Electronic Publishing

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Outlook

- Brief history of scholarly publishing
- Electronic journal
- Online journal management system
- Issues and controversies

Brief history of scholarly publishing

- Provide papers with an endorsement of quality and to add editorial value
- Traditional role – as distribution outlet
- Role keeps evolving

Primary role of journals

Traditional print journals

- Affordability
- Access
- Timeliness
- Seachability
- Ownership (copyright)

Scholarly journal landscape

1665
Journal des Scavans
Philosophical Transactions
Online Journal of Current Clinical Trials

1992

1665
1992
**Stakeholders in scholarly publishing**

- Publishers
- Libraries
- Professional bodies
- Public
- Researchers

**Knowledge**

**Researchers’ wish list:**

- Online availability of the entire full-text refereed research corpus
- Availability on every researcher’s desktop, everywhere 24 hours a day
- Interlinking of all papers & citations
- Fully searchable, navigable, retrievable, impact-rankable research papers
- *For free, for all, forever*


**Electronic journal**


http://altheaweb.com/altheaweb/online

http://altheaweb.com/altheaweb/library

Stakeholders in scholarly publishing

- Libraries
- Professional bodies
- Knowledge

Publishers

Researchers

Public

**Do you know?**

2007

Active serials (refereed or academic/scholarly) ~ 59,549

Online, active, academic/scholarly or refereed ~ 24,000


http://altheaweb.com/altheaweb/online

http://altheaweb.com/altheaweb/library

**Scholarly journal landscape**

ARPANET (US DoD)
TCP/IP (CERN)
www
Clinical Trials
Open Access


**Electronic journal**

LET’S JUST SEE HOW MUCH MORE DOWNLOADS I CAN GET WITH THIS RARE COPY OF THE NEWSPAPER!
What is ‘Electronic Publishing’?

- The current practice of online and web-based publishing.
- The development of new forms of production, distribution, and user interaction with regard to computer-based production of text and other interactive media.
- The publication of ebooks and electronic articles, development of digital libraries and catalogues.

**e-journal models**

- e-journal replaces print journal
- e-journal coexists with print journal
- Journal is in electronic form only, but individual articles can be ordered in paper form
- e-journal is “secondary to” the print journal
- Electronic version is published several months after the print version
- Print version is published several months after the electronic version
- The full print version is not available electronically
- Both versions exist but with different pricing arrangements

**OJCCT (Online Journal of Current Clinical Trials) 1992**

The first peer-reviewed, electronic, full-text e-journal inc. graphics

A very early effort by OCLC to support a networked, refereed, electronic-only (no paper) journal, with full text and graphics, available by subscription.

**JMIR**

[www.jmir.org](http://www.jmir.org)

**bmj Online first**

[http://www.bmj.com](http://www.bmj.com)

**Medscape Journal of Medicine**

Advantages -2

4. hypertext links - linking to other electronic information
5. enhanced discourse - scientific discourse about research, online letters to the editor, discussions concerning articles linked to the articles in question
6. improved access

Disadvantages

1. Readers without laptops do not have the ability to read articles on a commuter train or in bed.
2. Readers who must access the journal over a modem may be hindered by the slow acquisition of large image or movie files
3. Non permanent perishable citation change their URLs or disappear
4. Archiving

Online journal management system

Some online journal management systems

Advantages of an online manuscript management system
- Speedier review
- Better author and referee service
- More accurate matching and tracking of papers and reviewers
- Faster turn-around times
- Less paper handling
- Easier report generation
- Reduction of costs

Issues and controversies
e-journals

- Not many are peer-reviewed (gold standard in scholarly publishing)
- Not many are indexed by Medline/SCI
- Some are short-lived
- Lack of QC/C – quality control and certification

Really free?

Many important medical journals are available online, free and in full-text (some only after 2 yrs). The access to free scientific knowledge will have a major impact on medical practice and attract Internet visitors to these journals.

www.freemedicaljournals.com

www.journalreview.org

Online free journal club
Open peer-review and discussion/criticism of published medical literature

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Journal</th>
<th>Impact Factor</th>
<th>When Free</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>New England Journal of Medicine</td>
<td>50.017</td>
<td>Free after 6 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal of the American Medical Association</td>
<td>31.718</td>
<td>Free after 6 months</td>
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<tr>
<td>British Medical Journal</td>
<td>12.827</td>
<td>Free after 36 months</td>
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<tr>
<td>CA: a Cancer Journal for Clinicians</td>
<td>74.575</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science</td>
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U.S. National Library of Medicine's free digital archive of biomedical and life sciences journal literature

http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/

Open Access Journals: Budapest Initiative
- Open Society Institute (OSI) meeting
  December 2001 - international effort to make research articles freely available on the internet
- Backed by $3M from George Soros.
- Advocates alternative system in parallel with established journals
- Signed by institutions and individuals

The Internet is profoundly changing how scientists work and publish

Some Useful URLs
- Online – a reference guide to using internet sources
  http://www.bedfordstmartins.com/online/index.html
- Scholarly Electronic Publishing Bibliography
  http://info.lib.uh.edu/sepb/sepb.html

Some Useful URLs
- Electronic Journals: A Selected Resource Guide
  http://www.harrassowitz.de/top_resources/ejresguide/providers.html
- The Changing Nature of the Scholarly Journal
  http://www.slais.ubc.ca/courses/lib300/fall1999/www_presentations/K_macdowell/default.htm
Future trends

“The online medium has opened up a powerful new capability that will dramatically increase the visibility, accessibility, navigability, interactivity, usability and citability, hence the speed, impact and productivity, of peer-reviewed research.”
- Stevan Harnad

Innovations in Electronic Publishing

- Personal websites (editors, reviewers, authors, readers).
- Blogs: personal entries in diary style.
- List servers and discussion forums.
- Wikis: online reference works (encyclopaedia).
- RSS feeds (or really simple syndication feeds) deliver summaries of web content together with links to the full versions of the content.
- Bibliometrics: auto statistics on downloads, citation count.
- Open discourse: post a comment

The Future and Beyond

- Greater exploitation and utilisation of multimedia capabilities.
- Various publishing models co-exist and continue evolving.
- Publishers are changing their traditional roles in becoming electronic service providers.
- Institutional depositories will be strengthened and become more popular.
- Researchers and authors are becoming major stakeholders in publishing.
- Copyright issues continue to be debated.
- Peer review is here to stay while attempts are being made to improve the system.