

Review of: "Publish or perish: time for a rethink?"

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The paper presents a perspective on the relationship between open access (OA) publishing practices and the challenges faced by the scientific research ecosystem.

In my opinion, this is not research but a perspective article. Also, this perspective is more for researchers working in the health research domain. Stating it upfront will help the readers. Also, the article does not provide any systematic meta-analysis approach, thus making it far from a research article.

While the authors argue that the "publish and perish" culture is perpetuated by the article processing charge (APC) model, it is worth noting that this term has been in use for decades, predating the dominance of OA publishing.

This article gives an overview of Publish and Perish: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11192-020-03786-x>

The paper also discusses the increase in the number of journals and articles and its connection to OA publishing.

However, the journal-based metrics in research assessment practices are the main reasons that call for responsible research assessment. Initiatives such as the Leiden Manifesto, DORA declaration, Hong Kong Principles, and COARA are worth looking into.

Authors have oversimplified the complexities of the science ecosystem by solely correlating OA publishing with its challenges. The problem of an excessive amount of information without proper peer review is a concern, irrespective of the publishing model (OA or non-OA), as retractions occur in both types of journals. Retractions happen from JAMA journals as well, <https://retractionwatch.com/2021/07/16/jama-journal-retracts-paper-on-masks-for-children/>.

The authors do not touch upon major issues associated with APCs, which include their potential to be exclusionary, non-equitable, and non-sustainable in the long run, as pointed out by scholars.

Finally, the paper raises a question about correlating the profitability of publishers with the author pay model, "In 2010, Elsevier, whose core business is scientific publishing, had profits of £724m on just over £2bn in revenue, a 36% margin"- in 2010, the business model was predominantly subscription-based. Why correlate it with the author pay model?