**Road to Open Access in the Sciences: Exploring publishing trends in OA journals at York University**

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Academic freedom and openness are the hallmarks of scholarship*.* Academic libraries have devoted large amount of monies in acquiring subscription based electronic journals for the academic community. The e-journals are purchased as bundles or are acquired as individual titles. Over recent years there has been an astronomical increase in journal prices and academic libraries are finding it extremely difficult to get new journals or even renew subscriptions. As libraries have struggled to meet the needs of their colleagues, researchers themselves have become dissatisfied that their libraries can no longer afford to buy back their research output even though this is largely provided free of cost to journal publishers. Similarly, research funding agencies have become concerned that the published results of research they fund are largely unread. Scientific progress is being impeded due to inadequate access to research which ironically is being conducted collaboratively with global researchers. As a consequence publishing in Open Access (OA) journals as an alternative route is gaining acceptance within the science community.

Science librarians at York University have created various means to inform faculty members about the benefits of publishing in OA journals. Our libraries support Open Access publishers in the form of institutional memberships thus allowing affiliated scientists to publish in OA journals by paying a subsidized Article Processing Cost. Some faculty members have taken the lead in publishing their work in OA journals. Our present study sheds light on the factors that lead science faculty to choose OA journals over subscription based journals with particular reference to biomedical research. The implications of funding agencies and their policies on OA to funded research are explored during informal interviews with faculty members who have embraced OA publishing. This exercise was intended to identify OA champions on campus for future promotion of OA initiatives.

The study proposes some key points for increasing support to OA journals based on feedback from science researchers. Different strategies and tools adopted by librarians and research officers to promote OA initiatives are examined. This paper highlights the new role of science librarians as awareness builders in the changing knowledge dissemination arena. It speaks to the librarian's role in extending the research capacities of our university to a global audience in view of Canadian research funders’ public access policies.