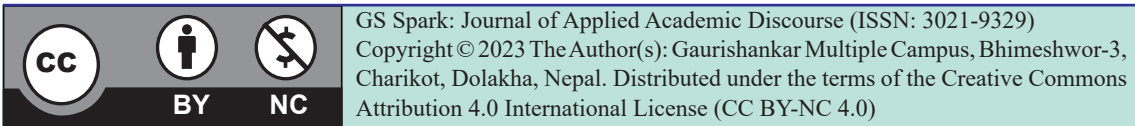


Access to Scientific Publication through GS Spark

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ABSTRACT

The editorial highlighted GS Spark needs along with the issues of scientific publication and ways forward. It extended acknowledgments and short review of article published in editorial perspective along with good wishes. The push for open access publishing in the scientific community is aimed at making research more accessible to the public and promoting collaboration among researchers. However, many of the current efforts to increase access to scientific knowledge, such as increasing funds for subscription fees or article processing charges (APCs), may actually reinforce the dominance of a few publishing houses and maintain the existing market model.

One of the main challenges in transitioning to open access publishing is the need to cover the costs that are currently supported by subscription fees. While some open access journals are funded by institutional subscribers or dedicated open-access publishers, many traditional publishers have also started offering open access options. However, these publishers may still benefit from the existing market structure and the lack of price sensitivity among researchers, potentially leading to a new pay-to-publish system that is more costly than the previous subscription model. This made us to initiate GS Spark: Journal of Applied Academic Discourse. We would also like to acknowledge the contributions of all the authors, reviewers, and readers who have supported GS Spark: Journal of Applied Academic Discourse. Thank you for your valuable time, effort, and expertise. I wish you all on behalf of journal team a happy and prosperous Dashain, Tihar and Chhath.

Keywords: social change, human capital, GS spark, acknowledgment, APC

The Scientific Publication

Scientific publishing is a crucial component of the scientific process, allowing researchers to share their findings with peers and the public, and to establish their careers in science (Kelly, J., Sadeghieh, T., & Adeli, K. (2014). Peer-reviewed publications and funded research proposals carry significant weight for individual scientists, and are often used to make hiring, promotion, and award decisions. However, the current publishing model worldwide imposes a significant disadvantage on those operating with smaller research budgets, by limiting their ability to publish in 'good' journals and to access new research (Kelly, J., Sadeghieh, T., & Adeli, K. (2014). One of the main drawbacks of the current publishing model is the steep cost of subscription fees or article processing charges (APCs), which can limit access to scientific knowledge and reinforce the dominance of a few publishing houses. While some open access journals are funded by institutional subscribers or dedicated open-access publishers, many traditional publishers have also started offering open access options. However, these publishers may still benefit from the existing market structure and the lack of price sensitivity among researchers, potentially leading to a new pay-to-publish system that is more costly than the previous subscription model (Day, R. A., & Gastel, B. (2018)).

To address these issues, it is important to explore alternative funding models and encourage transparency in the use of funds by journals and publishers. This could include reducing publication fees, collaborating and subsidizing with institutions, forming strategic partnerships with sponsors, and being more transparent about the use of funds to justify high APCs.

By promoting a more sustainable and inclusive approach to open access publishing, we can work towards a future where scientific knowledge is truly accessible to all, without reinforcing the dominance of a few publishing houses (Mishra & Jha, 2023; Mishra and Nepal, 2022).

GS Spark Inception

The current publishing model has been criticized for its high subscription fees and article processing charges (APCs), which limit access to scientific knowledge and reinforce the dominance of a few publishing houses. Many calls for open access publishing continue to identify ways to make science more accessible by increasing the funds available to pay subscription fees or APCs. However, this approach may only reinforce the current market model and slow innovation in the way we disseminate science. Instead, it may be wiser to create new alternatives to publishing houses themselves, rather than determine how to fund more open access publishing within the existing system. For this to happen, science societies and academies could cooperate for a novel way to evaluate scientific work (Mishra, 2021; Mishra, 2022, Mishra, 2023).

