list no members and no editor. On one of the journals (*Asian Journal of Agricultural Research*), the earliest back issue is from 2007, but the few others with any content started in 2009. The publisher states, “Knowledgia Review (KR) publishing [sic] a collection of peer-reviewed, open-access scientific journals covering all areas of science, technology and medicine.” Also, KR states that it offers print subscriptions, but no pricing information is given. This site states that its journals have DOIs, but none are included on the site. The journals do have ISSNs, however. The Knowledgia Review site suffers from many broken links, including dead links from the contents pages to individual articles. There is no mention of a license other than the statement that the articles on the site will be Open Access. Regarding indexing, the site states, “These journals are indexed with important bibliographic databases including Scopus, ISI Web of Knowledge, EMBASE, CAS DOAJ, Agricultural Digest, ASCI-Database, CSA, Medical Digest.” We searched for a sampling of this publisher’s articles in Web of Knowledge but did not find them there. The site has a simple search box that works fairly well, and it has an A to Z list of its journals.

Libertas Academia This publisher offers a suite of 80 Open-Access, online scholarly journals, all of them in the fields of science and medicine. Many of the journal titles have the word “insights” in them, for example, *Proteomics Insights*.

We believe that Libertas Academia is a separate brand of the company that also owns Dove Press, described previously. The quality of the articles appears high. The articles have a nice layout, color pictures, and the authors are from reputable institutions. Each journal has an ISSN, but the articles lack DOIs. The journals list an editor and an



Academic Journals Review Scores Composite: ★ 1/2

The maximum number of stars in each category is 5.

- Content:** ★
The site is a dumping ground for articles rejected elsewhere.
- User Interface/Searchability:** ★
It offers only an A to Z list and Google Custom Search.
- Pricing:** ★
The “handling fees” can be as high as \$750 per article.
- Contract Options:** ★★★
Uses Creative Commons attribution license.



Academic Journals, Inc. Review Scores Composite: ★

The maximum number of stars in each category is 5.

- Content:** ★
Another scholarly dumping ground.
- User Interface/Searchability:** ★
They didn’t even make an effort to index their content.
- Pricing:** ★
The author fees are not stated.
- Contract Options:** ★
No information given.

extensive editorial board. Also, each journal page includes two “view factors.” This appears to be a made up measure of a journal’s popularity. For example, when we looked at the page for the journal *Nutrition and Metabolic Insights*, the site stated:

View factor:

Journal: 17825

Most read article: 1088

It is unclear what the view factor is exactly. Could it be a measure of page views? Clearly, the use of the word “factor” is meant to evoke the concept of “impact factor,” a standard measure of a journal’s quality and importance in a given field.



ANSINetwork Review Scores Composite: ★ 1/4

The maximum number of stars in each category is 5.

- Content:** ★★
Has one successful journal, but many others have editorial board pages that are merely empty templates.
- User Interface/Searchability:** ★
No thought was given to search functionality.
- Pricing:** ★
No pricing information is given.
- Contract Options:** ★
No contract information is given, but the publisher appears to retain copyright on all submissions.

Several of the journals on the site have over one hundred articles, but when we viewed the site, there were five titles with only a single article. These are likely new journals, and the site states that it welcomes proposals for new journals. One of the hooks this site uses to attract submissions is the promise of a peer-review “decision in 2-4 weeks.” The site has simple and advanced search boxes that search the content of the journal articles. At least some of the articles are also in PubMed, and many are included in indexes such as Google Scholar and Scopus.

Science Publications This publisher lists 28 online journals. The About Us page states, “Our product range includes journals and CD-ROMs. We publish content in print and online, and our editorial standards and production methods are at the forefront of e-publishing standards.” The site uses the Statue of Liberty as its logo, and some pages list “New York, USA” as its headquarters. A search of the domain name registration is unclear; it lists a Provo, Utah, address for BlueHost.com, which advertises that it will “Host unlimited domains free,” so the publisher is likely a customer of this Web hosting service.

Nowhere on the main part of the site does it say that the articles are Open Access, but they all appear to be. We saw a couple individual articles that said “Open Access” at the top. The journals have ISSNs but not DOIs. Some of the journals have issues as far back as 2005. Many of the titles begin with the word “American,” for example, the *American Journal of Nanotechnology*. This is clearly done to associate the publisher with the United States, when in fact it is probably located in a third-world country. When we researched this site, we encountered many dead links, including dead links to individual articles. Most of the journals have editorial boards listed, though some have only a few members. It appears that a Dr. M. S. Ahmad is the “executive managing editor” of every single journal on the site, for he is listed in this capacity on the editorial board page of every journal the publisher offers. The editorial board members are called “technical editors,” and there are no general editors, only Dr. Ahmad and technical editors. Each journal’s home page has a search box that searches that journal only; there is no search functionality that covers the entire site. There



Dove Press Review Scores Composite: ★ 5/8

The maximum number of stars in each category is 5.

