

Open Access or access the open only?

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The last two decades witnessed exponential rise in technological advancements relating to global connectivity and digitalization. As a direct result, cross-pollination of ideas and knowledge sharing has never been convenient than previously seen in human history. Knowledge is expanding like never before. Scientists and academicians have often debated the barriers to the free-flow of knowledge sharing such as the traditional *fee-for-access* model. On the contrary, the *Open Access* (OA) model serves to mitigate, or at least limit these barriers [1].

Proponents of OA have often argued the nitty-gritty of traditional models followed by several publishers or journals that prevent users from accessing scholarly contents across all levels of scientific evidence due to lack of financial resources. Further, the copyrights of scientific materials that are published in the *fee-for-access* model are usually held by the publishers, thereby preventing unrestricted reproducibility of the contents for dissemination. On the other hand, the OA model advocates unrestricted access to scientific materials, thereby promoting visibility and increased readership. Relating to copyrights, the OA model permits free use and distribution of its content. The OA model is particularly beneficial to researchers or academicians from low-income or middle-income countries where limited financial resources often restrict the access to the latest scientific developments. OA journals have become at par with the subscription journals in term of quality, scientific impact and citations [2].

To make OA a global reality, stronger institutional and individual efforts advocating the OA policy is required. At institutional level, building a repository that can act as a local database and reference center may be helpful in promoting easy access to scientific contents. At individual level, several measures have been discussed in the literature such as citing and supporting peer-review systems of journals supporting OA model, albeit widely debated.

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Competing Interests

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