Currently, publishing houses coordinate three aspects of the publication process: peer review, formatting, and publishing. Given recent technological advances, it is worth considering whether publishing houses are best suited for this process. For example, formatting is crucial to the way end users consume the information in a scientific paper. However, journals' standard format may actually be a constraint. Instead of the traditional format, a short video of the scientist performing her experiment, a comic strip to help non-experts get interested in the work, or a slide deck like the ones consultants use can better entice funders (Mishra, 2021; Mishra, 2022, Mishra, 2023).

To address these issues, it is important to explore alternative funding models and encourage transparency in the use of funds by journals and publishers. *GS Spark: journal of applied academic discourse* is one such alternative, which allows others to read research without barriers and gives other researchers greater opportunity to build upon the work. There are several scholarly open access publishers that are accelerating science, including De Gruyter Open, Springer Nature, Frontiers,

Wiley, and Publishing Open Access. By promoting a more sustainable and inclusive approach to open access publishing, we can work towards a future where scientific knowledge is truly accessible to all, without reinforcing the dominance of a few publishing houses.

Research Hosts

Scientists are encouraged to share their research findings in a more accessible manner after their paper is published. However, there is an opportunity cost to redesigning the content once the paper has been published. Scientists, who are already busy with their research, would have to set aside time to create additional resources. Some institutes have started to include time and credits for science communication and outreach, but such incentives are not common.

In this age, the publishing part can be delegated back to scientists. Most researchers and research institutions have their own servers, which can host this content. Giving scientists the freedom to publish their peer-reviewed research in a format and platform of their own choosing could better help make their work more accessible. If research institutions own the server and copyrights to their researchers' work, they could also maintain their work in different languages.

However, such a radical imagination of how scientific work is published needs to reckon with an important issue: peer-review. There are different mechanisms to enable open peer review, such as publishing peer review content, discussion forums between authors and reviewers, and more.

There are several platforms available to publish academic research, such as ResearchGate, Publons, and PLOS ONE. Researchers can also publish their work in open access journals or self-archive preprints or post-prints. To enhance the reproducibility of research results, protocols should be made public and stored in trustworthy digital repositories.

Peer review

Peer review is an essential component of the publishing process, allowing journals to have

manuscripts reviewed by experts in the field. The peer review process evaluates the quality and suitability of a paper for publication, and provides feedback to authors to strengthen their research and presentation. However, peer review has become a gate keeping exercise in which journal editors reject papers. To address this issue, some journals have adopted a new approach, such as elife, which publishes "reviewed preprints" plus an internal assessment and public reviews on its website. This approach enriches science rather than gate keeping it.

Peer review is an integral part of scientific publishing that confirms the validity of the manuscript. Peer reviewers are experts who volunteer their time to help improve the manuscripts they review. By undergoing peer review, manuscripts should become more robust, easier to read, and more useful to others in the field. However, peer review is vulnerable to the supply and demand of review labor in an academic environment that incentivizes authorship over other kinds of scholarly work.

To write an effective response to referees' comments, authors should consider the feedback provided and address each point in a clear and concise manner. Journal editors consider all the feedback from peer reviewers and make an informed decision to accept or reject the manuscript. Decision-making authority rests solely with journal editors or the journal's editorial board.

In the current academic publishing landscape, there is a growing need for alternative methods of research evaluation that can better capture the value and impact of scientific work. Traditional metrics, such as the number of publications and citations, are often inadequate for comprehensively assessing the quality and significance of research. One such metric is the impact factor (IF), which is the average number of citations each paper in a journal receives every year across two years. The IF has become critical to attract funding or employment, incentivizing publication in high IF journals. However, the IF does a disservice to broader science as it is associated with how

frequently papers from the journal get cited, and doesn't necessarily reflect how good a paper is. Papers in high IF journals have also been accused of scientific fraud, and some of these journals have a higher rate of retractions. Moreover, the IF doesn't account for the ease of doing research in countries with better research resources.

