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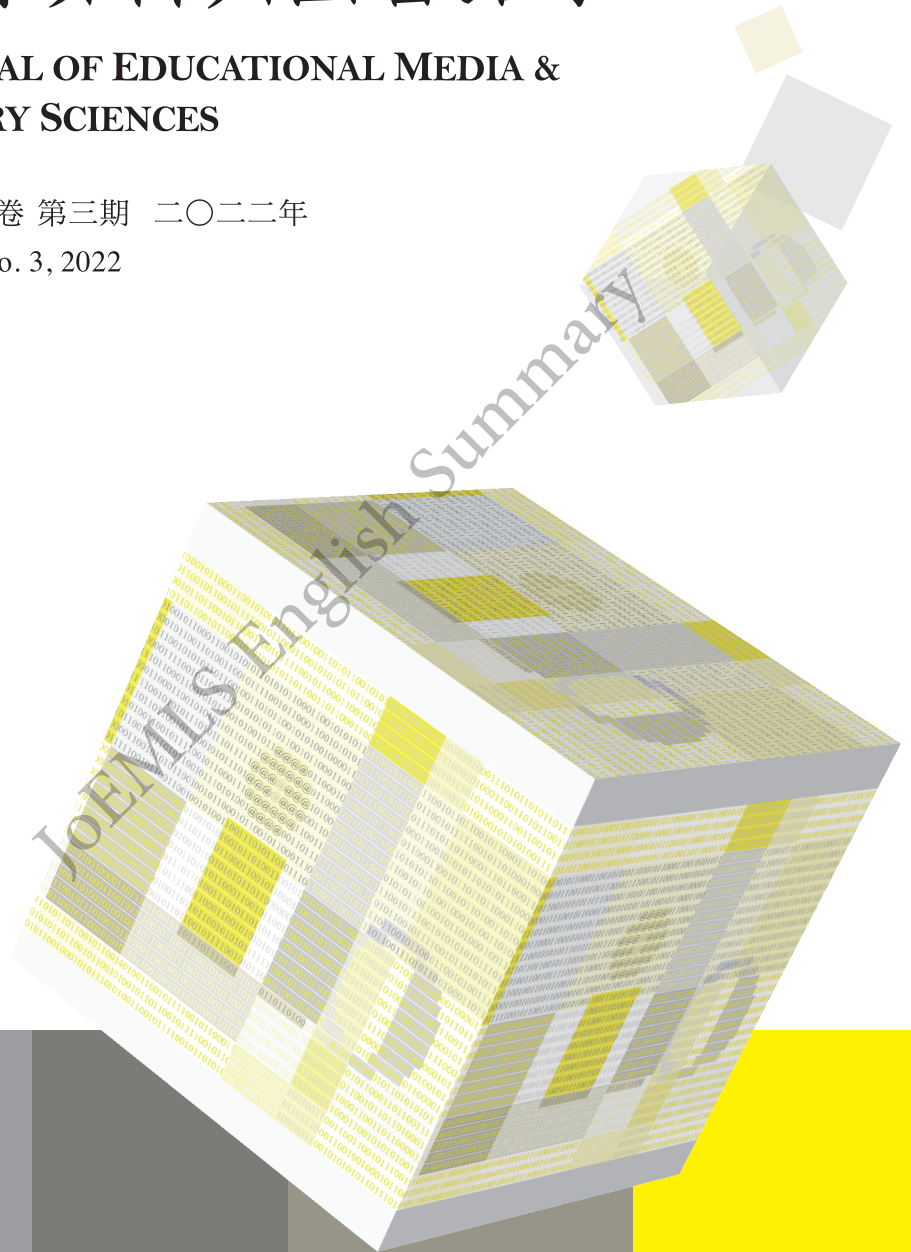
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教育資料與圖書館學，始於1970年3月創刊之教育資料科學月刊，其間於1980年9月更名為教育資料科學，並改以季刊發行。自1982年9月起易今名。另自2016年11月起，改以一年出版三期（3月、7月、11月）。現由淡江大學出版中心出版，淡江大學資訊與圖書館學系和覺生紀念圖書館合作策劃編輯。本刊為國際學術期刊，2008年獲國科會學術期刊評比為第一級，2015年獲科技部人文社會科學研究中心評定為教育學門專業類一級期刊。並廣為海內外知名資料庫所收錄(如下英文所列)。

The JOURNAL OF EDUCATIONAL MEDIA & LIBRARY SCIENCES (JoEMLS), published by the Tamkang University Press and co-published with the Department of Information & Library Science (DILS) and Chueh Sheng Memorial Library, was formerly the **Bulletin of Educational Media Science** (March 1970 – June 1980) and the **Journal of Educational Media Science** (September 1980 – June 1982). In 2015, The JoEMLS is acknowledged as the first class scholarly journal in Taiwan by Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST). Since November 2016, the JoEMLS has been changed from quarterly to a tri-annual journal, published in March, July, and November.

