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OASPA: all you'd like to know about open access

http://oaspa.org

Open Access (OA) publishing is no longer an emerging model or an experiment, but a widespread approach to delivering scientific communications. For this reason, in 2008 OASPA (Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association) was created by a group of open access publishers to develop appropriate business models, exchange information, and educate both the research community and the public on the benefits of OA journals.

The Association now numbers more than 80 members with interests ranging from professional publishing to independent (scientist/scholar) publishing and everything in between. Its website offers many useful resources and invaluable information for all professionals involved in open access publishing.

One of the aims of the Association is to set standards and best practices. The full statement released jointly with the Committee on Publication Ethics, the Directory of Open Access Journals and the World Association of Medical Editors is an attempt to identify and clarify principles of transparency, setting apart legitimate journals and publishers from illegitimate ones. This includes strict criteria for membership, for both journals and books, which are listed in full on the website. To maintain high standards, members of OASPA are expected to adhere to the Professional Code of Conduct, which includes directives about the peer review process, marketing activities and the visibility of information on websites. Maintaining standards also means misconduct detection: the Association offers a "complaints procedure" service for those who have concerns about misconduct by one of the members.

For those who would like to know everything about OA, there is a selection of books available. Two of them are freely obtainable: *Open Access*, by Peter Suber, which can be accessed on the publisher's website http://mitpress.mit.edu/books/open-access in html version, and *Open Access and the Humanities*, available as pdf http://ebooks.cambridge.org/ebook.jsf?bid=CBO9781316161012. Furthermore, the Open Access Spectrum Guide highlights the benefits of this approach and describes the PLOS model.

The blog offers another supply of additional resources, such as *HowOpenIsIt?*, a guide that standardizes open access terminology and defines its core components. The guide is available in many languages, and can be useful to editors, authors, research funders, and institutions to determine scholarly journals' degree of openness.

Finally, OASPA organizes an annual conference, all recordings and slides of which are available on the website. For example, presentations of OASPA's 6th Conference, hosted by UNESCO at their headquarters in Paris in September 2014, offer an overview of the current status of open access publishing around the world. Open access models and diffusion in Latin America and Africa are described and specific case studies are highlighted, illustrating for example, OA business models for learned societies or for challenges and barriers of data sharing.

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