



# Can we save open access publishing?

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# Open access publishing: the good, the bad, and the ugly



The Good



The Bad



The Ugly

by ROB WORD

# Why I care about this topic

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I am a researcher and I like to get my work published

I am a consumer of research and like to access others' work

I serve on the editorial boards of regular as well as OA journals

- Lancet Infectious Diseases (Elsevier)
- Int J of Tuberculosis and Lung Dis
- J Epi Global Health (Elsevier)
- Expert Rev Molecular Diagnostics
- PLoS Medicine
- PLoS One
- EBioMedicine (Elsevier)
- Scientific Reports (Nature)



The Good

# Conventional pay-wall publishing

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Publishers own the rights to the articles in their journals.

Anyone who wants to read the articles must pay to access them.

In addition, many journals now levy “page charges”.

Anyone who wants to use the articles in any way must obtain permission from the publisher and is often required to pay an additional fee.

Can be super expensive (high profit margins for publishers: as high as 35%!)

Researchers and consumers in low/middle income countries struggle to access research

With dwindling budgets, even established universities are struggling to provide access...

## Harvard University says it can't afford journal publishers' prices

University wants scientists to make their research open access and resign from publications that keep articles behind paywalls



A graduation ceremony at Harvard University. Photograph: Brooks Kraft/Corbis

The memo from Harvard's faculty advisory council said major publishers had created an "untenable situation" at the university by making scholarly interaction "fiscally unsustainable" and "academically restrictive", while drawing profits of 35% or more. Prices for online access to articles from two major publishers have increased 145% over the past six years, with some journals costing as much as \$40,000, the memo said.

More than 10,000 academics have already [joined a boycott of Elsevier](#), the huge Dutch publisher, in protest at its journal pricing and access policies. Many university libraries pay more than half of their journal budgets to the publishers Elsevier, Springer and Wiley.

We researchers often do all the work (write, review, edit), and yet we ourselves do not own the work and need to pay?

Does this model make any sense?

## Nobel winner boycotts top science journals

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

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Randy Schekman, professor at the University of California, Berkeley.

AP

TOPICS

*Randy Schekman says his lab will no longer send papers to Nature, Cell and Science as they distort scientific process*

# What is OA publishing?

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Open Access stands for unrestricted access and unrestricted reuse.

free immediate access to, and unrestricted reuse of, original works of all types. Authors agree to make articles legally available for reuse, without permission or fees, for virtually any purpose. Anyone may copy, distribute, or reuse these articles, as long as the author and original source are properly cited.

# Spectrum of access

Access	Reader Rights	Reuse Rights	Copyrights	Author Posting Rights	Automatic Posting	Machine Readability	Access
 	Free readership rights to all articles immediately upon publication	Generous reuse & remixing rights (e.g., CC BY license)	Author holds copyright with no restrictions	Author may post any version to any repository or website	Journals make copies of articles automatically available in trusted third-party repositories (e.g., PubMed Central) immediately upon publication	Article full text, metadata, citations, & data, including supplementary data, provided in community machine-readable standard formats through a community standard API or protocol	 
	Free readership rights to all articles after an embargo of no more than 6 months	Reuse, remixing, & further building upon the work subject to certain restrictions & conditions (e.g., CC BY-NC & CC BY-SA licenses)	Author holds copyright, with some restrictions on author reuse of published version	Author may post final version of the peer-reviewed manuscript ("postprint") to any repository or website	Journals make copies of articles automatically available in trusted third-party repositories (e.g., PubMed Central) within 6 months	Article full text, metadata, citations, & data, including supplementary data, may be crawled or accessed through a community standard API or protocol	
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	Free and immediate readership rights to some, but not all, articles (including "hybrid" models)	_____	Publisher holds copyright, with some allowances for author reuse of published version	Author may post submitted version/draft of final work ("preprint") to certain repositories or websites	_____	Article full text, metadata, & citations may be crawled or accessed with permission	
 	Subscription, membership, pay-per-view, or other fees required to read all articles	No reuse rights beyond fair use/ limitations & exceptions to copyright (all rights reserved copyright) to read	Publisher holds copyright, with no author reuse of published version beyond fair use	Author may not deposit any versions to repositories or websites	No automatic posting in third-party repositories	Article full text & metadata not available in machine-readable format	 

# Benefits of OA publishing

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**Accelerated discovery.** With open access, researchers can read and build on the findings of others without restriction.

- Open Access articles are cited 2.5 to 5 times more than articles that users' institutions must pay to access online (Brody et al.)

## **Space for negative findings**

**Public enrichment.** Much scientific and medical research is paid for with public funds. Open access allows taxpayers to see the results of their investment (e.g. CIHR open access policy).

**Improved education.** Open access means that teachers and their students have access to the latest research findings throughout the world.

**Unlimited space** to put data out (e.g. PLoS policy on making data available online).

**Amplifier effect** – others can repost/reuse

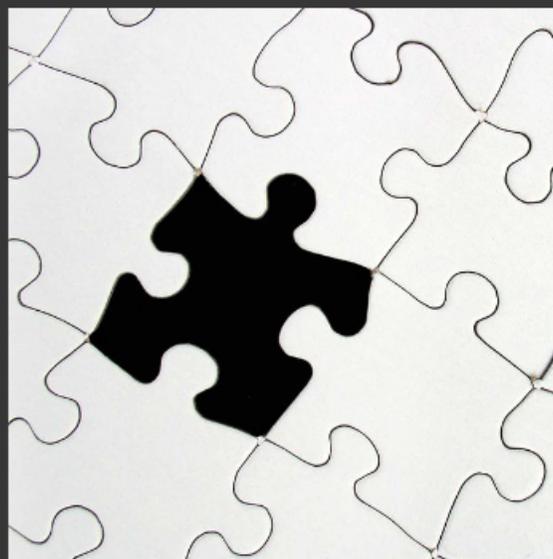
# Table of Contents: The Missing Pieces: A Collection of Negative, Null and Inconclusive Results

▸ Cover

Research Article

COVER

Image Credit: Willi Heidelbach, Wikimedia Commons



The publication of negative, null and inconclusive results is important to provide scientists with balanced information and avoid the duplication of efforts testing similar hypotheses, which waste valuable time and research resources in the process.

*PLOS ONE* considers all work that makes a contribution to the field, independent of impact. This includes negative findings which are valuable to the community in cases where the result is illuminating in the context of previous work.

[www.ploscollections.org/missingpieces](https://www.ploscollections.org/missingpieces)

# Amplifier effect

## Tuberculosis control needs a complete and patient-centric solution

Whether it is mobile phone service or vacation travel, good businesses know that success depends on providing a complete and customer-centric solution. Should patients with tuberculosis not be offered a complete solution that is patient-centred? After all, millions are affected and a large market at the base of the pyramid remains unserved.

