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EFFECT OF OPEN ACCESS PUBLISHING ON THE DISSEMINATION OF SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE: A REVIEW USING EMERALD DATABASE

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Abstract

In today's dynamic and vibrant global scenario, Open Access (OA) publishing is one of the current topics among research scholars since it offers unrestricted free access to scholarly research, promoting greater accessibility and dissemination of scientific knowledge. Therefore, through this study, researchers reviewed the effect of open access publishing on the dissemination of scientific knowledge, by utilizing the Emerald Database. Moreover, by examining the advantages, disadvantages, and contribution to research visibility to the growth of scientific information, researchers sought to investigate the effect of open access publishing on the diffusion of scientific knowledge through this review article. Researchers also recognized future opportunities and suggested fixes for issues with open access publishing. This review was organized using the Interactive Literature Review Process (ILRP), which had been developed by former researchers. It used a few particular processes that can be applied to the development of review articles. In order to locate relevant publications for this review, search terms and search strategies were filtered and modified for all emerald content, including journal articles, book parts, case studies, early-cited articles, and expert briefings. These terms and search strategies are related to "open access publishing," "knowledge dissemination and sharing," "open access institutional repositories," and "challenges of open publishing." 18 articles were chosen at random by the researchers after taking into account the article's title and relevance. The review addresses the possible barriers to scientific communities embracing open publishing formats as well as the potential benefits of open access, including increased exposure while raising issues with disseminating information, accessibility, and citations in open access publications. This study contributes to the ongoing discussion on open access publishing by providing a comprehensive overview of its effects on the dissemination of scientific knowledge.

Keywords: *Open access publication, Scholarly knowledge dissemination, Research visibility*

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Introduction

The conventional landscape of scientific publishing has experienced an immense shift in an era marked by quick technological advances and a constantly growing worldwide network. The emergence of Open Access (OA) publications has become a disruptive force, altering how scientific knowledge is shared and addressing fundamental agreements among academic and research groups. The attention and consideration of both the scientific community and academic community are vital in the context of OA publishing. The studies done by Velterop (2003) and Matheka et al. (2014) provide fundamental definitions for the concept of open access. "Open Access" designates a circumstance in which content is made instantly, freely and without limitations. The goal of open access publication is to democratize knowledge and promote research findings and scientific knowledge without a barrier of geographical and national. It is about providing unrestricted access to academic publications, which strives to remove informational obstacles.

Since OA publications are the most effective way to extensively disseminate scholarly knowledge in the modern academic environment, scholars from all over the world are looking for unrestricted publications in the world. The benefits of OA surpass boundaries and do away with obstacles to the dissemination of scientific knowledge. It is important to emphasize that there is a strong demand for OA publications among the scientific community and that the necessity for open access work has already been proven. It is interesting that even while the value of open access is widely recognized, the actual contribution of OA publishing and dissemination is still a subject that has not been thoroughly studied. In considering this gap, researchers have started a study to identify articles that discuss the benefits and difficulties of OA publishing in the field of disseminating scientific knowledge.

Objectives

Researchers aimed to examine the influence of OA publishing on the dissemination of scientific knowledge by considering its benefits, drawbacks and contribution made to research visibility to the advancement of scientific knowledge. Further, researchers intended to identify the recommended solutions for problems encountered in OA publishing and prospects. Finally, researchers attempted to identify the role of OA publication in forming the modern scientific landscape and its potential implications for the future of scholarly communication digital era.

Methodology

The Interactive Literature Review Process (ILRP) developed by Combs, Bustamante and Onwuegbuzie (2010) is used as a base for the organization of the review. The nine steps of the ILRP model are:

“(a) Exploring belief systems, (b) Initiating the literature review process, (c) Selecting a topic, (d) Exploring the literature: identifying themes, (e) Formulating a focus: selecting/deselecting themes, (f) Analyzing/interpreting/integrating literature, (g) Closing the literature search: reaching saturation, (h) Writing the review of literature, and (i) Evaluating the process and product.” (Combs et al., 2010. p 162).