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JoEMLS 編輯政策

本刊係採開放存取 (Open Access) 與商業資料庫付費途徑，雙軌發行之國際學術期刊，兼具電子版與紙本之平行出版模式。本刊除秉持學術規範與同儕評閱精神外，亦積極邁向 InfoLibrary 寓意之學域整合與資訊數位化理念，以反映當代圖書資訊學研究趨勢、圖書館典藏內容與應用服務為本；且以探討國內外相關學術領域之理論與實務發展，包括圖書館學、資訊科學與科技、書業與出版研究等，並旁及符合圖書資訊應用發展之教學科技與資訊傳播論述。

開放取用政策

在作者授權之基礎下，讀者可經由本刊網站立即取得本刊全文資料。本刊遵從 DOAJ 對於開放取用 (Open Access) 的定義以及布達佩斯宣言。讀者無須註冊即可閱讀本刊內容，本刊亦不向投稿者及作者收取文章處理費 (article processing charge, APC)。

典藏政策

JoEMLS 向來以「綠色期刊出版者」(Green Publisher / Journal) 自居，同意且鼓勵作者將自己投稿至 JoEMLS 之稿件，不論同儕評閱修訂稿與否，都能自行善加利用處理，但希望有若干限制：

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The JoEMLS is an Open Access (OA) Dual, double-blind reviewed and international scholarly journal dedicated to making accessible the results of research across a wide range of Information & Library-related disciplines. The JoEMLS invites manuscripts for a professional information & library audience that report empirical, historical, and philosophical research with implications for librarianship or that explore theoretical and practical aspects of the field. Peer-reviewed articles are devoted to studies regarding the field of library science, information science and IT, the book trade and publishing. Subjects on instructional technology and information communication, pertaining to librarianship are also appreciated. The JoEMLS encourages interdisciplinary authorship because, although library science is a distinct discipline, it is in the mainstream of information science leading to the future of InfoLibrary.

Open Access Policy

With author's authorization, readers can immediately obtain full texts for free online via our journal website. We comply with the DOAJ definition on Open Access, and the Budapest Open Access Initiative (BOAI) which means we allow and provide. There is no requirement for readers to register to read the contents of JoEMLS, and JoEMLS does not charge article processing charge (APC) to contributors and authors.

Archiving Policy

The JoEMLS, as a role of "OA green publisher/journal," provides free access online to all articles and utilizes a form of licensing, similar to Creative Commons Attribution license, that puts minimal restrictions on the use of JoEMLS's articles. The minimal restrictions here in the JoEMLS are:

- (1) authors can archive both preprint and postprint version, the latter must be on a non-commercial base;
- (2) publisher's PDF version is the most recommend if self-archiving for postprint is applicable; and
- (3) published source must be acknowledged with citation.

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EDITORIAL

Herd Behavior Led by Taiwan Open Access Policy

Open Access (hereinafter referred to as OA) in international scholarly publishing is cultivated with profound historical background, factors related to industrial structure, the priority in state policies, the special political and economic environment, and linguistic disparities. Since Taiwan is in a very special situation and struggles to survive, pursuing OA from the west ignorantly without distinguishing itself nor responding to the dilemma will demolish the soundness of Taiwan scholarly publishing industry and the opportunity for sustainable development.

Historically, the accomplishment in western scholarly publishing industry even led to the so-called “trust” monopoly, the crisis in journal price, and promoted the recent Journal Transformative Agreements for libraries and that proves OA policy has been international mainstream thought. All these reflections and operation have certainly attributed to a friendly and reasonable market environment for scholarly journal publishing with improvement and at least prevailed the power of librarianship in defending public resources. The stakeholders of all these incidents have composed a scholarly community with journal authors, journal publishers, database vendors, libraries and scholars (readers) from countries across the world who can hardly be excused from this controversy of OA and anti-OA. Thus there is no exception for Taiwan. However, is this simple and pure thinking correct? What role or roles has Taiwan played while facing the academic war of century? The answer is, we have played all user roles but were incapable of taking the critical part as producers.

Undoubtedly, the academic field of English writing, and the multinational corporations built and operated by large scholarly publishing groups or database companies are the main targets to conquer and the battlefield of this war. Taiwan, in addition to publishing English academic articles, has much massive market needs in Chinese scholarly publishing and publication. The environment in Taiwan is completely different from that in international OA movement with distinct historical development background and market needs. In other words, Taiwan surely should meet international OA trend, take the same side and act accordingly; yet Taiwan should adopt two-hand strategy to differentiate internal and external moves. For international database procurement for library, Taiwan should be at the same path of international alliance; yet for Taiwan scholarly publication market/industry, Taiwan should be extremely cautious and respond rationally.

Without considering the value of knowledge economy nor too much detail on copyright, Taiwan should be able to align with current OA trend and prioritize “academic information for public sector” as the first OA subject. Nevertheless the reality reveals a huge gap to ideal situation and requires thorough auditing in responsible agencies like National Science Council, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education, National Development Council, the discernment on international reality, and control on work priority rather than acting separately. Many public sectors mumbled OA slogans without comprehension but implement policies with conservation and contradiction. For example, national universities concern not requiring licensing fee from external OA institutions may violate the relevant regulations on property usage of public institutions and even break the laws for “profiting from merchants”? Thus, potential partners and opportunities for OA cooperation are excluded recklessly for the concerns above while overseas OA institutions may enjoy the generous dedication without actually paying any licensing fee to address the concept of “bringing Taiwan to the world” and “internationalization”? Furthermore: recently government intended to invest in establishing “the system for paper submission and review” for academic articles without acknowledging the utmost needs should be based on necessity and the deployment to review “theses for academic seminars” for all universities and academy associations should be prioritized rather than to scholarly journals! Policies lacking understanding on market mechanism nor development status, measures based on preference, and improper OA policies are of great concerns.

