PKP AND ITS OPEN JOURNAL SYSTEM: AN INITIATIVE IN OPEN ACCESS SCHOLARLY ENVIRONMENT

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ABSTRACT

Commercial publishers are increasing the subscription prices of journals, the libraries attached to universities, colleges and R&D institutions are finding it very difficult to subscribe the core journals to cater to the knowledge requirements of their stakeholders. The Open Journal System helps us to publish and manage the entire publishing process of a journal; the Academic institutions can do this without any additional funding. This paper describes about an initiative; started by the Public Knowledge Project.

Key Words: *Public Knowledge Project, Open Journal System, Scholarly Publishing.*

INTRODUCTION

When scholarly publishing was in trouble due to so many reasons such as high printing cost, limited circulations, scanty funding resources, time consuming peer review process, etc. the advent of electronic publishing technology came as a panacea and changed the face of scholarly publishing. Evolution of Open Source Softwares for Journal publishing and management has opened new doors to the academic and research community for production, storage and access to research literature in the networked digital environment. The introduction of open journal management systems like 'Open Journal System' (OJS) of the Public Knowledge Project (PKP), 'DPubs' of Cornell University, 'ePubTK' of Edgewall Software, GAPworks of German Research Foundation, 'Ambra' of PLOS, 'SOAPS' of SciX, 'Scholarly Exchange', etc. paved the way for scholarly publishing by academic and research community with zero budget[1]. Now, we are

fortunate by this environment which has given freedom to the scholarly community to more focus on their research rather than worrying about the fund problem for publishing their research. In these initiatives, a major system has been started by Public Knowledge Project (PKP) through its Open Journal System.

WHAT IS PKP

The Public Knowledge Project (PKP) is a non-profit research initiative that is centered on the importance of getting the results of publicly funded research freely available through open access policies, and on producing strategies for making it possible including software solutions. It is a partnership between the Faculty of Education at the University of British Columbia, the Canadian Centre for Studies in Publishing at Simon Fraser University, the University of Pittsburgh, Ontario Council of University Libraries, the California Digital

Library and the School of Education at Stanford University. It tries to improve the scholarly and public character of academic research through the growth of innovative online environments[3].

"PKP is a multi-university initiative developing (free) open source software and

Conducting research to improve the quality and reach of scholarly publishing"

HISTORY

The PKP founded in 1998 by Dr. John Willinsky in the Department of Language and Literacy Education at the Faculty of Education at the University of British Columbia, in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, based on his research in teaching and publishing. Dr. Willinsky is a leading promoter of open access publishing, and has written extensively on the value of public inquiry.

The PKP's initial focus was on increasing access to scholarly research and output beyond the traditional academic environments. This soon led to a related interest in scholarly communication and publishing, and especially on ways to establish it more cost effective and less reliant on commercial enterprises and their generally restricted access models. PKP has developed free, open source software for the management, publishing, and indexing of journals, conferences, and monographs[4].

The PKP has collaborated with a broad scope of collaborators concerned in doing research publicly available, including the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC), the Brazilian Institute for Information Science and Technology (IBICT), and the International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP). Together with INASP, the PKP is working with publishers, librarians, and faculty members in the evolution of scholarly research portals in the developing world, including African Journals OnLine (AJOL) and Asia Journals Online.

As of 2008, the PKP has joined the Synergies Canada initiative, contributing their technical expertise in integrating work being performed within a five-party consortium to make a decentralized national platform for social sciences and humanities research communication in Canada.

GROWTH OF PKP (2005 TO 2009)

The Public Knowledge Project grew between 2005 and 2009. In 2006, there were approximately 400 journals using Open Journal Systems (OJS), 50 conferences using Open Conference Systems (OCS), 4 organizations using the Harvester, and 350 members registered on the online support forum. In 2009, over 5000 journals were used OJS, more than 500 conferences were using OCS, at least 10 organizations are using the Harvester, and there were over 2400 members on the support forum.

Since 2005, there were major releases (version 2) of three software modules (OJS, OCS, Harvester), as considerably as the addition of Lemon8-XML, with a rising number of downloads being recorded every month for all of the software. From June 12, 2009 to December 21, 2009, there were 28,451 downloads of OJS, 6,329 of OCS, 1,255 of the Harvester, and 1,096 of Lemon8-XML. A new module, Open Monograph Press (a publication management system for monographs) has also been started.