A complete and patient-centric solution will not only include care that meets the International Standards for Tuberculosis Care,<sup>1</sup> but also be delivered with dignity and compassion, grounded in the reality of patients' lives as they navigate the long pathway from symptoms to cure. Such solution-based innovation requires a systems-thinking approach that must place patients at the centre of design strategies, recognise their clinical and psychosocial needs, and be cost-effective.

Are tuberculosis patients in high-burden countries currently getting such a patient-centric solution? Let us consider India, which accounts for quarter of all tuberculosis cases in the world.<sup>1</sup> Whether patients in India seek care in the public or the private sector, they struggle to get a complete solution. Although the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP) has done well to reach scale and provide free diagnosis and treatment for patients with drug-sensitive disease in the public sector, the programme falls short in making sure that all patients get screened for drug resistance and in ensuring adequate therapy for all patients with multidrug-resistant (MDR-TB) and extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis. Of the estimated 64 000 cases of MDR-TB in 2012, only 17 373 cases were diagnosed under the RNTCP.<sup>1</sup>

The diagnostic infrastructure in the public sector relies mainly on sputum smear microscopy that cannot detect drug resistance. It is only when patients fail to get better on standard treatment, or have recurrence of tuberculosis, that they get screened for MDR-TB, resulting in morbidity, continued transmission, and movement of patients from the public to the private sector. Recognising these problems, the RNTCP is actively scaling up capacity to diagnose and treat MDR-TB.<sup>2</sup> If adequately funded and successful, these initiatives should improve patient experience in the public sector.



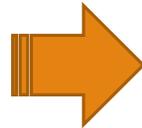
Figure 1 A patient with drug-resistant tuberculosis in India

Published Online  
March 24, 2014  
http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S2214-1099(14)00198-6



For Operation ASHA, see  
http://www.opasha.org/

For World Health Partners see  
http://worldhealthpartners.org



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Sunday, March 23, 2014

**NexThought Monday - On World TB Day** Like other business models, tuberculosis control need a complete, patient-centric solution

By Madhukar Pai, Prashant Yadav and Ravi Anupindi

Whether it is mobile phone service or vacation travel, good businesses know that success depends on providing a complete and customer-centric solution. So why should patients with tuberculosis be denied a complete solution that is similarly patient-centered? After all, millions are affected and a large market at the base of the pyramid remains unserved.

A complete and patient-centric solution will not only include care that meets the International Standards for Tuberculosis Care, but also be delivered with dignity and compassion, grounded in the reality of patients' lives as they navigate the long pathway from symptoms to cure. Such solution-based innovation requires a

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May 23, 2014

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**Tuberculosis control needs a complete and patient-centric solution**

Published on March 24, 2014 at 7:24 AM No Comments

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Madhukar Pai<sup>1</sup>, Prashant Yadav<sup>2</sup> and Ravi Anupindi<sup>3</sup>, McGill International TB Centre, Montreal & Stephen M. Ross School of Business, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

**Science Speaks: HIV & TB News**

A PROJECT OF THE CENTER FOR GLOBAL HEALTH POLICY

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**Tuberculosis control needs a complete and patient-centric solution**

BY RABITA AZIZ ON MARCH 24, 2014.

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The following is a guest post by Madhukar Pai of the McGill International TB Centre, Prashant Yadav of Montreal & Stephen M. Ross School of Business, and Ravi Anupindi of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Pai et al. Lancet Global Health 2014

**India**<sup>+</sup>  
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**OPINIONS**

**Tuberculosis control needs a complete and patient-centric solution**

Monday, March 24, 2014

by Madhukar Pai, Prashant Yadav, Ravi Anupindi

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**GHD** Global Health Discovery Project at Harvard University

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**Tuberculosis control needs a complete and patient-centric solution**

Posted on March 21, 2014 by Rebecca Wetrotsch

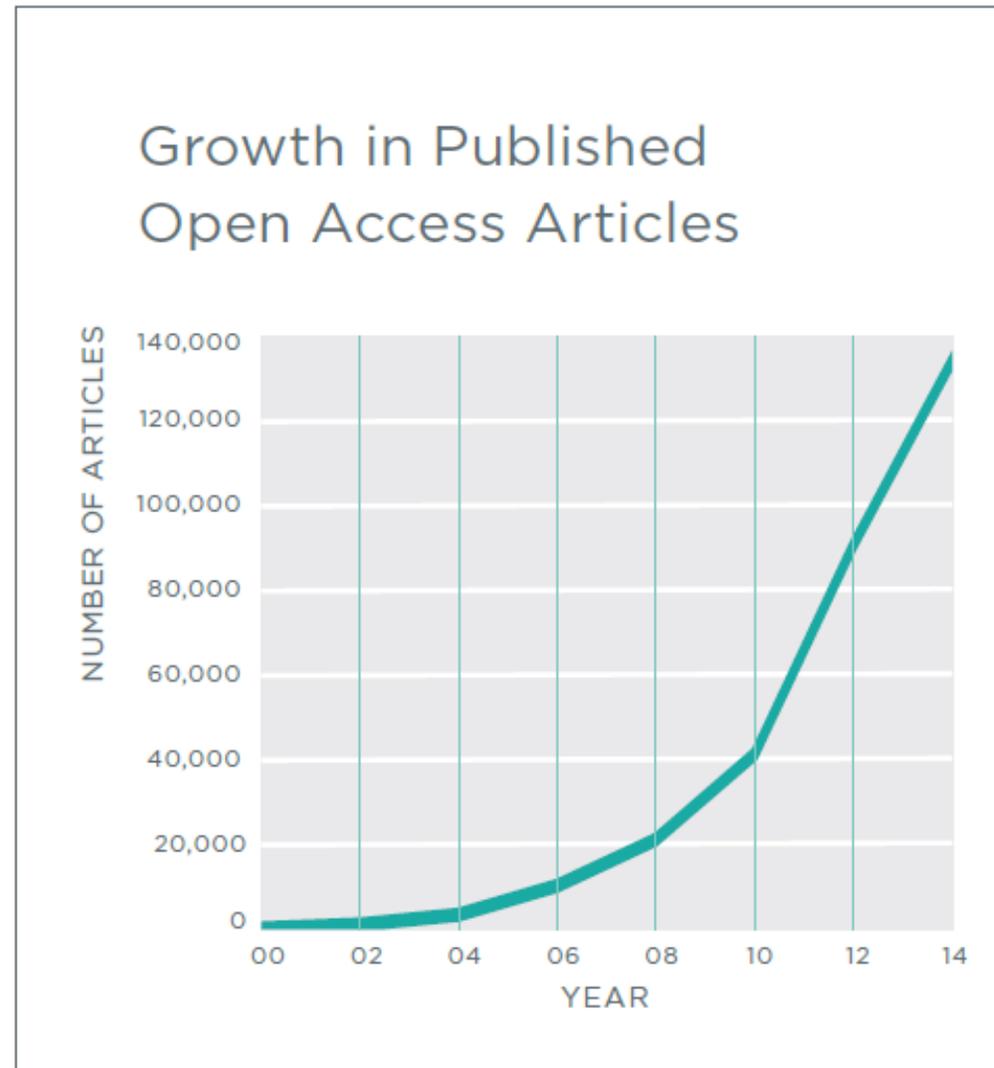
In recognition of World TB Day today, we are pleased to share this comment from The Lancet on patient centered solutions for global TB management. Continue the conversation in our **New Medicines and Novel Approaches for TB Expert Panel**, happening now in our MDR-TB Treatment & Prevention community.

