

How does Open Access help the cause of Community over Commercialisation?

“Not again!”.

I am a veterinarian.

When I was working in clinical practice, I was often extremely frustrated by the following message.

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This often happened after an extensive search for the information I desperately needed to guide my disease management. In many instances, the article contains the latest development of disease management. Sometimes, it is for me to find out more about a rare condition that I had to manage.

You might be wondering why I could not just refer to textbooks. It is true that textbooks have key information for a plethora of medical conditions. However, the knowledge of medicine constantly evolves and more rapidly than ever. It is therefore not possible for veterinary medical textbooks to keep up with such pace.

Veterinarians play important roles in safeguarding animal health. To do this effectively, one must have access to the state-of-the-art knowledge in veterinary medicine. While these could potentially be accessed through conferences, freely available open access articles allow veterinarians to access the latest information at their fingertips.

Therefore, to help the cause of the veterinary profession, which is to safeguard animal health and, in many instances, human health, open access certainly plays an important role to ensure equitable access to the latest information.

So, help me as I help the animals I care for!