

Open Access: Ideas and Suggestions for Dental Stakeholders

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By introducing the World Wide Web two decades ago, information technology took a turn in the field of study. In Scientific research the two-phase revolution—first, online publication, and then literature open access (OA)—has been spar ked by the rise of mandate policies, open repositories, and literature open access (OA). Researchers now find it simple to locate and obtain research articles thanks to OA.¹

The Budapest Open Access Initiative (BOAI) used the term "Open Access" first, in its 1st public definition, which was stated as, by "open access" to this [research] literature, we mean its free availability publically on internet, allowing any users to read, download, make copies, circulate, print, link to full article text, article indexing, transfer articles to software as data, or use them for any other legal purpose, without legal, financial, or technical barriers other than those inherent in gaining access to the internet itself. Giving control to authors regarding the integrity of their work and the right to be properly cited and credited should be the only restriction on copying and dissemination, as well as the sole purpose of copyright in this field.²

This kind of unrestricted and free online availability known as open access is limited to small amount of journals, even with this limited access studies have proved that OA is economically easier as it provides readers with efficiency to search and make use of literature, and it gives researchers and their works measurable and vast new readership, visibility and impact. To get the benefits all the individuals and interested institutions should help to open up OA to all the literature and eliminate the barriers, most important of which is a price barrier. If this cause is joined by most of the people, the sooner we will enjoy the profits of open access.³

Since 2003, an increasing number of institutions, funding authorities and government organizations have published laws requiring OA. On the ROARMAP website (Registry of Open Access Repository Mandates and Policies; roarmap.eprints.org), 769 total OA policies were registered as of April 2017. Eighty-two percent of these were policies created by organizations of research (or their departments), ten percent by funders, and the remaining were jointly created by funders and research organisations.⁴

The term "predatory publishers," coined by Jeffery Beall, a librarian at the CU Denver: University of Colorado Denver, refers to dishonest publishers who create fake journals in order to abuse the author-pays model.⁵ Despite the claim made by Moher & Moher that there is no precise definition of predatory journals or publishers, these entities can be recognized by their actions and practices. Typically, they solicit authors to submit their research and publication fees via spam email.⁶

Dental researchers must comprehend and be familiar with OA-related research findings, resources, and concepts in order to fully utilize OA and avoid the drawbacks of predatory publication. Based on this assessment of the literature, dentists should exercise extreme caution when making their articles open access (OA) and take the required precautions. They should also become familiar with the OA policies of their journals and funding. Although the OA importance has been emphasized repeatedly in editorials for various journals, to our knowledge, recent research findings and OA-related concepts have not been widely introduced or discussed for dentistry stakeholders.⁷

Therefore, the objectives of this study are to increase clinicians' and dental researchers' knowledge of open access (OA), as well as those of educators, policymakers, and students, in order to help them make better use of pertinent resources and perform better in this "era of open access."

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