Open Acess

Overview, Benefits and Challenges

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Open Access (OA)?

- Publications
 - freely available online
 - no charges imposed for access
- Budapest, Berlin, and Bethesda (BBB) statement
 - OA allows users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full text of works
 - Permitting use for any lawful purpose

What OA is not

- OA is not applicable to
 - content where authors expect financial compensation
 - It is NOT self-publishing, nor a way to bypass peerreview and publication,
 - is it NOT a kind of second-class, cut-price publishing route.
 - It is simply a means to make research results freely available online to the whole research community.

Types of OA

- 1. Do not charge subscription or access fees (known as the "gold" road),
- 2. Allow self-archiving and/or commitment to deposit a digital copy of a publication to a publicly accessible Website (known as the "green" road)

- Maintain peer review to preserve their academic reputations,
- Recover costs by charging an author publication fee

Why OA?

- Cannot afford to subscribe to all needed journals
- Depreciating ability of libraries
- Libraries are finding alternatives to keep pace with these increase in price
 - by relying on "big deals" and consortia discounts
- Subscription price persistently escalating at an annual rate of approximately 8% to 10%
- Cost of journals is rising faster than inflation
- Monopoly of some of the publishers and escalating the cost every years

Why OA?...

- Investigators expect free access to publications necessary for research and education
- IT enables us for cost-effective alternatives available (compare to the traditional publishing model)
 - In publishing and providing access to intellectual assets at cheaper cost

Resources for locating OA materials

Google/Google Scholar

open access content is linked directly

Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)

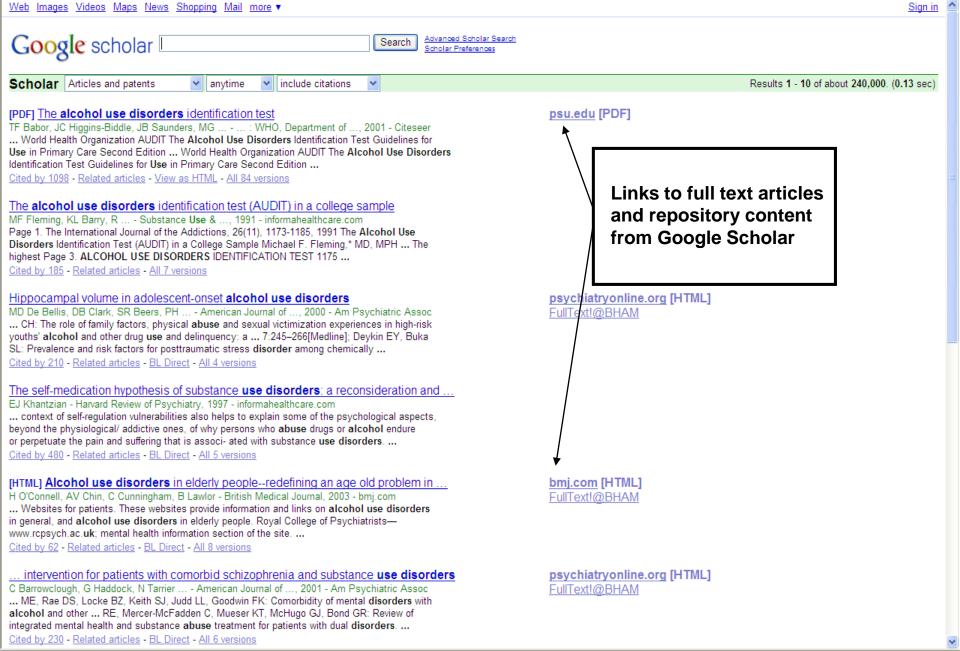
 Not just a directory. Search contents of the journals and locate suitable journals

