The Open Access Revolution: Patterns in Faculty Free Full-Text Publications

K.T.L. Vaughan[1], Carol G. Jenkins[1], Virginia M. Carden[2], Patricia L. Thibodeau[2], Stefanie E. Warlick[3]

Question

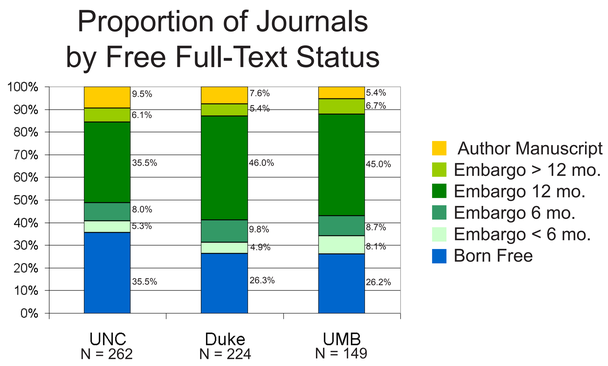
How are free full-text journals affecting publishing patterns by biomedical faculty at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC), Duke University, and the University of Maryland at Baltimore (UMB)?

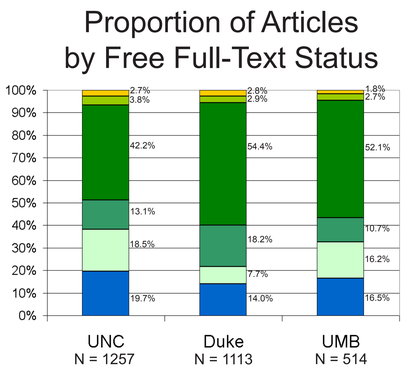
Study

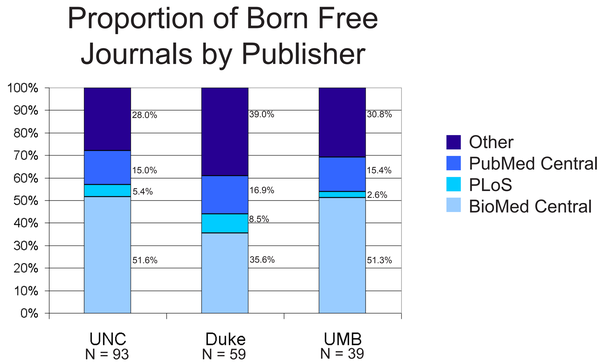
Analyze born free and other free full-text articles authored by UNC, Duke, or UMB faculty from Jan. 2004 through June 2006.

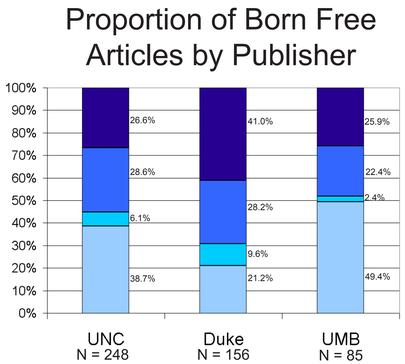
Trends

- Free full-text publishing is increasing.
  - Total free full-text articles increased by 849 (UNC) and 623 (Duke) since June 2005.
  - Total born free articles increased by 149 (UNC) and 66 (Duke) since June 2005.
- Authors represent a mix of basic sciences and clinical departments.
  - Medicine has the most at all three institutions. It is also one of the largest departments.
  - Dentistry and Pharmacy are represented, but Nursing is not.









Free full-text articles, January 2004 to June 2006: UNC = 1259; Duke = 1113; UMB = 514
Born free articles, January 2004 to June 2006: UNC = 248; Duke = 156; UMB = 85

Observations

- 40-50% of articles in all three institutions are in journals with immediate access or an embargo period of 6 months or less.
  - These journals account for 40-50% of all titles.
- 128 born free journals are represented, but only 50 overlap among two or more institutions.
- Institutional support for BioMed Central (BMC) appears to correlate with faculty publishing in BMC journals.
- A significant proportion of born free articles are published in journals outside the major Open Access publishing groups.

Questions for Further Study

- What factors influence authors' decisions to publish in a particular journal?
  - When is Open Access a conscious choice?
  - Is the length of embargo period a factor?
- Build on results of previous studies, e.g., Warlick & Vaughan 2007.

[1] University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Health Sciences Library; [2] Duke University Medical Center Library; [3] University of Maryland at Baltimore Health Sciences and Human Services Library