National OA policy should be evaluated cautiously with consideration on Chinese environment, state conditions, and industries to avoid impetuosity and bigotry! It is unwise that Taiwan just followed international OA movement blindly without tracks (means and goals), timeframe (observing timing and prior alerts), debates (the necessity of Taiwan OA policies) and that led to the emergence of recent “the Herd Behavior”. In addition, the soundness of Taiwan scholarly publishing industry has been jeopardized consequently for its political concerns, followed by nearly anti-business measures which are cultivated by the reality pressure and political climate of the industry-government-university alliance bowing to OA trend. OA policy lacking debates nor discerns is a simplified mainstream moral consciousness and permanent saboteur to Taiwan scholarly publishing environment.

Finally, in this Issue 3 of Volume 59, 12 manuscripts have gone through the review process, we have accepted four manuscripts and rejected eight with a rejection rate of 66.7% (8 out of 12). Several manuscripts are still in the review process. The four manuscripts published in this issue include “A Study

on Taiwanese Scholars' Perceptions and Practices of Open Access Journals" by Hao-Ren Ke; "Multimodal E-Book Co-Reading Practices Between Parents and Children" by Guan-Ming Chen and Chien Wen (Tina) Yuan; "Open Access Mega Journals: Development, Peer Review Mechanism, and Suggested Practices for the Academia" by Sophia Jui-An Pan and "Understanding the OA2020 and ESAC Initiatives: The reflection of Transformative Agreements in Taiwan" by Meng-Ling Lin. We would like to thank these scholars for their excellent contribution and generous permission for making the peer review's comments and rebuttal open.

Jeong-You Chiu
JoEMLS Editor-in-Chief

JoEMLS English Summary



A Study on Taiwanese Scholars' Perceptions and Practices of Open Access Journals^ψ

Hao-Ren Ke

Abstract

This study attempts to understand Taiwanese scholars' perceptions and practices of open access journals (OAJ). A total of 1,177 valid questionnaires were collected from 15 research universities and Academia Sinica. The questionnaires cover the demographics information on scholars, their practices of publishing in OAJs, their perceptions of OA and OAJs, their opinions on the library services for OA, and their opinions on the establishment of OA policies or mandates. Three suggestions are given: 1. Scholars should adjust their perceptions and practices of OAJs according to the result findings; 2. academic libraries can broaden and enhance their services for OA; 3. research funding agencies and research institutes are encouraged to establish OA policies or mandates.

Keywords: *Open Access (OA), Open Access Journal (OAJ), Article Processing Charge (APC), Predatory Journals, Perception, Practice*

SUMMARY

Introduction

Open access (OA), a concept within open science, was originally proposed as a solution to the serials crisis. Piwowar et al. (2018) compiled 10 OA models, four of which are related to the present study and explained as follows.

1. Gold OA: Articles are published in an OA journal, that is, a journal in which all articles can be openly and directly accessed on the journal website. An article processing charge (APC) may be paid by authors.
2. Green OA: Articles are published in a toll-access journal but authors can archive them in an OA archive; these OA archives are either disciplinary repositories or institutional repositories.

^ψThe full version of the Literature Review Section has been presented in the Conference "Open and Sharing on Digital Scholarship: 50th Anniversary of Journal of Educational Media & Library Sciences. New Taipei: Tamkang University" held in 2021.

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3. Hybrid OA: Articles are published in a toll-access journal but can be immediately free to read under an open license if authors pay an APC. Hybrid OA journals contain both OA and non-OA articles.
4. Platinum or Diamond OA: Platinum or diamond OA journals are completely free to access and do not require authors to pay an APC. These journals are often subsidized by universities or research centers; through earnings support from non-OA journals; or through advertisements, peripheral services, membership fees, and donations.

This study mainly explored the Gold OA, Hybrid OA, and Platinum or Diamond OA models and collectively refers to these publishing models as open access publishing (OAP) and to the journals published using these models as open access journals (OAJs).

Scholars are the primary stakeholders of OAP. They may play roles as researchers, authors, editors, and peer reviewers in the dissemination of academic knowledge and the generation and spread of knowledge content. Accordingly, scholars' perceptions and the practices of OAP can determine the success of the OA movement. To explore Taiwanese scholars' perceptions and practices of OAP, the present study set the following research objectives:

1. To explore scholars' practices of OAP by investigating the properties of journals scholars choose to publish in, scholars' experience with publishing in OAJs, scholars' payment of APCs, and the authorization of articles published by scholars in OAJs.
2. To investigate scholars' perceptions of OAP and OAJs by investigating their motivations and intentions for publishing in OAJs, the autonomy of publishing in OAJs, the advantages and disadvantages of publishing in OAJs, scholars' understanding of and abilities related to using OAJs, and scholars' peer interactions through OA.
3. To analyze scholars' perceptions of the role libraries should play in the OA model.
4. To investigate scholars' opinions on OA mandates or policies established by research institutions or research project funding agencies.
5. To identify the differences in the perceptions and practices of OAJs of scholars in different disciplines, positions, age groups, years of conducting research, and ratio of conducting research activities.

