



Reshaping the Academic Landscape: JOSHA's Shared Vision with the Gates Foundation

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Abstract:

The dissemination of knowledge through scientific articles is undoubtedly essential in the field of science, yet the costs linked with publication fees in reputable journals may hinder less privileged groups. These disparities pose a widespread global challenge that affects science as well. Acknowledging this issue, organizations like the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the United Nations have taken steps to address these challenges. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation promotes rapid and equitable sharing of breakthroughs through initiatives like the Open Access Policy. Meanwhile, the United Nations advocates for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which emphasize Quality Education and reducing inequalities. Just as the Gates Foundation seeks to expand access to crucial research and its impact, JOSHA strives to make knowledge accessible to everyone, encouraging collaboration and advancing research for the benefit of society.

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JOSHA, is driven by the belief that the pursuit of knowledge in science, humanities, and the arts is an ongoing journey with boundless potential. Since 2014, JOSHA has been at the forefront of open access and not-for-profit publishing, welcoming worldwide contributions from 185 diverse voices in 17 languages. Our mission is: to democratise knowledge, foster collaboration, and drive research for societal progress.

The dissemination of knowledge through scientific articles is undoubtedly essential in the field of science, yet the costs linked with publication fees in reputable journals may hinder less privileged groups. These disparities pose a widespread global challenge that affects science as well. Acknowledging this issue, organizations like the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the United Nations have taken steps to address these challenges. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation promotes rapid and equitable sharing of breakthroughs through initiatives like the Open Access Policy. Meanwhile, the United Nations advocates for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), focusing particularly on Goals 4 and 10, which emphasize Quality Education and reducing inequalities. Just as the Gates Foundation seeks to expand access to crucial research and its impact, JOSHA strives to make knowledge accessible to everyone, encouraging collaboration and advancing research for the benefit of society.



JOSHA reflects its commitment to open access through various initiatives, including the preprint server, that allows researchers to share early versions of their work and provides diverse and multidisciplinary content. This principle is not confined solely to our published articles but also extends to our team members. Our diverse editorial board ensures a broad spectrum of perspectives to enhance academic dialogues with interdisciplinary viewpoints.

It is also important to contextualize this innovative commitment of JOSHA. The brief history of preprint servers starts in the early 1990s with arXiv.org, for physics, but biomedical sciences adopted them more recently, with bioRxiv, for biological sciences, created in 2013 and MedRxiv, for medicine, in 2019 (Hoy 2020:85) four years after JOSHA. Also, JOSHA was among the first preprint servers that provided a free direct object identifier (DOI) which has a minor but not negligible cost (to date, the lowest Crossref annual fee is 275 USD, plus a 0,25 USD per current preprint record or 1 USD per current record of an article or similar) (Crossref 2023). DOIs were originally created to solve the problem of broken links of early internet, but for scientific knowledge they also (1) work as timestamps to “establish ownership of an idea” (Hoy 2020:86) that fosters collaboration within the scientific community, (2) improve indexing, reading and reference management both human- and machine-based that boosting productivity, and (3), finally, contribute to multiple AI applications to combine human and artificial intelligence, the next frontier of scientific knowledge.

Open access publishing has a significant impact on accelerating knowledge dissemination and spurring innovation. By easing financial barriers and promoting accessibility, open access empowers researchers, institutions, and society at large to leverage each other's work and the collective knowledge pool.

We invite you to join us in our mission to advocate for open access publishing and knowledge equity. Whether you are a researcher looking to contribute, a reader searching for information, or a supporter of open access, there are numerous ways to engage with JOSHA. Submit your work, use our preprint server, or follow us on social media to stay updated. Together, let's create a more inclusive and fair publishing platform.



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