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## Open Access: The Future Road for Dissemination of Scholarly Content

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### Abstract

*This paper focuses on the impact of open access in the academic arena and its real-time efficiency and application. It also states how personal thought turns to societal initiatives overcoming lots of barriers mainly the intrinsic business motives and interests of the publishing world which acts only as the middleman between the author or creator and user of scholarly content. An attempt was also made in this paper to brief the features of different types of open access. The Governments of different countries also take a very major role in eliminating the dipping effect and business racket of publication houses.*

**KEYWORDS:**OA, BOAI, Dipping effect, Post Print, Gold OA, Green OA

### INTRODUCTION

All the scholarly content involves some cost either from any sponsoring body or funding agency and these are the brainchild of scientists, researchers, scholars, academicians and so on community. Whatever the name of the source of the fund for conducting research, actually it is spent by the society. The author is somehow paid by society. So, originally the product is the asset of society with proper recognition of the author. This scholarly content is published by some publishing houses for business. Then again purchased by society through the readers or users. Here is the dilemma, that society is paid for that which already is an asset of society. And the publishing houses are making huge business over it. Open Access actually is the solution to this dilemma.

### DEFINITION

The definition given by UNESCO for Open Access as "By Open access to the literature, we mean its free availability on the public internet, permitting any users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of these articles, crawl them for indexing, pass them as data to software, or use them for any other lawful purpose, without financial, legal, or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the internet itself."

According to The Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities, Open access (OA) means free access to Information and unrestricted use of electronic resources for everyone. Any kind of digital content can be OA, from texts and data to software, audio, video, and multimedia. While most of these are related to text only, a growing number are integrating text with images, data, and executable code. OA can also apply to non-scholarly content, like music, movies, and novels.

With these two major elaborations, we can summarize that Open Access simply implies hassle-free access to any digital content in any form over the internet by anyone at any point of time completely free of cost and without any legal i.e. copyright issues.

### **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF OPEN ACCESS**

The concept and idea of availing scholarly content in the online version at free of cost may be assigned since 1970 by computer scientists and in 1990 by Physicists but in a very unsystematic and whimsical manner through self-archiving in anonymous FTP archive and arXiv respectively. But on June 27, 1994, the Subversive proposal was given by Steven Harnad which was an appeal of internet posting of Esoteric research content of authors to archive their articles so that interested and intended groups i.e. everyone can access those purely free of cost on the internet online. The available platform was anonymous FTP archives, arXiv or website. This initiative is an official generalized stepping stone for what today is. It leads initiate a series of online exchanges, many of which had been published as a book in 1995 "Scholarly Journals at the Crossroads: A Subversive Proposal for Electronic Publishing". As an Outcome in 1997, Cogprint, an Open Access Archive Platform had been deduced for articles produced in the field of cognitive science for the purpose of self- Archiving. In 1998 American Scientist Open Access Forum was created which first coined the term OPEN ACCESS. This proposal also gave birth to the GNU EPrints software as a base for the creation of OAI-Compliant Open Access IR. The tool to locate and index the resulting eprints namely CiteSeer was also an inspiration for this proposal.

Though the term "Open Access" had been coined in past. it was officially formulated by three consecutive statements – The Budapest Open Access Initiative (BOAI) in February 2002, The Bethesda Statement on Open Access Publishing (BSOAP) in June 2003 and The Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities (BDOAKSH) in October 2003. At the initial stage, this concept was thought of on a very limited scale and refers to only online access to scholarly research for scholarly journal articles without any restriction, but now the scope has expanded enormously to all spheres.

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## TYPES/MODEL OF OPEN ACCESS

Types of open access are described by using various colour systems and recognising its characters through its colour naming systems. The most common are-

### ❖ GOLD OPEN ACCESS

The publisher makes available for free immediately on the website all the articles of a journal in this model. In this model, articles are licensed (via CC or similar alike license) thus unlimited sharing and reuse is permissible in this model.

