



Scholarly communication & Open Access

**ELECTRONIC PUBLISHING
CHALLENGES
ALTERNATIVES**



LIBRARY

UNIVERSITY OF PIRAEUS

Scholarly communication

« is the system through which **research** and other scholarly writings **are created, evaluated for quality, disseminated to the scholarly community, and preserved** for future use.»

(Association of Research Libraries, 2006)

In other words,

the **forms** used by those involved in academic research (professors, researchers etc) to **inform** their colleagues, formally or informally, about the **research** they are carrying out or have completed.



Scholarly communication

Publications types

Academic authors communicate/publish their ideas and research with:

- **Writing** books and journal articles,
- **Presenting** papers at conferences,
- **Submission** of reports (working papers) for the fulfillment of obligations,
- **Creation** and maintenance of websites for the academic and wider community,
- **Correspondence** by electronic mail (email) and electronic lists

(ODLIS-Online Dictionary for Library and Information Science)



Electronic Publications: New ways

The **Internet** provides academic authors with the opportunity to share the findings of their study **beyond geographical, chronological, and cultural boundaries.**



Electronic Publications: Challenges

The **development** and expansion of the **Internet** undoubtedly contributed to the **speed** of scientific publication and the dissemination of scientific knowledge in general.

However, the scientific community and academic libraries faced the so-called "**serials crisis**" as a result of the emergence of new developments in commercial publishing activity, such as publishing house mergers and the exorbitant cost of academic journals and their pricing methods.

(Bergman, 2006)



Electronic Publications: Libraries

Serial crisis

Making **e-journals available** through the traditional publishing process and then purchasing them from academic libraries is prohibitively expensive.

Financial challenges have caused libraries to become unable to support the escalating costs associated with these journals' subscriptions. As a result, a significant part of scientific production is not available to all researchers and readers in general.



Electronic Publications: Crisis

The system is no longer working

The **traditional** operating system of scholarly communication is showing symptoms of stress and crisis as it has become **too costly** for the **academic community** it supports.

(ALA, 2006)

Authors tend to communicate only with those lucky peers who can, obtain, or have access to their works.

(CreateChange, 2003)



Open Access

Alternative publishing system

The Open Access movement appears to be the answer to the limitations of the conventional publishing method in electronic journals.

Benefits of Open Access

- Reducing the chances of unnecessary repetition in research activity, since research results become more widely known,
- Increasing feedback from scientists working in parallel fields,
- Increasing opportunities for new research activity that builds on the past,
- Strengthening the ability to extract texts (text mining) and fully integrate them into the unrestricted environments of scientific information,
- Increase in authors' bibliographic citations,
- Improving public perception of scientific research as research results are more widely accessible,
- Improving the student learning experience as research results become more accessible (Voss, 2006)

At the same time, Open Access has the potential to reduce huge costs from the publishing system and integrate the new regime for non-profit publications. Also it can return excess profits back to the research community (Esposito, 2004).



Open Access: Definition

“The Open Access author(s) grant everyone a free/worldwide right to **access, use, distribute and copy** their published works.”

(IFLA, 2004)

“Open Access is **free**, immediate, permanent and **free of fees** and most copyright restrictions online access to digital academic and scientific content. Readers are **free** to use the material provided for **research, educational and other purposes.**”

(openaccess.gr)



Open Access: Collections

The collections of Open Access documents consist of **free, online articles**, which come from peer-reviewed scientific journals and from conference proceedings or from technical reports, dissertations and other works (e.g. working papers).

The majority of these publications are provided **without license restrictions** to readers and may be used for **research, education or other purposes**.



Open Access:

Bethesba Statement on Open Access Publishing

What is recommended

An Open Access published paper (1), according to the Bethesba Statement on Open Access Publishing must comply with the following conditions:

- Authors and copyright holders grant to all users worldwide a right of free, unfettered, perpetual access to the work, a license to copy, use, transmit and publicly perform the work, and to create and distribute derivative works in any digital medium for any responsible purpose, with appropriate statement - attribution of creation – of authorship (2), as well as the permission to reproduce in small numbers forms copies for personal use.

A completed version of the paper and all supporting material, including a copy of the license as described above.

1. An Open Access paper can be an individual work, not necessarily published in journals or publishers .
2. A community's standards, rather than copyright laws, will continue to provide the mechanism for enforcing appropriate attribution and responsible use of published work, as it does now.



Open Access:

Budapest Open Access Initiative (BOAI)

What is recommended

1. **Self-archiving.** The authors, through this process, can deposit their preprint articles (i.e., articles they do not have undergoing a peer review process) and of the postprint type (i.e., articles that have passed an evaluation process and have been deemed suitable for publication) in open bibliographic databases, in thematic digital collections, in institutional or thematic repositories or on their personal website. This strategy became known as the **Green Road** to Open Access
2. **Open Access Journals.** This is publication in electronic journals freely accessible to all without charge issued either by traditional publishing organizations, or by exclusive Open Access publishers or by alternative funding sources including foundations and government organizations that fund research, universities, etc. This strategy also became known as the **Gold Road** to Open Access.



Open Access: Links

Initiatives, policies

Bethesda Statement on Open Access Publishing

<http://legacy.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/bethesda.htm>

Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities

<http://openaccess.mpg.de/Berlin-Declaration>

http://openaccess.mpg.de/67671/BerlinDeclaration_gr.pdf (Greek edition)

Budapest Open Access Initiative (BOAI) <http://www.budapestopenaccessinitiative.org/>

<https://www.budapestopenaccessinitiative.org/boai10/greek-translation/> (Greek edition)

Creative Commons <http://creativecommons.org/>

Open Archives Initiative <http://www.openarchives.org/>

SHERPA/ROMEO: Publisher copyright policies & self-archiving

<http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/>

Journals, indexes or collection search engines

BASE: Bielefeld Academic Search Engine

<http://www.base-search.net/>

DOAJ: Directory of Open Access Journals

<https://doaj.org/>

OAIster

<http://www.oclc.org/oaister.en.html>

OpenDOAR - The Directory of Open Access Repositories

<http://www.opendoar.org/>

Registry of Open Access Repositories (ROAR)

<http://roar.eprints.org/>



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For more information:

Greek website for Open Access, <http://www.openaccess.gr/>

Peter Suber, A Very Brief Introduction to Open Access,

<http://legacy.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/brief.htm>

