Open-Access Publication in Computer Science

Moshe Y. Vardi

Logical Methods in Computer Science

http://www.lmcs-online.org/

Rationale for Open-Access Publication in CS

Basic Assertion:

- Then: Commercial publishers *facilitated* dissemination.

- Now: Commercial publishers *hinder* dissemination.

Claim: The value added by commercial publishers bears no relationship to the prices they charge.

Proof: Compare commercial publishing to society (e.g., ACM, IEEE) publishing.

What about Society Publishers?

A *partial* selection from Rice University's serial holdings: Advances in computers ($404.61), AI & society.($534.16), Algorithmica ($998.05), Ars combinatoria ($263.44), Bioinformatics ($1415.47), BIT ($336.00), Combinatorica ($420.47), Combinatorics, probability & computing ($338.91), Computational complexity ($524.00), Computer languages, systems & structures ($1006.25), Computing ($1108.32), Constructive approximation ($538.00), Distributed and parallel databases ($632.00), Distributed computing ($400.47), Evolutionary computation ($280.42), Formal methods in system design ($734.39), Graphs and combinatorics ($470.00), Higher-order and symbolic computation ($460.00), INFORMS journal on computing ($288.35), Int'l journal of computation ($469.68)

Claim: Commercial publishes dominate computer-science publishing.

What about Quality

Question: Won't the lower-barrier entry of open-access publication lead to proliferation of low-quality publications?

Answer: There is no relationship between the business model and editorial process. Quality is a function of the editorial process.

Example: First step in launching LMCS – establishing a first-rate editorial board.

OA CS Journals: Int'l J. of Machine Learning, J. of AI Research, Logical Methods in Computer Science, Theory of Computing.

What about Society Publishers?

Question: Should ACM and IEEE adopt an open-access publication model?

Answer: ACM and IEEE need to decide on their position on the issue of commercial publishing. As long as commercial publishes dominate computer-science publishing, open access will remain a pressing need.

Authors' Attitudes

Question: Are computer-science authors reluctant to publish in open-access journals?

Answer: Currently, CS OA journals are all private initiatives. Questions about their longevity are natural.

But:

- The longevity of commercial publishers should also be questioned.

- LMCS is an *overlay* journals; the papers are stored on arXiv.

- LMCS also uses *print archiving*.

Originality

Question: How is "*originality*" of articles guaranteed?

Answer: Originality is means to an end, not an end by itself.

- Cost of publication is negligible; the editorial process is expensive.

- LMCS accepts conference papers when the editorial process is of value.

- LMCS authors retain copyright; can republish with reference to LMCS.

CS vs Other Disciplines

My Question: Why is CS much more conservative about open-access publication then other scientific disciplines?