

## **New Paradigms for Fostering Innovation in Scientific Publishing**

**Katarina Krapež**

University of Primorska, Faculty of Management, Slovenia

*katarina.krapez@fm-kp.si*

The contemporary scientific community faces significant challenges in balancing the interests of the stakeholders in academic journal publishing: scientists/researchers (as authors, editors, and reviewers), publishers, libraries (and derivatives, e.g. repositories, on-line archives), and the general public. When comparing either market share or the number of reputable journals (i.e. journal titles with a Thomson Reuters' Impact Factor) a small group of commercial conventional publishers dominate the market. The top five publishers (Reed-Elsevier, Springer, Wiley-Blackwell, Taylor & Francis, and Sage) publish nearly 35% of all journals, while the top four publishers have well over 2000 journals each.

In last decade, a significant amount of research has been conducted on legislative and policy options to facilitate the balancing of the interests of the various stakeholders in academic journal publishing (under the above-described oligopoly conditions), with the overall objective being to either sustain and enhance the quality of scientific content or to expand its availability. However, policy suggestions that focus on both objectives, backed by data and supported by previous, multidisciplinary studies are still rare.

To fill this gap, the study examined modern methods of assuring accessibility and quality of scientific journals. The aim of the study was to gain an understanding of various criteria that identify quality of the academic communication, focusing on quality assessment processes, performed by the editorial teams of journals. 258 editors of scientific journals from 42 countries participated in the study (i.e. took a part in the on-line survey, while 24 editors also participated in the subsequent interviews).

Findings clearly indicate that academia needs to ensure they have decision-making power regarding: a) the choice of the journals' business/dissemination model, b) quality assurance processes, c) general terms of contractual agreements (between authors/reviewers/publishers).

While study results are encouraging in respect to the raising level of specialization within quality assessment processes and in respect to the advancements in technology support in such processes, they also indicate that for sustainable development of science and to encourage innovation, academia needs to take control over the management of scientific journals, which is currently publishers' domain.

*Keywords:* innovation, research outputs, accessibility, quality assurance, management of scientific journals