The PKP also witnessed increased community programming contributions, including new plug-in and features, such as the subscription module, allowing OJS to support full open access, delayed open access, or full subscription-only approach. A growing number of translations have been contributed by community members, with Croatian, English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Turkish, and Vietnamese versions of OJS completed, and several others in production[4].

PKP CONFERENCES

PKP holds a biannual conference. The First PKP Scholarly Publishing Conference was held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada on July 11–13,

2007 and the Second PKP Scholarly Publishing Conference was also arrested in Vancouver on July 8–10, 2009. The Third PKP Scholarly Publishing Conference was held in Berlin, Germany during 26-28 September 2011. The fourth PKP Scholarly Publishing Conference was held in Mexico City, Mexico in August 19-21, 2013. Notes on the presentations were recorded on a scholarly publishing blog for both the 2007 and 2009 conferences, and selected papers from the 2007 conference were published in a special issue of the online journal First Monday. Papers from the 2009 conference are available in the inaugural issue of the journal Scholarly and Research Communication[5].

PKP SOFTWARE

The PKP's suite of software includes four separate, but interrelated applications to demonstrate the feasibility of open access: the Open Journal Systems, the Open Conference Systems, the PKP Open Archives Harvester, and Open Monograph Press. PKP briefly experimented with a fifth application, Lemon8-XML, but has since opted to integrate the XML functionality into the existing applications. All of the products are open source and freely available to anyone concerned in employing them. They share similar technical requirements (PHP, MySQL, Apache or Microsoft IIS 6, and a Linux, BSD, Solaris, Mac OS X, or Windows operating system) and necessitate only a minimum degree of technical expertise to fetch up and moving. In summation, the software is well supported with a free, online support forum and a producing body of publications and documentation is available on the project web site.

Increasingly, institutions are combining the PKP software, using the OJS to publish their research results, OCS to organize their conferences and publish the transactions, and the OAI Harvester to organize and get the metadata from these publications searchable. Together with other open source software applications such as DSpace (for creating institutional research repositories), institutions are creating their own infrastructure for sharing their research output[6].

OPEN JOURNAL SYSTEMS (OJS)

Open Journal Systems (OJS) is open-source software for the management of peer-reviewed academic journals, produced by the Public Knowledge Project, published under the GNU General Public License. OJS are a journal management and publishing scheme that have been produced by the Public Knowledge Project (PKP) through its federally funded efforts to extend and improve access to research.

The origins of OJS- The arrangement was first published in 2002 as a research and development initiative of the Public Knowledge Project at the University of British Columbia, with the support of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, Max Bell Foundation, the Pacific Press Endowment, and the MacArthur Foundation. Its continuing development is presently managed by a partnership between UBC's Public Knowledge Project, the Canadian Center for Studies in Publishing and the Simon Fraser University Library[9].

OJS FEATURES

- OJS is installed locally and locally controlled.
- Editors configure requirements, sections, review process, etc.
- Online submission and management of all content.
- Subscription module with delayed open access choices.
- Comprehensive indexing of content region of planetary organization.
- Understanding Tools for content, based on field and editors' choice.
- E-mail notification and commenting ability for readers.
- Complete context-sensitive online Help documentation.

OJS assists with every phase of the refereed publishing process, from submissions through to online publishing and indexing. Through its management systems, it has finely grained indexing

of research, and the context it supplies for research, OJS seeks to better both the scholarly and public quality of refereed research.

OJS is open source software made freely available to journals worldwide for the use of making open access publishing a viable selection for more journals, as open access can increase a journal's readership as well as its contribution to the public good on a global scale.

DESIGN OF OJS

OJS was designed to ease the growth of open admission, peer-reviewed publication, providing the technical infrastructure not only for the online presentation of journal articles, but also an entire editorial management workflow, including article submission, multiple cycles of peer-review, and indexing. OJS relies upon individuals fulfilling different roles, such as the Journal manager, editor, reviewer, author, reader, etc. It has a module that supports subscription journals.

