Do Open Access Journals Qualify?

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Criticism towards Open Access (OA)

• Belief that OA journals use only open review of preprints
• Mixing of scientific OA publishing with blogs and Wikipedia
• Belief that most OA journals are predatory journals – journals which charge author fees claiming to be peer reviewed and well edited but which do not use referees [http://scholarlyoa.com/](http://scholarlyoa.com/)
John Bohannon: Who's Afraid of Peer Review?

- Bohannon submitted 304 versions of a paper with grave and obvious errors to OA journals
  - 157 of the journals accepted the paper
  - 98 rejected
  - 29 seemed not to be existing any more
  - 20 did not manage to organize the review in the course of the study

-> Conclusion: A spoof paper reveals little or no scrutiny at many open-access journals.
A remedy – guaranteeing the peer review process?
The aims of the Finnish Peer Review Label

• To distinguish peer reviewed texts in a journal or in a monograph from those that have not been reviewed (e.g. scientific articles are marked while reports or book reviews are not)

• To encourage publishers to sharpen their review practices

• To encourage publishers to make their review processes transparent
Requirements

• Review statements must be asked from at least two referees (not including the editors) who have at minimum PhD degree

• The publisher saves the documents of the review process, at minimum:
  o the proposal of the author
  o the referee statements
  o the decision to publish or reject the paper
What to do?

- To develop new methods and tools to indicate the quality of the journal
- Commitments to guidelines of responsible conduct of research
- To acquire information on predatory OA journals and to eliminate them from the DOAJ and from other journal lists
Sources

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• Philip E. Steinberg: Kansainvälinen näkökulma tieteellisten seurojen julkaisutoimintaan. Terra 125 (2013): 2, 73-75.