



Effect of Open Access on Citations in a Small Biomedical Journal

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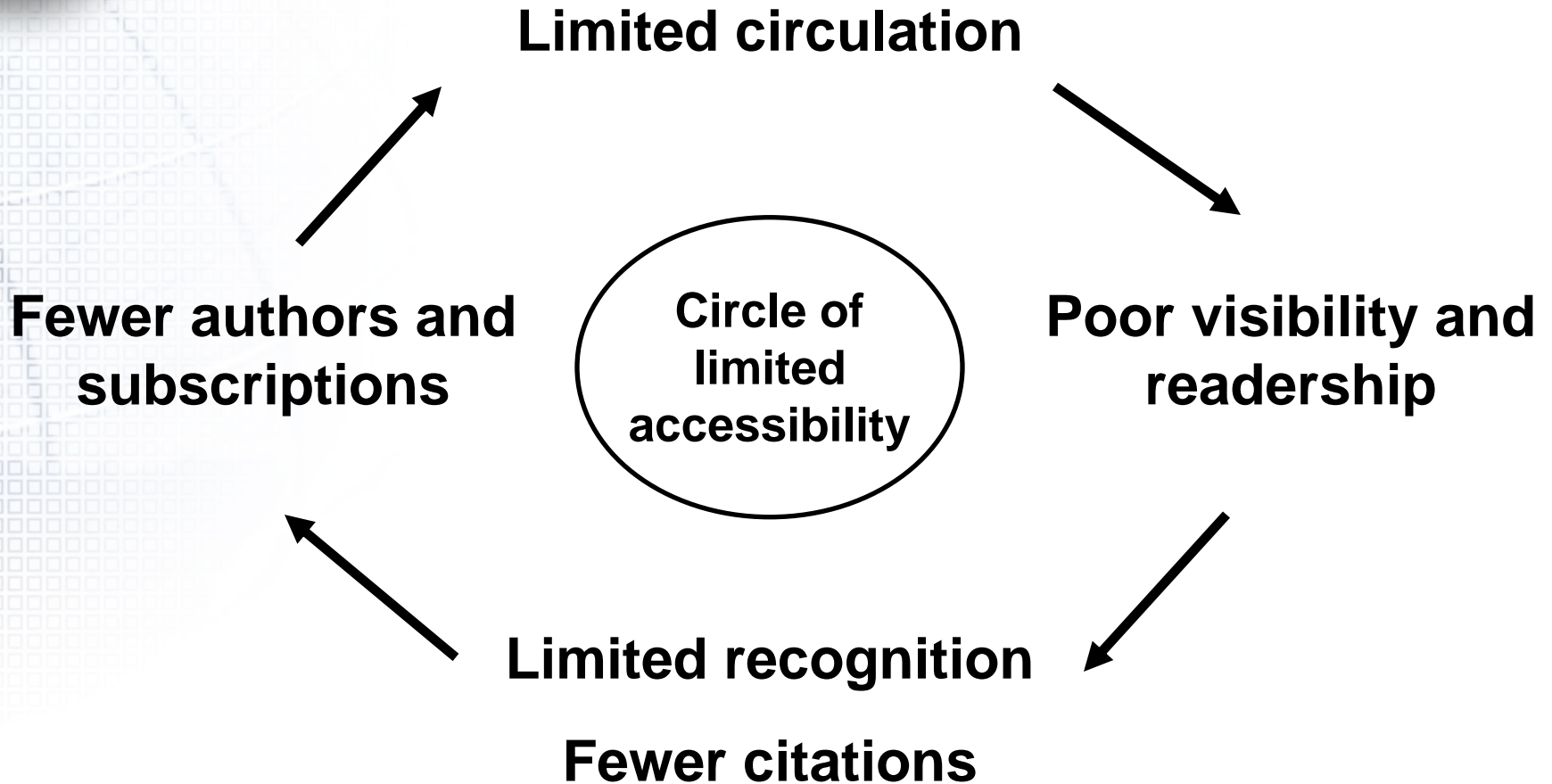
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Journal of Postgraduate Medicine

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Problems of a small journal





Journal of Postgraduate Medicine

- **Quarterly journal**
- **Print circulation <400**
 - Limited to school
- **Paid subscription <50**
 - Majority from India
- **50-80 articles published / year**





Year 2001 for JPGM

- **Went online in 2001**
 - Free full text
 - Full text of 1990 onwards
 - No author fee (Submission/processing)
- **Impact**
 - > 75,000 unique visitors/month
 - > 2000 downloads for new issues
 - More articles, international
 - ? Has it made any impact on citations



