

Lindsey then goes on to discuss the open, social system for scientist as theorized by Merton

higher prices, which would result in lowered subscriptions from libraries, and th

bottom-line, as Fry points out that the commercial sector is “a self-purging system, in which most journals which do not operate profitably over time do not survive and therefore disappear” (1975, p. 10). Thus, while profits aren’t extremely high for commercial journal publishers, their behavior demonstrates a m

these are kept by the publisher themselves comes murky. For example, if a subscription to a journal is cancelled, then the library may no longer have access to the back issues they had previously Wreceived.”In other words, termination of subscription is met with termination of access. Additionally, with the ever increasing economic issues with journals, especially non-profit publishers as described above, it is not uncommon fureor journals to cease publication and go out of business. For libraries, their relevance as memory institutions is lost if unable to store digital copies. Again the preservation problem raises issues

production of journals through quicker typesetting and composition. Ultimately, this meant that journals could be produced and disseminated quicker, and in a scholarly environment increasingly reliant on immediacy of information—changed by their adopted forms of

libraries of universities, and had interesting ties to the development of higher education, and

publication was rising, and readership was low, it seems reasonably fair to consider what had happened to the journal portion of the information commons was highly inefficient.

Contributing to this characterization was the discovery that research reporting was found through many

translate the functions of print journals were ultimately failures. Ultimately it would be

itself inspired groups of scholars to consider how to harness its immense potential and recreate the scholarly journal in the coming electronic age.

WHAT ARE OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS?

The open access movement has roots in a few important themes that have been described here: technology, sharing, and scholarly communication. Open access literature, as defined by Peter Suber (2004) is “digital, online, free of charge, and free of most copyright licensing restrictions, allowing unrestricted access and allowing authors to keep their copyright and make their work more widely accessible and free. A more detailed and legal definition of open access comes from the 2001 Budapest Open Access Initiative, which demonstrates the power and potential for open access publishing to thrive in a commons of knowledge:

granting author's the ability to retain copyright to their peer-reviewed articles, access barriers are

look to sustain their relevance in the digital age. Knowledge commons, besides being shared

libraries to ensure the growth of a new type of knowledge commons. This paper has looked at the rise of journals in the scholarly environment, their privatization, and how open access can help restore the open system that benefitted scholars of a distant past. It also has discussed the links between human modes of producing knowledge, and how revolutions to production of knowledge can stand to change humans. In today's digital environment,

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