

## The democratization of scientific knowledge.

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The democratization of knowledge has allowed common people to have access to information that had been previously restricted to elite demographics, such as academics and scholars. One of the traditional platforms for knowledge access and dissemination is the public library. Likewise, in the various scientific fields, the open-access of peer reviewed research studies has allowed this type of information to find a wider audience. Changes in the platform of information dissemination, a move from brick and mortar physical structures to the virtual realms of the World Wide Web, and from paper and ink to digital files have further allowed even more people to access this information, considering the exponential growth in internet access and mobile phone networks worldwide.

The open access of scientific research is of utmost importance as it allows researchers affiliated with institutions that lack generous funds to cover an extensive range of journal subscriptions, to access up to date and a wide range of scientific articles in their fields of interest. This further contributes to the leveling out of academic institutions from countries that do not have the budgets to fund specialized journal subscriptions. Having access to current information allows scientists to be abreast of the latest developments in their research fields, access the latest protocols, avoiding redundancy and making informed clinical and research decisions.

In clinical practice, having information about the latest advancements, reading about the results of protocol or technique comparisons, analyzing epidemiological data, among other information, is of utmost importance for career advancement and for providing adequate patient care.

At the *Journal of Oral Research* all issues are open-access immediately upon publication.

Another side of the coin of knowledge dissemination is getting the information one generates published in a specialized peer-review platform that reaches the intended audience. Unfortunately, many journals that provide open-access charge substantial publishing fees that although sometime pro-rated, are still too high to allow scientists and clinicians from poorer countries to

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publish. Some research is conducted in difficult circumstances, in places where funds are scarce and grants may not cover publishing fees, which represents an obstacle to scientific publishing and career advancement. Finding a suitable affordable journal in which to publish can be a daunting task. At the *Journal of Oral Research*, publishing is free of charge, allowing researchers to disseminate their work. An increase in the amount of published data and information from countries that are poorly represented in the scientific and clinic literature is

thus possible, and such data can be analyzed and published by their own scientists. Furthermore, by providing free translation from Spanish to English and language editing services, the *Journal of Oral Research* allows the published information to reach a wider audience.<sup>1</sup>

In summary, the open-access of scientific research contributes not only to the democratization of scientific knowledge, but has repercussions in the advancement of lower-resources institutions, their academics and clinicians, as well as the common people.

## REFERENCES.

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