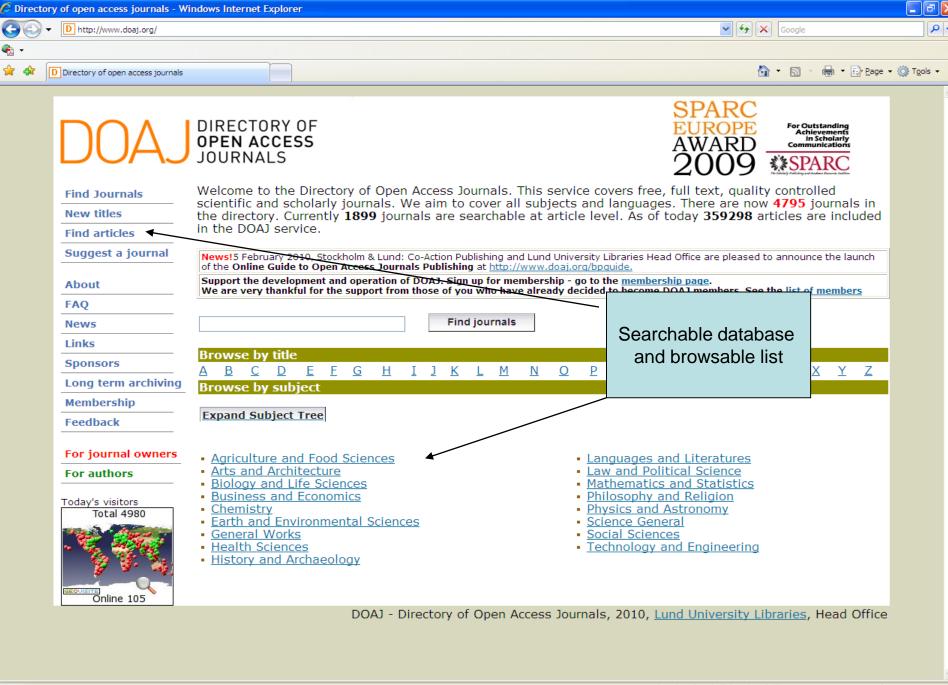
Subject databases on eLibrary

 Web of Knowledge; Sociological abstracts; Biological sciences, etc

Scirus

Science, psychology and language search engine





Some other examples of repositories

EDUCATION-LINE-

BRITISH EDUCATION INDEX











RePEc



E-prints in Library and Information Science







*Open*DOAR





ETheses Online Service (EThOS)

- (EThOS)
 The EThOS Service allows you to search for electronic Doctoral theses produced in other UK HEIs
- The theses from most institutions will be free to download and print
- If a thesis is unavailable it will be possible to request that it is digitised
- Can access EThOS from any computer worldwide: www.ethos.ac.uk
- Replaces the British Library (microfilm) Theses Service

Publishing on OA platforms/fora

Two Primary Paths to OA

Self-Archiving (Green OA)

The author takes initiative to place the document into a publicly accessible forum

Could be Institutional or subject based cross searchable on the web via Google and Google Scholar

Open-Access Publication (Gold OA)

The author chooses a publication venue that accommodates publication cost somewhere other than at the point of access

Benefits of OA

 freely available material becomes more accessible and discoverable worldwide

 leads to greater visibility and impact of research including increased citations

ensures publicly funded work is available to all

 For users open access is barrier-free and payment-free providing access to information they need

Challenges

While Open access is good for enabling research and improving productivity, it also brings challenges to the various stakeholders involved in the process. For example:

- Lack of awareness of open access publishing;
- Dearth of cross linked e-libraries;
- Inadequate information and communication technology infrastructure;
- Inadequate and epileptic power supply;
- Inadequate funding of research institutions; and
- Inhibiting copyright protection regime

Challenges...

- Many funding organizations and governments that provide research grants to investigators wish to have this research published OA
- **Universities** want to ensure that the research they produce is showcased to the world and their researchers are promoted so they will bring in new funding contracts, build their expertise and ultimately enhance the institution's reputation.
- **Publishers** want to maximize the visibility of their journals and ensure the widest readership possible, but need this to happen in an economically sustainable way to ensure their journals survive.
- **Librarians** are now managing both subscription and OA content and are a vital point for other stakeholders to consult on the developing journal landscape. Often this involves the challenge of administering policy and approach to open-access across their institution.
- Finally, and most importantly the researchers themselves want their research to be available to others and to enable the widest recognition of their work, but they also need to consider all of the policies that the other stakeholders have developed.

Thank You!!!