



The Next Frontier of Scholarship: Open Access Journals in Communication Disorders

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Open access journals in the field of speech-language pathology and audiology present a practical and efficient opportunity for scholarly publishing that is gaining momentum. Currently, there are only a few open access journals focused on scholarly research in the field. Open access journals provide a rich and easily accessible means for researchers and practitioners in the field to gain access to and communicate about the latest research as well as for clients, their families, and other medical professionals to learn about the latest advances in the field.

Anecdotally, limited accessibility to field-specific research in speech-language pathology and audiology is commonly reported by parents and other related health professionals, as well as primary care physicians. The Journal of Communication Disorders, Deaf Studies, and Hearing Aids (JCDSHA), offered by the OMICS Publishing Group, is an open access journal which focuses on topics related to speech and language disorders as well as hearing loss and other neurological disorders. Similar to subscription research journals, manuscripts are submitted online and are tracked through a peer review process before being accepted. The review process takes only twenty-one days and once accepted, articles are immediately published online. Open access provides a means of retrieving research reports without access boundaries by anyone who desires to learn more about a treatment technique or a recent innovation in research.

Traditionally, a subscription is required to access a printed version of the published research. JCDSHA offers OMICS Group special

features in addition to the traditional print version of published research articles. Digital book formats are offered, allowing readers to download a digital article delivered electronically to any personal electronic device equipped for e-books. Some articles may also be offered via audio listening, which can serve to be a more convenient and preferable means for busy researchers and client families to become knowledgeable on the latest research. Another special feature that presents immediate utility is the language translation feature. Translation is offered in more than fifty languages which users can choose, allowing for immediate access by practitioners and client families from all over the world, without access boundaries.

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) [1] is committed to ensuring that all people with speech, language, and hearing disorders receive services to help them communicate effectively. A current strategic objective is to increase accessibility and use of research by encouraging members and practitioners to access research and integrate scientific evidence in clinical practice. (ASHA) Open access journals address this strategic objective by encouraging the dissemination of research in multiple engaging formats in order to communicate with related professionals and as a means for clients and their families to have access to recent research.

References

1. American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (2008) Strategic Pathway to Excellence.

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