

NEW MODELS OF SCIENTIFIC COMMUNICATION

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The traditional division of the information chain into clearly defined separate functions for publishers and libraries is no longer self-evident. We are all familiar with the adage 'publish or perish' and we have witnessed growth in the number of scientific papers effectuated by it. As a result of this growth, the existing system is impeded by considerable problems and bottlenecks.

Two aspects of the process of scientific publishing are of vital importance: speed and quality certification. Traditionally, the author had to make a choice: where speed was expected to prevail, the publication ended up in grey literature; if quality certification was essential, the services of a classical publisher were needed, and this implied wasting of time before the actual publishing.

With the help of information and communication technology it is possible to combine the best of both worlds.

In the presentation a Dutch project is described which aims at supporting the academic community with digital publishing. These services include a publication site with a peer review process that can be applied before as well as after a publication has actually been made public.