To publish or not to publish

OPEN ACCESS

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Main Idea

- Science should be available to everyone not only the subscribers.
  - CUDOS norms.
  - Knowledge should be shared.
  - Funding agencies demand more and more open access.
  - CFRS guidelines - Universality Principle of Science.
Status of Science Publishing

• Should be published when the requirements are met
  – not when a certain quota needs to be fulfilled

• New communication techniques, e.g. Internet allows for open access distribution of information.
Pros and Cons

**Pros**
- Increased accessibility. E.g. poor countries can access more information.

**Cons**
- Increased capacity for misuse. E.g. sensation stories in media.
Pros and Cons

Pros

• No need for “flashy” science to be published, could improve honesty in the claims made.

Cons

• Economical incentive for the publisher to publish more.
Pros and Cons

Pros

- Encourages interaction between the research community and the general public.

Cons

- Difficulties for the general public in judging the quality of the journals (also scientists).
Pros and Cons

Pros
• Greater agreement with the CUDOS norms, as information and data is more freely available.

Cons
• More incentive in publishing in higher impact factor journals to advance professionally.
Pros and Cons

Pros
• Could lead to an increase of the scientists critical eyes towards published material.

Cons
• More availability of information of mixed quality makes it harder to discriminate the relevant one.
Light at the end of the tunnel

• Many top scientists and government agencies are encouraging the publication in open access journals.
• There is evidence that open access is starting to mature, increasing its appeal.
• Awareness of non-professional behavior in some of these journals is increasing.
Thank you for listening!