Open Access Literature Review 2008–9

A Serials Perspective

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Stemming from a previously published serials literature review by Library Resources and Technical Services (LRTS), this paper provides a review of a subset of the serials literature published in 2008 and 2009 focusing on open access (OA). The broader scope of the serials literature sets the stage for a culture of openness receptive to the OA movement. Catalysts to this movement, such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH) mandate, university OA policies, and increased emphasis on self-archiving in institutional repositories (IRs), are of interest to serials and electronic resource professionals who steward academic research collections. This interest is exemplified by the significant number of open-access-related articles intertwined throughout the serials literature of 2008 and 2009. Topics covered in this article include the NIH mandate, universities' responses to the NIH mandate, overviews of OA, the IR as a model of OA, strategies for supporting IRs, and evaluation of the effects of OA on scholarly communication.

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In a separate review of the 2008 and 2009 serials literature published by *Library Resources and Technical Services* (*LRTS*), the author excluded the topic of open access (OA) because of its appearance in a preponderance of articles. The extensive treatment of OA across the 2008 and 2009 serials literature merited separate investigation and provides the context for this paper. The literature reveals numerous reasons for serials professionals' enamored views of OA. Given the background of the economic recession that began in 2007, OA has been touted as a possible saving grace to the crisis in scholarly communication and a potentially viable solution to the ever-increasing, unsupportable inflation of library subscription prices. In addition, the Internet has helped to resolve concerns about the feasibility of distributing OA content. Librarians also have embraced a culture of openness across the information environment—supporting open systems, new industry standards for interoperability, data exchange, and Web 2.0 concepts of connectivity. The library environment of 2008 and 2009 was ripe for change, and the plethora of articles written on OA during this time reveals the profession's fascination with the possibilities of the OA movement.

A quick search for "open access" in the Library and Information Science Abstracts (LISA) database resulted in more than 500 hits for 2008 and 2009. An exhaustive review of the literature on this topic is far beyond the scope of this paper; instead, this review focuses on the open-access-related conversations embedded within a serials context or OA discussions in publications targeting serials or electronic resource librarians. Topics covered by the review include the National Institutes of Health (NIH) mandate, universities' responses to the NIH mandate, overviews of OA, the institutional repository (IR) as a model of