**Tuberculosis control needs a complete and patient-centric solution**

Madhukar Pai, Prashant Yadav and Ravi Anupindi

# Rise of OA publishing

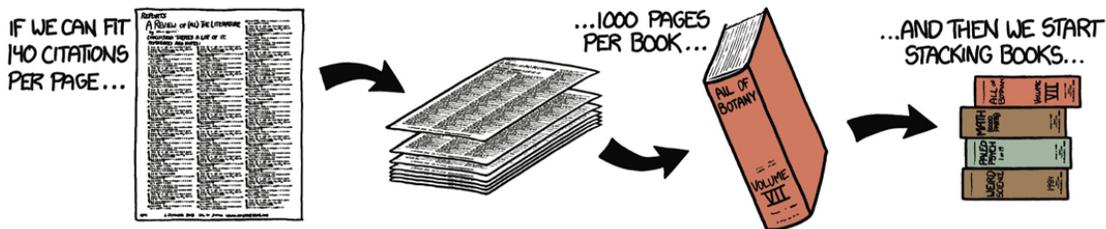
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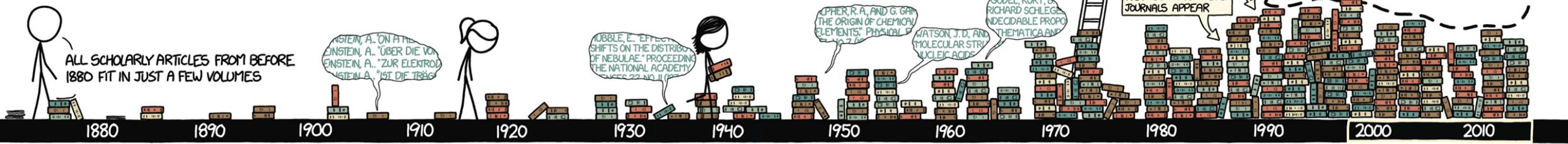
Data from OASPA; OA-only journals using a CC BY license includes BMC, Copernicus, Ecancermedicalscience, eLife, Frontiers, Hindawi, JMIR Publications, MDPI, PeerJ, PLOS, Springer Open

# HOW MUCH SCIENCE IS THERE?

SCIENTIFIC PUBLISHING HAS BEEN ACCELERATING—A NEW PAPER IS NOW PUBLISHED ROUGHLY EVERY 20 SECONDS. LET'S IMAGINE A BIBLIOGRAPHY LISTING *EVERY* SCHOLARLY PAPER EVER WRITTEN. HOW LONG WOULD IT BE?

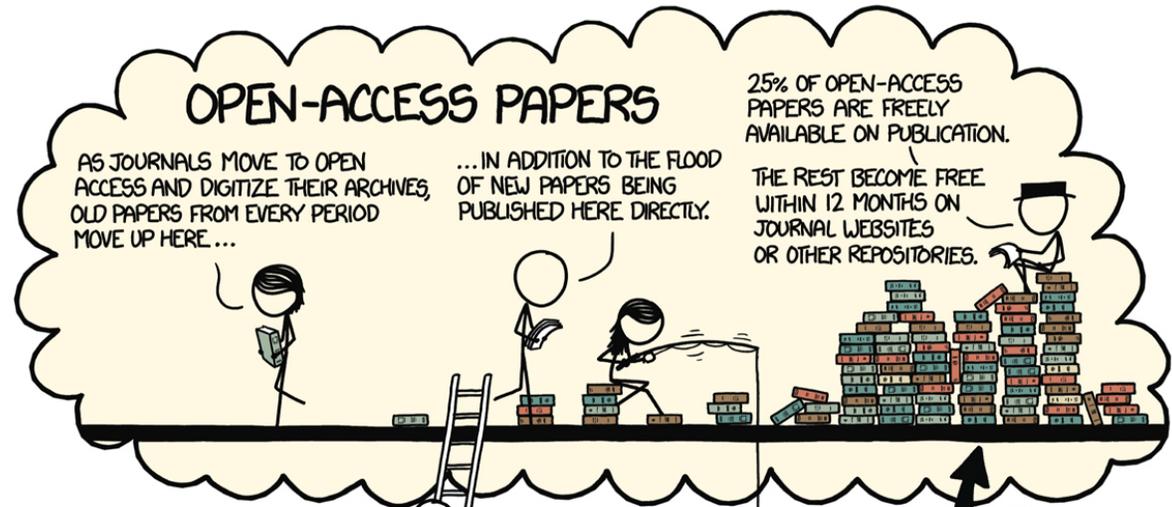


...THIS IS WHAT THE FULL LIST WOULD LOOK LIKE:

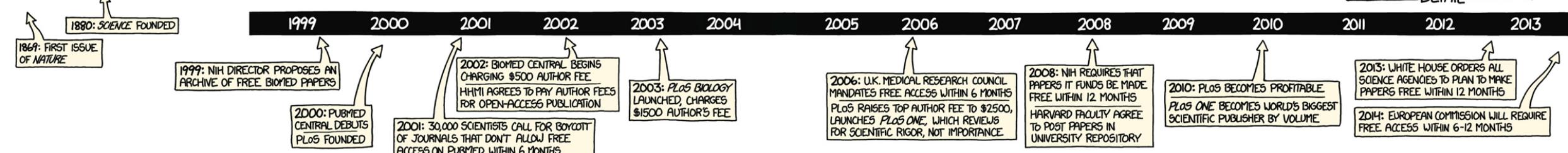


# HOW OPEN IS IT?

SINCE THE ADVENT OF THE WEB, MUCH OF SCIENTIFIC PUBLISHING HAS BEEN MOVING TO *OPEN ACCESS*. ACCORDING TO SCIENCE-METRIX, OPEN ACCESS REACHED A "TIPPING POINT" AROUND 2011: MORE THAN 50% OF NEW RESEARCH IS NOW MADE AVAILABLE FREE ONLINE.



