

FORUMnovum Dynamic Publishing.

A concept for the future of the scientific journal

(FORUMnovum Dynamic Publishing. Ein Konzept für die Zukunft des wissenschaftlichen Journals)

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Since years the scientific press has been in a deep crises: Libraries and publishers are trapped in a vicious circle of increasing fares and decreasing numbers of journal subscriptions. FORUMnovum Dynamic Publishing - a concept for future scientific journals developed by the author together with three fellow students - shows a promising way out: cost reductions up to 50% and improvements of scientific quality control are possible!

The future of the scientific journal lies in the internet. But today's e-journals simply imitate the established print editions, and thereby wasting much of the potential benefits of electronic publishing. In contrast, FORUMnovum Dynamic Publishing re-engineers the whole publication process and comes up with several major innovations:

- Articles are refereed by all readers after publication, which reduces cost and opens up chances for radical new scientific ideas suppressed by traditional peer review procedures.
- In order to improve scientific quality control, any article shows immediately its quality assessment by its readers.
- Pre-publication efforts, such as editing all articles by the editor's staff, are reduced, making the publication process much faster and cheaper.
- Editors and authors pay for the journal instead of its readers, leading to lesser but better articles.

FORUMnovum Dynamic Publishing offers several advantages over today's journals: Readers would benefit world-wide from the quick, free-of-charge, and instant access to any article. Authors would appreciate the opportunity to publish quickly without the months' delay usual today. Furthermore, some disadvantages of traditional peer review - e.g. its disapproval of innovative scientific ideas and the inevitable conflict of roles faced by referees judging competing scientists' manuscripts - could be overcome, while strengthening the scientific quality control: readers can immediately attach their quality assessments to an any article. Libraries would save scarce space and had full access to all journals without paying for it. And, last but not least, major cost reductions would be possible due to lesser pre-publication efforts. From a technical point of view, realization of such a new e-journal would be no problem. But the economic prospects are different: The business model of FORUMnovum Dynamic Publishing is totally different from the predominant one. Its success would require major changes in the role of libraries, publishers, and scientists. Newly founded e-journals cannot accomplish such radical market transformations, because they are not accepted in the scientific world that has a strong tendency to publish in the most visible, internationally accepted journals. The inventors of FORUMnovum Dynamic Publishing therefore hope that some ideas presented here will be taken up by established journals and their editors.

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