



Report Information from ProQuest

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BioMed Central and research alliance forge partnership for open access

: Dodd, Darren.

: Information World Review 181 (Jun 2002): 2.

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: Open-access publisher BioMed Central has formed a partnership with the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC). BioMed Central is also launching two new paid for-multimedia services, Science Archive, a database of video autobiographies of eminent scientists, and Primers in Biology, a new series combining textbook and reference book features.

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Open-access publisher BioMed Central has formed a partnership with the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC).

SPARC, the alliance of research bodies campaigning for wider access to scientific information, is endorsing the company's business model, which recommends that access to scientific papers is paid for by authors or their institutions rather than readers. SPARC is encouraging its 200 members worldwide to sign up.

In return, BioMed Central has promised that any sale of the business by parent company Current Science Group would only proceed if the new owners guaranteed the continuation of the open-access model.

BioMed Central's Gordon Fletcher said the company's institutional membership scheme was continuing to attract high-profile organisations. Despite predictions that the introduction of processing charges would hit the number of submissions, more papers were published in the first quarter of 2002 when author charges were introduced than in the last quarter of 2001. The National Institutes of Health, publisher of Medline and the focal point for medical research in the US, is the latest to join.

BioMed Central is also launching two new paid-for multimedia services. The first, Science Archive, a database of video autobiographies of eminent scientists, is in free test at www.biomedcentral.com/sciencearchive. Its QuickTime films are indexed and searchable and provide an invaluable resource for film and TV researchers as well as scientists, said Fletcher. The first two films feature pioneering biologist John Maynard Smith and geneticist Sydney Brenner.

Primers in Biology, a new series combining textbook and reference book features, is being launched with Proteins: From Sequence to Structure. It can be accessed online for \$10 a year and links to relevant material in the PubMed database.

www.biomedcentral.com

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