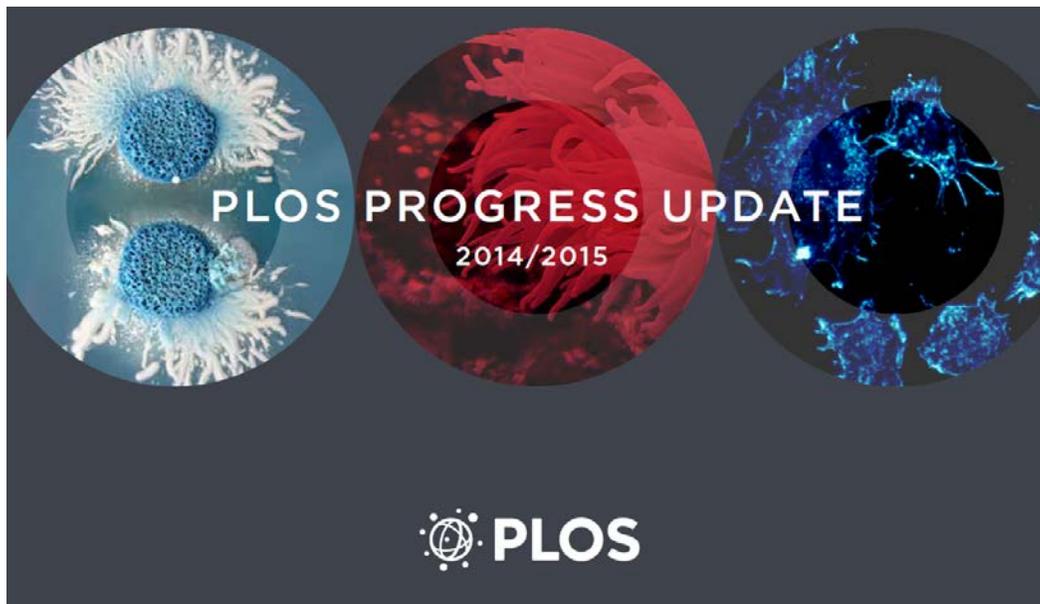
## TRADITIONAL PUBLICATION



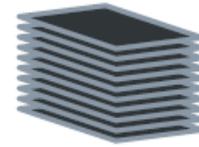
# Some major OA publishers

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ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS\*



ARTICLES PUBLISHED

**33,000+**

**11.6** MILLION  
MONTHLY ARTICLE VIEWS

**1.9+** MILLION  
MONTHLY ARTICLE DOWNLOADS

COLLECTIONS  
LAUNCHED **18**

**135,000+** ARTICLES  
PUBLISHED†

\*2014

†Through 2014

# Just as amazon is forcing book publishers to consider new business models

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## Book Publishers Scramble to Rewrite Their Future

BY EVAN HUGHES 03.19.13 6:30 AM

OPINION

### How the E-Book Is Reinventing the Book Business



By Jeff Kagan  
E-Commerce Times  
02/09/12 5:00 AM PT

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The e-book revolution is changing the book publishing space quickly and completely. Whether you lead, follow, or are lost in the chaos of this new revolution is the only question. Readers love it. They have the choice of buying the old-fashioned way at a store, buying a book online, or buying an e-book instantly.

The transformation of the book industry

## Disappearing ink

Readers have never had it so good. But publishers need to adapt better to the digital world

## Amazon Signs Up Authors, Writing Publishers Out of Deal

By DAVID STREITFELD  
Published: October 16, 2011 | [154 Comments](#)

# OA has forced traditional publishers to evolve....

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Some journals now make all content OA after a certain period of time

They agree to make some content OA, if authors pay a charge (or if the work is funded by NIH, Wellcome Trust, HHMI, etc)

They agree to let authors post an accepted version of the manuscript on websites/archives

They have floated new OA versions of their journals

**BMJ Open**

Open access

**CMAJ OPEN**

 **Springer Open**

**frontiers**

# Lancet Global Health: first fully OA Lancet journal...

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Lancet Global Health journal. At the top right, there are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and RSS, along with links for 'Register' and 'Login'. The main title 'THE LANCET Global Health' is prominently displayed. Below the title is a search bar with a 'GO' button and a link to 'Advanced Search'. A navigation menu includes 'Home', 'Journals', 'Content Collections', 'Multimedia', 'Conferences', 'Information for', and 'Submit a Paper'. The 'Editor's Choice' section features three article thumbnails with titles: 'Causes of maternal death', 'Surgical costs', and 'Breaking the habit'. To the right, a 'Tools' sidebar lists 'Register', 'Blog', 'Podcasts', 'RSS Feeds', 'Twitter', 'International Advisory Board', and 'HINARI access'. Below the 'Additional content' section, there is a link to 'THE LANCET Global Health Blog' and a description of the 'Blogs and discussion' feature. The Consortium of Universities for Global Health logo is also visible. An advertisement for 'Clinical Lipidology Resource' is shown at the bottom right.

**THE LANCET Global Health**

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**Editor's Choice**

**Article**  
**Causes of maternal death:** a WHO analysis explores the causes of maternal death worldwide, finding that pre-existing conditions such as diabetes, obesity, HIV, and malaria are significant factors.

**Article**  
**Surgical costs:** a systematic review assesses the cost-effectiveness of surgery in low and middle-income countries.

**Article**  
**Breaking the habit:** a randomised trial tests interventions to reduce the presumptive use of antimalarials for fever.

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**Abstracts:** Browse the abstracts selected for oral presentation at this year's Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH) annual conference.

Consortium of Universities for Global Health

# *BMJ Global Health* (just launched)

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**BMJ Global Health**

AIMS & SCOPE

EDITORIAL TEAM

AUTHORS

FAQS

FOR FUNDERS

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# Science Advances: first OA journal from Science

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# Scientific Reports: first OA journal from Nature

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a nature conference  
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The Bad

# Concerns

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Article charges that authors or institutions have to pay

Payment for publication could create conflicts of interest -financial incentive for journals to publish more articles

About quality of OA journals

No gate-keepers to protect journal reputation and integrity

Sustainability of OA journals

# Article-processing charge

OA Journal (Impact Factor)	Fee per paper (US \$)
PLoS ONE (3.2)	\$1,350
PLoS Medicine (14.4)	\$2,900
BMC Medicine (7.25)	\$2,605
Science Reports (Nature) [5.5]	\$1,495
BMJ Open (2.2)	\$2100
BMJ Global Health [No IF]	\$4800
EBioMedicine (Elsevier) [No IF]	\$3000

**Open access is not free. Someone is doing the work. Someone is paying**

August 28, 2015 12:07am EDT



Pay wall or no pay wall? Students study at the Humboldt University Library in Berlin, one of the most advanced scientific libraries in Germany.