Among the nine core steps of the ILRP model, researchers used only a few specific steps, which can be adapted to a review article development. To find pertinent publications for this review, terms and phrases relating to “open access publishing,” “knowledge dissemination/sharing,” “open access institutional repositories” and “challenges of open publishing,” were used and the search and search strategies were filtered and altered for the contents in the Emerald database including journal articles, book chapters, case studies, early cited articles and expert briefings. The researchers selected 18 articles randomly by considering the title of the article and its appropriateness. The searches of this study, spanned the period from 2005 to 2023, ensuring that recent developments were included. During the synthesis process, publications on the Advantages of OA Publishing, Drawbacks and Challenges of OA Publishing, Impact on Research Visibility and Citations, and Advancement of Scientific Knowledge were segmented for the organization of the content. Further, recommended Solutions for the challenges encountered in Open Access Initiatives, Advancement of Scientific Knowledge and Future Prospects of Open Access Publishing were also examined throughout this review process. The primary ethical concerns for this review go to accurate source identification and proper citation. The authors made sure that all references were correct and then acknowledged the original authors for their academic contribution to open access publications and their contribution toward scientific knowledge dissemination around the world.

Results and Discussion

Advantages of Open Access Publishing

The dissemination, access and use of research across the international academic community are being revolutionized by open access publications, which have emerged as a disruptive paradigm in scholarly communication. This research review explores the benefits of open access publication by using data from numerous studies to examine how it affects cooperation, knowledge sharing and research visibility. It has outlined many advantages of open access publishing while providing pertinent studies that help readers comprehend these benefits.

Breaking down barriers, allowing unlimited access to scholarly literature and expanding its influence to a global audience are the fundamental values of open access publications. Unrestricted access to scholarly literature is made possible through open access publishing, which expands the content's global reach and influence. In their study, Chan and Costa (2005) discussed, how open access improves participation in the "global knowledge commons" by enabling research distribution in developing nations. In their investigation into the adoption and acceptability of open access publishing, Indian researchers, Nazim et al. (2019) highlighted how open access improves the usability of research results.

The mutually beneficial relationship between open access publishing and research impact also appears frequently. Open Access content frequently has greater visibility, which raises the number of citations and impacts. The beneficial relationship between open access publishing and the effect of research was highlighted by Garca-Pealvo et al. (2010). According to a study conducted in Indonesian university libraries by Farida et al. (2015), open access repositories contribute to the dissemination of impactful research. By eliminating traditional barriers to accessing research, open access publishing promotes interdisciplinary collaboration. The context then shifts to emphasize the value of open access in promoting interdisciplinary cooperation and successfully removing long-standing barriers to knowledge transfer between fields. Open access journal portals are a crucial component of the infrastructure for non-commercial scholarly publications, enabling collaboration among researchers from numerous disciplines (Björk, 2017).

Also, by reducing publication delays while promoting real-time knowledge sharing, open access publishing speeds up the dissemination of research findings. The experiences of the Libyan scientists profiled in Mahmood et al.'s (2009) case study emphasize the significance of open access in fostering information exchange among scientists. Moreover, open access encourages equitable access to knowledge and enables research findings accessible to researchers from all socioeconomic backgrounds. This has been proven during the research conducted by Kodua-Ntim and Fombad (2020). Their research aim was to investigate methods for using open access institutional repositories in Ghana to promote knowledge equity in the area.

Research can become more financially viable due to open access which can reduce fees for subscriptions for both institutions and individuals. In his 2010 study, Bernius examined how open access affected the administration of scientific knowledge and focused on how it could reduce costs throughout the ecosystem of scholarly communication. Systematic changes in scholarly communication may result from organizations and

governments adopting open access policies. The research conducted by Otto and Mullen (2019) shed insight into the policy's transformative potential by examining faculty responses and implementation lessons acquired from the Rutgers open access policy.

