

The Information Revolution

Letter to the Editor

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I recently paid thirty dollars to purchase an article off the internet. After reading the article, I discover it only contained 25 cents worth of useful information. Whatever happened to the information revolution?

The expansion of knowledge has taken a backseat to corporate profits. Unless you are a faculty member or student at a major university, your ability to tap into current research is severely limited. Who has the money to buy every promising article found on the internet? Three major publishers—Elsevier, Springer, and Taylor Francis—have cornered the market on the nation's journals. Just try to read one without paying a fee. The University of Chicago publishes a number of scholarly journals. If you wish to make a copy of an article, you had better have your credit card handy. *The Washington Post* has now joined the selective reader's club. You can't open a story unless you subscribe to the paper. Even the *Scientific American* wants you to open your pocketbook.

The information revolution has become an oxymoron. What is the point in doubling information every few years if it is not open to the public? John Dewey advised us that a democratic society is one where its quality experiences are generally shared and enjoyed by most of the members of the society. The internet, rather than facilitating the expansion of knowledge, has priced new knowledge beyond the reach of most Americans.