



**CHANGES IN SCHOLARLY PUBLISHING :
benefits for everybody!**

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WHO NEEDS A GOOD SCHOLARLY PUBLISHING SYSTEM?

- Authors need to be published in high-quality outlets, to be read by many people and to be cited by other authors
- Universities need their academic staff to publish in high-quality outlets, to be read and to be cited in order to attract further funding
- Funding agencies need the research they fund to be reported in high-quality outlets in order that their funding may produce results
- Readers need access to high-quality research results for personal development and education
- Each nation needs access to high-quality research results for economic and social development
- Humankind needs access to high-quality research results for global development
- Librarians need access to high-quality publications to provide a service to their users
- Publishers need a high-quality publishing system to take forward their companies and learned societies



HOW THE PRESENT SYSTEM IS FAILING

- In all countries (even the richest) cost, licensing and technical protection barriers are impeding access
- Cancellations of journals by libraries
- “Big deals” have increased access to journals of major commercial publishers but reduced access to journals of smaller publishers (e.g. learned societies)
- Fewer textbooks purchased by libraries because of high cost of journals
- Meanwhile major publishers make 30%-40% profit by publishing books and journals based upon publicly-funded research



WHY THE PRESENT SYSTEM IS FAILING

- Service separated from payment
- Authors receive the service, libraries pay
- Separation of publishing service from publishing payment has opened up a rift, leading to disputes between publishers and librarians
- How much should a library be expected to pay for quality control for the academic community or for academic reward for authors?
- Who benefits from the current publishing system? Authors, publishers and to some extent readers.
- Who gains no benefit? Librarians and funding agencies

THE VISION FOR BETTER ACCESS TO SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

- “An old tradition and a new technology have converged to make possible an unprecedented public good. The old tradition is the willingness of scientists and scholars to publish the fruits of their research in scholarly journals without payment, for the sake of inquiry and knowledge. The new technology is the internet. The public good they make possible is the world-wide electronic distribution of the peer-reviewed journal literature and completely free and unrestricted access to it by all scientists, scholars, teachers, students, and other curious minds. Removing access barriers to this literature will accelerate research, enrich education, share the learning of the rich with the poor and the poor with the rich, make this literature as useful as it can be, and lay the foundation for uniting humanity in a common intellectual conversation and quest for knowledge.” Budapest Open Access Initiative <http://www.soros.org/openaccess/>



HOW OPEN ACCESS WILL IMPROVE ACCESS

- No restrictions! “By open access... we mean its free availability on the public internet, permitting any users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of these articles, crawl them for indexing, pass them as data for software, or use them for any other lawful purpose, without financial, legal or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the internet itself” Budapest Open Access Initiative www.soros.org/openaccess .
- This is a very comprehensive list of academic uses of journal literature.



WHY AN OPEN ACCESS SYSTEM WORKS WELL

- Re-connects service and payment
- Authors can assess whether they are receiving value for money from publishers
- Funding agencies also become involved in the assessment of value for money
- Peer review and editorial control still strong to ensure quality
- Publishers can still benefit if they provide a good service to authors
- Librarians are freed from arguments about the price of journals to concentrate upon their true role of assisting readers to find information, of which more will be available on open access
- Librarians have a role in making open access content available to readers in a way that is reader-friendly
- Open access will probably become dominant model for academic publishing but subscription model may continue for some titles in subject areas with low research funding



HOW OPEN ACCESS CAN BE ACHIEVED

- By placing copies of all journal articles on open web-sites (“self-archiving”)
- Many publishers allow copies of either pre-prints or post-prints to be placed on personal or institutional web-sites (e.g. “university repositories”)
- Institutional sites best because they will use free software which allows the harvesting of metadata about the article, assisting users to find the article they need
- By changing the way the publishing of academic journals is funded
- Many of the current restrictions upon access are due to the fact that a subscription is required, usually paid by libraries
- The subscription model separates the author from the journal payment process, leaving publishers to charge what they can get away with, without competition
- Funding journals as part of the research process restores power over cost to the author and removes the subscription barrier for users

HOW JISC IS HELPING TO IMPROVE ACCESS IN THE UK

- Focus on Access to Information Resources (FAIR) Programme
www.jisc.ac.uk/programme_fair.html
- Programme is inspired by the vision of the Open Archives Initiative (OAI).
- Fourteen projects August 2002 – October 2005
- No major technical problems experienced but most have experienced difficulty with cultural issues – e.g. the way in which authors can be encouraged to deposit pre-prints or post-prints
- 17 UK universities have institutional repositories operational with another 13 in development
- National deal for any UK author to submit to BioMed Central open access journals
- Very successful (many submissions, fair rejection rate and good publicity) in first year so being extended for a second year
- March 2004-February 2005 four publishers funded to cover OA publication-charges, each with different business model
- Aim to ease the transition from subscription to open access for publishers willing to trial OA
- Further round of funding agreed for 2005-06 and 2006-07 and publishers will be invited to bid



HOW OPEN ACCESS CAN BE FUNDED

- Depositing papers in a university web-site repository requires very little funding – universities may regard this as part of their “advertising” budget publicising research achievements
- Peer-reviewed open access journals are funded from up-front publication payments by funding agencies rather than from the present mix of library subscriptions and page-charges
- Although the cost of publication is currently borne largely by the libraries, research grants already contribute a significant amount through page-charges and colour-charges
- The total cost of publishing on open access should be no greater than under the current model but will require a re-distribution of funds

BENEFITS FROM OPEN ACCESS TO SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

- For research funding agencies, greater use and exploitation of research results following a higher number of readers, facilitating further research.
- For the author, increased readership, as academic content on open web-sites is read more widely than content on closed web-sites.
- For academic institutions, more publicity for the research conducted at the institution.
- For readers of research papers, access to research publications without barriers imposed by subscription or access-prevention technology.
- For developing countries, access to research results currently inaccessible due to financial and technical restrictions.
- For governments, greater returns from investment in the funding of research as research publications are used more widely. This can contribute to the public's understanding of science.
- For librarians, new opportunities to improve the service they provide.

HOW LIBRARIANS CAN HELP TO BUILD A BETTER FUTURE FOR SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION

- By discussing these issues with their academic colleagues
- By including open access journals in their library catalogues
- By asking their academic colleagues for pre-prints or post-prints of their journal articles and adding them to the university web-site
- By looking at how publication costs would change in their institution if subscriptions were replaced by open access
- By being prepared to fund open access publication-payments from library budgets in place of subscriptions
- By joining SPARC Europe and helping the international effort for change

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING!



- Please contact me by e-mail at any time if you wish to discuss open access f.friend@ucl.ac.uk
- The most comprehensive web-site with information on open access is www.soros.org/openaccess
- Also useful is the SPARC web-site www.arl.org/sparc with a link to the SPARC Europe web-site www.sparceurope.org , which in turn links to several university repositories
- A list of open access journals is available at www.doaj.org
- The JISC web-site is www.jisc.ac.uk
- A new list of publisher copyright agreements allowing “self-archiving” is at www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo.php
- You can join the SPARC Open Access Forum by sending any message to SPARC-OAForum-feed@arl.org from the address that you would like to be subscribed