Research Methods

This study employed questionnaire surveys as its research method. The questionnaire comprised the following dimensions: demographic information, practices of publishing behavior in OAJs, perceptions of OAP and OAJs,

perceptions of the roles libraries should play in the OA model, and opinions on OA mandates or policies established by research institutions or research project funding agencies.

Scholars from 16 research-oriented institutions were selected as the research participants. The e-mail addresses of 16,282 full-time researchers were collected from the institution websites. From November 1, 2021 to June 9, 2022, scholars were invited through e-mail to complete an anonymous questionnaire on the LimeSurvey online questionnaire system. A total of 1,800 questionnaires were retrieved, of which 1,200 were completed. After excluding the responses in which more than 10% of the items had not been responded to, 1,177 valid responses remained, posting a valid response rate of 7.2%. This valid response rate is consistent with that of literature conducting questionnaire surveys of scholars. For example, the valid response rate of Tenopir et al. (2011) was approximately 9%, and that of Lu and Ke (2020) was 7.8%. The lower response rate may have been the result of inaccurate e-mail address collected or e-mail servers classifying the questionnaire invitation as spam.

Results

The research results are as follows:

Scholars' practices of OAJs

1. Of the participants, 75.4% had experience publishing in OAJs.
2. APCs were generally paid using research project funding or coauthor research project funds. Additionally, some scholars had published in OAJs that did not require authors to pay APCs.
3. Of the participants, 26.1% and 22.0% reported that the highest APC they had paid was US\$1,000-1,999 and US\$2,000-2,999, respectively. However, 16.4% reported that they only published in OAJs that did not require an APC to be paid.

Scholars' perceptions of OAJs

1. The scholars' main motivations for publishing in OAJs were "to accelerate academic research," "to provide peers with limited resources with free access to the research results," and "to support the OA concept."
2. The scholars held a neutral–negative leaning attitude toward submitting future publications to OAJs. However, the OA mandates or policies of research institutions or research project funding agencies had a positive effect on the scholars' intentions to publish in OAJs.
3. The scholars generally considered themselves to have autonomy in publishing articles in OAJs.
4. The scholars generally agreed that the advantages of publishing articles as OA articles were higher dissemination and provision of free access to science and

academic knowledge. The disadvantages of publishing articles as OA articles were negative perceptions toward predatory journals and high APCs. However, most scholars had neutral–negative leaning attitudes toward the negative aspects of most OAJs.

5. The scholars generally considered themselves capable of selecting OAJs for publishing articles, understanding the definition of OAP, understanding the origins and concepts of the OA movement, and having the ability to identify predatory journals.
6. Some scholars had engaged in discussions with intramural or extramural peers on the topic of predatory journals. However, few scholars had engaged in discussions with librarians on the topic of OAP and predatory journals.

Others

1. The scholars perceived the roles libraries play in the OA model to include: (1) To introduce readers to topics such as how to identify predatory journals, predatory conferences, and predatory publishers; (2) to introduce users to information on OA models and the advantages and disadvantages of OAP; (3) to host activities that promote OA; (4) to sign contracts with publishers and journals for APC discounts; and (5) to collect and compile a list of OAJs that users could use for free. Most scholars expected libraries to promote OA, provide educational training, and compile information.
2. The scholars generally agreed that research institutions or research project funding agencies should establish OA mandates and policies.
3. Significant differences were observed in the perceptions and practices of OAJs in scholars of different age groups, disciplines, years of conducting research, and ratio of conducting research activities.

Conclusion and Suggestion

Several international studies have investigated scholars' perceptions and practices of OAP. However, because of differences in the scientific research environments and policies of each country, the findings of international studies may not be directly generalizable to Taiwanese scholars. Research on Taiwanese scholars' perceptions and practices of OAP is scant. The findings of the present study provide an in-depth understanding of the topic.

The following suggestions are provided on the basis of the research results:

1. Scholars may adjust their perceptions and practices of OAJs with consideration of these research findings;
2. libraries can increase and expand their OAP-related services on the basis of these research findings; and
3. research institutions and research project funding agencies are recommended to establish adequate OAP mandates or policies.

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JoEMLS English Summary



Multimodal E-Book Co-Reading Practices Between Parents and Children^ψ

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Abstract

Parent-child reading is one of the most important learning activities in parent-child interaction. It helps develop children's writing and reading skills and other mental abilities. In parent-child reading, children not only acquire knowledge from books but also gain ability training experiences from discussing with their parents. In addition, interactions between parents and children when reading together are also an important factor affecting children's learning. In this study, 14 groups of parents and children were recruited for the research on parent-child reading e-books, with interviews as the main method and observation as the supplement. Parent-child reading and various oral and non-verbal behaviors were observed. After observation, behaviors was discussed in depth through semi-structured interviews and compared with observational data. This study found that with different e-book carriers and forms, there were differences in reading behaviors, such as dialogue content and physical interactions between parents and children in each group. In addition, parents and children's opinions were different.

