Open Access and quality publishing

Professor Margaret Davies, Associate Head, Research Education, Humanities and Law
Where Should I Publish?
(Article length pieces)

• In an ERA-listed scholarly journal (C1):
  – The 2012 list is available via http://www.arc.gov.au/era/era_2012/archive/default.htm;
  – Within this list, you should seek to publish in the highest quality journal;
  – The 2015 list is currently being developed: it is likely to be different from the 2012 list.

• In an edited collection published by a reputable scholarly or commercial publisher (B1):
  – In a rapidly changing publication environment, some exploitative practices take place (e.g. “author mills”: publishers that are essentially printers of any camera-ready copy that scholars are willing to provide, with no or minimal submission screening, editorial engagement or review, or marketing);
  – As is the case with scholarly journals, judgements (by peers, by appointments or promotions committees) about the quality of the publisher may act as proxy for judgements about the quality of the research.
Where Should I Publish?
(Article length pieces)

• In a volume of Conference Proceedings that are fully-refereed (i.e. the entire paper, not just the abstract, has been refereed in a rigorous double-blind process, and this is clearly stated in the publication):
  – Please note that changes have recently been made to EHL research funding schemes (including National and Overseas conference funding and OSP funding) to encourage publication in venues other than Conference Proceedings volumes, except in very specific circumstances.
Open Access publishing: the move toward making publicly-funded research and research materials publicly available.

“Universities Australia supports the ongoing development of open access initiatives in Australian universities; digital publishing practices that disseminate scholarly knowledge economically and in keeping with good research practice, including the protection of intellectual property rights and appropriate attribution; and that scholarly knowledge from publically funded research is readily available to the public, both nationally and internationally, for the purposes of achieving maximum benefit to society.”

(Belinda Robinson, CEO, Universities Australia, presentation to National Scholarly Communications Forum, May 2013.)

“The ARC has introduced a new open access policy for ARC funded research which takes effect from 1 January 2013. According to this new policy the ARC requires that any publications arising from an ARC supported research project must be deposited into an open access institutional repository within a twelve (12) month period from the date of publication.”

(http://www.arc.gov.au/applicants/open_access.htm)
Rationale for Open Access

• Publicly funded research should be freely available (ARC, NHMRC, NIH, European and British funders)
• Profit-levels of large publishers
• Academics do most of the work for journals (and all of the intellectual work) for no additional pay
• Subscriptions crisis in libraries ($256m on journals in Australia in 2011 (source, Colin Steele))
Open Access publishing: Gold model

- Publication available on the journals’ website at no charge to any reader;
- Usually financed through “Article Processing Charge” (APC);
- Can be an ‘option’ in journals run by Wiley, Elsevier, Taylor and Francis, Thomsons, Sage etc;
- Or mandatory on privately run journals;
- Journals often reassure the author that this charge is normally paid by a research grant or by the author’s institution.
- NB: Flinders does not have a funding scheme that covers this cost;
Problems with gold

• Double-dipping by publishers (charging an author/institution an APC and also charging the Institutional Libraries subscription fees);
• Scale of costs – up to $3000 per article;
• Charging for work already done at public expense;
• Opens pathways for predatory publishing
• Where does the money come from?

(Having endorsed gold OA originally, RCUK now permits either gold or green)
Open Access publishing: Green model

- Authors publish in a journal, and then archive or link a version of the paper in a freely available archive – most often an institutional repository (i.e. The Flinders Academic Commons);
- No cost to publish, and no cost for anyone to access;
- Journals have varying policies about which version of a paper authors are permitted to archive: pre-print (grey literature) or post-print;
- One should always be careful to check the detail of the copyright agreement when publishing; it may affect whether or not you are permitted to archive a copy in an institutional repository (or otherwise re-use your work).
Platinum or Universal Open Access

• Free to publish, free to access
• Journals run by volunteer academic labour
• Mainly online only
• Institutions bear costs of hosting sites
• Open source software (eg Open Journal Systems)
Predatory publishers

Some new ‘open-access’ journals are essentially opportunistic businesses exploiting an explosion in academic publishing and the growth of open access journals. Many such journals will only publish for a fee.

If you are uncertain, check the credentials of the editors and whether the journal is associated with a reputable institution. The landscape of academic publishing is undergoing considerable change at present, with more taking place solely online. Conventions relating to such publishing are not yet firmly established and so it is advisable to be cautious.
Some things to look out for:

• Extremely broad coverage of subjects in one journal;
• Extremely broad journal titles;
• Several journals with extremely similar titles emerging from the one publisher;
• Detail about any payments that might be necessary for publication to occur (though this is sometimes not readily available until after submissions have been made) – check “Instructions for Authors” or similar
• Impact factor and rankings information from invented companies.
Some examples are fairly easy to spot ...

(http://scholarlyoa.com/2012/07/23/journals-from-antarctica/)
Useful links & contacts

• Flinders Academic Commons: [http://dspace.flinders.edu.au/](http://dspace.flinders.edu.au/)
• Liz Hall, Flinders’ Open Scholarship and Data Management Librarian.