


IMPACT FACTORS AND RATINGS OF OPEN ACCESS AND ONLINE JOURNALS

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TAKEAWAYS

- **Insight into why open access online journals lack credibility when compared to traditional journals in the US**
 - **Rejection rates rather than inclusiveness of scholarly discourse is valued as the standard bearer of quality and reputation**
 - **Who sets standards? Who sets pricing? Reputation Issues**
 - **Breaking the old models without compromising quality and rigor**
 - **Some possible solutions**
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US CENTRIC PUBLISHING PERSPECTIVES

- From the US centric point of view publishing in A rated journals is rewarded and open access journals ignored
 - Traditional journals use ratings as provided by agencies influenced by older rating models
 - Administrators of universities reward publications in A journals with higher incentives compared to lower rated journals and almost none for open access journals
 - Heavy bias towards quantitative research and articles for publications
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CABELL' S GRADING SYSTEM WIDELY ACCEPTED

- www.cabells.com
 - Double blind review process adds credibility
 - Higher the rejection rate the higher the rating of journals
 - Higher rejection rate viewed upon as indication of quality and rigor
 - Z - scores
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<http://www.theguardian.com/science/2012/apr/24/harvard-university-journal-publishers-prices>

ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE ABOVE

- **INSTITUTIONS ARE FINDING THAT THE COST OF ALL PUBLISHING HAVE GONE UP OVER THE YEARS**
- **INSTITUTIONS ARE QUESTIONING THE AFFORDIBILITY OF PROVIDING ACCESSIBILITY TO SCHOLARS AND RESEARCHERS**
- **THIS COULD HELP ONLINE JOURNALS**

- Authors and scholars rewarded for publishing in journals with very high rejection rates
- Such journals are incented for very high rejection rates
- Further promotion of exclusivity rather than inclusivity seems is the norm

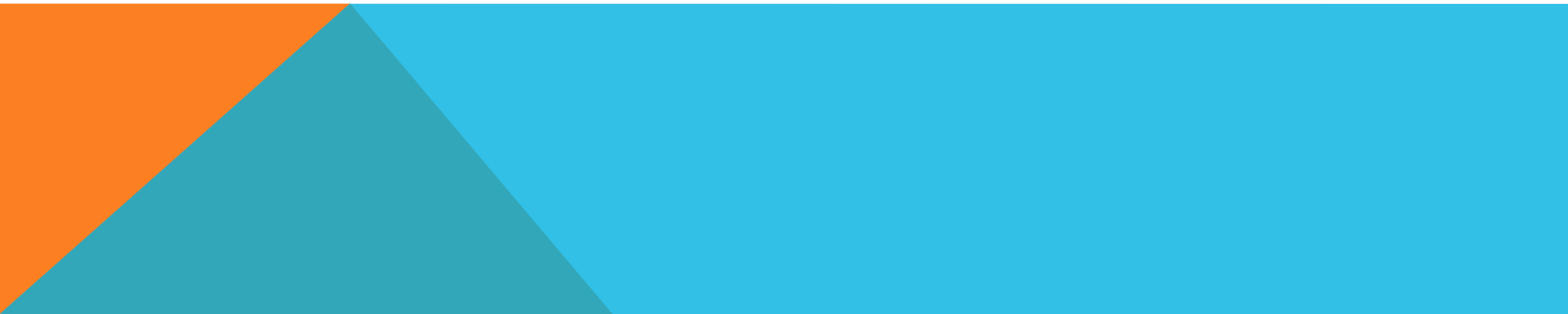



- **ANOTHER CONSIDERATION IS THE COST OF DEVELOPING AND MAINTAINING OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS**
 - **PUBLISHERS HAVE INCREASED FEES TO LIBRARIES AS MUCH AS 145% TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO RESEARCH**
 - **HARVARD, ONE OF THE RICHEST AND PRESTIGIOUS IS COMPLAINING ABOUT THE FEES PUBLISHERS CHARGE LIBRARIES**
 - **ONGOING DEBATE ABOUT VALUE OF ACADEMIC RESEARCH TO THE WORLD OF BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT**
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- **AUTHORS SEE PUBLISHING NOT AS SHARING THEIR RESEARCH BUT CURRENCY TO OBTAIN RECOGNITION AND PROMOTIONS AND CONTRACTS IN THE US**
- **COMPETITION AND FREE MARKET FACTORS ARE MAKING PUBLISHING PROFIT ORIENTED**
- **FOCUS ON \$\$\$ NOT IMPROVING SCHOLARLY DISCOURSE**




- **AUTHORS PAYING FOR PUBLISHING THEIR ARTICLES ARE FROWNED UPON**
- **HOWEVER LIBRARIES PAY HIGH FEES TO JOURNALS WHICH MOST OPEN ACCESS JOURNAL DO NOT CHARGE**
- **OPEN ACCESS REVENUE MODELS MORE CONDUCTIVE TO OPENLY SHARING IDEAS**





- **Reviewers and editors of open access journals are not given credit for their work at their home institutions in US**
 - **Open access journals lack trust within the scholarly community in US**
 - **Journals with names similar to older established journals are viewed with great suspicion**
 - **Journal Editors have a responsibility of establishing brand with trust**
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STANDARDS

- What is a quality article? How is it maintained?
 - This question seems redundant however, open access journals have to define this going forward
 - In the US perspective quantitative studies are seen as rigorous and are easier to publish when compared to qualitative or other types of research
 - There are numerous articles that are strictly for the benefit of academics and not the practice of administrative sciences
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STANDARDS - CONTINUED

- Standards are established by research one institutions rather than practitioners in the US
 - This creates a disconnect with the industry and thus lacks pragmatic just in time usefulness of the findings
 - Academia is fraught with impressive regression and linear structural equations and so on that mean nothing to a CEO, Manager, Leader or Administrator.
 - So why publish articles that does not answer the basic question industry asks, “So What?”
 - This is the standard that really matters
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- Journals like MDPI - Administrative Sciences can change the model - but needs to survive attacks by librarians and self appointed guardians of quality and rigor
 - However this is a long term proposition
 - Is there widespread support for this?
 - Answer is “Maybe”
 - To accomplish this we are seeking recognition of open access journals by librarians, university administrators and the research and scholarly community
 - Journals like MDPI are on the cutting edge of what is to come but need to be cautious about building a good reputation first that is not easy to accomplish in academia in the US
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- Promote free access for publishing and reduce cost of publishing by automating the process of submission, reviews and recommendations
- Reviewers need to be given the chance to become associate editors and their work recognized as professional development
- Promote open access as a means to an end thus allowing exploration of developing a pipeline of articles that can become publishable articles, in other words assist authors and researcher with the their studies early on with the understanding that their work will be published if they produce agreed upon criteria



- Open Access online journals could become the source for cutting edge research & experimental research constructs
- Providing assistance to researchers can become a fee based service but can allow publishers to publish articles without making authors pay for publishing them
- Provide an online portal that is fee based to help researchers develop a pipeline for studies that can be rejected even before they are pursued

CONCLUSION

- In conclusion it is a great time to be engaged with open access and online journals
- There is much work ahead but we are changing the paradigm of how research is shared and presented to the broader community of scientists and academia

