Open Access and Scholarly Communication: The Current Landscape, Future Direction, and the Influence on Global Scholarship

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The importance of open access in promoting knowledge sharing and best practices.
Open Access provides an environment within which scholarly work is made freely available and accessible online without license restrictions and without access fees.
Why Open Access

- Reduce Cost
- Empower Authors and editors
- Globally inclusive
- Facilitates scientific exchange & discovery
- Restores knowledge as public good
- Disparity in Scientific Output

(The G8 countries account for approximately 85% of most cited articles indexed in ISI and 10% of the global health research spending is allocated to diseases affecting 90% of the world population)
Knowledge as Public Good
Public good is defined as a good that does not Diminish by Consumption and available to all time.

Any body of knowledge that would advance human understanding and benefit humankind is considered as a public good.
"If nature has made any one thing less susceptible than all others of exclusive property, it is the action of the thinking power called an idea....Its peculiar character...is that no one possesses the less, because every other possesses the whole of it. He who receives an idea from me, receives instruction himself without lessening mine; as he who lights his taper at mine, receives light without darkening mine." (See H.A. Washington, ed., The Writings of Thomas Jefferson, printed by the United States Congress, 1853-54, vol. VI, p. 180.)
Open access can be seen as a vital means of knowledge sharing & dissemination which is crucial for research and knowledge creation. It plays crucial role in achieving social, economic, cultural and political development.
Two Decade ago the U.S. National Institutes of Health provided access to GenBank (genetic sequence database) where scientists can use to compare DNA sequences.

Open Access & Intellectual Property

- Self interest vs public interest
- Scientific ethics and freedom of information
- Copyright and intellectual capital laws
- Privacy and information security
Open access holds the promise of moving knowledge from the closed circles of the privileged to those who needs it most (Bridging the digital divide).

After all it is the not the ideas that we must protect but rather the products created as a results of these ideas.
Q&A