Drawbacks and Challenges of Open Access Publishing

By having research outputs more easily accessible, open access publishing has undoubtedly transformed scholarly communication. However, researchers emphasized the disadvantages and challenges associated with the adoption and application of open access throughout their studies. This study sheds light on the many factors that must be taken into account to ensure the continuous success and growth of open access publishing, from concerns with economic sustainability to those with quality assurance and accessibility.

The economic sustainability and funding models are significant barriers to open access. Alternative funding sources, such as Article Processing Charges (APCs) or institutional sponsorship, are frequently required for open access publishing to maintain the publication process. The difficulties in controlling scientific knowledge were highlighted by Bernius (2010) due to funding changes and the accompanying costs of open access. Concerns regarding upholding strict peer review procedures and assuring the high quality of published research have been highlighted by the shift to open access. The significance of preserving trustworthy quality control procedures inside OA journal portals was covered by Björk (2017) in his study. Despite open access's rising popularity, some researchers are still unfamiliar with and ignorant of its guiding principles. Effective knowledge management techniques are essential, according to Farida et al. (2015), to promote author participation in OA institutional repositories.

Although open access strives to increase accessibility, issues with the digital divide in certain regions prevent fair access to online resources. The differences in access to and distribution of research, particularly in developing nations, were highlighted by Chan and Costa (2005). Open access is also limited by cultural and institutional barriers and different cultural and institutional contexts have different levels of acceptance and adoption of open access. Kodua-Ntim and Fombad (2020) examined ways to encourage Ghanaian universities to use open access repositories. Navigating complicated copyright and licensing agreements is a common part of open access, which affects how research products can be used and shared. The difficulties in managing copyright and sharing openly available knowledge were examined by Garca Pealvo et al. (2010). Moreover, open access initiatives need a strong technological foundation to allow content distribution and archiving. In their analysis of the

accessibility of scholarly content, Stoyanova and Yordanova (2014) compared open access platforms. Ukwoma and Onyebinama (2021) examined the difficulties faced by librarians in Nigeria, indicated that maintaining and sustaining OA repositories can be difficult for institutions.

Impact on Research Visibility and Citations

Scholarly research exposure and citation rates have been significantly impacted by the growth of open access publishing. Making research publicly available through OA platforms has been acknowledged as having benefits for both academics and their institutions, including increased research visibility, wider distribution and possibly higher citation rates. This change makes academic publications more accessible to a larger global audience and is consistent with the objectives of knowledge democratization and accessibility. Studies like such by Bernius (2010) and Chan and Costa (2005) highlighted the fact that open access gives researchers access to a wider audience than is possible with traditional subscription-based journals, which helps to boost the exposure of their work. According to Chiware (2020), who explored open research data in African academic and research libraries and Nazim et al. (2019), who discussed the acceptance and adoption of OA publication in India, this accessibility is especially helpful for researchers from developing nations.

The effect of open access on citations is a subject that the scholarly community is very interested in. Numerous research studies have investigated the connection between open access and citation rates and they have found a positive correlation. According to Nazim et al. (2023), who examined the patterns of open access publication in India, OA articles frequently earn more citations than their non-OA counterparts. This occurrence can be attributed to the greater readership and possibilities for collaboration that come with OA research's expanded accessibility. Similar to this, research from Farida et al. (2015) and Ukwoma and Onyebinama (2021) showed that open access institutional repositories can increase research exposure and citations, giving researchers a platform to present their work. Although a positive correlation is frequently seen, the precise relationship between open access and citation impact can be affected by several variables, such as the discipline, the quality of the study and dissemination tactics. Overall, the trend indicates that open access publishing aids in extending the audience for research, which in turn raises its exposure and citation potential. Further, it encourages increased interaction and collaboration among scholars.

