

Scholarship in the Global South and the Open Access: a study of India

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Scholarship in the modern times has largely been hegemonised by the Global North, with most of it being reported in the English and other Roman script languages. Many countries of the Global South have millenia old traditions of scholarship recorded in their languages, whereas a little of it is available in translated form in English and other Roman script languages. In science and technology, and to a lesser extent in social sciences and humanities, the scholarship is fast moving towards open access. But the modern scholarship in the Global South, in English as well as the regional languages is being left out on account of the hegemony of the Global North, and also to some extent because systems for open access to scholarship in regional languages are not so well developed, coupled with lack of/inadequate open access policies.

This paper looks at the current situation of scholarship in India in the context of open access, and examines a phenomenon of proliferation of predatory journals in the last few years. These predatory journals are also there in the Global North, but their proliferation in India in particular has been a point of concern in the academic world. These predatory journals claim themselves to be open access, and thus bring a bad name to the noble cause of open access. Moreover they overshadow a few genuine open access publications and the scholarship that is being generated in the Global South. Only when the scholarship both from the Global South and the Global North are made available, can we truly call it inclusive. Such a situation would help develop scholarly communication and scholarly literature as diverse and inclusive. A few points for making scholarship in the Global South in the open access are suggested in this paper.