
The Future of the Academic Journal¹

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This present volume contains 19 studies centered around an issue of great actuality in current Academic Life, the issue of Academic Journal and the future of publishing in this field, through studies grouped around certain major issues, like publishing management, the future of electronic journals, possibilities of Statistical measurements of scientific writings through indicators, etc. Especially interesting is the last study of the volume, which is dealing with the future of scientific writing in relation with less scientific surfaces, like blogs, wikipaedias and bookmarking sites.

Keywords: Academic Journal, Scientific Writing, Publishing, Publication Management.

Nowadays, in the age of information-boom, when for scholars to become and remain competitive is more important than ever to publish their works, for sharing values with the larger interested Audience, and also to gain reputation and respect by that, the role of Academic Journals experienced an unprecedented growth in importance. The phenomenon brought with itself many questions too, and Management of Academic Journals almost became already a science in itself. In these conditions such a collection of studies as this present volume is more than welcome.

This present volume contains 19 studies, grouped in six part, each part referring on a special Problematic. The two editors are well established scholar of Anglo-Saxon and International World of Science, Bill Cope being a Research professor in the Department of Educational Policy Studies at the University of Illinois, and Angus Phillips is the Director of the Oxford International Centre for Publishing studies and Head

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of Publishing Department at Oxford Brookes University. The list of contributors is also very impressive, with specialists from all over the world, mostly American specialists, but the Far East, Africa and East-Central Europe are also present on this book, each page, by their own specialists. Regarding the quality we have to state from the very beginning, that there is no “weak” study in this collection, probably due to the very high standards of the present publication. Every single of them is original, easy to be read and has consistent system of endnotes and bibliography too.

Following to the *Introduction* signed by Bill Cope and Angus Phillips, which practically introduces us in the wide and various Thematic of this present volume, are placed the concrete studies, consisted in collection called Parts. The first thematic group or Part I, *Knowledge systems*, contains two studies related to the functioning of contemporary systems of knowledge, and their major issues. The study of Bill Cope and Mary Kalantzis, *Signs of epistemic disruption: transformations in the knowledge system of the academic journal*, has 40 pages, and is practically an interdisciplinary overview of current state of scholarly journals, and several technological, ethical, sciento-metrical and economical issues. For sure, this study is extremely comprehensive, and even if it does not offer too many solutions – it can’t do that, because of extremely high diversification of the problems encountered worldwide – it is a great Synthesis, probably one of the best which can be done without the Authors to be lost in too many details. On the other hand the study of Jose Luis Gonzales Quiros and Kharim Gherab – two scholars from Madrid – is a set of Arguments for digitalization of scientific life (e-science). In their vision, this process actually can bring the replacement of linguistic and disciplinary monopoly to the pluralism of languages and culture, the growth of innovating role of Academic journals and the dissemination of results of actually “working” experts can disseminate easier their results. The Authors are quite realistic: they consider that primal role in this” particular “global village” of science will be of great journals already dominating the market, which are going to keep their prestige since they are still manage the information to attract the attenti-

on of large sectors of public opinion, and as a consequence, of businessmen and politicians. But the authors also consider that literally everyone who wants can get in the secondary market, also very important for other specialists, and this is what brings to the rise of democratization, Internationalization and growing Competitiveness of Scientific World.

Part two, *The journals business*, contains six studies which are centered mostly around economic issues related to publishing. Angus Philipps is presenting several models in journal publishing, the approach being made from a managerial point of view, and on key elements like lifecycle of a journal, issues related to pricing, costs, etc. The following study is also focused on journal-publishing issues, the authors making some predictions too, from which the most important is the growth in importance of electronically-published journals. Stevan Harnad, the *man* of science with Hungarian origins, specialist both in Electronics and Computer Science and Psychology too, has on his turn a very interesting work, which bears the title *The post-Gutenberg open access journal* which makes a comparison between the classical learned journal and post-Gutenberg one, naturally, in the favor of the second one. Claire Bird's and Martin Richardson's study tackles the issue of journal publishing under a hybrid system, using both subscription and open access model. The last two studies of this thematic part are dealing with to very concrete issues, which have great actuality in management of Academic Life: the issues of Copyright, respective Journal Rankings and Impact factors, which determines journal measurements.

The following thematic Part, *Academic Practices*, contains four studies, having as subjects general and more concrete case-studies. Sarah L. Shreeves is writing about role of repositories in the future of journal publishing; J. Eric Davies is analyzing the relations of Libraries with Academic journals of the future, especially in the case of journals published on the Internet; Michael E. Peters's work is an outstanding approach from managerial point of view related to political economy of education journals, the study being illustrated by Tables, Statistics and Diagrams, using relatively recent Statistical data. The last study of this Part consists in the work of four authors, and is dealing with the issue of

a concrete journal in the field of Medical Sciences, the *Open medicine*.

The *Journal internationally* consists three studies, and is introducing the reader in issues of academic journal management in three more exotic” regions of the world, like the African continent, China, and Asia, understood in a wider sense , having case-studies from Japan, Korea and Malaysia. Part five is dedicated to issues of *Digital transformations*, and consists of two studies. And part six, *Coda*, is formed by one single study, whose author is Sally Morris, and its title is *The tiger in the corner: will journals matter to tomorrow scholars?* which also brings in discussion some very serious ideas, worthy to think on them. The main idea is that since Academic world is focusing on business models, issues related to dissemination and certification, etc. the IT world also transformed researcher’s attitude, oriented much more on fast dissemination of their results, even by less academic surfaces, like blogs, wikis and bookmarking sites, practices adopted and adapted by more and more researchers. What can be the result of such a challenge, only the future can tell.
