

# Data on Scholarly Journal Publishing

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## 4. Citations, impact factors and their role

Are traditional (i.e., subscription-based) journals more likely to be cited than OA journals?

Key methodological challenge: article cannot be OA + non-OA at the same time = no like-for-like comparison

Deposit of articles in OA repositories seems to be associated with a larger number of citations, and earlier citations for articles

But *reasons* for this not clear. The little existing evidence suggests that authors put their *best* work into OA format

Evidence of IF advantage for OA journals over toll-access journals less consistent - one study of a hybrid journal shows higher citation counts for OA articles than subscription-access articles - but only covers one journal = more work is needed

- ➔ Evidence scattered, uses inconsistent methods and covers different subject areas
- ➔ Consistent longitudinal data on IF trends needed
- ➔ Qualitative factors should not be ignored - range of factors can affect citation counts



## 6. Cost/impact of alternative dissemination models

What are the costs involved in publishing OA journals?  
 What is the impact of digital repositories on the economics of publishing?

Some acceptance that many costs common to both OA + conventional journal publishing = can be cancelled out in the 'equation' (e.g. 'first copy' costs, server and software costs)

Evaluation of cost impact of alternative models presupposes understanding of existing models. But no solid comparators to compare OA costs against!

How will OA publishing models be funded? Early evidence that institutionally-based solution potentially inequitable

Evidence that repositories are an important new factor in the journal cancellation decision process, *but* no evidence yet to demonstrate any relationship between subscription cancellations and repositories.

- ➔ Paucity of evidence generally in this area
- ➔ Critical gap: study on money flow implications of new models
- ➔ Further gap: what is their impact on quality of research communications (peer review)?