

Abstract
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The Beilstein Journal of Organic Chemistry

The age of the Internet has brought with it easy and affordable technology for the creation, distribution and access to scientific papers; commercial publishers, learned societies, and libraries are having to redefine their roles in a system that has been built up over hundreds of years. Taxpayers want value for money and scientists want to disseminate their research results whilst enhancing their reputation. In the life sciences, Open Access has become a popular alternative to subscription-based publishing and is giving freedom to information for the reader and larger audience and impact for authors. In chemistry change is slow; no new business models have taken hold - publishers are still trying to maintain the status quo. With the launch of the Beilstein Journal of Organic Chemistry, the Beilstein-Institut has taken a major step into moving chemistry into this new environment. The Beilstein Journal of Organic Chemistry is making high quality original research information available online to a global audience at no charge. The current Open Access discussion is not only bringing transparency into the financial aspects of scholarly publishing but also changing forever how the scientific society views and values information and information services. The chemistry publishing establishment is being called on to define the "value" in "value added" and adopt fair solutions regarding intellectual property rights, libraries are being called on to play an active role in electronic archiving and scientists to put quality before quantity when publishing. The Beilstein Journal of Organic Chemistry is fully peer reviewed and is the only chemistry journal that is fully consistent with the position of many leading funding agencies regarding open access to research results.