

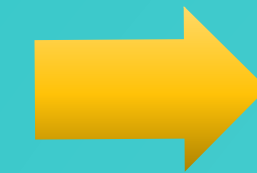
# Information Pirates or Robin Hood Heroes?

## Sustainability of Open Access for Public Libraries

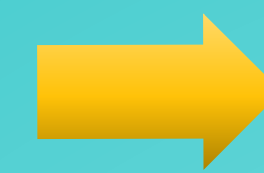


### Current Model of Access

publicly funded research



high impact  
journals  
publish



public has to pay high \$\$ to  
access

“Though research is produced as a public good, it isn’t available to the public who paid for it.”

-SPARC

### Benefits of Open Access

- Greater & faster advances in science due to open collaboration and access to information.
- Empowers researchers to access & cite relevant research.
- Published works of research are able to be accessed more & cited more (Swan, 2010).
- Altmetrics provide transparent way of measuring impact (Priem et. Al 2010; Loria, 2013).
- Enables open communication between researchers which fosters collaboration and propels scientific advancement forward (Suber, Darnton & SPARC, 2016).
- Advances in medicine and science help the world (Crawford, 2011).
- Open access can potentially be more sustainable (especially for the readers) than the current access model.

### Where does the money go?

To the researchers? Nope.  
 To the peer reviewers? Nope.  
 To the university? Nope.  
 To giant corporations who do 0% of the work? Yep.

### Open Access

Scientists & academics conduct research & report findings as works to be submitted for publication.

Published research is accessible to all, creating more data & basis for further research.

### Benefits to the Public

- Leads to more educated public by providing access to information based on research & evidence.
- Public libraries would not have to spend so much \$\$ to provide patrons with access to subscription based journals & databases (Crawford, 2011).
- Would help professionals outside academia who require evidence-based research for their practice (social workers, doctors, lawyers). (Benefits of Open Access, 2017).
- Would promote equality in society as access would be granted to people who, previously, were not able to access information due to class, race, or geographic location (Estep & Enright, 2016).
- Often research is publically funded, so it is the right of the public to have access to the research and information that they contributed to.

Open exchange of ideas without high \$\$ to access.

“She [Alexandra Elbakyan] has been compared to Robin Hood, although she said: “Sometimes I think it is not a good comparison, since what he was doing was illegal. And sharing books and research articles should not be illegal.”” (Rosenwald, 2016).

### Openly Accessible

- PLOS (Public Library of Science)
- DOAR (Directory of Open Access Research)
- DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals)
- SPARC (Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition)
- Creative Commons
- Institutional repositories

### References

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Additional  
information &  
resources

