

## **Libraries as Publishers: Increasing Access to Scholarly Literature**

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While access to scholarly literature, as to most other forms of information, generally has lower barriers in the developed world than in developing countries, efforts in developed countries to effect change in the scholarly communication system aim to increase access to scholarly literature in all parts of the world. These efforts are motivated by a growing awareness of the exponentially rising monetary costs in the current system of scholarly communication and awareness of an imbalance in the current intellectual property regime, both of which present access barriers that are economically inefficient and in principle unjustifiable.

In the traditional information lifecycle, the resources of a publisher and printer were required to disseminate scholarly literature; however, communications technologies and changing attitudes toward non-print resources have made it easier for individual scholars, universities and academic libraries, scholarly societies, and funding agencies to set up publishing and dissemination operations more in tune with the increasingly collaborative and digital production of scholarship also allowed by new communications technologies. The range of North American initiatives aiming to force change on the ossified and increasingly consolidated market for scholarly publishing will be discussed.