Quality in Open Access: Flashing Lights and Fairy Tales

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21st Century Scholarship Unlocked: Selecting & Accessing Publishers

9/21/2018
Agenda

• Thoughts and Experiences
• Indicators to Evaluate of Quality
• Tips and Takeaways
Thoughts and Experiences
Off she ran, and Red Riding Hood went on
But often she lingered and played
And made as she went quite a pretty posie
With the wild flowers that grew in the glade.
Terminology

- Predatory
- Ethical and Unethical
- Applicable to All Publishing Methods and Types
Indicators to Evaluate Quality
Quality Indicators: Positive

- Ethical Publishing Guidelines and Standards
- Publication contract:
  - Author Rights, Self-Archiving,
  - Versions
  - Short or No embargoes
Markers of Quality OA

- Publishers are OASPA members
- Publishers and Journals adhere to COPE guidelines
- Journals are Full OA
- APCs/BPCs affordable
Markers of Quality OA

- **Indexing:**
  - DOAJ, Ulrich’s, Other
  - DOAJ SEAL

- **Discovery:**
  - DOIs, PermaCC, ISSN/ISBN
Markers of Quality OA

• Archiving and Preservation Implementations:
  • Portico, CLOCKSS, LOCKSS

• Accessibility:
  • WCAG AA 2.0 Standards
Quality Indicators: Positive

- Funder and University Policy support:
  - OA Policies
  - Data Management
  - Public Access
  - Proactive Publisher Deposit into Repositories
Quality Indicators: Negative

- Journal Information on website, minimal
- Repeat Editors/authors, same issues
- Peer Review is paid or type is unclear
- Marketing occurs direct to authors
Quality Indicators: Negative

- Author guidelines or Publication contract unavailable
- Embargoes are lengthy
- Self-archiving Rights, minimal
- Versions allowed, minimal
- APCs/BPCs cost prohibitive
Tips and Takeaways
Tips and Takeaways

- At the point of Idea:
  - Research and Query
- Not all new journals are unethical.
- If unsure, ask, evaluate, and read the content!
Tips and Takeaways

• What top 3-5 publishers do you use?
• Where do they fall in the quality spectrum?
• Evaluate your personal publishing motivations
• How does that match with the journals and book publishers to which you submit?
Thank you!

Reading materials
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