The software holds a 'plugin' architecture, similar to other community-established projects such as WordPress, allowing new features to be easily integrated without the demand to convert the entire core code base. Some of the plugins contributed to OJS include tools to facilitate indexing in Google Scholar and PubMed Central, a feed plugin providing RSS/Atom web syndication feeds, a COUNTER plugin, allowing COUNTER statistics and reporting, and more. Open Journal Systems is also LOCKSS-compliant, helping to ensure permanent archiving for ongoing access to the content of the diary.

To improve reader's engagement, PKP has developed a series of Reading Tools, which provide admission to related works, media accounts, government policies, etc. in open access databases.

This journal utilizes the Open Journals Systems software for management and publication documentation. OJS is an open source solution to managing and publishing scholarly journals online. OJS is a highly flexible edit-operated journal

management and publishing system that can be downloaded for free and installed on a local Web server. It has been designed to reduce the time and energy devoted to the clerical and managerial tasks associated with editing a journal, while improving the recordkeeping and efficiency of editorial processes. It tries to improve the scholarly and public quality of journal publishing through a number of inventions, from making journal policies more transparent to improving indexing[6].

SYSTEM BACKGROUND

OJS is a journal and website management and publishing system. OJS covers all facets of online journal publishing, from setting up a journal website to operational tasks such as the author's submission process, peer critique, editing, publication, archiving, and indexing of the diary. OJS also help to manage the people aspects of organizing a journal, including keeping track of the work of editors, reviewers, and authors, notifying readers, and assisting with the correspondence.

OJS is flexible and scalable. A single installation of OJS can support the performance of many diaries. Each diary has its own unique URL as well as its own expression and feel. OJS can enable a single editor to oversee all facets of a journal and the journal's website, or OJS will support an international squad of editors with diverse responsibilities for a journal's multiple sections.

OJS supports the principle of widening access. This system is not intended only to assist with journal publishing, but to demonstrate how the costs of journal publishing can be reduced to the point where providing readers with "open access" to the contents of the journal may be a viable option. The case for open access is spelled out over a wide series of articles stemming from this project, which are freely available under Publications at the University of British Columbia Public Knowledge Project website.

OJS MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

Editorial Process:

OJS moves submissions to the journal through five steps in the editorial process, which can be handled by one or more of the editors.

- *Unassigned Queue:* Items begin here and are delegated to one or more editors.

- *Submit Review:* Items undergo peer review and editorial decision.

- *Submission Editing:* Items undergo copy editing, layout, and proofing. The submission is assigned to an issue for publication.

- *Table of Contents:* Items are ordered for publication and are published.

Editorial Roles:

(Assigned in Academic Journal Management)

- *Journal Manager:* Sets up the journal and staffs editorial roles (can also

  serve as an Editor and other roles).

- *Editor:* Oversees editorial process; can assign submissions to Section. Editors to see through the Submission Review and Submission Editing; Undertakes scheduling of content and publishing of journal.

- *Section Editor:* Oversees Submission Review and possibly Submission, Editing for assigned submissions.

- *Copyeditor:* Works with submissions to improve grammar and clarity, poses questions to author on possible errors, and ensures strict adherence to journal's bibliographic and textual style.

- *Layout Editor:* Transforms copyedited submissions into galleys in HTML, PDF, and/or PS files in the proper format for electronic publishing.

