Gaining access to critical information - BioMed Central

MUNIN 2011
22nd November 2011

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Scope

- Open Access Growth
- BioMed Central
- Springer Open
- Enhanced Publications; trial publishing and the reporting bias
- Threaded publications
What does “Open Access” to scientific research mean?

• Universally available online without any barriers to access

• Creative Commons
  – Licensed to allow redistribution and reuse (as long as attribution is given)

• Permanently archived in multiple locations to ensure long term access
  – PubMed Central
Why Open Access?

• Enhances scholarly communication
• Research has more impact
• Increases the institutes and authors profile
• Readers get better access to funded research
• Improves visibility and impact of an institutions research
• No subscription barriers
Routes towards Open Access

• **Gold OA**
  Publishing in an open access journal:
  - Fully OA journals
    - e.g. BioMed Central, Public Library of Science *etc*
  - Optional OA in traditional journals
    (now offered by most major publishers)

• **Green OA**
  Depositing articles in an OA repository:
  
  Subject repositories
  - PubMed Central
  - UK PubMed Central
  - ArXiv
  
  - DSpace
  - Eprints
  - Fedora
  - Open Repository
Growth in OA 2000 - 2010

Presented by Mark Patterson, PLoS, at the SOAP Symposium, Berlin, January 2011
BioMed Central

- Pioneered open access publishing model
- Launched first open access journal in 2000
- Now publishes >230 OA titles
- Creative Commons license
- Costs covered by 'article processing charge' (APC)
Open Access articles published in BioMed Central journals
BioMed Central journals with impact factors

Open access model proven to be fully compatible with high quality
Norwegian open access activity

2001 - 2010

![Graph showing articles published from 2001 to 2010]

Articles Published

2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010
BioMed Central Members

• 384 Members in 42 countries worldwide

• Benefits of Membership
  - Increase in research output
  - Researchers’ fees paid for in full or discounted
  - Cost-effective
  - Showcase of institution’s research
Automated Deposit to IR via SWORD

Manuscript → BioMed Central → Accepted and Published article → Published articles from institution’s authors

Institutional Repository (DSpace/Eprints etc.)

SWORD Import

Published article
Acquisition of BioMed Central in 2008

“Springer is now the world’s largest open access publisher”
Peter Suber in October 2008
What is SpringerOpen?

- Open access journals covering all disciplines
- Creative Commons
- 53 journals already, 11 already have impact factors
- Administered by BioMed Central
- No subscriptions, article processing fees instead (800 – 1,250 EUR)
  - Paid by the author (via research grant, library, institutional OA fund, …)
  - Paid by a member institution
  - Waivers (economic hardship)
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New ways of making research available

Current Controlled Trials
An online publisher dedicated to trial registration, hosting and trial information.

Special journals
Trials, Journals of Medical Case Reports, BMC Research Notes
Enhanced Publications (EP)

An enhanced publication is a scholarly publication – usually a full text – that has been enhanced with additional (supplementary) materials.
Enhanced Publications

Publications combined with research data
- Improve interpretation, reproduction and verification
- Promote available data
- Browseable network of related items
Overview of Trial Publishing Sequence
Challenges

**Publication bias**
Articles reporting results favoring the medical intervention being studied (i.e. positive rather than negative results) are more likely to be published.

**Visibility/ transparency**
Access to research data needs to be improved.

**Usability and connectivity**
Data sets and publications related to the same trial (e.g. trial registration, study protocol, results) need to be more interconnected.
Avoiding reporting bias

October 2010:
Reboxetine is “overall an ineffective and potentially harmful antidepressant”
Addressing reporting bias

BioMed Central’s journal *BMC Research notes* offers home for such publications.

=> Scope: scientifically sound research in Biology and Medicine; data sets, small scale clinical studies, reports of confirmatory or negative results
Introducing threaded publications

In their 1999 article in *The Lancet*, Altman and Chalmers wrote:

“Electronic publication of a protocol could be simply the first element in a sequence of 'threaded' electronic publications, which continues with reports of the resulting research (published in sufficient detail to meet some of the criticisms of less detailed reports published in print journals), followed by deposition of the complete data set.”
What BioMed Central is doing

• **Technology** (improved linking of content)

• **Journals and article types**
  Such as Trials, Systematic Reviews, Journal of Medical Case Reports and BMC Research Notes

• **Financial incentives**
  APC discounts when publishing more than one element of a thread in one of our journals or registering a trial with CCT.
Conclusions

• More reliable, transparent, unbiased research
• All scientifically sound research can be published
• We can better serve the health of patients with transparency
• Threaded publications are already working at BioMed Central - Call to action for other publishers...
• Innovation in science communication requires a combined effort from all stakeholders
Summary

• Maximizes research visibility

• OA supported by authors, funders, institutions & governments - part of the mainstream

• Quality journals

• Successful business model
  - liberal stance on author rights
  - open minded & collaborative approach
  - strong & continued support for sustainable Open Access
Thank you

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