Advancement of Scientific Knowledge

By eliminating boundaries that have traditionally prevented research findings from being widely disseminated and made accessible, the emergence of open access publishing has considerably aided the spread of scientific knowledge. The research covered in the sources highlights the part that open access plays in establishing a scholarly communication environment that is more diverse and effective. By giving academics from underdeveloped nations the chance to publish their work on a worldwide scale, Mahmood, Rowley, and Hartley's 2009 case study of Libyan scientists showed how open access may empower researchers. Through the provision of a variety of viewpoints and insights, this access not only advances individual researchers but also enhances the entire scientific community.

Additionally, the availability of research content via OA platforms contributes to the acceleration of scientific advancement. The studies of Garca Pealvo et al. (2010) and Bernius (2010) emphasized the value of open knowledge in fostering collaboration, enabling researchers to build on previous research and produce novel solutions more successfully. Scholars from different locations can engage in multidisciplinary exchanges and contribute to the advancement of knowledge in a way that crosses geographical boundaries. Furthermore, the research by Nazim et al. (2023) and Farida et al. (2015) illuminated how open access institutional repositories support the conceptualization of models that integrate knowledge management viewpoints, thereby improving the accessibility and usability of research outputs within academic libraries.

As revealed in many research, the democratization of knowledge made possible by open access publication not only encourages global dissemination but also could close knowledge gaps across multiple geographies, academic fields and institutions. Open access promotes collaboration, lowers access barriers and makes it easier to share research across national boundaries. This opens the door for innovation and discovery in a world that is changing quickly.

Recommended Solutions for the Challenges Encountered in Open Access Initiatives

While open access initiatives are crucial for increasing access to scholarly research, they frequently face difficulties that need careful consideration to ensure that they are implemented successfully. Different approaches have been proposed by academics and researchers to solve these issues and improve the viability of Open access initiatives. To overcome the difficulties posed by the dissemination of research in developing nations, Chan and Costa (2005) stressed the significance of stakeholder participation and partnerships. They

believe that promoting global cooperation and utilizing resources can aid in closing the gap in access inequities.

The establishment of explicit institutional policies and guidelines is one suggested approach to overcoming the difficulties of open access publishing. Ukwoma and Onyebinama (2021), and Nazim et al. (2023), highlighted the need for well-established open access policies at universities and institutions. These guidelines can assist authors, researchers, and librarians in using open access resources efficiently while simultaneously guaranteeing adherence to copyright and licensing regulations. A progressive and well-communicated move to open access models is also emphasized by initiatives like the "transition towards open access" as seen at the University of Hong Kong, as highlighted by Chan and Cheung (2017). It allows researchers the opportunity to adjust and adapt to new practices.

Another approach is to encourage researchers and authors to become informed and knowledgeable about open access. To help researchers comprehend the advantages of open access publication and repository usage, studies like those by Farida et al. (2015) and Chiware (2020) emphasized the significance of knowledge management and training programs. Institutions may provide authors with the power to decide whether to share their work publicly by educating academics on open access principles, copyright problems and repository functionalities. The success of open access programs is also greatly influenced by technology infrastructure. Researchers like Stoyanova Trencheva and Yordanova Todorova (2014), Kodua-Ntim and Fombad (2020) supported the creation of reliable and accessible open access platforms and repositories through their studies. The needs of researchers and end users should be considered as these platforms should enable smooth access, preservation and distribution of research outputs.

Prospects of Open Access Publishing

The scholarly communication landscape is expected to continue to change and evolve because of open access publishing. The knowledge acquired from the studies emphasizes the ongoing initiatives to remove obstacles and increase the advantages of OA, paving the road for a more equal and open sharing of knowledge. The growing acceptance and implementation of open access in nations like India and Nigeria imply a good trajectory towards enhanced research exposure and collaboration, as shown by Nazim et al. (2019) and Ukwoma and Onyebinama (2021). These patterns imply that OA will continue to pick up steam as researchers, institutions, and politicians acknowledge its ability to democratize access to research results considering shifting policy perspectives and institutional strategies.

