

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN OPEN ACCESS

Open Access to the world's research literature has been an obvious development since the emergence of the Internet. To everyone, it appears clear that the costs of disseminating research have dropped dramatically, or could do so. Of course peer review costs have not changed, but they are a small fraction of the total cost of research dissemination. Yet, progress in achieving it is strangely slow.

This talk will explore recent developments in open access, including:

- The UK's Finch Report, and the increasing evidence that the Finch Committee got it wrong
- The recent Australian NH&MRC and ARC mandates for open access deposit in university repositories (the Green Road), and how universities are responding to them
- Gradual growth in open access journals (the Gold Road), and the challenge for universities and their libraries of transferring reader-side fees (subscriptions) to author-side fees (publication charges)
- The possible emergence of submission fees, so that highly selective journals need not transfer all the costs of failed submissions onto successful articles
- Fake conferences and journals, which exist only to extract attendance or publication fees, and have no selectivity and no peer-reviewing worth mentioning
- Newer publishing models, including experience with business models
- The recent emergence of a third route to open access: the Titanium Road, based on social networking.

The overall presentation will explore and summarize these developments and what they mean for Australia – for individuals, private enterprise, and government as well as universities. It will suggest productive directions forward in the age of the tablet and smartphone, and how the scholarly publishing industry is under immense pressure to change its business model. The delays in establishing an obvious developmental consequence of the Internet can largely be attributed to two factors: (a) academic apathy and inertia, and (b) publisher protection of profit margins and old business models. Neither of these can be expected to last.

Of particular interest is the Titanium Road, a route to open access that is reliant on social networking which has taken off so hugely in the last few years, for example in the form of Facebook, YouTube, LinkedIn and ResearchGate. I refer to the possibility of author self-publishing and the impact of referencing software like Mendeley which

provide research-oriented social networking through the cloud, which hints at the possibility of separating 'publishing' in the sense of dissemination, from 'quality endorsement' in the form of peer review. These changes would have huge effects on academic research dissemination (and therefore on libraries and ICT) when the older generation have passed away.

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