

Publication Considerations in the Age of Electronic Opportunities: A White Paper for the Vision Community

Association of Vision Science Librarians
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- The sciences have increased in their share of the output of scholarly publications
- Economic stresses on the system of communication have threatened continuity of scientific communication and progress.
- New technologies provide the ability to manipulate information in novel ways and an opportunity to examine how the process might work more effectively.



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Introduction

- Sharing of scientific information is basic to scientific progress.
- Publication provides data for use in personal decision making and public policy deliberations.
- Scientific knowledge is the basis of teaching and learning in an academic community.
- Career development of scientists requires the dissemination of research.



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White Paper

- Concerns of stakeholders
- Environmental factors
- Recommendations



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Concerns



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Optometrists/Ophthalmologists/ Vision Scientists

- Education
- Copyright ownership
- Control of data
- Access to biomedical information in developing countries
- Other?????



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Optometrists/Ophthalmologists/ Vision Scientists

- Healthcare information - related to patient care
- Need access to information for own research
- Recognition & reward
- Peer review
- Quality of patient information



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Librarians

- Preservation (archiving) of the scientific record
- Access v. ownership
- Educational issues
- Cost



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Librarians

- Organization of biomedical literature
- Restrictive licensing
- Other?????



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Commercial Publishers

- Profits
- Elsevier!!!
- Copyright ownership is under attack
- Multiple pricing models
- Illegal access to licensed materials
- Other?????



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Professional Associations/ Scientific Societies

- Survival
- Ongoing mission of scientific societies
- Tension between goals
 - promoter & keeper of scientific research or
 - pragmatic interests
- Other???



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Context – Real Life Issues



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Copyright

- Copyright and public domain issues
 - Researchers give their copyright freely
 - Institutions buy it back
- Who owns the data? For how long?
- What is fair use in a digital environment?
- Other???



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Information technologies/ Informatics

- Archiving
- Longevity of digital information
- Access
- Hardware/software
- Other?????



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Consumer Health Information

- Quality of information
- Access (“digital divide”)
- Factors driving increased use of health information
- Complementary & alternative medicine
- Chat groups, listservs, etc.
- Other???



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What’s Going On?



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International Efforts

- Cochrane Group
- HINARI
- WHO IAPB (International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness)
- Voluntary groups
- Personnel exchanges
- Other???



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Recommendations

- Authors should be aware of the basic principles of copyright law and custom. Decisions about copyright for one's own work should be made thoughtfully. [IMU] Scientists must manage copyright and its limitations and exceptions in a manner that assures access to and use of their own published works in their research and teaching. [T]



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Alternatives to Traditional Models

- Budapest Open Access Initiative with Open Society Institute
- Scholarly Publishing & Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC)
- BioMed Central
- DSpace (MIT/HP collaboration)
- PubScience Closure
- California Digital Library eScholarship
- Others?????



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- A journal's price and policies for accessibility, as well as standing and impact, should be taken into account when deciding where to submit a paper, or whether to referee or to serve on an editorial board. [IMU]



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- Members of the university and library communities should collaborate to develop strategies that contain the cost of dissemination of scientific research. [T]



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- Electronic capabilities should be used, among other things, to: provide access to scholarship, including facilitating access to promote access to improved healthcare in developing countries; and to encourage interdisciplinary research [T]



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- Peer review – The system of scientific publication must continue to include processes for evaluating the quality of work and every publication must provide the reader with information about evaluation the work has undergone. [T]



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- Electronic capabilities should also be used to enhance interoperability and searchability. Development of common standards are particularly important in an electronic environment. [T]



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- Scientific publications must be archived in a secure manner so as to remain permanently available and, in the case of electronic works, a permanent identifier for citations, metadata, and linking must be provided.[T]



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Recommendations endorse & draw heavily on:

- Best Current Practices recommended by International Mathematics Union
http://www.ceic.math.ca/ceic_docs/best_practices/Best-Practices.pdf
- Recommendations of International Working Group of the AAAS in Defining & Certifying Electronic Publication in Science.
<http://www.aaas.org/spp/sfrl/projects/epub/define.htm>
- Principles for Emerging Systems of Scholarly Publishing.

<http://www.arl.org/scomm/tempe.html>



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- We support the evaluation of faculty based on quality rather than quantity of publications.[T]



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Creating Change

- "...the most important means to this very important end are within the reach of scientists and scholars themselves, and do not depend on legislatures or markets."

Peter Suber, Earlham College, Editor, *Free Online Scholarship Newsletter*



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