

The Evolving Role of Open Access Journals and Clinical & Experimental Pharmacology Journal

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For several centuries, paper journals have played an important role in the dissemination of new discoveries and the education of professionals. They have achieved their aims despite arduously long process. Authors submit manuscripts to the editorial offices by mail. Before the wide spread availability of airplanes and telecommunication services, the delivery to the editorial offices were slow. This was followed by peer review, resubmission of manuscripts and final editorial decision, eventually leading to the publication. Published journals were then circulated all over the world by various means. Therefore, the process of publication of articles took months and even a few years.

In the twenty century, major advances were made. The widespread availability of airplanes has shortened the mail delivery time and therefore the submission time of the manuscripts and the delivery of the published journals. Easy availability of the telecommunication services has further shortened this process, leading to journal publications in a shorter time than before. The last two decades were marked by the widespread availability of internet and electronic mails. With this development, the submission, review and editorial decision processes have become faster. We have been witnessing the emergence of open access journals. In fact, this is a very quiet revolution. In general, open access journals benefit authors, researchers, institutions and the society. For authors, it creates enhanced visibility and impact of their scientific studies. The universities, scientific institutions and medical centers also enjoy same benefits. Society as a whole benefits from this as research is more efficient and disseminated to the audience much faster.

Traditionally, journals have to be subscribed individually or by libraries. Unfortunately, this means only the universities and institutions which can afford to subscribe the journals have access

to the published work. For universities and medical centers in poor countries, the subscription process is meager. In the internet age; it has become possible to disseminate research findings free of charge to everyone. Anyone with access to World Wide Web can easily access the research findings. Therefore, open access to the literature implies the eradication of barriers from accessing scientific discoveries.

In our field of hematology, major discoveries such as new genes, genetic mutations, pathophysiologic mechanisms and approval of new drugs are made every year. This means it is extremely important for the society to disseminate the latest research findings to the audience. There are proponents to the open access online journals. They point out that open access articles are more quickly accessible and recognized. Opponents argue that the open access to the literature provides little advantage and that the current mainstream system of publishing has already provided excellent level of access to the researchers and the audience.

It is in our opinion that open access online articles are here to stay. As technology has improved, so has the mode of the delivery of the new knowledge to the researchers and the public. The Clinical & Experimental Pharmacology journal published by the OMICS group has several important features. This journal is an open access online journal with audio version-enhanced features. It also provides translation of over 50 languages. The OMICS group is also armed with over 5,000 editorial team members and 10,000 reviewers. Therefore, the review process can be completed within 3 weeks. After acceptance, the online publication takes place within 7 days. These are the remarkable achievements made by the OMICS group. We look forward to working with the authors for several years to come.

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