

Open access to scientific publishing: exploring the experience of Spanish editors

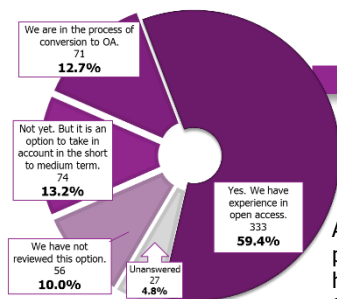
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Context and Methods

This study, part of a broader study of the key factors in business models in scientific journals, aims to sound out the opinions of Spanish scientific journal editors regarding open access in scientific production (OA).

A qualitative analysis, based on an open coding analysis supported by ATLAS.ti software, allowed encoding of the core concepts of these assessments, respecting the meaning in which they were expressed.

Results were obtained through a survey of 1,280 editors of Spanish scientific journals included in the Dulcinea database. A response rate of 43% was obtained. The question on the experience of OA had a response rate of 95% (n=534).



Results showed that 75% of editors had experience with OA or were in the process of conversion.

Nearly 80% (n=321) added comments to reinforce the assessment of their experiences.

Global assessment on the experience with open access



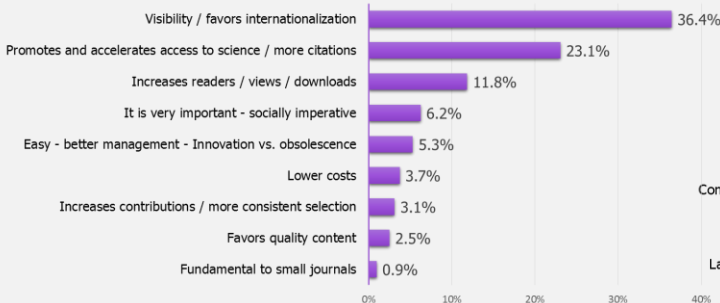
Although the results showed that the experience with open access publishing is mostly positive, many respondents provided critical and honest insights into the limitations and difficulties that they still face. 93% of replies included comments in favor of open access publication, while 11% included unfavorable comments.

Results

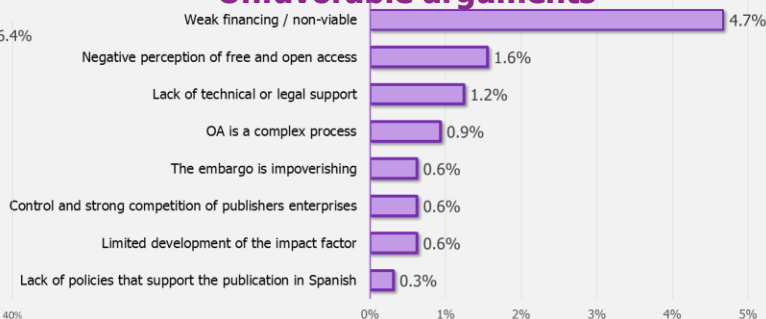
Open access. Pros and cons of a mostly positive experience

% of the total opinions received regarding the experience with open access (n = 321)

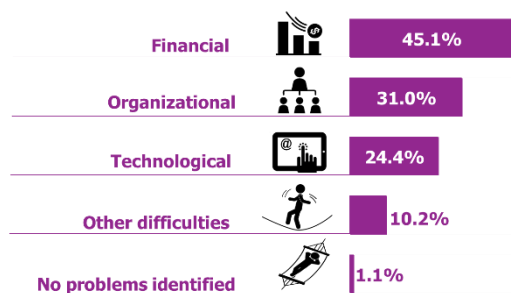
Favorable arguments



Unfavorable arguments



Major constraints on the adoption of the open access philosophy. Response rate: 86.3% (n=484)



Other constraints

OA culture is not yet consolidated

- Comprehensive notions about open access
- Greater political commitment and social engagement
- Management autonomy
- Organizational structure

A perceived loss of...



- Prestige
- Value and scientific impact
- Seriousness and quality
- Inequality

Conflict of interest

- Exchanges
- Professional associations' agreements
- Economics
- Modification of the conditions of publication with the commercial publisher

Possible lack of...



- Trust
- Strategic vision
- Knowledge of the operational dynamics of the digital environment
- Patience and enthusiasm

Difficulties in finding stable resources...



- Human resources
- Financial resources
 - Instability
 - Less incentive for subscription
- Time

Conservatism / fear of change by...



- publishers, authors or financing institutions
- the scientific area to which the journal belongs
- users that prefer a tangible final product

Conclusions

- 82% of respondents with experience in open access valued it in positive or very positive terms.
- 37% believe that open access to data and scientific publications represents a great opportunity for the sector.
- Editors mention the weaknesses, limitations and difficulties for adopting open access.
- Editors also point to the need to strengthen the culture of open access. They advocate in-depth reflection on what it means, focusing on the areas for improvement.

Areas for improvement



- Organizational structure
- Financial economic model
- Clarification of the conceptual and operational philosophy of open access among scientific editors
- Strategic vision
- Political and social commitment