

Open Access

Early Stages of
Clinical Trials

What does OA mean?

- Various definitions
 - Author pays
 - Free access immediately
 - Free access after delay
 - Copyright retention by authors
 - Some content free but not all
 - Self-archiving: post articles on institutional Websites
- Most common usage: author pays, free immediate access

What does OA seek to achieve?

- Broader dissemination
- Elimination of charges for access, shifting cost from consumers of information to providers
- Overall reduction in the cost of publishing

What is the status of OA today?

- Lots of experiments going on
- Different approaches, price points, and “membership fees”
- Controversies about true costs
- Enthusiasm, polemics, questions, and challenges abound
- “Early stages of clinical trials”

How will publishing be paid for?

- Fundamental issue
- Assumption
 - Retain traditional values of good publishing
 - Filtering, peer review, careful editing, up-to-date technology, broad distribution via the Web
- Seeking the best model but multiple stakeholders and points of view
- Best model for whom?

What are concerns about OA?

- Will enough authors pay enough?
- Will funding agencies provide enough money for publishing?
- Will publishing funds subtract from research funds?
- Will agencies sustain funding for publishing in the long run?

What are concerns about OA?

- Will ability to pay drive publishing decisions?
- Are authors generally unhappy with the current publishing system?
- Do librarians generally want to overturn the current publishing system?
- Is OA the best or only solution to fixing the problems besetting the current publishing system?

What are concerns about OA?

- Is it appropriate for the government to require OA, thereby favoring one business model?
- How will authors without research grants (differences among disciplines) afford publication?
- Will paying authors be willing to subsidize non-paying authors?
- Will OA result in research universities subsidizing industry?

What are concerns about OA?

- Will OA save money?
- Is OA intrinsically more efficient than the subscription model?
- Will OA lead to greater usage?
- Is OA “morally superior”?
- Is it feasible or prudent to switch publishing to OA in the short run?

Does ACS have an official position on OA?

NO

What is the perspective of ACS Publications on OA?

- Interest in OA varies greatly among scientific communities
- Advocacy, concern, interest, and awareness are generally low among chemical scientists
- Programs by universities to educate scientists about publishing costs are to be encouraged
- That does not mean OA is the only answer

What is the perspective of ACS Publications on OA?

- OA initiatives and experiments are to be welcomed
- OA is a model worth testing in the real world of the marketplace
- Far from clear that the OA model will work across the board
- It may well work in certain (relatively few?) circumstances and disciplines

What is the perspective of ACS Publications on OA?

- Prediction: OA is unlikely to dominate in foreseeable future but will have some successes
- Risks of converting to OA are huge for most publishers
- Good idea: nudge the current system toward a possible new equilibrium
- Bad idea: disrupt the current system with no evidence that OA will turn out to be a practical solution for all

What is the perspective of ACS Publications on OA?

- Engage in watchful waiting
- Monitor experiments and results
- Learn from “clinical trials”
- Go slow: gradually adapt publishing policies and practices
- Carefully evaluate what works and doesn't work before trying to change the world

How to characterize this perspective on OA?

Well-founded prudence

or

Pusillanimous leadership?

Wise saying in aviation...

“There are old pilots and bold pilots, but there are no old, bold pilots.”

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