Keywords: Parent-child reading, E-book, Reading behavior, Reading

SUMMARY

Introduction

Due to the outbreak and prevalence of COVID-19, public areas and physical contact have entailed health risks. In addition, with the infection risks of paper books in public areas and ordering paper books through the Internet, e-book reading has become one reading alternative. This study proposes that parent-child reading may work as a possible and effective intermediary strategy through which

^ψThis article is based on the first author Guan-Ming Chen's master thesis "Multimodal E-Book Co-Reading Practices Between Parent and Child."

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the goal of cultivating children's reading habits and communicating with children can be achieved by involving parents in the reading process. In this view, this research conducted 14 groups of field research on parent-child reading interactions by observation method and in-depth interview method. This research aims to understand the following two research dimensions: 1. what kind of parent-child reading behaviors will occur when parents and children read e-books together; and 2. the influence of multimedia and the functions of e-books on parent-child reading behaviors.

Method

Fourteen groups of parents and children were recruited as the research subjects. In particular, seven fathers and seven mothers were recruited ($M = 43.1$ years old, $SD = 3.8$). The enrolled children aged from 6 to 12 whose educational levels were from Grade 1 to Grade 6 in domestic elementary schools. The children were required to have basic Chinese character recognition ability for follow-up semi-structured interviews on exploring the reasons for their parent-child reading behaviors. Detailed information about the parents and children receiving tests is listed in Table 1.

Table 1 Information About the Participating Parents and Children

No.	Parent			Child		E-books Read
	Gender	Age	Educational level	Gender	Age	
A	Male	42	Master's degree	Female	7	
B	Female	49	Master's degree	Male	12	
C	Male	46	Master's degree	Female	12	<i>Oceans—The Most Beautiful Oceans</i> Text-based e-book
D	Female	45	High school (vocational high school) diploma	Male	7	
E	Female	45	Bachelor's degree	Female	11	
F	Female	38	Master's degree	Female	6	
G	Female	44	Bachelor's degree	Male	8	<i>The Ugly Duckling</i> Dynamic Image e-book
H	Female	40	Bachelor's degree	Female	7	
I	Male	50	Doctoral degree	Male	7	
J	Male	45	Bachelor's degree	Male	11	
K	Female	40	Bachelor's degree	Male	12	<i>Little Formosan</i> <i>Muntjac and Leaves</i>
L	Male	38	Bachelor's degree	Male	9	
M	Male	38	Bachelor's degree	Female	8	AR e-book
N	Female	44	Associate's degree	Female	7	

The observation and semi-structured interview methods were employed in this study. The researchers invited parents and children to select one of the three different types of e-books, including the text-based e-book *OCEANS—The Most Beautiful Oceans Need Us to Protect Together*, the dynamic image e-book *The Ugly Duckling*, and the AR e-book *Little Formosan Muntjac and Leaves*, and read

them together through a tablet computer. After the participants have finished reading their selected books together, the researcher conducted semi-structured interviews with the parents and children separately after sorting out the observation data. The interview processes were entirely recorded for future research and discussion.

In this study, three books were available for selection: the text-based e-book *OCEANS—The Most Beautiful Oceans Need Us to Protect Together*, the text e-book with dynamic images and audio function *The Ugly Duckling*, and the AR 3D dynamic, audio, and textless e-book *Little Formosan Muntjac and Leaves*. Detailed data and the functions of the three e-books are shown in Table 2.

Table 2 E-Book Types Used by the Study

Types		Text-based e-book	Dynamic Image e-book	AR e-book	
Name		<i>OCEANS—The Most Beautiful Oceans Need Us to Protect Together</i>	<i>The Ugly Duckling</i>	<i>Little Formosan Muntjac and Leaves</i>	
Summary	Text	✓	✓	X	
	composition	Type of image	Plane, static	Plane, dynamic	3D, dynamic
		Page-turning mode	Sliding	Automatic	Button
	Functions	Zoom in/out	✓	X	✓
		Page-skipping	✓	X	X
		Audio book	X	✓	✓
	Interactive sound button	X	✓	✓	

Source: Compiled by this study.

Discussion

How Do the Types of E-book Impact Parent-Child Reading?

This study used three different types of e-books, including plain text, an audiobook with dynamic images, and an AR e-book, to understand the impact of different multimedia and interactive functions on parent-child reading.

The Impact of Parent-Child E-book Reading on Children

When parents and children used e-books to read together, their oral or non-oral behaviors decreased compared to parent-child reading paper books. After referring to the interview data of each group, this study found the following two causes:

1. Autonomy: Children had relatively high autonomy in reading e-books. When using e-books to read together, the children mastered the co-reading speed and the time and content of the discussion better.
2. Attention: Based on the parents’ opinions in the interview data, although children focused on reading e-books, the latter’s dialogue and interaction with their parents were reduced. The children only turned their attention to their parents when they wanted to ask questions or discuss.

