Open Access Publishing Patterns: Snapshots of Two Academic Medical Centers

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Question

How are Open Access (OA) journals affecting publishing by biomedical faculty at UNC Chapel Hill and Duke University?

Study

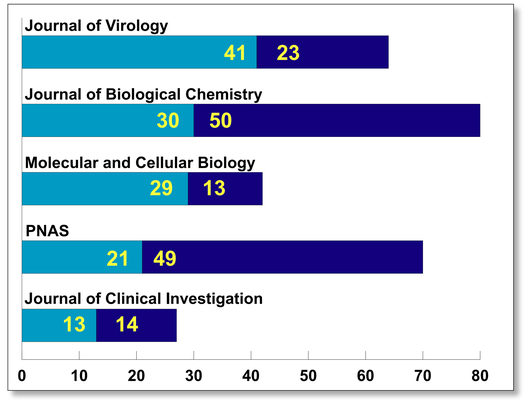
- Analyze articles authored by Duke or UNC faculty in free full-text (OA) journals from Jan. 2004 to July 2005
- This timeframe follows a period when many publishers were setting OA priorities
- By number of articles, open access status, department, author, and journal
- Compare two universities' data
- Lay foundation for further studies

Search Strategy

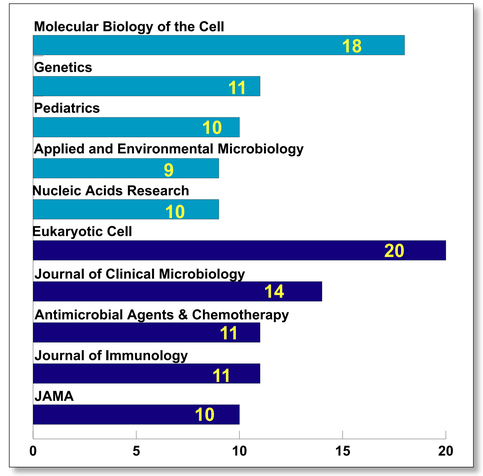
- Articles tagged as free full text in PubMed Central and PubMed
- Institutional author designated in the address field
- Scope includes all biosciences
- Each library used unique search strategy for their institutional address
- Libraries conducted searches on same day
- Eliminated citations with authors not affiliated with Duke or UNC
- Analysis conducted only on "contact authors" and departments

Snapshots

Common Journal Titles in Top Ten



Other Titles in Top Ten



How many articles authored by UNC and Duke authors were published in open access journals from January 2004 to July 2005?

- UNC = 411; Duke = 492; Total = 903
- Of the top 15 journals, only 3 had immediate open access
- Of the total OA articles, 20% were available immediately. 30% were available within 6 months or less

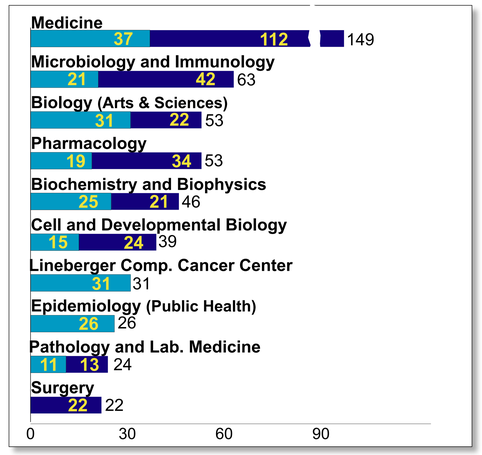
Which OA journals have the most articles by Duke and UNC authors?

- Five of the top ten journals were listed by both universities
- Four were in the top five for both schools

Which academic departments are doing the most OA publishing?

- Medicine is the most active department, but overall basic sciences departments publish more in OA journals.

OA publishing By Academic Department



= UNC = Duke

Conclusion

- It is possible to compare faculty OA publishing between two institutions
- The OA environment is complex but warrants further study

Some Questions for Further Study:

- Author surveys needed to determine:
  - who influences choice of where to publish
  - how important is OA policy over impact factors
  - is embargo period a factor in choice
  - how does OA publishing by these authors compare to their overall publishing record
  - how will this change over time
- Additional analysis needed to determine:
  - how important are OA titles to specific fields/ disciplines
  - to what extent do publisher, government and institutional policies and positions affect OA publishing activity

About Duke and UNC:

Duke is a private research-extensive university focused on clinical specialties; It has 30% more residents than UNC. In 2004, Duke received 7% more NIH awards than UNC.

UNC is a public research-extensive university with 15% more faculty than Duke; three times as many students spread across five schools; and 34% higher overall sponsored research funding than Duke.