Open Access
A grad student perspective!

Colúm Connolly
October 25\textsuperscript{th} 2013
Who am I?

5th PhD in Medical Genetics

Completed BSc (Hons) in Dublin City University, Ireland in Genetics and Cell Biology

Vice President Academic and External Affairs at the Graduate Student Society (UBC-V)
Green Open Access

Can be discipline-specific

Can be institution-based

Author preserves certain rights when they submit their journal to a publisher.

As of February 2012, there are 2170 repositories worldwide, with a growth rate of just under one new repository a day. Canada houses 56 repositories.
Gold Open Access

An open access journal publishes each of its articles freely online.

In 2009, the Directory of Open Access Journals estimates the existence of 6,000 open access journals, compared to the 30,000 journals worldwide.

As journals typically gain their revenues from selling access, there are a number of modified business models that open access journals use:

- hybrid open/closed access,
- submission fees and
- embargoes on open content.
“Serials crisis”
Extreme price increase of scholarly journals

Between 1986 and 2003

Price per prescription rose by 68%
Library subscription expenses rose 260%
Library subscription expanded to 14% more journals

All in despite of technological advances
What is Access like now?

Scholars at large institutions like UBC have access to around 98,000 serial subscriptions.

University of Manitoba have access to around 18,000.

In developing countries access is severely limited!
Students main problem with current system

Through our taxes and tuition we underwrite a vast portion of research, yet we are denied access to the results unless we also pay often very expensive subscription fees.

Universities role and Open Access?
Publishing in OA journals

Some OA journals require authors who wish to be published to pay author fees. Prices can vary from $100 to $5000, with most around $3000.

These include pure OA journals, where each article is released OA, and hybrid journals that contain a mix of classically released and OA content.

When choosing to publish, researchers may favor the less author-costly option of a non-OA journal. Author funds, which researchers can receive to cover author fees, are crucial in incentivizing OA publication.

Some institutions have established author funds to pay for author fees.
Universities role within Open Access

To foster research for the betterment of society, University Persons are encouraged to discuss and Publicly Disclose the results of their research, including University Research Products, as soon and as fully as may be reasonable and possible, provided that doing so will not violate any agreements that supported or are related to their research.

University Persons are reminded that Publicly Disclosing the details of an invention or discovery may make it impossible to seek patent protection for such invention or discovery.
Where does intellectual property lie?

To promote the dissemination of knowledge and maximize the University’s impact on society

To facilitate the non commercial use of inventions arising from University Research

To establish the University as a hub of knowledge transfer and networking between researchers, industry and customers;

To maximize the University’s impact on economic development and GDP growth

To build constructive relationships with industry and entrepreneurs and cement the University’s role as a leader in the Mobilization of research.
Everyone wants a cell paper

![Bar chart showing mean impact factors for different fields in 1998.](chart.png)
How will Open Access effect impact factor driven culture
NSERC, SSHRC want feedback on open access

Comments invited on draft policy Oct. 15 to Dec. 13


The Tri-agency Open Access Policy is modelled after the open access policy in the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, which went into effect in 2008. It requires researchers to make their published research available for free to the public within 12 months of publication.
What students can and are doing

Be actively involved in a culture change

Discuss Open Access publication with your professor early in your career

With ongoing technological advancements we as academics and future leaders of society need to drive change
The Right to Research coalition

• The Right to Research Coalition
  – “Access to research is a student right”

  – “Open Access seeks to return scholarly publishing to its original purpose: to spread knowledge and allow that knowledge to be built upon.”
Open Access Button

This idea was a browser-based tool – tracks how often readers are denied access to academic research, where in the world they were or their profession and why they were looking for that research.
Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA)

All manuscripts published are in post-refereed form

All associated datasets are made available in a non-proprietary format

An embargo of up to six months for scientific publications (NSERC and CIHR) and up to a year for social scientific and humanities publications (SSHRC) is permitted;
GSS cIRcle Open Scholar Awards

Open to graduate students at UBC who submit exemplary non-thesis manuscripts or projects as part of graduate course work to cIRcle, UBC’s digital repository

Collaboration between GSS and cIRcle/UBC library

4 Awards of $500 for individuals who submit non-thesis works to cIRcle awarded each year
Summary

Open access will require a culture change at all levels

Open access is inevitable – will we ever see a vuze to illegally download journal articles?

This is an opportunity for us all to get involved and make a change for the better
References


University of Calgary. Open Access Authors Fund. Accessed Online: http://library.ucalgary.ca/services/-faculty/open-access/open-access-authors-fund-0


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![Bar chart showing mean impact factor for different scientific fields in 1998]

- Fundamental Life Sciences: High
- Neuroscience: Medium
- Clinical Medicine: High
- Pharmacology & Toxicology: Medium
- Physics: High
- Chemistry & Chemical Engineering: Medium
- Earth Sciences: Medium
- Environmental Sciences: High
- Biological Sciences: High
- Materials Science & Engineering: Medium
- Social Sciences: Low
- Mathematics & Computer Sciences: Low
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