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The Other Darker Side of Open Access Publishing and the Implications for Academia

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Abstract:

Traditional publishing models have in the past made access to research and publications quite prohibitive for some groups. To counter some of these access challenges came open access publishing (OA). This model promotes the free access to research, information and articles without the usual constraints associated with traditional publishing models such as copyright/licensing agreements and high subscription costs. With the OA publishing models journal editors ask authors to contribute to the costs of producing the journal. This fee, the article processing cost (APC), is intended to support the online hosting of the journal, peer-reviewing, editing and other functions associated with journal production. It is this APC that is at the crux of the undermining of the integrity of OA publishing. Predatory publishing has emerged from the exploitation of the APC and continues to be a dire threat for those institutions and academics that are implicated and impacted by this darker side of OA publishing. This presentation discusses some of the emerging issues as they relate to academia, and show how librarians have been and can be key stakeholders in the anti-predatory publishing fight.