Citation Analysis

- **Articles published during 1990-1999**
 - Citations prior to 2001
 - Citations from 2001-2004
- **Analysis**
 - Citations per year
 - Citations per 100 articles / year
- **Author Survey**
 - Source of full text

Sources: Web of Science, SCOPUS, Google and Google Scholar

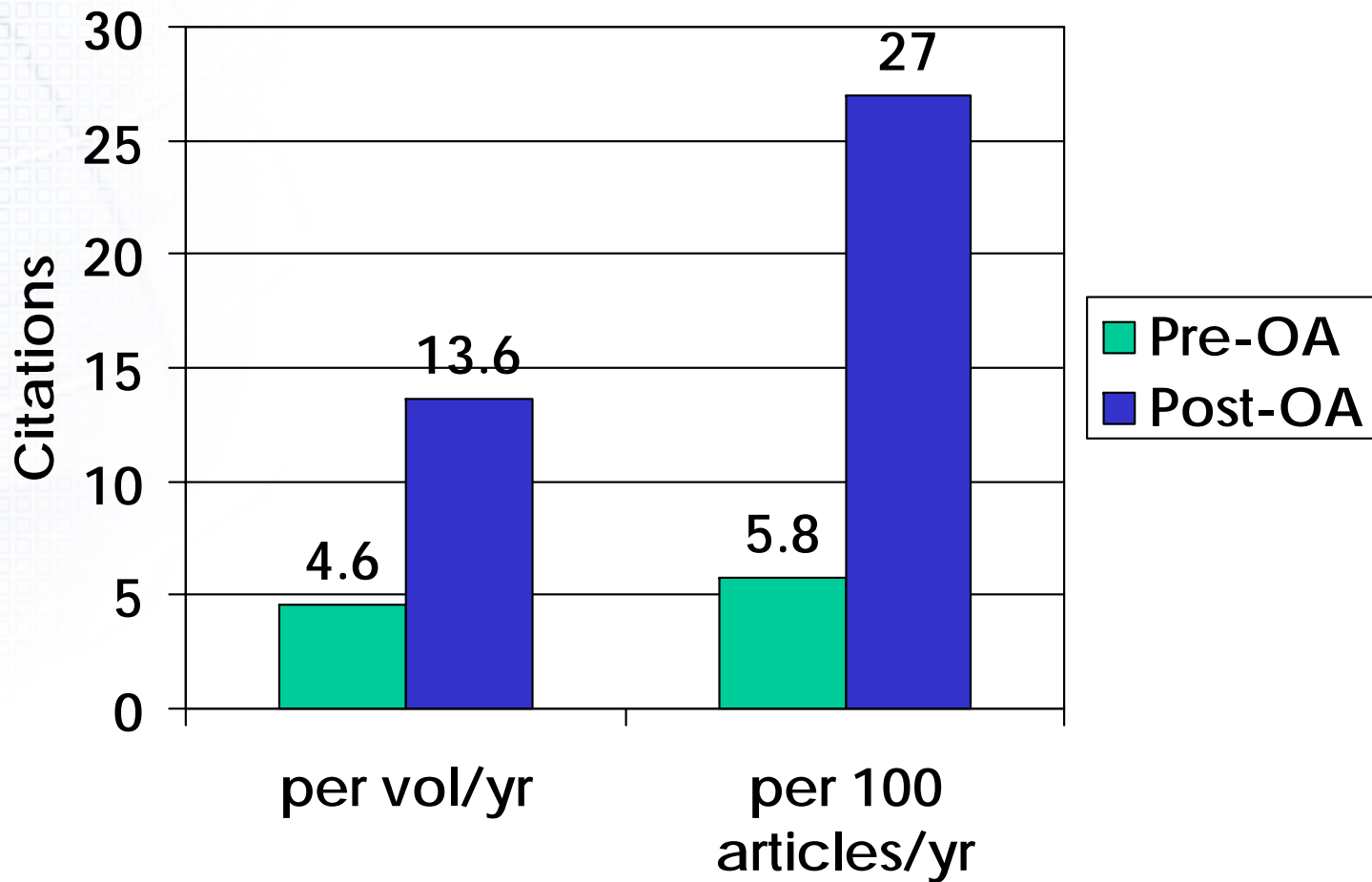


The results

- **553 articles published (90-99)**
- **327 articles received**
 - 893 citations (2.73 / article)
- **Post-OA period (2001-2004)**
 - 549 (61.5%) of citations
 - 164 articles (50.1%) received first citation
 - 1990-1995: 72 articles, 119 citations
 - Avg. cumulative IF (90-95): 0.7 to 1.68
 - Maximum number of citations per year



1990-2000 vs. 2001-2004





Is it due to OA?

