

Economic models for Arab open access journals in education field

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Research - Summary

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Abstract

This study examines the economic models adopted by Arab open access journals in the field of education. The researcher identified these models based on the fees charged for various services, such as arbitration, publication, plagiarism reports, linguistic reviews, re-reviews, and others. The economic models were categorized into ten groups, including journals that do not charge any fees and those that charge for all services provided. The fees vary based on the researcher's affiliation, such as being part of the university or college that publishes the journal, being from the same country where the journal is published, or being from another country.

A field survey approach was used to collect data from the journals. This was done through a brief questionnaire containing open-ended questions, which was sent to the journals via their email addresses or through the 'Contact Us' feature on their websites.

The study's recommendations include the following:

1. Completing all data related to peer review and publication on journal websites.
2. Conducting similar studies in various fields.

3. Establishing a fund to finance open access, encouraging cooperation and sharing between universities and research institutions to support and sustain high-quality scientific research.

Keywords

Open access journal, education, publication charges, economic model

0. Methodological Introduction

0.1 Abstract

This study examines the economic models employed by Arab open access journals in the field of education. The researcher identified these models based on the fees charged for services such as peer review, publication, plagiarism reports, linguistic review, re-review, and other services. The models were classified into ten categories, ranging from journals that do not charge any fees to those that charge for all services provided. The fees vary depending on the researcher's affiliation, whether they are associated with the university or college publishing the journal, belong to the same country in which the journal is published, or are from another country.

A field survey approach was used to collect data from these periodicals. A brief questionnaire containing open-ended questions was sent to the journals via their email addresses or through the 'Contact Us' feature on their websites. The study recommends completing all data related to peer review and publication on journal websites, conducting similar studies in various fields, and establishing a fund to finance open access. This fund should encourage cooperation and sharing between universities and research institutions to support and sustain high-quality scientific research.

0.2 Study Terms

Economic Model: "A set of relationships between economic variables within a framework that explains a particular economic phenomenon. Models may be descriptive or mathematical. Economic models are typically used for:

1. Forecasting economic activities based on a set of assumptions and conclusions.

2. Defining new economic guidelines to change future economic behaviors.
3. Justifying economic policies at political, organizational, and family levels.
4. Planning, resource allocation, logistical planning, and business leadership.
5. Assisting in commercial and investment speculation."

Open Access: The Budapest Initiative defines open access as free internet access that allows users to read, copy, download, distribute, print, search, access full-text articles, and use them for any legitimate purpose without financial, legal, or technical barriers. The only restriction is not to reproduce and distribute the work without proper citation, acknowledging the author's right to preserve the integrity of the work.

Open Access Journals: Periodicals that rely on funding methods not requiring payment from individual readers or institutions for access.

0.3 Research Problem and Justifications for Choosing the Topic

Due to recent financial constraints and limited budgets in libraries, there has been a rise in open access periodicals that are freely available online and do not charge usage fees. These periodicals have addressed many issues faced by researchers and libraries with limited budgets. Therefore, it is essential to identify the funding sources and economic models of these periodicals.

0.4 Importance of the Study

The importance of this study lies in its examination of the economic models of Arab open access journals in education, aiming to understand their sources of income.

0.5 Objectives of the Study

The study aims to:

1. Identify the economic models used by Arab open access journals in education.
2. Determine whether these journals charge fees for publishing, peer review, and other services.

0.6 Study Questions

This study seeks to answer the following questions:

1. What economic models do Arab open access journals in education follow?
2. Do these journals charge for peer review, publishing, and other services?

0.7 Field of Study and Its Limits

- **Subject Area:** Economic models of Arab open access journals in education.
- **Linguistic Field:** Languages of Arab countries, including Arabic, English, and French.
- **Geographical Field:** Arab countries.
- **Time Range:** The study preparation period from November 20, 2020, to January 10, 2021.

0.8 Method and Tools

A field survey approach was used to gather data from periodicals. A short questionnaire with open-ended questions was sent to the journals via email or through the 'Contact Us' feature on their websites.

Results and Recommendations

3.1 Results

- **Geographical Representation:** The data predominantly represents Egyptian periodicals, with limited representation from other Arab countries.
- **Economic Models:** The most common economic model among the journals studied involves researchers paying fees for peer review and publication. Researchers are categorized based on their affiliation with the country of publication, whether they are local or expatriate, and treated as foreign researchers if they are abroad.

The researcher identified approximately ten distinct economic models based on the data collected from Arab open access journals in education. These models include:

1. Free publication without any fees.
2. Free publication funded by the university.
3. Researchers pay for both peer review and publication.
4. Researchers pay for review and publication, with categorization based on affiliation.

5. A fixed fee paid by researchers without specifying the service (publication, arbitration, or both).
 6. A fixed fee with categorization based on affiliation.
 7. Payment solely for arbitration.
 8. Payment solely for publication.
 9. Payment for linguistic review, arbitration, and publication, with categorization based on affiliation.
 10. Payment for publication, arbitration, and plagiarism check, with categorization based on affiliation.
- **Challenges:** One significant reason for researchers' reluctance to publish in these journals is the requirement to pay publication fees, which compensates for the absence of subscription revenues. Universities and research institutions often struggle to justify these expenses, particularly those with limited budgets.

3.2 Recommendations

- **Complete Publication Data:** Periodicals, especially Egyptian ones available through the Egyptian Knowledge Bank, should ensure all publication and peer review information is fully detailed on their websites.
- **Diverse Funding Sources:** Open access journals should diversify their funding sources, rather than relying solely on author fees or temporary funding from a single entity.
- **National Support Fund:** Establish a national fund to support open access initiatives across all Egyptian universities, as proposed by Dr. Mona Farouk Ali Muhammad in her study.
- **Policy Adoption for Funded Research:** Funding agencies should adopt policies mandating that funded research be deposited in a digital repository for open access. If publishers impose an embargo period before open access, it should not exceed six months.
- **Support for Publishing Fees:** Funding and educational institutions should assist authors with publication fees in open access journals that charge them, and similarly support journals that do not charge authors.
- **Alternative Revenue Streams:** Periodicals should explore alternative revenue streams, such as advertisements and services provided through their websites.
- **Further Studies:** The researcher recommends conducting similar studies across different fields to better understand economic models and funding strategies in various disciplines.