Chapter 14
New Opportunities in Libraries:
Open Access, Open Content, and Collection

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ABSTRACT

The emergence of open access is one of the most significant changes to the world of scholarly publications since the migration from print to digital publishing began. Reports of some authors have demonstrated how libraries across the membership are changing, in response to a need for new services and an increasingly diverse client group. In order to contribute to the existing knowledge in the area of open access movement in libraries, this chapter discusses how the 21st century library provides a service that can open access to knowledge for the growth and development of communities they serve by highlighting the concept of open access and open content, roles of libraries in open access initiative as well as library collection development and open access. This chapter also sheds light on legal and ethical issues in open access and the future of open access in libraries.

INTRODUCTION

Libraries across the globe are changing, in response to a need for innovative services and an increasingly diverse client group. A transformed higher education, which depends heavily on the internet to deliver lectures and to disseminate scholarly information, has presentedlibraries with many challenges. Libraries are saddled with the responsibilities of assisting their institutions to fulfill their specific missions of providing information to support teaching, learning and research. It is not a gain saying that progress of every academic discipline lies on the back of research and development. Research generates new information and knowledge. It is a standardized process of identifying problem, collecting data or evidence, tabulating data and its analysis, drawing inference and establishing new facts in the form of information (UNESCO 2015). Information has its life cycle: conception, generation, communication, evaluation and validation, use, impact and lastly a fuel for new ideas. Research results are published in journals, conference proceedings, monographs, dissertations, reports, and now the web provides many a new forum for its communication. Since their origin in the 17th century, the journals have remained very popular and important channels for dissemination of new ideas and research (UNESCO 2015). Journals have become inseparable organ of scholarship and research communication, and are a huge and wide industry. Their proliferation (with high mortality rate), high cost of production, cumbersome distribution, waiting time for authors to get published, and then more time in getting listed in indexing services, increasing subscription rates, and lastly archiving of back volumes have led to a serious problem known as "Serials Crisis". The ICT, especially the internet and the WWW, descended from the cyber space to solve all these problems over night in the new avatar of e-journals. Their inherent features and versatility have made them immensely popular. Then in the beginning of the 21st century emerged the Open Access (OA) (UNESCO 2015).

THE CONCEPTS OF OPEN ACCESS AND OPEN CONTENT

A large number of competing definitions of the term open access exist. The definition of open access has been put forth by many authors such as Peter Suber (2004) who defined the term as literature, which is digital, online, free of charge, and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions.

Open access is a way to provide free online journal articles to readers while supporting operations through financial models that permit this free electronic distribution. Because this is usually a paperless model (although hybrids exist), the turnaround is often much faster and cheaper than traditional publishing. However, some resources and funds are required for technical support as well as administrative costs, albeit less than those for a traditional print journal. Without these supports, an OA journal would not be able to support their website, peer and editorial reviews, sustainability, and growth (Daught, 2012, Williams-Jones et al., 2014).

OA business models are varied but usually available in two potential varieties: with a front-end fee or article-processing charge (APC) or no charge to authors. The APC model requires that once the article has been peer-reviewed and accepted for publication, the publisher's costs are paid by the authors or authors' research funder or institution. With the no charge to the authors model, the publishers fund their operations through sponsorship, advertising, voluntary labor, and/or by selling subscriptions for the printed form of the journal (Daught, 2012).

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