

Editorial

The Periodontology, Oral Surgery, Esthetic and Implant Dentistry Organization (POSEIDO) and Open Journal: an international academic and scientific community for a new approach of open-access publishing

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1. What is open-access publishing?

Scientific open-access publishing is an important movement today in the academic and scientific communities, as a collateral consequence of the recent evolutions in information and communication technologies and globalization of higher education, research and knowledge [1].

The concept of this approach is to give unrestricted online access to the content of a scholarly journal to all readers, in the online electronic version, as the cost of maintenance of the journal are covered by the payment of publication fees by the authors (the author-pays model) after acceptance of their manuscript [1,2]. In some rare cases, the costs of publication are covered by a scientific society (through the yearly membership fees paid by their members), a Foundation or Universities.

This approach was largely promoted by academic people who considered abnormal and immoral the classical functioning of academic publishing, where the journals exist thanks to the free work of authors, reviewers and sometimes editors, while the publishing companies require the payment of huge fees for the access to an article or to their journal databases [1,3]. In short, academic people are working for free for a journal/publisher, are giving for free their research works for publication, and their academic library pays a lot of money for the access to this work, all that for the huge benefits of the publishing private companies.

The biggest issue in this situation was that most published research works are funded with public money. And what is funded by public money should logically be available for the public. Because of this situation, the policies for copyrights in scholarly publishing have started to evolve [1,3]. Many major Universities (such as Harvard, Princeton and many others) have now policies to push their researchers to not give their copyrights to publishing private companies and to publish their works in an open-access platform [4]. Several major funding bodies - for example the Wellcome Trust in the UK, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the US, and the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) in Australia - have established strong public

access policies requiring an open-access publication for all the research they are funding [4]. This phenomenon has reached a national policy scale in several Western Countries, particularly Australia and UK [5], and is extending in Europe [6] and the USA [4]. The forms and paths taken by these changes are different in each environment, but the general evolution is the same. Most traditional publishers are trying to adapt to this tendency and offer several options to help authors to comply with the policies of their university or funding body. One solution is that authors can pay open-access fees for their article, even if the journal is globally not open-access.

The concept of open-access publishing is therefore very attractive and evolving very quickly nowadays.

2. The dark side of open-access publishing

Even if a part of the traditional journals migrated to open-access publishing, this movement remains limited, as the major publishing companies still make significant profits with the traditional publication format. Nowadays most of the open-access journals were in fact created very recently by newly established publishers. The quantity of new open-access journals is considerable, and it is very difficult to determine the real value of these many new items [7].

This situation allowed the development of a large quantity of “predatory open-access publishers” described in the literature as artificial publishing companies or entities that exploit the author-pays model of open-access publishing to make quick and easy profit [8]. All Academic people are nowadays massively spammed by these predatory publishers (as our emails are often available in the contact details in our publications) with confusing call for papers, unprofessional publishing operations and a nonexistent peer-review and editorial process. Many of these entities are real fraud, while the exact profile of many other publishers is more debatable [8]. In fact, this strange situation raised a much wider concern and philosophical debate of what is scholarly publishing and what kind of value can be given to the various publications.

Indeed, even with open-access publishers that can be considered credible, the open-access electronic publishing strategy has created a new form of journals: the publication without academic and scientific community. Many new journals do not represent anyone anymore, they are not the emanation of a scientific society or scholarly network, but only a platform assembled artificially by a publisher around a publication project. Electronic only open-access journals are slowly becoming a huge list of items (the articles) to satisfy the huge global demand for publication.

This is the natural consequence of the globalization and massification of higher education and research, where all academic people have now the obligation to publish something in international peer-reviewed journals to develop their career, whatever the quality or interest of what is published. The journal becomes just a platform, a database for mass publication without soul, without opinion, without search for debate and consensus. In short, in our opinion, a publication with limited interest.

3. Open-access publishing in dentistry

Open-access publishing started to develop in dentistry, even if these new journals have still a limited reputation in our field. Many of them have already failed, and only 2 of them (in general dentistry) have succeeded to be indexed in PubMed/Medline. None of them

has impact factor yet, and the general impact of these publications is very limited in our community. The situation is therefore quite different from what we can observe in other domains.

