



POULTRY SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

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I am just completing my term as Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Poultry Science*, which is published by a professional society (Poultry Science Association). I am also fully cognizant of the importance of this journal to the business model of one professional association of researchers. I would mention that we have worked closely DC Principles Coalition and endorse their position.

It should be recognized that there is self-interest from journals, irrespective of whether published by profit companies or non-profit professional societies, in not supporting free open access. Equally there is strong self-interest in university libraries (or universities or associations of universities) supporting open access because they are likely to reduce their costs of purchasing journals.

Scientific journals provide a tremendous public good, including the following:

- Scientific journals published by professional societies provide the mechanism for scientist-to-scientist communication with the peer-review process assuring the scientific quality of papers and editors, including technical editors, improving the readability of the papers. This is critical to maximizing the return of investments in research and development.
- Scientific journals published in the USA contribute to the strong reputation of US science throughout the world.
- Scientific journals provide significant direct economic impact in the USA with jobs in editorial services, printing, distribution, archiving and IT and, I would suggest, a tangible export market for US goods.

I am concerned to see consideration of a move to open access without, seemingly, research on the potential impacts of this move.

Questions I would ask include the following:

1. Who is to pay the very real costs of producing journals with this move to open access? Should it be the researcher, and, if so, where is the additional funding to come from? Is it realistic to consider that journals should absorb the costs?
2. At what point do libraries cease to purchase subscriptions for journals if their contents are available by open access?
3. If library subscriptions to journals are an essential part of the business plan of a journal or a professional society, how many journals will disappear if we go to a completely open access approach?
4. As a journal editor with, at present, a positive cash flow, we can and do waive page charges from papers from institutions in developing countries that cannot afford to pay these. We will not be able to continue this if there is a major reduction in revenue. Forcing journals to adopt an author-pays model would have a stifling effect on the publication of work from authors in developing countries.
5. What is a reasonable embargo period between publication and the paper being available by free open access?

Many journals, including the one I edit, provides freely electronic access to all one year after publication, free immediate access to researchers in the 40 poorest nations, and reduced-cost access to researchers in the next tier of nations based on their per capita income.

Again, I make the strong request that there be a reasoned investigation as to the costs and benefits of a move to open access.

Sincerely,

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