ASPECTS OF THE ACCESS TO ARTICLES PROBLEM:

Veterinary medicine is a very small community of practice with a large mandate: treat all species but one in order to protect both human and animal health.

All those species being relatively less studied = less good evidence available.

Much less NIH funding goes to vet med. All NIH-funded research results must be made freely available to the public within six months of publication.

Client expectations are that veterinary medicine = human medicine. Barriers to searching databases to find article citations (PubMed, CONSULTANT, VIN article search & VETMED resource from CABI) have never been lower for veterinarians in practice, but access to the full article costs too much time and money. To address this problem, VIN and CABI provide full-text access to veterinary proceedings, a good service but not necessarily the best evidence.

Only 9 out of 110 core veterinary journals indexed by PubMed are open access

AVMA policy on copyright effectively stops articles from reaching the communities of practice who need access. JAVMA and AJVR require authors to sign away all copyright just for manuscripts to be reviewed. For-profit publisher Wiley has a copyright policy that is more author/reader friendly than AVMA!

Elsevier and Wiley-Blackwell own the majority of veterinary publishing

WHAT CAN VETERINARIANS DO ABOUT IT? THREE SUGGESTIONS:

Pay attention to the Public section of http://www.openoasis.org/, Especially Alliance for Taxpayer Access

Ask veterinary orgs and funders to consider the Open Access publishing model

Ask your alma mater to adopt an open access policy. See ROARMAP for the list of 171 institutions and 51 funding organizations have such policies. http://roarmap.eprints.org

WHAT TO DO WHILE AWAITING CHANGE TO THE ACCESS PROBLEM:

Practice in Tennessee? Sign up for free article access from the UT Libraries

Search PubMed? Contact the author directly for a copy of the article—if the author has retained copyright, s/he can send it to you.

Go to http://libguides.utk.edu/veterinarians for directions.

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