## Who's Afraid of Peer Review?

A spoof paper concocted by *Science* reveals little or no scrutiny at many open-access journals

“The data from this sting operation reveal the contours of an emerging Wild West in academic publishing,” John Bohannon

# Methods used for the sting

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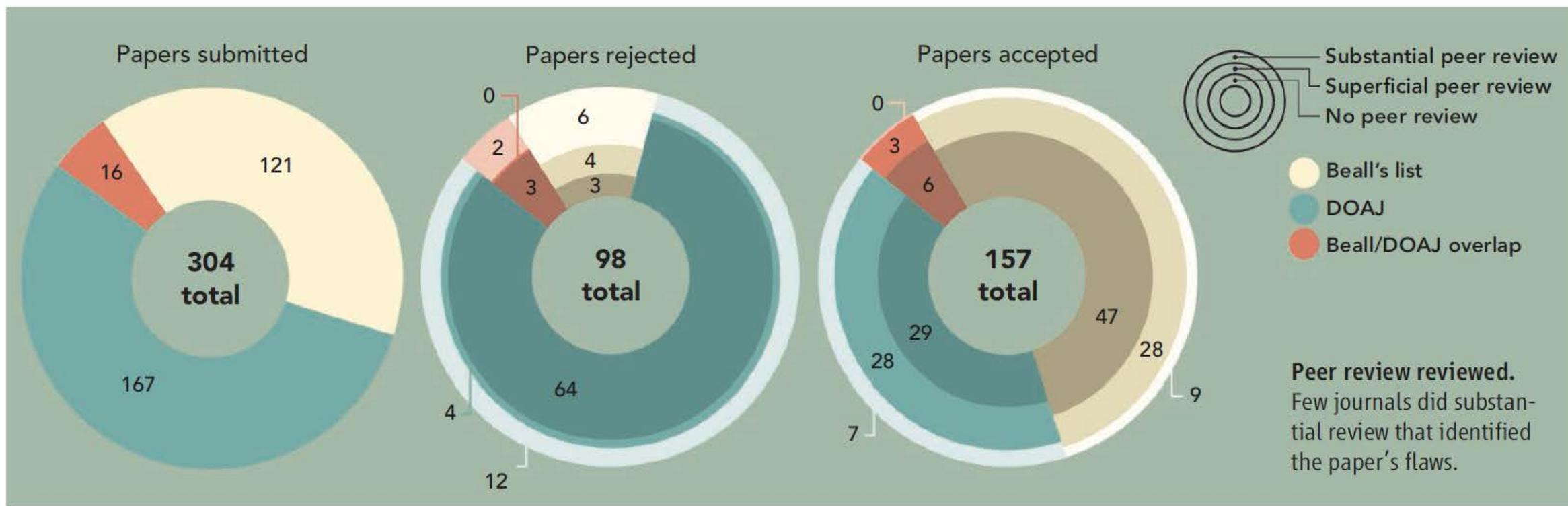
Fake paper took this form: Molecule X from lichen species Y inhibits the growth of cancer cell Z. To substitute for those variables, Bohannon created a database of molecules, lichens, and cancer cell lines and wrote a computer program to generate hundreds of unique papers.

Between January and August of 2013, he submitted fake papers at a rate of about 10 per week: one paper to a single journal for each publisher (total of 304).

If a journal rejected the paper, that was the end of the line. If a journal sent review comments that asked for changes to layout or format, he complied and resubmitted.

If a review addressed any of the paper's serious scientific problems, he sent the editor a "revised" version that was superficially improved, but without changing any of the fatal scientific flaws.

After a journal accepted a paper, he sent a standard e-mail to the editor: "Unfortunately, while revising our manuscript we discovered an embarrassing mistake. We see now that there is a serious flaw in our experiment which invalidates the conclusions." He then withdrew the paper.



The invoice arrived with good news: After a science-free review process, one of their journals—the *International Journal of Cancer and Tumor*—accepted the paper. Posing as lead author Alimo Atoa, I requested that it be withdrawn. I received a final message that reads like a surreal love letter from one fictional character to another:

---

Dear Alimo Atoa,

We fully respect your choice and withdraw your article.

If you are ready to publish your paper, please let me know and I will be at your service at any time.

Sincerely yours,  
Grace Groovy

---

**-JOHN BOHANNON**

# Reactions to the 'sting'

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Effort by *Science* to discredit OA; The sting operation, *Science* said in its promotion, “exposes the dark side of open-access publishing.”

Author did not sample non-OA journals (so, no control group)

Author deliberately over-sampled low-quality journals (e.g. Beall's list) and does not provide a fair sample of OA journals



The Ugly

# Some well known predators...

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# A new predator emerges...

## Caveat Researcher: Open Access Spawns 'Predatory Journals'

By Douglas McCormick

Posted 9 Apr 2013 | 19:12 GMT

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# Journal of Veterinary Science

*Dear Dr. Madhukar.Pai*

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Reference: Invitation for Photon Innovations-2013

It is my great honor and pleasure to invite you to submit your most recent research and ideas to The Journal of Veterinary Science, world's leading journal in the domain. The peer reviewed international journal offers fast review within approx 12 days. Published articles are made available online with free access to target multinational audience in your domain. With high impact index 4.18 journal is accepting leading research in the domain of Veterinary Science. Photon encourages innovative scientists and engineers from all over the world to share their ideas on international platform. Photon Innovations-2013 is a highly versatile **Global Project** connecting world's top most academicians, engineers and scientists towards *filtration* of **World's Path Breaking Research Articles and Discoveries**. The Global Project awards the scientists with **Photon Innovations-2013 Award** who demonstrates the **calibre to transform and catalyze the domain**. Their names would be announced and published on **Photon Beam** in **2013** with affiliations and respective countries. We appreciate your time and efforts towards submitting us a world class manuscript. You may choose variety of Photon Journals as below and may also nominate compatible researchers for **Photon Innovations-2013 Award**. With the *passion*, you can submit your manuscripts at [photonjournal@yahoo.com](mailto:photonjournal@yahoo.com)

**You are kindly requested to confirm your participation with acknowledgement.**

Looking forward

**Kimberly Engstrom**

Editorial Office

The Journal of Veterinary Science

Photon

<https://sites.google.com/site/photonfoundationorganization/home/the-journal-of-veterinary-science>

**Last Date:** 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2013

# International Journal of Pharmacy

**From:** photon Journals [<mailto:smartphoton@hotmail.com>]

**Sent:** December-05-13 5:36 AM

**To:** Madhukar Pai, Dr.

**Subject:** Kimberley Lopez

Dear Dr.Madhukar Pai

---

Reference: Invitation for Photon Innovations-2013

It is my great honor and pleasure to invite you to submit your most recent research and ideas to International Journal of Pharmacy, world's leading journal in the domain. The peer reviewed international journal offers fast review within approx 12 days. Published articles are made available online with free access to target multinational audience in your domain. With high impact index 4.43 journal is accepting leading research in the domain of Pharmacy. Photon encourages innovative scientists and engineers from all over the world to share their ideas on international platform. Photon Innovations-2013 is a highly versatile Global Project connecting world's top most academicians, engineers and scientists towards filtration of World's Path Breaking Research Articles and Discoveries. The Global Project awards the scientists with Photon Innovations-2013 Award who demonstrates the calibre to transform and catalyze the domain. Their names would be announced and published on Photon Beam in 2013 with affiliations and respective countries. We appreciate your time and efforts towards submitting us a world class manuscript. You may choose variety of Photon Journals as below and may also nominate compatible researchers for Photon Innovations-2013 Award. With the passion, you can submit your manuscripts at [photonjournal@yahoo.com](mailto:photonjournal@yahoo.com)

You can also submit eBooks and/or Book Chapters on your area of interest at: [photonbooks@yahoo.com](mailto:photonbooks@yahoo.com)

You are kindly requested to confirm your participation with acknowledgement.

