

I have been a biotechnology scientist for 24 years. One of my biggest concerns for the future development of medicines is that researchers at the majority of the nation's biotech companies cannot afford access to the scientific literature. Big Pharma companies have cut back on their internal research programs and are hoping to source the majority of their new medications from smaller, more innovative biotech companies. This means that affordable access to the science literature for biotech scientists is more critical now than ever. I have written about this problem in national blogs and journals several times now:

http://www.xconomy.com/seattle/2011/01/18/what-does-biotech-really-suffer-from-information-overload-or-underload/?single_page=true

<http://www.nature.com/nbt/journal/v29/n7/full/nbt.1909.html>

I recently detailed a proposed solution to this "lack of affordability" problem that is known as **iPubSci**. **iPubSci** essentially blends the best features of PubMed with an iTunes like interface and would allow for the purchase of science journal articles on a per article basis. A detailed description of this approach can be read here:

http://www.xconomy.com/seattle/2011/12/05/ipubsci-a-solution-to-the-problem-of-unaffordable-science-journals/?single_page=true

I had a number of conversations with people in many different areas in response to my **iPubSci** proposal, including the open access community. One key problem that **iPubSci** solves is that it provides affordable access to the large percentage of the scientific literature that the for-profit science publishers are sitting on and selling access to at currently unaffordable rates (\$30-35 per article on average). Any solution to the issue of providing affordable access to the literature **MUST** include these legacy publications, which make up about 2/3 of PubMed. I have not heard any credible plan from open access advocates that would deal with this key issue.

I am happy to provide whatever help is needed to help the nation achieve a solution to the problem of a lack of affordable access to science journals.

Thanks, Stewart

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