Joint DESY and University of Hamburg Accelerator Physics Seminar

Tuesday, April 24-th, 2007

(16:00 in Room 459/30b)

The Future of Scientific Publishing
Users and Producers views

Claus Ascheron

Springer–Verlag

Abstract

A lot of new developments are going on in scientific publishing. New electronic media were established and well accepted, library budgets are cut and consequently purchases of books and subscriptions of journals are reduced. Consequently, the prices go up and it is more difficult for libraries and scientists to buy the needed scientific information.

There is one initiative of leading international publishers to provide the electronic versions of journals and books for free to underdeveloped countries to help scientists and doctors there to bridge the gap in scientific information.

But there are also serious problems in developed countries. To avoid to get cut off of scientific information there is the open access initiative. There are many hopes, but the question is: Who shall finance this?

This presentation is given by someone who is heavily involved in these matters, an editor of Springer, one of the worldwide leading scientific publishers. Because he used to be a professor for many years, also the point of view of the users is included in his views.

The main topics of the presentation are:

- Electronic Publishing
  What are the features of electronic publishing, how did it develop, what are the requirements to the users? Which new opportunities are offered by the establishment of electronic information media and what are their limits? Which new developments in scientific publishing arise from the developments in electronic publishing? Will electronic publishing substitute conventional publishing?

- Pay per View
  A convenient opportunity to get the information on articles and book chapters of interest in books which are not available in the institute is to buy selected electronic

information through pay per view. Currently this is too expensive to get widely accepted. But there will be new ways in the future. Some suggestions to tackle these problems are made.

- Legal Background of Scientific Publishing The rights of authors and publishers have to be protected. But the situation is quite different in the various countries. This concerns the distribution of scientific information through organisations who bought it, collecting payment, supplying royalties, fixed or unfixed prices for books in a country. A survey of new legal developments in various countries is given.

- Open Access
  The development and influence of the open access movement on scientific publishing and the reactions of the publishers to it are broadly discussed.

- Open questions are:
  Will the publishers lose importance by free publications of societies and institutions?
  How expensive is open access publishing?
  What are possible new business models?

D.P.Barber (MPY), S.Khan (Univ. HH), J.Roßbach (Univ. HH) and M.Vogt (MPY).

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