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Developing Open Access Journals

A Practical Guide

Dr David J. Solomon, Michigan State University

This book provides a practical guide to developing and maintaining an electronic open access peer-reviewed scholarly journal. Creating such journals, particularly if it is done well, requires a great deal of specialized knowledge that spans library science, web development, intellectual property rights and publishing, as well as well issues that are unique to the activity itself. The book provides a very practical step by step guide to addressing the issues of creating an open access journal.

Key Features

- Is the first book on the practical issues of developing an open access journal – what to do, and what not to do
- The book is comprehensive and provides a step by step guide in the process of developing an open access journal

Contents

Introduction – scope and purpose of this book; overview and short history of open access (OA) publishing; ethical and practical reasons why scholarship should be freely available; issues to consider for starting OA journals

Journals examples – five successful open access journals; their structure; operations; financing and history; used throughout the book as examples

Journal planning issues – defining a scope for the journal; defining a peer-review policy; determining an editorial structure (editorial board etc.); developing policies (complaint, copyright, etc.); journal structure/content issues (types of articles, letters, editorials, etc.)

Hosting and data systems – selecting a journal management system (or not); web development/hosting issues; security and disaster planning

Copyright and other intellectual property issues

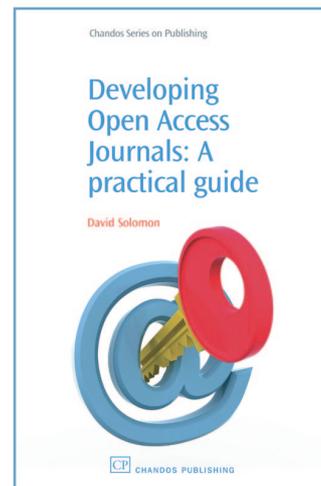
Finance/business plan – potential sources of revenue for OA journals; strategies for minimizing costs; volunteer support strategies

Indexing and archiving – concepts; archiving issues; indexing issues; obtaining an International Standard Serial Number (ISSN); the Directory of Open Access Journals

Launching the journal – announcing and publicizing the journal; gathering initial content; addressing the ‘chicken/egg’ problem of developing credibility

Sustaining the journal – the dilemma of success; planning for sustainability

Conclusions – other sources of information; the need for cooperation among OAI community



The Author

Dr Solomon is a Professor of Medicine at Michigan State University. He started an open access electronic journal in medical education, *Medical Education Online*, which has grown rapidly over its 13 years in operation.

Readership

Professional societies, special interest groups, and individuals interested in starting open access journals; academic librarians; and students on library science courses.

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