Content: ★★ 1/2

The articles appear to be high quality, but how can you publish 76 science titles and boast a two to three week turnaround time for peer review?

User Interface/Searchability: ★★

Has a clunky, simple search box.

Pricing: ★

Rather high, especially if you live in North America, where the price can reach \$1,679.

Contract Options: ★

Tricky and nonstandard. The publisher retains commercial rights to all articles.



Insight Knowledge Review Scores Composite: ★

The maximum number of stars in each category is 5.

Content: ★

The site has 15 journal titles, but none has a single article.

User Interface/Searchability: ★

There is a search box, but there is nothing to search.

Pricing: ★

No pricing information is given.

Contract Options: ★

No information about licensing is given.

is an A to Z list of all the journals, however. We searched several random titles to determine whether they were indexed in Google Scholar, and we found a curious situation. One of this publisher's titles we searched was *Production of Pure Ethanol from Azeotropic Solution by Pressure Swing Adsorption*. The search in Google Scholar pulled up two articles by the same authors and with the same title. One was in this publisher's *American Journal of Engineering and Applied Sciences*,² and the other was in Springer's *Korean Journal of Chemical Engineering*.³ The texts of the two articles were not exact, but they were very similar. We sent an e-mail inquiry to one of the article's au-

thors, and he responded that they first submitted and got their article published in the Science Publications journal, and upon learning that the journal had no impact factor data, they submitted it to the Springer journal. Random searches of other articles found some (but not all) of them in Google Scholar.

Scientific Journals International (SJI) This site lists at least 72 Open-Access, online journals. A check of the domain name registration confirms that the site is registered in St. Cloud, Minnesota, and that matches the contact information given in the site.

Despite the publisher's name, the journals on this site cover a broad range of scholarly disciplines, including, education, social sciences, humanities, engineering, medicine, sciences, and a catchall category called "Interdisciplinary and Multidisciplinary." This final category includes the oxymoronic title *Journal of Monographs*. The publisher is a division of a company called Global Commerce and Communication, Inc., based also in St. Cloud, Minnesota. SJI's main page rather defensively boasts two Better Business Bureau (BBB) logos. One states "BBB accredited business," and the other one says "BBB rating A+."

Some, but not all, of the journals have ISSNs, and the site as a whole also has one. The articles do not have DOIs. It appears that the first titles were published starting in 2007. All the titles are published twice per year, fall and spring. The journal numbering is confusing at best and at worst misleading. For example, *The Journal of Management and Management Information System* [sic] has no content but the index page states that the current issue is volume 3, issue 1, 2009. This journal's page also says, "Coming soon." In fact, all the current issues of the journals share the same volume and issue number, regardless of when they started and whether or not they have any articles. All links from each journal's page to its editorial board lead to the same page, and the page lists hundreds of names in broad categories. So, there don't appear to be individual editors for each journal, just a massive, common editorial board shared by all the journals in a given category. The publisher claims to use a "... quadruple-blind review system,



Knowledgia Review Review Scores Composite: ★ 1/2

The maximum number of stars in each category is 5.

Content: ★

Many of the journals lack even a single article.

User Interface/Searchability: ★★

Has a search box that works pretty well.

Pricing: ★

No pricing information is given.

Contract Options: ★★

Declares its content is Open Access, but doesn't apply a standard license (such as Creative Commons).



Libertas Academia Review Scores

Composite: ★★ 5/8

The maximum number of stars in each category is 5.

Content: ★★★

The quality of the articles appears high.

User Interface/Searchability: ★★★

Effective search boxes, and content is indexed in other sites such as Google Scholar and PubMed.

Pricing: ★ 1/2

At \$1,699 for North American authors, the price is steep, but some journals waive the fee, and a discount program is available.

Contract Options: ★★★

States that journal articles are published under the Creative Commons Attribution license.



Science Publications Review Scores

Composite: ★ 1/8

The maximum number of stars in each category is 5.

Content: ★

Another scholarly dumping ground.

User Interface/Searchability: ★

No search functionality, but some articles are in Google Scholar.

Pricing: ★ 1/2

At \$75 per page, this site incentivizes short articles, but at least the publisher state its fees.

Contract Options: ★

Nothing stated, but the articles bear the publisher's copyright statement.

where the authors, referees and editors remain anonymous throughout the peer-review process.”