Moreover, the future of OA is anticipated to be shaped by technological developments and novel publication paradigms. The studies by Stoyanova Trencheva and Yordanova Todorova (2014) and Chiware (2020) showed a trend towards more complex infrastructure to support OA initiatives. They also showed an increasing interest in exploiting digital repositories and open research data platforms. Additionally, the initiatives taken by universities and organizations to implement OA policies suggest a proactive approach to fostering a culture of open scholarship, as demonstrated by the experiences of institutions like the University of Hong Kong (Chan & Cheung, 2017) and Rutgers University (Otto & Mullen, 2019).

Conclusion

The emergence of open access publishing has brought in a new era of boundless access and sharing of scientific knowledge, marking a transformational shift in the landscape of scholarly communication. Table 1 summarizes the key findings about the (1) Advantages of open access publishing; (2) Drawbacks and challenges of open access publishing; (3) Impact on research visibility and citations (4) Advancement of scientific knowledge; (5) Recommended Solutions for the challenges encountered in open access initiatives and (6) Prospects of open access Publishing.

The analysis of the related publications in the Emerald database reveals the significant impact that open access publication has had on the diffusion of scientific knowledge. There is no arguing the benefits of open access publication, including improved research accessibility, information sharing, better visibility and the potential for more citations. It is essential for boosting collaboration, expanding access to research dissemination and hastening the diffusion of scientific knowledge. The path to open access, meanwhile, is not without its difficulties. Significant obstacles include difficulty with peer review, quality control and sustainability. Addressing these issues requires long-term funding strategies, reliable quality control procedures, and increased awareness through education and promotional activities.

Through improvements in accessibility, cooperation and the dissemination of scientific knowledge, open access publication has the potential to change the scholarly landscape. Open access publication serves as an effective tool for democratizing access to research and advancing global science at a time when information transmission is of utmost importance.

Table 1: Summary of the Key Findings

Authors	Advantages of Open Access Publishing	Drawbacks and Challenges of Open Access Publishing	Impact on Research Visibility and Citations	Advancement of Scientific Knowledge	Recommended Solutions for the Challenges Encountered in Open Access Initiatives	Prospects of Open Access Publishing
Bernius, S. (2010)	- Increases accessibility to knowledge - Promotes knowledge sharing - Facilitates collaboration	- Sustainability concerns - Quality control and peer review challenges	- Increased visibility - Potential for more citations	- Accelerates the dissemination of research	- Quality assurance mechanisms have been introduced	- Growth in open access adoption - Evolving policies and standards
Björk, B. C. (2017).	- Supports non-commercial scholarly publishing	- Infrastructure development - Financial sustainability	- Enhances discoverability of research - Citation advantages	- Provides a platform for open access publishing	- Collaborative funding and infrastructure - Legal frameworks	- Vital for non-commercial open access publishing
Boock, M., Todorova, T. Y., Trencheva, T. S., & Todorova, R. (2020).	- Enhances awareness of open access among Bulgarian authors	- Limited awareness and preferences	- Not specified	- Increases the adoption of open access publishing	- Awareness campaigns and training	- Potential for open access growth in Bulgaria
Chan, G. R., & Cheung, A. S. C. (2017).	- Transition toward open access in the University of Hong Kong	- Transition challenges	- Positive impact on visibility	- Supports the transition toward open access	- Collaborative initiatives - Capacity building	- Continued growth in open access publishing
Chan, L., & Costa, S. (2005).	- Opportunities and challenges for developing countries	- Infrastructure and access challenges	- Global participation and dissemination	- Promotes global knowledge sharing	- Collaboration and technology solutions	- Growth in global knowledge commons
Chiware, E. R. (2020).	- Analysis of open research data in African libraries	- Challenges in managing research data	- Not specified	- Supports open research data initiatives	- Capacity building and infrastructure	- Potential for growth in open research data