Parent-Child E-book Reading: E-books' Assistance Functions for Parents

Based on the interview data, this study found that parents had different views on the impact of e-books or interactive functions. After summarizing the interview data, this study divided the assistance categories that e-books provided to parents into the following three aspects:

1. Assisting in presenting book contents: The dynamic images, the simulation environment in an AR e-book, or the characters' sound effects could help parents present more detailed story contents to children.
2. Reducing the burden on parents: The audiobook function of e-books helped parents recite stories to children so that they could have more time or leisure to interact with children or deliver extended knowledge about the stories.
3. Assisting with content that parents cannot provide: Some parents could not explain the content to children correctly or in detail. Nevertheless, e-books helped parents present the content through its audio function or the simulated audio effect function—for instance, the pronunciation of English words and the sounds of animals.

User-Led E-book Reading

The Importance of Timing for Parent-Child Reading

Some parents expressed more comments on the two functions of audio and automatic page turning. Audiobooks could help parents present more detailed story content, but they might also reduce children's interactions with their parents. The audio function might also cause children to rely on listening to e-books and develop the misconception that "listening is reading". In addition, the audiobooks selected in this study read one page at a time. With such a setup, parents and children could not decide the speed in parent-child reading. In terms of the automatic page-turning function, in addition to lacking time for children to think about, sort out, and digest the story context, the parents might not have mastered the children's reading situation and confirm the reading results when children did not ask questions or had less time to discuss with their parents.

This study proposes that either using paper books or e-books for parent-child reading, the time point should be controlled by parents and children. If the functions of e-books control the speed and pause timing in parent-child reading, the reading quality might be damaged.

Children Operated E-books in the Process of Parent-Child Reading

Some parents mentioned that when their children was reading the selected e-books, they sometimes played rather than read. This might be because children had the opportunity to operate e-books or 3C products during this experiment. As the parents usually limited the time for their children to use 3C products, this

caused the latter to tend to explore the functions of e-books or 3C products when they were exposed to 3C products or functional and operational e-books.

Based on the above two points, this study further proposes that children's non-verbal behaviors in parent-child e-book reading should also be emphasized. When selecting or designing e-books for parent-child reading, parents or e-book developers should consider the subjects who operate the e-books or 3C products or the configuration of interactive functions. In addition to parents limiting children's access to e-books or 3C products, designers are suggested to first consider whether the e-books are meant for parent-child reading. By doing so, more designs will be available to maintain children's normal co-reading under the circumstance of a higher frequency of children operating e-books.

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Open Access Mega Journals: Development, Peer Review Mechanism, and Suggested Practices for the Academia^ψ

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Abstract

The rise of open access mega journals has significantly changed the modern academic publishing industry. Mega journals adopt low-selective peer review standards, whereby peer reviewers only evaluate the soundness and ethics of research and no longer pay much attention to novelty, importance, and applicability. The academic community is concerned that this will make the quality of published works vary excessively and even make mega journals become a “dumping ground” for low-quality research. Given the lack of Chinese-language literature on mega journals, this study applies a literature review method to analyze the impact of mega journals on academia. This article first reviews the origins of mega journals and the main differences between them and traditional peer-reviewed journals; the paper also explicates the diverse viewpoints and discussions on mega journals in the international scientific communities. Finally, from the perspective of research integrity, this paper proposes practical guidance that research stakeholders might follow to respond to the prevalence of mega journals. It is hoped that the results of this research can serve as a reference for the higher education community in Taiwan.

Keywords: Higher education, Mega journals, Open access, Peer review, Scholarly publication

SUMMARY

Introduction and Method

In March 2022, the National Taiwan University College of Medicine (NTUCM) released an announcement, listing more than 600 journals that are suspicious in terms of publication practices, review standards, and/or manuscript

^ψ A small part of this article has been presented orally in the event “Looking at Mega Journals from Different Sides” on August 19, 2022, by the author; the recording of the event can be accessed at <https://youtu.be/bXQH27Gf4I8>.

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acceptance rates. From that day forward, when reviewing applications for institutional awards and grants, NTUCM has been applying a more rigorous review process to applicants with papers published in journals on the list. This list includes so-called mega journals, such as *PLoS One*, *Scientific Reports*, and *BMJ Open*. Following this announcement of NTUCM, many academic and research institutions have started to develop new policies on research performance evaluation related to mega journals.

However, the author noticed that there is a general lack of academic literature on mega journals in Chinese. Although some English journal articles and columns discuss mega journals worthy of reference, the practical suggestions made therein are not necessarily applicable to the academic context in Taiwan. This may affect the fairness and objectivity of the new policy-making process.

In order to make up for the shortage of Chinese literature, the author employed a literature review method to collect and analyze the current development of mega journals in the international arena, presenting the results as an observation report. First, using publicly available information and literature on the Internet, the author reviewed the origins of mega journals and the main differences between them and general (traditional) peer-reviewed journals. The report also presents the international academic community's major views and related discussions on the peer review mechanism of mega journals. Based on the analysis of the aforementioned data, the author proposed practical suggestions for people in different roles in academia, facing the prevalence of mega journals from the perspective of research integrity. The three specific objectives of this study are as follows:

1. To review the origin and characteristics of mega journals, especially those features that distinguish them from general peer-reviewed journals.
2. To compile discussion topics and results relevant to the peer review mechanisms of mega journals.
3. To propose practical approaches for different academic community stakeholders in response to the prevalence of mega journals.

