

Researchers: Open access great (but not for me)

DO ONLINE JOURNALS ADVERSELY AFFECT ACADEMIC CAREERS?

Researchers in academia appreciate the speed at which online journals can distribute new findings, but they fear such non-traditional publications will adversely affect their careers, according to a study by professors at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and the University of Munich.

The study shows that academics are extremely positive about new media opportunities that open up access to scientific findings that were once available only in expensive journals. However, they are reluctant to publish their own work in open access outlets.

The research was conducted by Rolf Wigand, Ph.D., of UA's College of Infor-


mation Science and Systems Engineering and Thomas Hess, Florian Mann, and Benedikt von Walter of Munich's Institute for Information Systems and New Media.

The study shows that 60 percent of respondents believe online publication affects promotion and tenure. So even though open access publications have higher speeds of publication and citation rates, they are reluctant to publish their own research in those outlets.

Notwithstanding the speed at which open access publishing brings new research to the marketplace and its ability to give easy research access to scientists in developing countries, 51 percent of



those questioned said open access publishing is not well known enough to use it as a medium for publishing their own work. In addition, 53 percent think open access publications lack a guarantee of long-term availability of research.

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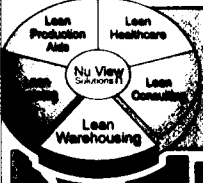
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