



Knowledge Transformation: Role of Open Access Journal

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With advancements in technology, access to knowledge is at the fingertips of healthcare providers. The days of going to the library and navigating through different shelves and accessing information in a tedious and cumbersome way are gone. With the advent of the internet, distance and access to knowledge have become instant. This has helped in the dissemination of knowledge, from the bench to the bedside, in much faster ways.

Journals have gone from fee-based subscriptions paid by consumers to open-access (OA) publications, where the burden and cost for the dissemination of knowledge and access is borne by researchers or institutions. Institutions can also have self-archiving open access repositories. The OA gold road does not charge the users. They are OA, peer reviewed, and published research manuscripts with free of access and re-use charges. On the other hand, the OA green route includes self-archiving in the OA repositories [1]. The researcher deposits the refereed journal article in the electronic archives, which conforms to the open archive initiative standards [2,3]. The gold and green road have definitely helped in the acquisition of knowledge instantly without the concern for cost, taking the experience, evidence based information, therapy, and diagnosis of rare diseases in a rapid and timely manner to the patient's bedside. Open access has also helped in dissemination of knowledge to developing countries where access to libraries and printed text is difficult to access. The awareness of the authors, on the other hand, as it pertains to open access, has increased from 50% in 1990 to 85% in 2007 [2]. OA is now strongly encouraged by many industrialized nations. European nations encourage investigators to place all their articles in OA repository and to publish in OA journals [4]. Additionally, OA articles have the benefit of getting cited earlier and with higher frequency than non-OA articles. Citations also help journals achieve a higher impact factor, which in turn translates to journal's reputation.

The past decade has been a paradigm shift, as it pertains to the submission and publication of manuscripts, which are being published in OA journals with increasing number. A majority of OA journals have a policy to waive OA fees or heavily discount fees for authors from developing countries, to help the dissemination of knowledge and experience from developing countries to the rest of the world.

As Editor-in-Chief, I feel that the OA and open platform will help us in the dissemination of knowledge and experience to our global readership and help transform patient care with instant knowledge availability.

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