Consider the goals of scholarly publication: Why publish?

- Because you have to for tenure and promotion
- Responsibility to community of scholars
- To share discovery
- To contribute to knowledge To advance profession
- To improve health and welfare of society
- Other reasons?

What is open access publishing (OAP)?

- Online journals without subscriptions
- Anyone can access the articles
- Charge fee to authors or their institutions to publish the articles
- Established publishers and emerging publishers, some reliable, others deemed predatory

Lessons of the Bohannon article

- Links to publishers, papers, and correspondence at //scim.ag/OA-Sting
- Of 304 submissions, 157 accepted, 98 rejected, 29 were non-responsive, 20 said paper was still under review
- ~60% of 255 had no indication of peer review
- Of 106 with some peer review, 70% accepted, only 36 commented on scientific problems, 16 of which were accepted anyway

How the papers broke out
Interpreting the diagrams: Shades of blue are journals listed on DOAJ (Directory of OA Journals; cream / tan are journals on Beall’s List of Predatory Journals; orange are journals on both lists. Concentric circles from outside in reflect decreasing level of review. Note large number of the rejections were DOAJ journals with no review, likely because editors recognized paper wasn’t worth sending out.

- Acceptance without review is much worse than rejection without review.
- Article stirred debate
- Sean Lind’s blog:  
  http://homer.gsu.edu/blogs/library/2013/10/04/flawed-science-story-stings-open-access/
- Concerns that print pubs not targeted and focus on OA rather than peer review
- Is OA a good thing?
- More balanced piece in Ann Emerg Med:  
  http://www.annemergmed.com/article/S0196-0644(13)00547-7/fulltext#copyright

Evaluating Open Access publishers

- Is the publisher a member of the Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association (OASPA.org)?
- Is the publisher for-profit or not-for-profit?
- How many titles does the publisher publish?
- Is the publisher on Beall’s List? (http://scholarlyoa.com/publishers/)
- Does the publisher adhere to one of the recognized OA statements of principles?  
  http://digital-scholarship.org/cwb/oaw.htm#statements
- Is there a submission charge or publication charge?
- What advertising and solicitation methods does the publisher use?  Are the credible?  
  Don’t be swayed by emails that are designed to feed your ego but are clearly SPAM.

Evaluating Open Access journals

- Is the journal listed in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ.org)? (No guarantee, as Bohannon discovered)
- Is the journal listed in Ulrich’s Global Serials Directory? (Check for link through your library.)
- Is the journal indexed by major databases?
- What is the journal’s subject coverage?
- Does the journal have an impact factor?  What is it?
- What are the journal’s peer review guidelines?
- Who’s on the editorial board? (Not always truthful)
- How many issues does the journal publish each year?  In the last year?
- Beware of ostensibly personal invitations to submit an already published article in a longer or slightly modified form.
- Librarians can be excellent source of information and advice – call on them
Evaluating Open Access articles

- Are author affiliations listed?
- Does the subject matter, length, or quality of articles vary greatly?
- Are there multiple articles by the same author(s) in the same issue?
- Are the articles being cited? (use Web of Science or Science Direct or other tools)

Thinking about Open Access issues

- Is it more difficult today to be an author or a reader?
- Are scholarly journals produced to serve publishers, editors, authors, or readers?
- What is the purpose of peer review? Validation? Evaluation of importance and/or relevance? Evaluation of scientific rigor or validity or merit?
- What is the goal of a medical journal or public health journal?
- How will scholarly journals continue to facilitate the dissemination of knowledge and the creation of new ideas?


What about tenure and promotion?

- Legitimate concerns about the value placed on open access publications by tenure and promotion committees and administrators.
- Online-only journals often unfairly disparaged or depreciated
- Some online-only journals have strong peer review and good impact factors
  - e.g. PLOS Medicine IF: 15.25; 5-yr IF: 16.43
- If you have pubs in good OA journals, give data to your chair to substantiate status and impact (IF of journals, citations of articles, etc.)
- Ask chair and dean to inform those up the line about legitimate and reputable OA journals

Choosing where to publish

- Has most generous allowance for tables & figures
- Has fast turnaround time
- Has highest impact factor
- Most relevant to my field
- Likely to be read by colleagues
- Investigate options for making print articles accessible
  - Clemson’s TigerPrints: http://tigerprints.clemson.edu/
  - USC’s Scholar Commons http://scholarcommons.sc.edu/
• Ask a librarian – often the much more helpful and knowledgeable than other researchers

**Finally: Other resources about authorship and reviewing**

• Mulford Health Science Library at the Univ. of Toledo that has links to hundreds of journals’ instructions for authors pages.
  - [http://mulford.meduohio.edu/instr/](http://mulford.meduohio.edu/instr/)

• Perhaps best known are the recommendations from the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE): [http://www.icmje.org/recommendations/](http://www.icmje.org/recommendations/) but don’t deal with open access issues

• See the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) guidelines, including for authors, reviewers, editors, publishers (including how to handle authorship disputes)
  - [http://publicationethics.org/resources/guidelines](http://publicationethics.org/resources/guidelines)

• Also of interest: European Association of Science Editors (EASE) guidelines: [http://www.ease.org.uk/publications/author-guidelines](http://www.ease.org.uk/publications/author-guidelines), again more for other help than for open access issues

• Note that the Mulford site has links to all of these

• Finally, I couldn’t find anything from the European Acronym Society Yearbook, though you would think it would be, well, you know . . .