Looking forward

Kimberley Lopez

Editorial Office

International Journal of Pharmacy

Photon

<https://sites.google.com/site/photonfoundationorganization/international-journal-of-pharmacy>

# Ed Board: J of Psychology and Psychotherapy



Dr. Saiqa Mushtaq <[info@savvysciencepublisher.com](mailto:info@savvysciencepublisher.com)>

(SCL > 6): Invitation - Join the Editorial Board (Journal of Psychology and Psychotherapy Research )

To Madhukar Pai, Dr.

 You replied to this message on 12/01/2014 7:38 AM.

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Dear Dr. M. Pai

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# Ed Board: Advanced Management Science



Fri 24/01/2014 8:08 PM

ARpub <service@arpub.org>

Invitation Letter for Editorial Board Member

o Madhukar Pai, Dr.

i You replied to this message on 24/01/2014 8:59 PM.

Dear Professor,

I am Ivan Sun, an editor of Academic Research Publishers (ARpub: [www.arpub.org](http://www.arpub.org)). It's my great honor to write to invite you to be an Editorial Board Member of [\*Advanced Management Science\*](#).

First of all, I'd like to introduce Academic Research Publisher (ARpub) to you. ARpub is a publisher found in California, US since 2012. Now it owns 5 international journals with International Standard Serial Number (ISSN), and these journals covers the area of management sciences, microbiology, manufacturing engineering, biopharmaceutics sciences and mechanical engineering.

Secondly, [\*Advanced Management Science\*](#) has already published some papers in 2013. In 2014, this journal will publish 4 issues, and mainly accept the papers relating to strategy, entrepreneurship, innovation, information technology, and organizations as well as all functional areas of business, such as accounting, finance, marketing, operations, empirical research, analytical modeling, scholarly papers, distinguished review articles, comments, and notes. The editor-in-chief of this journal is [\*Prof. Xiaoxia Huang\*](#), from Beijing University of University of Science and Technology, Beijing, China. Her research focuses on Financial Management, and published more than 20 excellent papers on international journals. *Advanced Management Science* is an open access journal, papers pulished on this journal could be seen and download by everyone for free, which could make your study and research well-known easier. Also the printed journals will contain your name on the edition board part.

Thirdly, We have paid attention on your study on management science through your paper from the Science Citation Index, which reflects the Control Theory and Its Application. We really appreciate the originality and innovation in your study.

# Ed Board: Int J Diabetology and Vascular Dis



Mon 03/02/2014 4:22 AM

SciDoc Publishers - International Journal of Diabetology & Vascular Disease Research (IJ DVR) <editor.ijdvr@scidoc.org>

Editorial Board Invitation - International Journal of Diabetology & Vascular Disease Research (IJ DVR)

To Madhukar Pai, Dr.

You replied to this message on 03/02/2014 4:24 AM.

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Also you can see more details about us at our website [www.scidoc.org](http://www.scidoc.org)

You are requested to send a recent passport size photo (to display at our website) and your C.V, Biography (150 words), Research Interests for our records.

We look forward to a close and lasting scientific relationship for the benefit of scientific community.

Thanks & Regards.

Myna B,  
Delaware,  
USA

URL: [www.scidoc.org](http://www.scidoc.org)

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# At least somebody adores my research!



Mon 26/01/2015 4:25 AM

Editor:Epidemiology Open Access <editor.ecr@omicsinc.com>

**We Adore Your Research**

To  Madhukar Pai, Dr.

**i** You replied to this message on 26/01/2015 6:11 AM.

**Dear Dr.Madhukar Pai,**

Warm Greetings from [Epidemiology: Open Access](#).

Epidemiology: Open Access is an open access, peer-reviewed journal that provides an illuminating overview on Epidemiology and Health in general and their increasing role in the diagnosis, characterization, therapy of various marked diseases and conditions in particular.

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If it is not feasible for you in January, then please let us know your feasible time to contribute.

We look forward to hear a positive response from you soon.

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Thu 02/04/2015 9:37 AM

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To: Madhukar Pui, Dr.

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One of the Baishideng journals that offers this service is the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*. The normal article processing charge for the journal is \$1,365, and this is for a ten-week turnaround time on an article. The turnaround time is the time between submission and publication and includes the peer-review process. For an additional fee, the journal also offers these turnaround times:

2 weeks	\$3,000
4 weeks	\$2,800
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What are the ethical aspects of paying more in order to get an article published faster? If an author pays a higher amount, does this increase a paper's likelihood of being accepted?

<http://scholarlyoa.com/2013/11/07/want-a-faster-review-pay-for-it/>



Mon 15/09/2014 2:27 PM

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To  Madhukar Pai, Dr.

**i** You forwarded this message on 15/09/2014 2:28 PM.  
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---

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## WORLD VIEW

*A personal take on events*



# **Predatory publishers are corrupting open access**

*Journals that exploit the author-pays model damage scholarly publishing and promote unethical behaviour by scientists, argues **Jeffrey Beall**.*

# Scholarly Open Access

Critical analysis of scholarly open-access publishing

Home About the Author Appeals Disclaimer Research LIST OF PUBLISHERS

LIST OF STANDALONE JOURNALS

## LIST OF PUBLISHERS

### Beall's List:

#### Potential, possible, or probable predatory scholarly open-access publishers

This is a list of questionable, scholarly open-access publishers. We recommend that scholars read the available reviews, assessments and descriptions provided here, and then decide for themselves whether they want to submit articles, serve as editors or on editorial boards. The criteria for determining predatory publishers are [here](#).

We hope that tenure and promotion committees can also decide for themselves how importantly or not to rate articles published in these journals in the context of their own institutional standards and/or geocultural locus. We emphasize that journal publishers and journals change in their business and editorial practices over time. This list is kept up-to-date to the best extent possible but may not reflect sudden, unreported, or unknown enhancements.