SJI tries to present itself as the solution to the scholarly publishing crisis, yet it is very defensive. For example, the site states, “It has come to our attention that a couple of individuals and organizations are propagating libelous, deceptive, misleading and false information and rumors about SJI. ... We are taking legal actions against such fraudulent and libelous activities.” Later the publisher states, “If you receive any fraudulent and suspicious e-mails or reports, please forward them to us so that we can collect additional evidence for our legal actions.”

The site offers simple and advanced search boxes that search the content of the articles. The results page includes advertising that matches the keywords entered in the search box. We randomly searched five journal articles from this publisher in Google Scholar and found only one indexed there.

Critical Evaluation

All the publishers covered in this review fall into the category called gold Open Access. In gold Open Access “the author or author institution can pay a fee to the publisher at publication time, the publisher thereafter making the material available ‘free’ at the point of access.”⁷⁴ This model is often called the “author pays” model of Open Access. Publishers like the ones we review here are beginning to be the object of much criticism. Stevan Harnad explains, “There seems to be a growing epidemic of fast Gold-OA journal-fleet start-ups, based on next to no scholarly/scientific or publishing experience or expertise, and relying heavily on online spamming.”⁷⁵ Proponents of Open Access are beginning to realize that these “predatory,” Open Access publishers are giving the Open Access movement a bad name. We use the term “predatory” cautiously, primarily in an attempt to initially



Scientific Journals International Review Scores

Composite: ★

The maximum number of stars in each category is 5.

Content: ★

Many of SJI's journals lack any articles, and those journals have large editorial boards shared with other journals but no editors-in-chief.

User Interface/Searchability: ★

Offers simple and advanced search boxes that include advertising along with the search results.

Pricing: ★

A reasonable base charge is augmented by a fee multiplied by the number of authors. This policy disincentivizes collaborative work, which is common in the sciences.

Contract Options: ★

Nonstandard and highly restrictive. The publisher retains all rights to articles published on the site. In essence, authors pay the publisher to publish their articles and then give up all rights to their work.

categorize a certain class of Open-Access scholarly publishers with like characteristics.

These publishers are predatory because their mission is not to promote, preserve, and make available scholarship; instead, their mission is to exploit the author-pays, Open-Access model for their own profit. They work by spamming scholarly e-mail lists, with calls for papers and invitations to serve on nominal editorial boards. If you subscribe to any professional e-mail lists, you likely have received some of these solicitations. Also, these publishers typically provide little or no peer-review. In fact, in most cases, their peer review process is a façade. None of these publishers mentions digital preservation. Indeed, any of these publishers could disappear at a moment's notice, resulting in the loss of its content. While we were researching this review, one publisher, Academic Journals, was hacked and the site replaced with radical Islamic propaganda for about a week.

Why would authors pay to have an article published when there are so many free outlets where they could publish, including free Open-Access journals? In many cases, the answer is that the quality of the articles is poor, and they were rejected by the mainstream journals.

The unscrupulous publishers we describe in this review provide an outlet for substandard research. Harnad explains,

A high proportion of Gold OA journals are lesser journals. I don't want to make it sound elitist, but they are not the journals that contain the research that everybody wants and needs the most. If you look at the top journals, the ones that are likely to capture 80% of citations, most of those are not Gold OA.⁶

It is very easy to set up an Open-Access publishing Web site. An example is the Insight Knowledge site. It is a startup and has no content and could have been set up in a day. Predatory publishers use words such as "Academic" and "Scientific" in their names to falsely add a veneer of legitimacy to their business. Practices such as these, according to Harnad, "are now being taken to a grotesque extreme because of the ease of entry into online publishing and a perceived instability in the traditional journal publishing trade, owing to the growing clamor for OA."⁷ The gold Open-Access movement is moving the burden of paying for scholarly publishing from libraries to authors and to the funding agencies, including governmental agencies, that support scientists' research. Moreover, the gold Open-Access publishing in-

Contact Information

Academic Journals

Address: Given only as 5170-00200, Nairobi and
73023 Victoria Island, Lagos
Phone: None given.
Fax: None given.
Email: <service@academicjournals.org>
URL: <http://www.academicjournals.org/index.htm>

Academic Journals, Inc

Address: 224 5th Avenue, No. 2218
New York, NY 10001
Phone: None given.
Fax: (888) 777-8532
Email: Not given; a web form allows online contact.
URL: <http://www.academicjournalsinc.com>

ANSINetwork

Address: Not given.
Phone: Not given.
Fax: Not given.
Email: Not given, but there is a web form on the site for online contact.
URL: <http://www.ansinet.com/>

Dove Press

Address: Beechfield House, Winterton Way
Macclesfield, U.K. SK11 0JL
Address: 20 South Dudley Street, Suite 806
Memphis, TN 38103
Phone: (+44) 1 625 509 130 (U.K.)
Phone: (732) 357-5784 (U.S.)
Fax: (+44) 1 625 617 933 (U.K.)
Fax: (901) 448-8504 (U.S.)
Email: Not given; a web form allows online contact.
URL: <http://www.dovepress.com/>