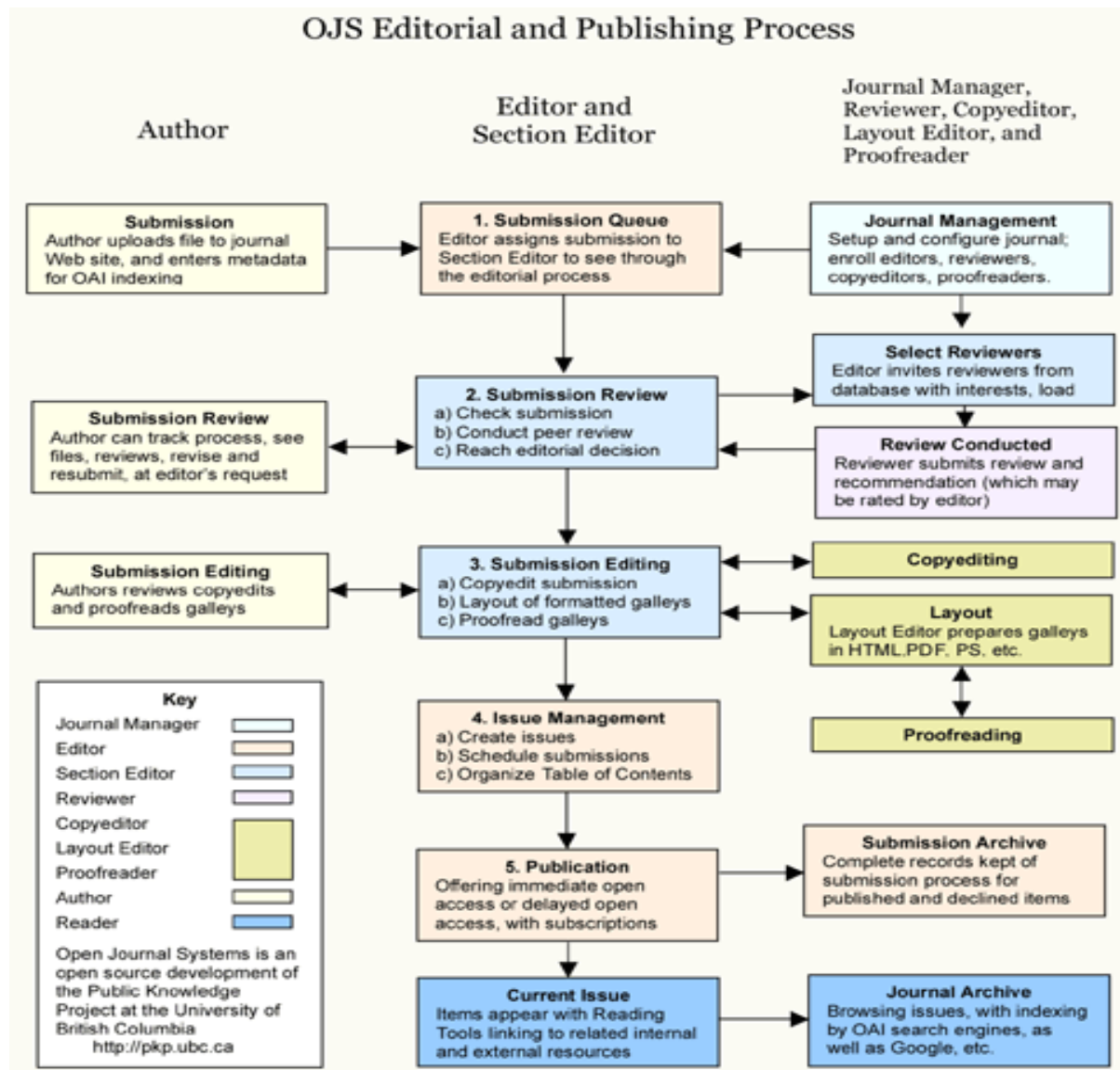- *Proofreader:* Reads galleys for typographic and formatting errors.

Figure.1

SUPPORT

A support forum and bug reporting system for technical issues can be accessed via the PKP web site. Users who have questions about interacting with a particular journal site using OJS or that journal's policies are encouraged to contact the journal's principal or support, listed on the PKP web site[10].

CONCLUSION

When the commercial publishers are increasing the subscription prices of journals, the libraries attached to universities, colleges and R&D institutions are finding it very difficult to subscribe the core journals to cater to the knowledge requirements of their stakeholders. Though some e-journal consortia are in operation in India, still access to scholarly knowledge has so many issues. In this context, it is suggested that at least one electronic journal may be published by each university in India without duplication in subjects so that a least about 400 electronic journals can be published at this country. Since the Open Journal System helps us to publish

and manage the entire publishing process of a journal, the Academic institutions can do this without any additional funding. The UGC, ICAR, MCI, AICTE and other higher education, regulatory bodies in India should come forward to take up this task and insist all academic and research institutes to bring open access journals so that the knowledge generated by the publicly funded organizations can be made available in the public web which will bring visibility to the research findings . Further, open access journals may also bring good citations to the research papers since it is available in the public web.

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