

What is the place for open access publishing?

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Topics

- Brief description of Addiction, the journal*
- Open access models*
- Benefits of open access*
- Disadvantages of open access*
- Beyond open access*
- The QIAD model*



Addiction: the journal

- ❑ Specialist peer-reviewed journal covering clinical, human pre-clinical and epidemiological aspects of pharmacological and behavioural addictions
- ❑ Published monthly totalling about 1800 pages per year
- ❑ 70% research reports and reviews; 30% commissioned material
- ❑ Receives about 600 papers to consider each year; accepts about 25% of them



Addiction: editorial effort

- ❑ No editorial staff are paid but in some cases their departments receive funds in part compensation for their time
- ❑ Total academic time from senior editorial staff is about 2.5 full-time equivalents (FTEs)
- ❑ Total admin and secretarial time is about 4 FTEs
- ❑ Estimated time from ~100 Assistant Editors is about 0.5 FTEs
- ❑ Estimated time from reviewers 1 FTE



Addiction: ethos

- To do more than act as a filter and repository for research papers
 - to help improve papers
 - to help improve the quality of research in the field
 - to help develop and promote ethical standards in the field
 - to inform policy and clinical practice



Addiction: costs and access

- ❑ Institutional rate is about £950
- ❑ Institutions can get it cheaper in consortium deals
- ❑ Individuals can get it by joining Society for the Study of Addiction (£85)
- ❑ Commissioned material is free online
- ❑ Researchers can get articles free by emailing authors for pdfs or purchase them individually

Open access models

- Open access journals
 - Full functionality e-journals with authors paying the costs
 - Full functionality e-journals with sponsors paying costs
 - Limited functionality e-journals with costs absorbed by host academic institutions
- Open access repositories
 - University-based
 - Individual-based
 - Funding body-based
 - Central

Benefits of open access

- ❑ Users with limited funds would have greater access to research findings
- ❑ Could reduce profiteering from journal publishers

Disadvantages of open access

- Repositories
 - Increases administrative burden on authors, sometimes having to lodge papers with multiple repositories
 - Could lead to demise of useful journals
 - Could cause problems with 'version control', indexing and searching
- Free-to-access e-journals
 - Could lead to reduced functionality of e-journal publishing to reduce costs
 - Could reduce opportunities of researchers to publish in high functionality journals because of cost
 - Could create perverse incentives to publish lower quality articles

Beyond open access

Open publishing

- Researchers do not submit to peer-reviewed journals but simply place articles in repositories
 - Peer review is a very poor filter anyway (typical inter-reviewer reliability: 0.2-0.3)

Selective databases

- Databases replace or supplement journals as the quality filters/advisors
 - Google search engine, an agreed system for self-cataloguing online articles, expert ratings of quality, and usage statistics could provide a powerful and valuable service

What to do?

- ❑ There is a serious risk that open access and open publishing will reduce ability to find quality research and it may reduce the quality of research publications
- ❑ Currently, access has never been easier for researchers – just email for a reprint!
- ❑ There are too many imponderables to predict how things will turn out
- ❑ One possible model for the future is the selective database model: **Quality Indexed Article Database (QIAD) model**

What is wrong with the current system?

- ❑ Getting papers published is becoming more and more bureaucratic with unnecessarily convoluted online submission systems and now requirements to put material in repositories
- ❑ Many publishers overcharge for their journals because they have a de-facto monopoly
- ❑ Some academics are free-loading by refusing to do their share of editorial and review work
- ❑ Many journals, especially in psychology, provide an extremely poor service to authors in terms of delays and quality of review and editorial decision making
- ❑ The quality of citation practice in the literature is very poor

Can the QIAD model improve things?

□ Benefits

- Can involve a simple cataloguing system that is Google-friendly, reducing red tape
- No need for referees or editors: the system is largely automated
- Costs would be slashed
- Would cut out delays and side-step poor quality editorial work
- Would improve citation practice by making user-defined better quality articles easier to access

□ Disadvantages

- Could be subject to manipulation
- Societies and publishers would have to find other sources of income

A typical QIAD entry

- ❑ Title: A randomised controlled trial of chilli enemas as a cure for heroin addiction
- ❑ Authors: Some blokes
- ❑ Fields: Medicine, Behavioural science, ...
- ❑ Subfields: Addiction, Psychiatry, ...
- ❑ Method type: RCT
- ❑ Key words: chilli, heroin, treatment, ...
- ❑ Abstract: ...
- ❑ What this study adds: ...
- ❑ Link to article: ...
- ❑ Number of times entry accessed: ...
- ❑ Number of times article accessed: ...
- ❑ Modal quality rating: International
- ❑ Concordance in quality ratings: 60%
- ❑ Number of times cited by other authors: