Open Access Publishing: Overview and Impacts

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A Bit About My Background

- MLS from the University of Oregon
- Graduate: Harvard Publishing Procedures Course
- Thirty-plus years service to academic libraries, mainly as a bookseller
- Joined BioMed Central in January 2010
A Bit About BioMed Central

- Pioneer in commercial open access publishing: started in 2000
- 214 OA journals and growing
- Nearly 100,000 open access articles since inception
- Purchased by Springer in 2008
Open Access Publishing: What Is It?

• Articles made freely available upon publication to those with unfiltered internet access
• Authors retain copyright and are allowed (and encouraged) to post their work more widely, as long as attribution of original publication is maintained
• Commercial (gold) open access is typically funded by article processing charges assessed to submitting authors, usually paid with grant, departmental, or university funds.
Some OA Growth Points

- 2000 PubMed Central
- 2000 BioMed Central
- 2003 Author’s Choice Options
- 2004 Hindawi
- 2007 NIH Mandate
- 2010 SpringerOpen
OA Impacts: Some Indicators

According to the Directory of Open Access Journals:

- Over 6300 open access journals being published in over one hundred countries (top five: USA, Brazil, UK, Spain, India)
- 30% year-on-year growth
- Over 500,000 total OA articles (95,000+ from BioMed Central journals alone)
OA Impacts:
Some Additional Indicators

- Approximately 90 publishers now offer “author choice” options in at least some of their journals
- Strong citation and impact factors (over one hundred BMC journals are now assigned impact factors)
- Tremendous growth in OA article submissions for peer review (Hindawi/BMC milestones)
Strong in Osteopathic Medicine

• Over 7500 articles published by BioMed Central with reference to osteopathic medicine / conditions
  – Arthritis Research & Therapy
  – Chiropractic and Manual Therapies
  – Journal of Orthopaedic Surgery & Research
  – BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders
How Is OA Publishing Paid For?

• Commercial (gold) OA assesses article processing charges to cover publication costs
  – Range from several hundred to several thousand dollars
  – Funders paying 80%+
    • Waivers
  – Distributed revenue model avoids the limits imposed by subscription (toll) access
  – Sustainable business model: Revenue flow is directly in line with publishing costs: # of articles :: publishing overhead :: # of APCs
Institutional Memberships

• A way for libraries or institutions to support their researchers’ open access publishing efforts (lower article processing charges)
  – A variety of membership models:

• Article feeds: PubMed Central and institutional repositories

• Website recognition
Where OA is Headed

- Significant expansion into OA from “traditional” publishers: expanding beyond biomedical publishing
- Increased funding from granting organizations
- Broad philosophical support from researchers, especially younger generation
- Increased citation / impact factors
- More membership participation from outside libraries: offices of research, provost, etc.
- Increase published research from the developing world
Thank you

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