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Open Access: Key Strategic, Technical and Economic Aspects

Edited by Neil Jacobs



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From Chandos Publishing : Open Access: Key Strategic, Technical and Economic Aspects (Chandos Information Professional Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Open Access: Key Strategic, Technical and Economic Aspects (Chandos Information Professional Series):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Thorough introduction into the topic
By Yegor Voronin
Open Access: Key Strategic, Technical and Economic Aspects
The book is targeted to those who are new to the open access policies, concepts and problems. It gives a very broad introduction into the topic, covering many different aspects of open access to scientific literature. I should stress out that the focus of the book is specifically on scientific papers (there is nothing on open access to raw experimental data, for example). Being published in 2006, the book is somewhat dated, but this is mostly due to the fact that open access movement is gaining momentum extremely fast. Things change rapidly. But don't let that bother you - it gives you plenty of information and ideas on where to look further. I especially liked the collection of web links and references at the end of the book - very useful.

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good Open Access Panorama
By Karim Gherab Martin
I liked the book. It gives you an idea about the open access movement and the projects that are being undertaken through the world. Useful to learn what do you need in order to make an open access digital repository work successfully. Also, there are good summaries about the history of the open access initiatives. I didn't like too much the case studies chapters.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Open Access: a wealth of new publishing opportunities
By Ruth Rikowski
Open Access: key strategic technical and economic aspects
Edited by Neil Jacobs
Chandos publishing: Oxford, 2006
ISBN 1 84334 203 0 (pbk); 1 84334 204 9 (hdbk); 243pp
This is a very topical book, covering a subject, Open Access that is increasing in importance on almost a daily basis. The book opens with a Foreword by Ian Gibson, MP, who chaired the 2004 House of Commons Science and Technology Committee inquiry 'Scientific Publications: free for all?' Gibson says that: The commercial publishing world has an increasingly harmful monopoly on a number of prestige journals which are essential to disseminating new ideas and research... [this has left] some academic libraries with no choice but to cancel subscriptions as they can no longer afford to pay for a full range of journals. (p. xi) It is this type of situation that has led to the rapid development of open access. The book includes contributions from a wide range of different people writing on a variety of aspects on open access. In the opening chapter, Alma Swan, for example, refers to the 'Serials Crisis'. Swan emphasises how in recent times, it has not been possible for a university or research institute library to purchase subscriptions to every journal and book that would form an ideal collection for the users of that organisation. Therefore, the benefit of the open access movement is that it is: ...dedicated to freeing up research output from the constraints imposed on its dissemination by publisher restrictions and the non-affordability of journals. (p.11) Meanwhile, Charles Bailey considers the definition of open access and focuses on the Budapest Open Access Initiative (BOAI) in this regard. The BOAI recommends 2 complementary strategies for achieving open access to scholarly journal literature. This is self-archiving and the ability to launch a new generation of journals committed to open access. Bailey notes a number of factors when examining open access, including the fact that open access works are freely available; they are online; they are scholarly works; authors of these works are not paid and there are a lot of permitted uses for open access material. Bailey points out that self-archiving can be achieved in a number of different ways, including the author's personal website, disciplinary archives, institutional-unit archives and institutional repositories. Approximately, a quarter of all researchers have inserted copies of their articles on their own websites. Arthur Sale says that it is difficult to persuade authors to self-archive, but once they do they find it very beneficial and they do not look back. However, Alma Swan has this to say in regard to the term 'open access': ...the term open access is a misnomer - though one we are stuck with - for the issue is about enhancing research dissemination and not, primarily, access. (p. 67) The growth in open access is considered. It is estimated that the peer-reviewed literature grows by about 2.5 million papers a year, and is published in approximately 25,000 serials. Of these 2.5 million papers, approximately 15% are open access. Chris Awre also emphasises the fact that technical advances have assisted with the development of new techniques to support scholarly communication and that this is likely to continue through open access and collaboration. Frederick Friend argues that progress towards open access to UK research reports is slow but steady. Whilst Alma Swan emphasises that: The last couple of years have seen the acceptance of open access as a desirable goal by institutions, research funders, libraries and some publishers, to the point that these parties have taken action towards achieving it." (p.65) Robert Terry and Robert Kiley consider the Wellcome Trust, the first major UK funding agency to commit to open access. In its 'position statement' on its website, it says that: "The Wellcome Trust has a fundamental interest in ensuring that the availability and accessibility of this material [i.e. journal articles resulting from Trust-funded research] is not adversely affected by the copyright, marketing and distribution strategies used by publishers." Colin Steele argues that scholarly publishing is likely to evolve along 2 distinct paths in the future. Firstly, that large multinational commercial publishers will increase their dominance of global science, technology and medicine market, and secondly that a variety of open access initiatives will emerge and become a part of everyday life. Citations are examined. Open access articles receive more citations than non-open access articles and as Colin Steele says this can also then be linked to performance indicators. Meanwhile, Leo Waaijers looks at the Digital Academic Repositories (DARE) Programme in the Netherlands, which is working towards a programme whereby institutions control their own intellectual products whilst also having better access to them. The aim is to overcome organisational obstacles, and make the material available widely. Other areas covered in the book include open access and scientific communication (Jean-Claude Guedon), the sustainability of open access (Matthew Cockerill), Internet archiving, creative commons and discussion forums (Peter Suber). In conclusion, this is a very useful and informative

book, and I highly recommend it. There is a detailed bibliography and an index. Reviewed by: Ruth Rikowski, London South Bank University

This book brings together many of the world's leading open access experts to provide an analysis of the key strategic, technical and economic aspects on the topic of open access. Open access to research papers is perhaps a defining debate for publishers, librarians, university managers and many researchers within the international academic community. Starting with a description of the current situation and its shortcomings, this book then defines the varieties of open access and addresses some of the many misunderstandings to which the term sometimes gives rise. There are chapters on the technologies involved, researchers' perspectives, and the business models of key players. These issues are then illustrated in a series of case studies from around the world, including the USA, UK, Netherlands, Australia and India. Open access is a far-reaching shift in scholarly communication, and the book concludes by going beyond today's debate and looking at the kind of research world that would be possible with open access to research outputs. Chapters by leading experts in the field, including Professor Jean-Claude Guéhenneuc, Clifford Lynch, Stevan Harnad, Peter Suber, Charles Bailey, Jr., Alma Swan, Fred Friend, John Shipp and Leo Waaijers. Discussion of open access from a wide range of perspectives. Country case studies, summarising open access in the USA, UK, Netherlands, Australia and India.

an excellent collection. ...provides a readily accessible platform on which to build their knowledge and understanding of this evolving area. Online Information a valuable asset. It contains a wealth of information - including extensive lists of references and web links to related material. The Electronic Library this reference book successfully fills a significant gap in the literature. I would recommend it. Elucidate About the Author Dr Neil Jacobs, an experienced information professional who has worked both in traditional libraries and on national projects and online services and works at the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) and University of Bristol, UK and is responsible for developing and running national online services.