


Open Access – One More Challenge, One More Opportunity



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Who is Cambridge Scientific Abstracts?



- Privately owned 35 year old company
- Bibliographic database and abstracts journal publisher
- 60 databases – aerospace, materials, engineering, environment, computers, aquatic, life sciences, social sciences and humanities
- Media-independent publisher

Editorial operation



- One million records per year
- 14,000 serials plus other sources
- 60 full-time editors plus home workers
- 5 subject focused editorial sites



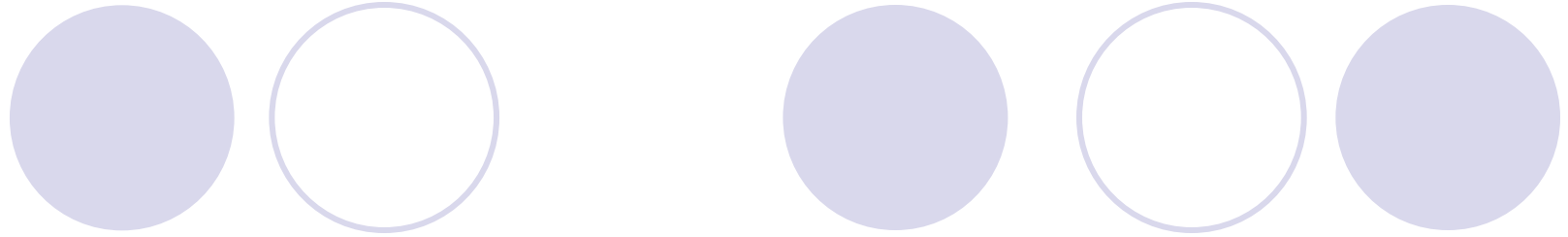
Selection criteria

- **Subject scope of database**
- **Quality of article**
- Quality of the serial
- Availability of the source
- Capability of translation
- End user requests
- Publisher relations
- Cost-effectiveness of inclusion



Raison d'être

- To facilitate the identification of and access to the original article
- Article usually requires purchase



Does Open Access change anything?

The Budapest Open Access Initiative

Definition



‘By “open access” we mean its free availability on the public Internet, permitting any users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or to link to the full-text of these articles, crawl them for indexing, pass them as data to software, or to use them for any other lawful purpose, without financial, legal, or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the Internet itself.’



UK Inquiry

- UK Science & Technology Committee into Scientific Publications
- <http://www.biomedcentral.com/openaccess/inquiry/>
- 20+ submissions



CILIP submission

There should be 'no discrimination by the Research Assessment Exercise for or against open-access journals. **The deciding factor must be quality of the journal and the quality of the article**



Quality, Quality, Quality

- Deciding issue for CSA is quality
- OA journals are another source, more important in some disciplines than others
- Numerous new OA journals require evaluation/inclusion – considerable resource impact



Open Access Quality Issues

- Peer review
- Low rejection rate means low quality?
- Scientists want recognition – the best will publish in peer reviewed serials

BUT

- Widely read
- Great opportunity for grey literature?



Open Access Challenges

- Sustainable economic model
- Permanent archive
- Broken links/updating links
- Final version
- Quality



Open Access Benefits

- Wider readership
- Availability of full-text
- Decreased cost of acquisition for A&I
- Already in electronic format



Issues for Secondary Publishers

- Below primary publishers in food chain – impacted by uncertainties with serials
- Impact on society publishers who rely on publishing to fund other activities
- Fragmentation of content makes role more difficult but more important
- Web indexing of content – A&I give value added retrieval of select, relevant high quality material from mountain of literature
- More information, less time to read – can A&I's alter this?
- Declining or more variable quality
- A&I's can play QC role

CSA – the innovator



- Early CD innovator
- www.csa.com very early web registration
- Sustainability Science: Practice and Policy
 - OA e-journal being created as part of project with National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII – USA)
 - Mission to rapidly disseminate information on interactions of living organisms
 - Free, semi-annual, articles posted as soon as they are ready

So?

- Widening readership but creating publishing uncertainties
- Quality is a/the major issue
- A&I's role remains key in selecting and indexing relevant quality material
- New opportunities to disseminate some sources