One potential alternative is the adoption of a research evaluation metric that focuses on the novel contribution to the field, funds used (as a proxy for resourcefulness), and research design. This metric could be developed and agreed upon by science academics in collaboration with research institutions. Peer reviewers could then use this metric to rate submitted findings, providing both subjective feedback and a quantitative assessment of the work's quality and impact (Researcher and Author Impact Metrics, 2018).

To facilitate the adoption of this alternative evaluation system, researchers could have the option to publish their work as is, along with the reviewer feedback and rating. This peer-reviewed work could be used by indices such as Google Scholar or PubMed, allowing funders and prospective employers to gauge the scientist's credibility based on their research's merits, rather than their ability to publish in a journal of a certain stature.

While this radical re-imagining of how scientific work is evaluated and published may face challenges, such as the issue of peer review, technological advances in knowledge duration and dissemination should render publishing models that keep science locked up outdated (Hjørland, B. (2020). The path to open science lies with our scientific institutions, and a move to break the monopoly of publishers could lead to a more accessible and innovative research landscape.

Welcome GS Spark: Journal of Applied Academic Discourse

GS Spark always gives priority to what is published more than that of where is published (Mishra, 2021: Mishra, 2022: Mishra, 2023: Mishra, A.K., &

Jha.P.B., 2023: 13. Mishra A. K. & Nepal Ananda, 2022). This is inaugural issue of GS Spark: Journal of Applied Academic Discourse consisting of 12 Articles along with 1 editorial perspective and 1 perspective article.

Khadka, (2023) highlighted mushroom farming followed by Neupane, (2023) on cooking solution and Rai, (2023) raised the issue of occupational safety as scientific innovation for promoting livelihood. Its wisdom of worthy to see changing role of Dalit women (Tamata, et al., 2023), Bhandari, (2023), Khanal, (2023), Parajuli, (2023), Sapkota, (2023), Shedhain (2023) and (K.C., 2023), gave different insights on different burning issues of good governance.

Blair, et al., (2023), Phunyal, (2023), and Joshi, (2023) highlighted the educational and learning aspects of human civilization in totality.

We would like to appeal to you to consider submitting your articles to the next issue of GS spark.

Acknowledgment

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all the previous students and existing faculties who have supported the GS Spark.

We apologize for any inconvenience caused by not including many of your articles in the first issue of the journal. However, we appreciate your continued support and contributions to the journal, which have been invaluable in establishing its credibility and reputation.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all those who have contributed to the publication of GS Spark: Journal of Applied Academic Discourse. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Gaurishankar Multiple Campus for their support and encouragement throughout the publication process through college management committee. We are thankful to advisory board for continuous intellectual guidance.

The sparking collaboration of editorial board, members, and production team members made this

journal as an accomplishment for grand celebrations on the eve of national festival *Dashain*.

We would also like to acknowledge the contributions of all the authors, reviewers, and readers who have supported *GS Spark: Journal of Applied Academic Discourse*. Thank you for your valuable time, effort, and expertise.

As we celebrate *Dashain*, let us also reflect on our responsibility towards each other and the planet. May we work towards a world where everyone has access to nutritious food, and where we use our resources sustainably to ensure a better future for all!

Once again, I wish you all on behalf of journal team a happy and prosperous *Dashain*, *Tihar* and *Chhath*.

Conclusion

Scientists can host their research on their own servers, and there are several platforms and options available for publishing research. However, a radical imagination of how scientific work is published needs to consider the issue of peer-review and ensure the reproducibility of research results.

Peer review is a crucial aspect of the publishing process, but it has its limitations. Journals should adopt new approaches to enrich science rather than gatekeeping it, and authors should respond to referees' comments effectively.

We would also like to acknowledge the contributions of all the authors, reviewers, and readers who have supported *GS Spark: Journal of Applied Academic Discourse*. Thank you for your valuable time, effort, and expertise.

Once again, I wish you all on behalf of journal team a happy and prosperous *Dashain*, *Tihar* and *Chhath*.

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