



KENYA LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SERVICES CONSORTIUM

Demystifying open access misconception for improved research discoverability in developing countries

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Introduction

- Open access in the context of scholarly communication refers to free, immediate online access to research publications, and the right to fully use the resources.
 - Open access publishing enhances intellectual exchange and knowledge dissemination,
 - It closes the knowledge gap between industrialized and underdeveloped countries,
 - Improves the research and citation impact of journals, and
 - It lowers the cost of journal subscriptions across a wide range of academic disciplines while increasing the importance of citations.

Open Access Misconceptions

- Open access perceived exclusivity to scientists and academician,
- Copyright and publication standards
- Caliber/quality and credibility of open access journals.
- These concerns hinder the acceptance of open access publishing by scholars and the general public reducing the impact and exposure of research especially in developing nations.

Study Goal

- The study clears the myths by highlighting adopted or in consideration strategies by libraries to support open access publishing.
- Highlights Open Access publishing as a contributor to the development of a more diverse and cooperative international research community.

Benefits of Open Access

- Access to research findings that profit both researchers and users by expanding prospects for innovation, collaboration, and development,
- Open access enables researchers to be more transparent and accountable for their findings,
- Research fraud and misconduct are prevented, and trust between the public and researchers is strengthened.
- Enables researchers to freely communicate their discoveries increasing the likelihood of collaboration
- Researchers can also build on one another's work fostering greater innovation and scientific advancement
- Provide platform for more citations leading to researchers recognition and opportunity for funding
- Promotes more research accessibility, transparency and collaboration.

Statement of the Problem

- Widespread misconceptions regarding open access publishing hinder researchers from freely disseminating their work online limiting the visibility and impact on their research.
- Also, concerns about the quality and reputation of open access journals, misunderstandings regarding copyright and publication costs, and the notion that open access publishing is only for scientists and academics.
- These myths can inhibit researchers and the general public from fully embracing open access publishing, limiting the exposure and impact of research, especially in developing countries.
- By dispelling myths and highlighting the benefits of open access publication, we can contribute to a more inclusive and collaborative worldwide research community.

The researchers worked with the following objectives

- To explore how open access publishing maintains quality control in the distribution of research and scholarly articles.
- To assess how open access publishers execute effective marketing tactics to increase the exposure and impact of their intellectual outputs
- To ascertain whether copyright regulation affects the principles and practices of open access publication
- To assess the methods and strategies that institutions of higher learning use to assure compliance with open access rules and licensing norms for scholarly publications in their academic communities.

Methodology

- The study used systematic review of empirical research on open access subject.
- A structured assessment of past and contemporary peer-reviewed journals from 2016-2024 was done.
- The selection, categorization, and summary derived from the finding through a meta-analytic view.
- The shortlisted publications were analyzed thematically, themes derived, and summaries made from the objectives and findings.

Discussion on Libraries

Achievements

- **Open access publishing and quality control in the distribution of research**
 - INASP and African Journals Online (AJOL) collaborated to create Journal Publishing and Practices Standards (JPPS) for scholarly journals in developing nations.
- **Best practices and standards in academic publishing**
 - Inclusion of these standards, together with guidelines from the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), provides a framework for libraries looking to offer scholarly journal publishing services

Discussion on Libraries

Achievements

- ***Balancing local and global perspectives in assessing journal quality:***
 - Indicates an understanding when judging journal quality.
 - Also worldwide findings must be considered alongside the specific context of institutions, countries, or donors
- ***Marketing tactics to increase the exposure and impact of intellectual outputs:***
 - Libraries are in a position to offer value-added services such as facilitation of International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) registration, preparation of the editorial processes, promotion of the journals, customization of the OJS platform, and training journal managers to incorporate their ORCID

Discussion on Libraries

Achievements

- **Libraries as Facilitators of Enhanced Academic Publishing Services:**
 - Simplifying ISSN registration, establishing editorial processes, promoting journals, designing the Open Journal Systems (OJS) platform, and teaching journal managers to include their ORCID
- **Optimizing discoverability and visibility with OJS and plugins:**
 - OJS is optimized for search engine discovery, with content formatted in HTML for easy indexing.

Conclusion

- Best practices and standards in academic publishing for addressing concerns on journal quality in developing countries is emphasized.
- Libraries are presented as dynamic facilitators of improved academic publishing services, with a critical role in maximizing discoverability and exposure via platforms such as Open Journal Systems (OJS) and numerous plugins.
- Librarians are also promoted as strategic partners, highlighting their experience in open access and copyright.
- The need for clear policies in the changing world of academic publication is highlighted

Recommendation

- **Copyright, principles and practices in open access publishing**
 - Libraries should prepare and provide terms of reference, create author agreements and copyright templates that editors can customize for their publications
- **Librarians are strategic collaborators in academic publishing**
 - Institutions can benefit from actively integrating librarians in the planning and implementation of academic publishing efforts, recognizing their experience in negotiating complicated concerns such as research quality and copyright.
- **Clear policies definitions for effective library collaboration**
 - Libraries should have explicit regulations that define their capabilities and limitations in the context of publishing activities.

Recommendation

- **International indexing and the prevention of predatory labeling**
 - Adherence to publishing standards and frameworks, such as the Journal Publishing and Practices Standards (JPPS), to guarantee journals recognition globally.
- **The significance of ORCID in academic publishing**
 - Researchers should be encouraged to register for an ORCID when submitting manuscripts to journals, particularly those hosted by Open Journal Systems (OJS) as it promote the legitimacy of scholarly journals.
 - An ORCID profile adds credibility to a researcher



Thank You