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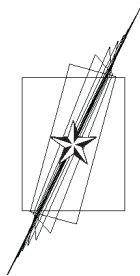
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From the Editor

The Prospects and Challenges of Open-Access Publishing

Paywalls have been a contentious issue in academia, hindering researchers from publishing their work and presenting obstacles for the public in accessing scholarly work. This creates a hurdle for accessing knowledge, hindering the extensive distribution of research. Subsequently, this particularly affects individuals without institutional support and access to subscription-based resources. Universities from the Global South bear a disproportionate burden, considering that support for graduate students, professors, and research staff is limited. What are the two streams or models of academic publishing? I delimit it into two: subscription-based and open access.

The subscription-based model operates when individuals or institutions purchase subscription access. This seems to be the dominant model in granting access to scientific or scholarly materials. The persistence of this perspective can also be attributed to the supposed prestige linked with certain publishers and journals. However, this is gradually being challenged by other publishing models and resistance from academic institutions and scholarly communities. One of the major critiques against this model is its restrictive nature, which limits the visibility of research. It also restricts the productive exchange among scholars and the widespread dissemination of knowledge. Aside from its restrictive nature, it also perpetuates further inequality in the access to information, widening the gap between those with and without the ability to access resources.

With the critiques against the subscription-based model, there is a greater push for the open-access model. This reflects the desire among different academic communities for more inclusive publication practices that allow equitable access to research and a wider dissemination. The open-access model responds to the pitfalls of the subscription model by providing wider accessibility and increased visibility of publications. Ultimately, it seeks to democratize knowledge production by empowering researchers from Global South and underfunded institutions to be given access to the same set of resources similar to their counterparts from well-funded institutions aside from democratizing knowledge production, which creates broader public engagement.

Removing barriers to scholarly content and allowing unrestricted access facilitates robust discussion beyond academic circles, allowing practitioners and policymakers to appreciate the most recent findings. Simply put, open-access publishing allows researchers to produce work with greater impact by allowing them to reach a wider audience. This upholds a greater public understanding of scholarly work and allows for better decision-making in a wide range of fields. Improving access to scholarly content gradually cultivates the process of informed decision-making in different aspects of society.

However, open-access publishing is not without challenges in terms of operational sustainability. Some journals rely on institutional funding, grants, and other forms of support. But oftentimes, this does not fully cover the full operational costs. In some instances, journals would require an article processing charge to balance the cost of operating the journal. Focusing on the costs, journals do need to significantly consider expenses related to the editorial processes, such as editing, production, and maintaining platforms. Despite these challenges, the individuals who are committed to the success of a journal contribute to its operational sustainability. I note that the

benefits of open-access publishing considerably offset the challenges. More importantly, open-access publishing is a step in the right direction for a more impactful and even equitable research landscape.

This issue of the APSSR contains nine research articles and one research brief. Inhye Heo analyzed the policy of Moon Jae-in's housing policy in South Korea in relation to the idea of policy autonomy. Marcelo Savassi Kakihara and Melanie Tolentino explored interventions that can mitigate ageism in the Philippine context. Kwangseon Hwang examined the phenomenon of the revolving door in government and politics. Syaza Farhana Mohamad Shukri and Mohd Shazani Masri put into perspective the complexities of interethnic relations in Malaysia, with a focus on Kuala Lumpur and Kuching. Through a case study, Aileen C. Bautista and Rochelle Irene G. Lucas examined the experiences of caregivers of individuals with Tourette's Syndrome. Mark Felix conducted a scoping review to provide further health research directions for older adults in Malaysia. Yusoph Feeroz, Jan Michael Alexandre C. Bernadas, Charibeth K. Cheng, and Angelyn Lao explored how health information is disseminated on social media. James Gregory Alcaraz Villasis, Naparat Kranrattanasuit, and Purwo Santoso examined the causes of transjudicial conversations in relation to human rights norms. Marcus Ynalvez delved into the intricacies of social networks and how such do not necessarily have beneficial effects on productivity among academics. Lastly, Enrico Gloria puts into perspective the role of China's international institutions in the practice of global governance.

I would like to thank the editors and reviewers for their consistent support of the journal. I look forward to receiving your submissions. Our website is at <https://www.dlsu.edu.ph/research/publishing-house/journals/apssr/> and our ScholarOne submission platform is at <https://mc04.manuscriptcentral.com/apssr>.

Joseph Ching Velasco
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