Among all scientific fields, dentistry is a quite specific case, where dentists are more attached to their community (organizing congress and meetings) than to a publication. Many dental publications are already available and all of them are funded through the membership to various scientific societies and academies (and the support of commercial advertisement), and this current functioning seems to have found its own equilibrium. Therefore in dentistry, the pressure for evolution towards open-access seems to be very limited at this time. Even if most readers and authors would prefer open-access publishing for a better dissemination of the publication work, this publication model does not seem to be actively promoted in our community.

In our opinion, this situation will evolve, as in the times of globalization of higher education and research, knowledge will be more and more open-access. But this situation raised the major question on what should be the future of scientific publishing in our field. Do we have only the choice between locked journals of private scientific societies or large open-access publication platform without community?

4. The POSEIDO initiative, the third way

The POSEIDO Foundation was created to support the POSEIDO Organization (Periodontology, Oral Surgery, Esthetic and Implant Dentistry Organization), an international network of academic departments and scientific societies. The Organization is managing and publishing the POSEIDO journal (Periodontology, Oral Surgery, Esthetic and Implant Dentistry Open journal).

4.1. The Concept

The POSEIDO initiative was developed to offer a new approach of open-access publishing. The concept is to develop a new scientific journal with an unrestricted online access to the content to all readers, and to give the full control of the content to an international dental community where opinions and debates can be organized and published.

But this approach is not enough. In our times of globalization of research and higher education and of extremely quick communication, it is also needed to move beyond the limited patterns of open-access publishing and to reach the ultimate objective of this movement: global collaboration, global democracy, particularly the freedom to express scientific opinions without the pressure of the major commercial companies. A journal can not only be a list of scientific data compiled by specialists, a scientific publication must first of all be a platform for the development and exchange of ideas and debates, at a global scale.

This is the concept of POSEIDO: global collaborative publication.

4.2. Functioning

In a scholarly journal, most of the work is done for free by academic people, while most of the costs of functioning are generated by a publishing private company. The POSEIDO Foundation was created and generously funded by academic people and non-commercial sponsors with this idea of supporting the functioning of an independent open-access journal. The Foundation supports the logistics for the Organization. Most of the work

is done for free by a network of scholars – what is similar with a traditional journal – except that the editorial offices are in fact academic departments on each continent or areas. Thanks to this organization, the journal works with no publication fees for all members of the community (members of registered academic departments or partner scientific societies).

POSEIDO is an international academic network and community managing and publishing its own independent open-access international scientific peer-reviewed journal. This is a collaborative international publication platform, trying to give the same representation to all the partners whatever their country. The system is also completely independent from commercial pressure or conflicts of interest, as the Foundation covers all the fees of functioning and the journal does not require any commercial advertisement to exist.

This journal and organization may also be an efficient instrument to promote inter-university collaborations and help to develop links between the many national scientific societies partnering in this platform. But first of all, this journal wants to be an instrument of international debates and a platform of education for all the members of our community.

4.3. Aims and Scope

The POSEIDO journal focuses on all aspects of the interconnected clinical and research fields of periodontal sciences, oral and cranio-maxillofacial surgery and medicine, esthetic and restorative dentistry, with a particular interest in implant dentistry, and related research. Most publications are connected to the dental and maxillofacial field, but some are also from orthopedics, material sciences or other scientific disciplines interconnected with the POSEID research topics (e.g. bone implantable materials, bone regenerative medicine strategies), in order to promote transversal translational research.

POSEIDO is organized as an info journal (international forum), and is therefore publishing a significant quantity of editorial material, as a basis of information, debate and discussion for our community. This editorial material takes particularly the form of clinical case letters and research letters.

The objective of this strong editorial section is to create links between international research teams, to organize our international research community and to develop a neutral international platform for the publication of debates and consensus conferences in the fast-growing and evolving fields of the POSEID disciplines.

The journal is also publishing a classical content with full-length articles (original articles and reviews), following a strict double peer-review process. The journal is particularly interested in original research articles and clinical studies about new techniques, biomaterials and biotechnologies with direct clinical applications in the interconnected fields of periodontology, oral surgery, esthetic and implant dentistry (POSEID). Review articles are also welcome if they make the clear synthesis of debated topics.

5. Perspectives

As a conclusion, the POSEIDO initiative is opening the third way for dental scholarly publishing, and we hope that this community will largely develop in the coming years through an increasing number of academic members of the POSEIDO network and the partnership with many scientific societies. This is the first step of a necessary evolution, and we hope that it will open the way for the development many new international projects. This

first issue was designed to give some guidelines and examples of the functioning of the journal, and the debates are now officially opened!

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