- **558 authors who cited articles in 04-05**
 - 56% response rate
- **68% from PubMed, 10% from web**
- **84% read full text**
- **63% used an OA source for full text**
- **Who used OA source**
 - 35% would not have quoted article
 - 26% would have quoted on basis of abstract
 - <5% would pay for access

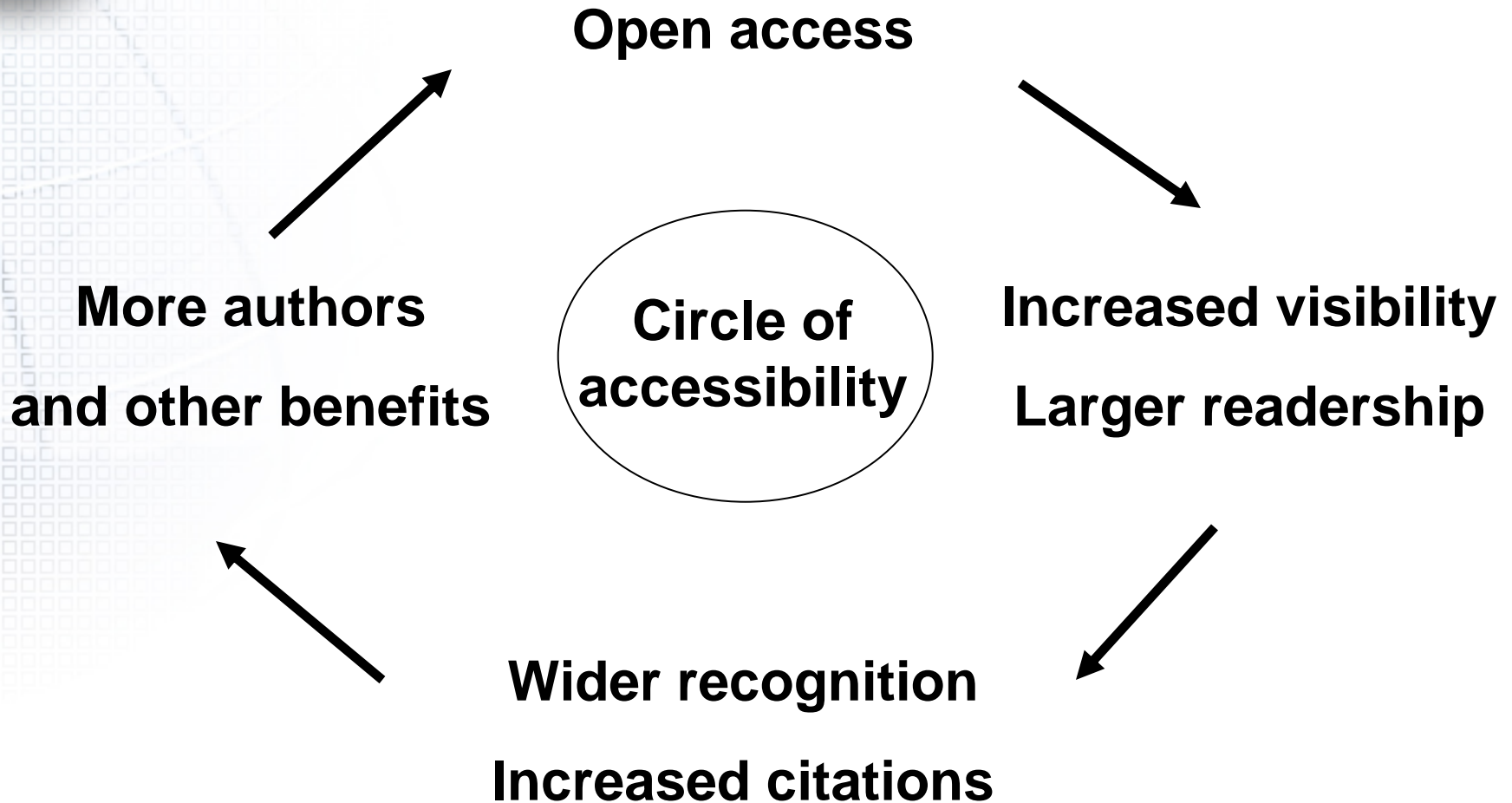


Conclusions

- **Open access is associated with**
 - **Increased visibility and accessibility**
 - **Increase in number of citations**
- **OA could be boon for smaller journals**



Small journal → OA journal



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