### ❖ GREEN OPEN ACCESS

In this model, authors are permitted to self-Archiving of their scholarly writings. Here the author can post their work to any website, open repository etc. where people can read and even download and print the work without any payment. A Very few numbers of publishers may charge a fee for free licensing on the publisher-authored copyrightable portions of the printed version of articles. In this case, after successful peer review and final acceptance by a Journal, an author is permitted to post and archive the work in manuscript form and it is termed as post-print.

### ❖ BRONZE OPEN ACCESS

Articles under Bronze Open Access Model are free to read but available only on the Publisher's page. The license issue is not very clear from the perspective of the author and the availability or accessibility of articles is purely dependent on the publishing house and its policies regarding this.

### ❖ HYBRID OPEN ACCESS

As the name suggests, this model is a hybridization of open access and closed access. Publishers who are following this model actually partially funded by subscriptions. In this model, only those articles are provided in open access for which the author or collaborator or research sponsoring or funding agency already pays the publication fees. Generally, it offers a very poor quality of service and the publishing house charged both the author and the reader.

### ❖ DIAMOND/PLATINUM OPEN ACCESS

Those Journals fall into this category which publishes articles but does not charge any fee for processing the article though all articles make available as open access. Such publishers do not charge any fees either from the reader or from the author so they arrange funding from external sources Like Government grants, learned societies, renowned academic Institutions etc.

### ❖ BLACK OPEN ACCESS

Likewise, the dark web in the web world, a growth of unauthorized digital copying on a large scale infringing copyright has enabled free access to that scholarly content which is not freely available but requires a subscription. This is making it openly accessible via some social media sites and even with the help of a few dedicated sites. It achieves enormous growth in terms of access and collection is unlimited thus it is also named as shadow library.

## **MAJOR CRITERION OF OPEN ACCESS**

Open Access publications should have the following criterion-

1. The full content of the publication should be unanimously and liberally accessible free of any kind of cost to its readers generally in online mode over the internet.
2. The copyright owner (most commonly the author) permanently grants to its reader and user forever, the right to use or distribute the article obviously for non-commercial purposes but on the condition of mentioning proper citing and acknowledgement.
3. The full Article Should be deposited in at least one internationally recognized open-access repository in that electronic form that commensurate with the repository.

## **PURPOSE/ BENEFITS OF OPEN ACCESS**

- Avoiding dipping effect
- Providing a larger potential audience for authors, enriching prestige in the academic world
- Impact of work enhanced
- Curtails delays in the review, acceptance and publication process, naturally enhance the relevancy of the content in time
- Visibility and retrieval of work enhanced at multiple rates
- Due to the increase in visibility, the whole world can go through it which may save a duplicate of work, and effort and save the waste of time.
- Researchers or readers can get online free access for use without any barrier
- Scientists and researchers are looking for more audience; more citations of their work, Open access is the best solution to it.
- Removal of complexities of copyright domain, and assigning authors control over the integrity of his/her work only by the proper acknowledgement and citation.
- It allows recognition and enhances or widens the identity of the institution, sponsoring body and their activity or area of interest.
- It provides a brief idea of what the world thinks about a particular topic or concept.

## **LIMITATIONS**

As we know nothing in the world is completely free from shortcomings. Open Access is perhaps associated with very few disadvantages. A common practice is to judge the quality of an article or paper is the name or brand name of the publication house. This shortcut process is eliminated in this system. Scientists or researchers or readers only can judge relevancy after going through it, so it involves a little more time wastage.

## CONCLUSION

For further development or to add on something to one's field, he/ she should know in detail what already exists and what is going on in his field of thought which requires keeping updated oneself and that is only possible by barrier-free access to scholarly content and research resources. So, proper dissemination of existing resources is a must to proceed further. In such a situation perhaps open access is the most and best powerful tool and probably the only too by catering resources and helps in generating creativity. In this connection, many institutes maintain their own IDR in open access mode. We have already accessed more open-access material compared to subscription-based sources like academia, Google research scholar and many more alike.

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