Insight Knowledge

Address: 145-157 St John Street, 2nd Floor
London, England EC1V 4PY
Phone: Not given.
Fax: (+44) 2 079 790 253
Email: Not given; a web form allows online contact.
URL: <http://insightknowledge.co.uk/>

Knowledgia Review

Address: Not given.
Phone: Not given.
Fax: Not given.
Email: Not given; a web form allows online contact.
URL: <http://www.knowledgia.net/journal.php>

Libertas Academia

Address: P.O. Box 300-874 Albany
0752 Auckland, New Zealand
Phone: (+64) 9 476 3930
Fax: (+64) 9 353 1397.
Email: <tom.hill@la-press.com>
URL: <http://www.la-press.com/>

Science Publications

Address: New York, USA (no further address information is given)
Phone: Not given.
Fax: Not given.
Email: <support@scipub.org>
URL: <http://www.scipub.org/>

Scientific Journals International

Address: 1407 33rd Street
South Saint Cloud, MN 56301
Phone: (320) 217-6019
Fax: Not given.
Email: <info@scientificjournals.org>
URL: <http://www.scientificjournals.org/>

dustry is being tainted by a perfidious group of fast and loose upstart publishers who exploit these funding agencies for their own profit, agencies that are all too willing to pay the author fees.

There is an organization for Open-Access, scholarly publishers, the Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association, <<http://www.oaspa.org>>. With the exception of Dove Press, none of the publishers described in this review is a member. The organization has a member code of conduct that lists ethical standards for OA publishers.⁸ These standards insist on clear contact information on the publisher's site, require that all articles undergo peer-review, that journals have editors and editorial boards made up of recognized experts in the field, that fees are clearly stated, that any direct marketing is appropriate and unobtrusive, and that license information is clearly stated. All of the publishers described in this review fail to meet one or more of these basic ethical standards.

Finally, one of the negative impacts of these predatory Open-Access publishers will be the avalanche of journal articles they are creating. This abundance will make it harder for scholars to keep up with research in their fields, and it will cause online searches to be filled up with links to low-quality research. According to Philippe Bayeve, "... one of the key components of the academic serials crisis is the unbridled proliferation of journal articles, which seems about to get even more out of hand than it already is ..."⁹ Libraries and scholarly indexes need to decide how to handle the output from these publishers. Should all research be indexed and promoted in library databases, or should librarians and scholarly indexes deselect low quality, Open-Access journals?

An Earlier Review: Bentham Open

We reviewed the online Open-Access publisher Bentham Open in the July, 2009 (vol. 11, no. 1) issue of *The Charleston Advisor*. Bentham Open uses many of the same unscrupulous tactics as the publishers covered in this review. That is to say, it also falls into the category of predatory, Open-Access publishers.

Contract Provisions

Because all the publishers make their content freely available over the internet using the Open-Access model, this section looks only at the contract between the publishers and the authors and the license under which the authors' works are published on each site.

Academic Journals The site states that, "All works published by Academic Journals are under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License."

Academic Journals, Inc. This publisher does not make any statements regarding licensing of the articles. Individual articles include copyright statements such as "©2010 Academic Journals, Inc.," so it appears that the publisher retains copyright on the content it hosts.

ANSINetwork Like Academic Journals, Inc., this publisher makes no statement regarding the licensing of its content, but it does list itself as the copyright holder on the individual articles. So it seems that this publisher also retains copyright on all work submitted.

Dove Press The licensing on this site is tricky and nonstandard for an Open-Access publisher. The "author guidelines" page states,

On acceptance of the Work for publication, the authors retain the copyright in their Work but assign an exclusive commercial re-use right to Dove Medical Press Ltd. Authors may make any noncommercial use of their work that they wish. However anyone wishing to make commercial use of the Work is required to seek prior written permission from the Publisher, Dove Medical Press Ltd.

This means that if Dove Press wants to publish a commercial print edition of any article on the site, it can legally do so. The site does not mention any particular Creative Commons license, but it does state that the articles are Open Access and that anyone may copy or make derivative works from them. So, with the exception of the retention of commercial rights by the publisher, the license is very much like a Creative Commons attribution license.

Insight Knowledge No licensing information is given on the site.

Knowledgeia Review The site does not make reference to a standard, Open-Access license but does say, "All articles published in KR Journals publishes [sic] with open-access policy which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited."

Libertas Academia The site states, "All authors' works published by Libertas Academia are published under the Creative Commons Attribution licence."

Science Publications No license information is stated. The individual articles include a Science Publications copyright statement.

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