#### RECENT POSTS

- [Shedding Some Light on the Photon Foundation](#)
- [New Open-Access Publisher: Stringer Open](#)
- [Index Copernicus Has No Value](#)
- [New OA Publisher Launches with 99 Journals](#)
- [Predatory Publishing News](#)

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- [November 2013](#)
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## Beall's List of Predatory Publishers 2015

**by Jeffrey Beall, January 2, 2015** Each year at this time I formally release my updated list of predatory publishers. Because the list is now very large, and because I now publish four, continuously-updated lists, this year's release does not include the actual lists but instead includes statistical and explanatory data about the lists and links to them.

**Potential, possible, or probable predatory scholarly open-access publishers:** This year, 2015, marks the fifth annual release of this list, which is also continuously updated. The list this year includes 693 publishers, an increase of 241 over 2014.

Publishers	
Year	Number of publishers
2011	18
2012	23
2013	225
2014	477
2015	693

Number of predatory publishers, 2011-2015



# International Journal of Medical Sciences and Health Care

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Dear Dr. Paul Clarke,

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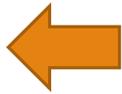
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We look ahead to a warm and abiding scientific relation for the betterment of the scientific society!

With kind regards,  
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## After retirement from Football, what next for David Beckham?



# How to spot a predator?

---

Unsolicited spam; full of grammatical errors

Journal may have nothing to do with your field

Often from a email ID with female name

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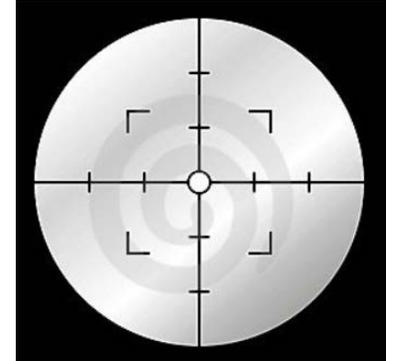
Promise of rapid publication

Lofty titles ("International Journal of something...") which mimics established journals

Claims to be based in America, but more likely India!

Special offers with reduced fees or discounts

Included in Beall's black list



# Fake journals from India, and fake conferences from China!

## Meetings That Flatter, but May Not Deliver

The e-mails come from Amber, Rainy, Dora, and Arlene. “How are you doing now?” some begin. “Hope this e-mail finds all the best on you.” Flattering and solicitous and written in bewitchingly mangled English, the e-mails have the hallmarks of spam offering carnal pleasure—except they are actually far tamer. They are invitations to attend scientific meetings in China organized by a company that bills itself as the “World Leading Provider of Intelligence Exchanges in Life Sciences.”

BIT Life Sciences, based in Dalian, a seaside city in Northeast China, stages conferences on a staggering array of topics, from vaccines and biodiversity to diabetes, cancer, cloud computing, HIV/AIDS, and algae. The meetings, which are often billed as an “Annual World Congress,” sometimes coin names for new disciplines, such as “Endobolism” and “Drug Designology.” BI Teomics, the parent company, says it has 400 employees and holds at least 70 conferences a year that “tens of thousands of people” have attended since 2001.

Welcome to the bizarre world of what some call “predatory” conferences: scientific confabs, sometimes sparsely attended, that seem to come into being primarily to make money. Jeffrey Beall, a librarian at the University of Colorado, Denver, who monitors a subset of open-access journals that he calls “predatory,” sees a similar phenomenon in BIT conferences. “They have the same conflict of interest as predatory publishers,” he asserts. While predatory journals charge fees to publish papers, these conferences make money through registration fees that are bundled with charges for accommodation, meals, and program materials. (Typical bills run in the \$2000 range. BIT, which

stands for Bio Integration Technology, also has a subsidiary that offers to help book air flights, hotels, and tours.) “The more papers they accept, the more money they make,” Beall says, as people with accepted talks are more likely to attend. While most scientific conferences have a similar financial equation, the vast majority are organized by nonprofits with members drawn from the scientific community, rigorously peer review submissions, and strictly limit the number of presentations. “Predatory” conferences, on the other hand, Beall says, “are accepting papers that

In an e-mail to *Science*, Francis Wang, who works in the business development office of BIT Life Sciences, rejected the charge that the company stages predatory meetings and lowers the quality of scientific discourse. Their business, she stated, is information sharing: “We are a bridge to the professional world.” Wang explained that the firm does not use spam or robots to send out e-mail invitations, and noted that only about 40% of participants use its travel subsidiary’s services. She suggested that some of the criticism occurs because BIT Life Sciences reaches out to up-and-coming researchers. “We will try very hard to create more platforms to give young experts or junior scientists more visibility and encourage their motivation to engage in the competition in professional world,” Wang stated.

Derek Lowe, a medicinal chemist at Vertex Pharmaceuticals in Cambridge, Massachusetts, has ridiculed BIT Life Sciences invitations on his blog, noting that he believes he’s been invited to speak at meetings because he can breathe, speak, fill a slot on a schedule, and presumably pay the registration fee. “This stuff reminds me of the *Who’s Who* business model,” Lowe says. “You can be in this book of luminaries if you’ll just pay for the book.”

A typical e-mail from BIT begins by offering a slot to give an oral presentation or chair a session at a meeting that may not even intersect with your expertise. It will add that the program coordinator has invited you for your “invaluable experience and knowledge” or maybe because “you are an outstanding expert and have enjoyed great fame.” The note will list other “world-class experts” and renowned speakers who have attended BIT conferences, including Nobel laureates.

This stuff reminds me of the *Who’s Who* business model.

—DEREK LOWE,  
VERTEX PHARMACEUTICALS

may not be valid science: They bear the imprimatur of science even though they never go through the same quality control.”

While BIT Congress claims to be “the largest-scale conference company in Asia Pacific,” it has competition in what Beall says is an expanding industry. “They’re just one in the landscape,” he says. He has also taken aim at the OMICS Group, a company based in India that stages conferences and publishes open-access journals that Beall considers “predatory” (see p. 60). (OMICS strongly objects to being deemed “predatory” by Beall and has threatened to sue him for \$1 billion.)

