3 C's of Scientific Publishing Today: Controversies, Conflicts and Challenges

Robert Bovenschulte President, Publications Division American Chemical Society International Chemical Information Conference & Exhibition Nimes, France 17 October 2005

Overview

Trends and Issues

Fearless Predictions

□ Growth of scientific research worldwide

Expanding access to the scientific literature

Changing attitudes toward quality control

Cost pressures and rising prices

Enhancing discoverability

Enhancing functionality

Archiving and ensuring preservation

The changing role of governments and funding agencies

The volume of worldwide research will continue to grow, increasing stress and costs for all parties involved in scientific communication.

Publishing costs will continue to rise faster than purchasing budgets, forcing more and more journal cancellations and other cost-saving measures.

Authors will continue to value publication quality, but readers will increasingly dissociate quality of information from the reputation of its source.

Access to scientific information will continue to broaden and become easier.

Tools and devices for personalization and convenient access will grow in popularity.

Open access, notably the author pays version, may have a few isolated successes but will fail as a scalable and sustainable model to transform the publishing system.

In the long run, usage will become the primary (but not the only) factor in determining pricing and selection.

Government influence over access to scientific information will expand, and pressures will increase to restrict property rights connected to information.

Final Thoughts

□ Surely this can't go on...

but it does.

Has the time come for Wiki science?

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