Authors	Advantages of Open Access Publishing	Drawbacks and Challenges of Open Access Publishing	Impact on Research Visibility and Citations	Advancement of Scientific Knowledge	Recommended Solutions for the Challenges Encountered in Open Access Initiatives	Prospects of Open Access Publishing
Farida, I., Tjakraatmadja, J. H., Firman, A., & Basuki, S. (2015).	- Conceptual model for open access institutional repositories	- Not specified	- Supports knowledge management	- Advances knowledge management in libraries	- Framework for open access repositories	- Enhances knowledge management
García Peñalvo, F. J., Garcia de Figuerola, C., & Merlo, J. A. (2010).	- Challenges and facts about open knowledge	- Knowledge dissemination challenges	- Not specified	- Promotes open knowledge sharing	- Advocacy and education	- Continued challenges and opportunities
Kodua-Ntim, K., & Fombad, M. C. (2020).	- Strategies for the use of open access repositories in Ghana	- Adoption challenges in Ghana	- Supports access to research	- Promotes the use of open access repositories	- Awareness and training	- Potential for growth in open access use in Ghana
Mahmood, I., Rowley, J., & Hartley, R. (2009).	- Case study of scientific publishing in Libya	- Challenges faced by Libyan scientists	- Not specified	- Highlights challenges in scientific publishing	- Advocacy and support	- Potential for improvements in Libya
Matheka, D. M., Nderitu, J., Mutonga, D., Otiti, M. I., Siegel, K., & Demaio, A. R. (2014).	- Implications for knowledge equity in Kenya	- Implications for knowledge equity	- Not specified	- Promotes knowledge equity in Kenya	- Implications for research in Kenya	- Potential for knowledge equity
Nazim, M., & Zia, S. (2019).	- Acceptance and adoption of open access in India	- Adoption trends in India	- Not specified	- Promotes open access adoption in India	- Advocacy and awareness	- Growth in open access publishing in India

Authors	Advantages of Open Access Publishing	Drawbacks and Challenges of Open Access Publishing	Impact on Research Visibility and Citations	Advancement of Scientific Knowledge	Recommended Solutions for the Challenges Encountered in Open Access Initiatives	Prospects of Open Access Publishing
Nazim, M., Bhardwaj, R. K., Agrawal, A., & Bano, A. (2023)	- Trends and policy perspectives on open access in India	- Policy implications and trends	- Not specified	- Policy perspectives on OA in India	- Policy recommendations	- Potential for policy changes in India
Otto, J. J., & Mullen, L. B. (2019).	- Rutgers University open access policy implementation	- Faculty reaction and lessons learned	- Not specified	- Supports open access policy implementation	- Lessons from implementation	- Lessons for open access policy implementation
Ramalho Correia, A. M., & Carlos Teixeira, J. (2005).	- Scholarly publishing reform and challenges	- Challenges in scholarly publishing	- Historical perspective	- Highlights challenges and reforms	- Advocacy and reform initiatives	- Continued challenges and reforms
Stoyanova Trencheva, T., & Yordanova Todorova, T. (2014).	- Comparative study of open access in DOAJ	- Comparative analysis of DOAJ journals	- Not specified	- Provides insights into DOAJ journals	- Comparative analysis	- Potential for growth in DOAJ
Ukwoma, S. C., & Onyebinama, C. O. (2021).	- Challenges and opportunities for librarians in Nigeria	- Challenges faced by librarians in Nigeria	- Not specified	- Supports access to open access resources	- Recommendations for librarians	- Potential for improvements in Nigeria
Velterop, J. (2003).	- Should scholarly societies embrace open access	- Scholarly societies and open access	- Not specified	- Discusses open access in scholarly societies	- Perspectives on open access	- Scholarly societies and open access

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