Results

Origin and Characteristics of Mega Journals

In 2006, the Public Library of Science released the world's first mega journal, *PLoS ONE*, to counter the scholarly communication model dominated by journal metrics, including journal impact factor, and to create a new wave of change in academic publishing. *PLoS ONE* has successfully developed a unique academic publishing process and profit model. The success of *PLoS ONE* has led several academic publishers to follow up with mega journals, such as *ACS*

Omega, *AIP Advances*, *BMJ Open*, *Heliyon* (by Elsevier), *IEEE Access*, *Royal Society Open Science*, *SAGE Open*, and *Scientific Reports* (by Springer Nature).

The international academic community has formed an initial consensus to identify a journal as a mega journal; the more a journal meets the five characteristics presented in Table 1, the more it can be identified as a mega journal.

Table 1 Five Characteristics of Mega Journals

Characteristics	Description
Fully open access publishing	All mega journals are published with full open access, and the full text is available to the public without restriction.
Operated by an academic publisher or professional society/association	Various mega journals are run by established international academic publishers or professional societies/associations.
Broad collection of research in a variety of fields and topics	Mega journals publish a wide range of research topics and are divided into two types: (1) A wide collection of papers in a specific field, such as mega journals in the medical field accepting all submissions relevant to medicine and health, and (2) multi-disciplinary and extensive collection, i.e., a single mega journal publishes papers in various fields, such as engineering, medicine, and psychology.
Implement different peer review criteria than the traditional one	Mega journals apply low selectivity review criteria, reviewing only scientific soundness and ethics of methodology.
More voluminous single-volume and year-round issues	Mega journals have a larger publication volume than general peer-reviewed journals in terms of the number of issues in a single volume and throughout the year. However, it is not advisable to identify a journal as a mega journal only by the number of issues published.

Source: This study.

Peer Review Mechanism of Mega Journals

The peer review criteria of mega journals differ from the long-established review criteria, where reviewers are only required to verify the scientific soundness and ethics of research methods while reviewing a submission. This model is different from the traditional peer review process that also evaluates the novelty, importance, and applicability of the research topics and results.

In terms of the acceptance rate of manuscripts, mega journals have higher acceptance rates than their peer-reviewed counterparts. Meanwhile, mega journals have faster review and publishing speed than general peer-reviewed journals; thus, they have a shorter time from submission to publication. As an example, *PLoS ONE* requires reviewers to complete the review within 10 days, and all review processes are completed in about three months. Once accepted, the paper will be officially published online within two weeks.

Practices in Response to Mega Journals

Researcher (Author)

Researchers should carefully select mega journals with high information transparency for publishing practices, including using the *Directory of Open Access Journals* (DOAJ) to screen suitable journals. In addition, at present, the academic community has polarized views of mega journals. Therefore, early-career researchers need to think carefully, about whether to publish their research work in mega journals and use them to apply for faculty positions, institutional awards and grants, and teacher qualifications.

Academic and Research Institution and Institutional Reviewer

Academic and research institutions are responsible for ensuring the integrity and fairness of their collaboration contracts with research sponsors or funding agencies. Both parties must agree on the ownership of research data and products, the manner of disclosure, and the method of authorization for reuse.

Reviewers in academic and research institutions should understand that there are several reasons, why researchers submit their manuscripts to mega journals. The lower publication threshold of mega journals is not necessarily the only reason; another possibility would be that their research topics are novel, and they cannot find a corresponding peer-reviewed journal to submit their manuscripts to, or that researchers are under pressure to publish within a limited time, choosing to submit their manuscripts to mega journals for faster review. Therefore, the author suggests that institutional committees in charge of research performance evaluation to not overly presume the motivation of researchers before reviewing papers published in mega journals, and to conduct a scientific and substantive review of the content of papers submitted, using objective conditions. If committee members have doubts about any aspect of the submitted work, they should ask the applicant to provide additional supporting information for reference, such as a complete record of the peer review process and a written statement of the importance of the submitted work to the development of the field and its application potentials.

Librarian

Librarians may assist faculty members and students in publishing their research in good-quality open access journals through teaching, initial journal inspection, tracking publication status, and helping in the application process for subsidies regarding article processing fees. Regarding teaching, librarians can conduct courses on library services and access, leading students and faculty members to understand the current academic publishing environment, including introducing global trends (e.g., open access and mega journals) and potential risks (e.g., predatory journals). Librarians can also provide an initial inspection

of journals to help faculties and students to verify the quality of their submissions and to prevent them from submitting to predatory journals.

Moreover, by regularly tracking the institution's academic publication performance, librarians can track the publication status of the institution's members in mega journals, detecting anomalies in publications in a timely manner. Finally, if librarians could compile a list of channels for faculty members and students in various fields to apply for subsidies on article process fees, it would help to reduce their burden of paying the fees and increase their willingness to submit manuscripts to open access journals.