# Be particularly wary of these...

---



IEEE conferences in China

# So, can we save OA?

---

In principle, OA publishing has to be a good thing

- Everyone likes their research to be read, and all major funders mandate that
- If OA is forcing traditional publishers to get out of their greed mindset, then that is a good thing
- Self-archiving should be used more to increase access

The challenge is operationalizing OA and ensuring that it stays credible and sustainable

- *PLoS Medicine* is now an OA alternative to high-impact general medical journals (e.g. NEJM, Lancet) and has established its reputation
- *PLoS ONE* is now the largest OA publication and appears to be sustainable

“In an academic world ever more infiltrated by fraudsters, con artists and pirates, one can still trust the content and academic integrity of scientific society journals and long-standing corporate publishers. They protect against article and journal cloning, identity theft, bogus journals, forgery, author substitution, fake metrics, and prevent outright intellectual property theft.” K Tomaselli

# Some closing thoughts...

---

Regardless of OA versus pay-wall publishing models, good peer-review (with all its flaws) and editorial oversight is key to ensure quality

- Even with this, there will always be a range of quality and readers and researchers need benchmarks to guide them
- While 'black lists' (e.g. Beall) are useful, perhaps it is time for 'white lists' of high quality OA publications

The emergence of predatory journals is a testament that OA is popular and here to stay; while credible researchers should not fall for them, these journals will always have a market

# My small campaign to raise awareness in India...

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S & T

October 24, 2013

Updated: October 24, 2013 02:44 IST

### Fake open-access journals flourish in India: Science

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An October 4 paper in *Science* based on a “sting” operation by John Bohannon, science writer at Harvard University reveals the pitfalls in open access scientific publishing. Bohannon has done for selected open access scientific journals what Alan Sokal did to academic journal *Social Text*. Submitting a paper outlining (entirely made up results of) the anticancer properties of a chemical that had been extracted from a certain lichen to 304 open access journals, he found that the majority of them actually accepted the paper. 157 journals accepted the paper, 98 rejected it and of the remainder, 20 journals said the paper was still being reviewed and 29 journals appeared to be derelict.

What is news for us is that about one-third of these (64 to be precise) were based in India!

## Dubious journal fear stalks India

G.S.MUDUR

New Delhi, Oct. 3: Madhukar Pai, a doctor and epidemiologist in Canada, first suspected something was wrong when he received invitations to join the editorial boards of journals on climate change, plants, even physics — fields that had nothing to do with his area of expertise.

Then his email inbox was flooded with requests from dozens of scientific journals based in India, urging him to submit research papers to them. One journal pledged that any paper he submitted would be reviewed within 15 days and, if accepted, published for a fee of \$260 (Rs 16,050).

Pai, an India-educated doctor and associate professor at McGill University in Montreal, is among scientists worried that India has emerged a hub for dubious open-access research journals that compromise on a critical aspect of scientific publishing — peer-review. Open-access journals are digital publications that may be read free via the Internet, but charge scientists for publishing their papers.

base — with 29 acceptances and 26 rejections.

“India is where most of this is happening,” Bohannon said.

The academic community largely supports the open-access movement that has burgeoned over the past decade, riding on the digital revolution and offering the promise of free access to published research papers in an era when the costs of traditional printed journals have risen steeply. But some fear that dubious open-access journals will pose a threat to the very concept of open-access publishing as researchers will find it increasingly difficult to separate credible journals from dubious ones.

“Open-access publishing has become the new cottage industry in India,” Pai said. “All one needs to create such journals is a website, a computer, the Internet — and a bank account to receive money.”

Many of these journals do not seem to have institutional backing and do not list the full credentials of their scientific editors, Pai said. And many of these journals are made to appear “international” while



Wed 28/01/2015 11:29 AM

paper shankargarg <[queryshankargargh@gmail.com](mailto:queryshankargargh@gmail.com)>

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I am very sorry. I was in Canada in Oct.14 and whenever I come next, I will try to see such a reputed personality of course with your kind permission and appointment.

From next time, even if you get any mail, just delete it and do not be angry. It is not good for your patients.

Further I will sincerely request you to contribute one manuscript to us to help we Indian people. If possible, please do it otherwise just our bad luck.

Kind regards and best wishes,

Shankar

On Wed, Jan 28, 2015 at 3:59 PM, Madhukar Pai, Dr. <[madhukar.pai@mcgill.ca](mailto:madhukar.pai@mcgill.ca)> wrote:

**Mr Shankar-**

**Stop sending these emails. What you are doing is spam and not acceptable.**

# Others are waging their own campaigns...

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**From:** [Eduardo Franco, Dr.](#)  
**To:** [ONCOLOGY@LISTS.MCGILL.CA](mailto:ONCOLOGY@LISTS.MCGILL.CA)  
**Cc:** [Mara Ludwig, Dr.](#); [Sara Holder, Ms.](#)  
**Subject:** Predatory publishers and conferences  
**Date:** Saturday, October 04, 2014 09:33:00

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Dear Colleagues,

As I communicated to you on January 15, 2014, our department has used a metrics document to permit more objectivity in faculty performance evaluations. This document (attached) is now being revised for the new academic year. Your suggestions and comments are appreciated.

I take the opportunity to alert our faculty to one alarming trend, namely, the 'epidemics' of predatory publishers and conference organizers, which has reached a level that is now threatening the credibility of the published record in scientific research. Our metrics document already alerted on pages 5-6 to the dangers of this trend. It is likely that every one of you has received spam email from such publishers and event organizers. Please ignore these emails and do not reply to them. Many of these publishers are being held accountable by NIH for trademark or copyright infringement, use of scientists' names without permission, and other dishonest tactics. Their goal is to lure junior scientists to submit their papers or attend their conferences. Senior scientists have also fallen prey to these entities.

The open access concept in academic publishing has created a new business model that is socially just and benefits from the low cost of electronic publishing. While the main open access publishers (PLOS, Biomed Central, eLife) are well known and established as credible repositories of superior science, there has been enormous growth among those that want to copy this model exclusively for profit with no regard to the quality of what they publish. There were only 18 predatory publishers in 2011. This number had increased to 23 in 2012, to 225 in 2013, and to 589 as of mid-July 2014. This is more than all of the serious academic publishers combined.

As chair, I closely oversee the academic promotions process of our faculty members, which allows me to read every CV and teaching dossier submitted to the department. I have noticed that some of our faculty have claimed to their credit publications in predatory journals and attendance to conferences organized by the same organizations. Some have also accepted roles as editors or editorial board members of these journals. If only they actually knew what passes for science in the journals to which they lent their name to add credibility to the publisher, they would immediately disallow their association with them.

A list of predatory publishers is continuously updated by University of Colorado. The link is <http://scholarlyoa.com/publishers/>.

As a reminder, examples of established academic publishers are: Elsevier, Oxford, Springer, Karger, Wolters-Kluwer, Lippincott Williams & Williams, Academic Press, Blackwell, Addison-Wesley, Chapman & Hall, Harcourt, Brace & Co., Harper, HarperCollins, Little & Brown, Macmillan, McGraw-Hill, National Academy Press, Prentice Hall, Sage, WH Freeman.

Please do not fall victim to predatory publishers and conferences. If you are inclined to submit a paper to any journal by one of the publishers listed in the above link think again and submit elsewhere. If you were invited to present at a conference and your registration fees were not at least waived by the organizer then chances are that this conference is not one that you will want to attend. Reputable conferences are the ones by the learned societies and organizations you and your peers admire and respect. If you have accepted to serve in an advisory capacity (editor, board member, scientific program member) to one of these entities please recuse yourself from that role. You should not use your name

# Thank you!

Questions?



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