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Changes in Support for Open Access: Laudatory or Predatory?

Denise Troll Covey, Carnegie Mellon University

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Changes in support for open access: Laudatory or Predatory?

Denise Troll Covey
Scholarly Communications Librarian
Carnegie Mellon University
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Changes

matter
Removing barriers
Publishers support self-archiving, but oppose self-archiving mandates.
Trend in levels of support

April 2004
- No support for self-archiving
- Minimal support: Pre-prints only (before peer review)
- Post-prints only (after peer review)
- Full support: Pre-prints and post-prints

June 2013
- Total policies

April 2004 to June 2013:
- No support for self-archiving
- Minimal support: Pre-prints only (before peer review)
- Post-prints only (after peer review)
- Full support: Pre-prints and post-prints
- Total policies
#1 Publishers are free to change their self-archiving policy & they do.
Change level of support

No level is stable
One out of five changed
Often many years later
Mixed messages
Intriguing correlations

709 publishers

2004-2013
Change policy conditions

Control
version
location
timing

Paid OA
Embargoes
Repositories
Mandates

2004-2013
26 publishers
For-profit publisher policies are the most unstable, influential & predatory
## Unstable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dataset</th>
<th>Changed</th>
<th>Dataset</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All pubs</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-profits</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For-profits</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All pubs</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-profits</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For-profits</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Influential

709 dataset
Changes impacted 10,837 titles
90% published by for-profits

26 dataset
Changes by 9 popular for-profit publishers account for 67% of the 10,837 titles
Predatory

Bait & switch
Distort
Complicate
Coerce

2004-2013
26 publishers
“You may if you wish, but not if you must”

– Stevan Harnad’s paraphrase of Elsevier’s policy
#3
Policy changes reflect changes in perception of threats & opportunities
As self-archiving increases, the threat increases.
OA publishing

Willingness to pay becomes an opportunity to exploit

- Attack
- Embrace
- Promote
- Prey
It’s all about the revenue stream(s)
#4
The AAP’s lobbying aims at the uninformed to keep them uninformed
Assume facts not in evidence

Scholarly publishing is functioning well

Full copyright transfer is necessary

Embargoes are necessary
Force unnecessary choices

Peer review
OR open access

Traditional publishing
OR government censorship

Healthy publishing & fiscal responsibility
OR gov’t intervention & waste
Obfuscate to alarm

Self-archiving mandates will have harmful unintended consequences

Self-archiving mandates undermine copyright, which harms publishing, which harms the economy
Change the basis of argument

Publications are private sector works distinct from author manuscripts
Attempt to structure reality

As the bolt of fabric is to the finished suit, the author’s manuscript is to the publication.
Recap

1. Publishers are free to change their self-archiving policy and they do.

2. For-profit publisher policies are the most unstable, influential, and predatory.

3. Policy changes reflect changes in perception of threats and opportunities.

4. The AAP’s lobbying aims at the uninformed to keep them uninformed.
Call to act with deep understanding
Study for-profit publisher behavior
Lobby for self-archiving mandates
Address Fear, Uncertainty, & Doubt (FUD)
Help non-profit publishers transition to open access

Keep fighting the good fight!
Images

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Thank you!

Denise Troll Covey
Scholarly Communications Librarian
Carnegie Mellon University
troll@andrew.cmu.edu