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Understanding the OA2020 and ESAC Initiatives: The Reflection of Transformative Agreements in Taiwan

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Abstract

Some libraries in Taiwan have adopted Publish and Read Plan or Transformative Agreements in the library journal subscription, which treated as Open Access plans in transition, for the journal renewal. As the publishing amount of scholarly articles in Taiwan are less than the Western countries, the most agreements here came up as Article Processed Charge (APC) discount or Read and Publish plan from scholarly association or medium publishers. Consortium on Core Electronic Resources in Taiwan (CONCERT) is encountering the global trends and domestic needs of the Transformative Agreements, we understand the complexities of major publishers and would like to have more exploration for the new concepts and plans to OA2020 Initiatives and Efficiency and Standards for Article Charges Initiatives, ESAC. Both of them advance the changing and migration of Open Access movement in western scholarly institutions. We intend to discover more fundamental steps to achieving ways or models in line with the Taiwan expectation.

Keywords: OA2020, ESAC Initiatives, Transformative Agreement, Taiwan, Consortium on Core Electronic Resources in Taiwan, CONCERT

SUMMARY

Introduction

OA movements evolved traditional journal subscriptions models of major European countries to Publish and Read Plan successfully. Tracking back to the path of revolution, the OA2020 and ESAC initiatives played crucial roles at the turning point. OA2020 initiative assembled representatives from global scholarly institutions and organizations, including national and international research councils, funding agencies, university associations, research institutes, universities, academic councils, and publishers, to share a common vision of

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making open the default in scholarly communications. In order to accelerate the action plan, it encourage the global scholarly communities to share OA strategies, to pursue the large-scale transformation of today's scholarly journals and convert the funds currently expended on subscriptions into funds to support Open Access publishing models, according to their own publishing preferences. ESAC initiatives functioned as open spaces for registering elements of transformative agreements and their APCs. The reflection of OA movement in the States are good reference for evolution. And its new OSTP memorandum is an irreversible push towards OA. Both initiatives could guide library practitioners to collaborate in sharing open resources and exchanging experiences and insights.

Research Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to observe and identify the knowledge, aspects and operations of implementing Open Access in library consortium. Understanding the transformation of new models and impact can lead the negotiation in a sustainable way in Taiwan.

Method

From inventorying websites of OA2020 and ESAC, the process, mechanisms and impact of the initiatives are explored. Transformative agreements are temporary and transitional to shift the traditional agreement to a global scale. All the information reflects the whole spectrum of principles, roadmap, workflow, guideline, data analytics, and team engagement of success evidences in OA events. With more literature reviews, transformative agreement, treated as a step stone for OA, are discussed in content and implementation. Throughout all the journey, this paper intends to discover the OA operation from management aspects.

Discussion

The initiatives map the OA position from institutional or national policies, infrastructure and procedures of all the stakeholders. Analyzing financial and publication data are fundamental for the action plans. Engage authors and administration boards to join the ventures by concerning their needs and advising. Many key questions are necessary for team building and group dynamic in preparing negotiation. As a leader for library consortium, it is very essential to get consensus from organizational level and publishers agreement levels. Each institution has the responsibilities to consider the factors in investing OA, i.e., download of articles, citations, authorship, as well as the authorship in OA status, OA spending, total spending. Comparing the value of changing, institutions should evaluate the OA offer by many factors for decision making.

Suggestion

Judging from the current development of Taiwan's libraries, the libraries are passively accepting the terms of the OA agreement. This study reveals the development process of these initiatives in order to make libraries better understand the aspects and alternatives of contract change. As evidences currently stand, developing a consensus among authors and an interagency understanding of the focus of OA contracts can be a precursor to change. Any libraries which want to have better management OA and its related issues can consider,

1. Keep alters to the OA developments in each region of Europe and USA.
2. Bookkeep all the records of subscription spending and elements of agreements and understand the needs and service of the communities.
3. Analyze the factors of article downloads, citation, usage and any other users statistics from the journals.
4. Collect the authorship, OA status, OA APC spending and total spending, as well as understand the institution's value and funding.
5. Develop friendly relationship with authors in the institutions by offering current awareness of new trends and scholarly supports.
6. Raise the global trends and issues in scholarly communications to an administration level. Understand their concerns and focus, then find advising or solution to money allocation and innovation.
7. Develop small scale OA investment, especially for those young faculties and researchers with high potential in the performance.
8. Try to change the agreement if the factors are optimistic or cost neutral to Open Access.

A rapid change was just happened, cOAlition S confirmed the end of its financial support for Open Access publishing under transformative arrangements after 2024 on January 26, 2023. It definitively a push to the global OA transforming. There is a general lack of Chinese literature regarding Transformative Agreement in Taiwan. It is hoped that more librarians, library directors or higher administrators can get better understanding through this article and a series of working papers by my colleagues and I since 2019. Hopefully, we can have more preferences or definite direction in license negotiation in the future.

ROMANIZED & TRANSLATED REFERENCES FOR ORIGINAL TEXT

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