SPARC Europe in the Open Access Movement: A Master Plan to tackle the barriers?

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Agenda

• A very brief introduction
• Open Access in Europe
• SPARC Europe focus areas
• Questions & Discussion
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• Open Access in Europe
• SPARC Europe focus areas
• Comments & discussion
SPARC Europe lobbies, advocates, informs, collaborates, initiates and organizes to bring the Open Access Movement forward.
Open Access: respectful

- To researchers: increases visibility, impact
- To libraries: financial balance, dissemination & preservation
- To funding bodies: increases visibility
- To publishers: they still get paid for the services they deliver
- To universities: impact & visibility / marketing

*Increased returns on research & development*

Open Access is good for all; it does not place anyone in a corner, but it does imply a shift in relationships and financial systems.
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I will focus on 4 themes in the OA Movement.
First theme: Policies: the one that gives the money, is the one that can set requirements (and force a certain desired behaviour).
The General OA Policy includes

Publications (and sometimes data) should be made freely available within 6 to 12 months upon formal publication, via an (or the) institutional repository.

Preferably the final, publisher, version.

*Open Access Policies (mandates) of funding bodies do create author awareness*

Generally Open Access Policies include:
Funding Agencies implemented OA policies (source: ROARmap):

- Wellcome trust – United Kingdom
- Austrian Science Fund – Austria
- NWO Open Access Fund – The Netherlands
- Irish Research Council for Science, Engineering and Technology
- Hungarian Scientific Research Fund – Hungary
- National Institute of Health – USA
- European Commission – for EC funded research output (EC FP7)

Some examples.
All policies to be found in ROARmap.
Challenges

- To make them really work; what happens now if you ignore the policy?
- To communicate them properly
- Embargoes (a compromise for the publishers) delay the transformation toward Open Access
- Copyright issues hardly touched in this area
- Policies mainly refer to depositing in Institutional Repositories (Green OA), not to publishing in Open Access journals (Gold OA)
- The largest funding body, the EC, had started an Open Access Pilot: Can this pilot make a difference on national levels?
In ROARmap you can find broad collection of institutional policies and mandates:

- Funder-mandate
- Institutional-mandate
- Thesis-mandate
- Proposed-x-mandates
- NO mandates

http://www.eprints.org/openaccess/policysignup/

Sherpa Juliet: Research’ funders Open Access Policies
Next theme: Publishing. Because in the end, it is all about publishing. I refer to book and journal publishing.
Some challenges

- To find sustainable business models for OA publishers
- Participation of authors, license to publish
- To break open the relation between the current research assessment system (ISI) and the traditional toll-access journals
- Traditional publishers must transform to Open Access >> decrease subscription prizes
  - Open Letter Chinese libraries to International Publishers: prize increases unreasonable and unacceptable
  - Call of Research Libraries UK: will not support future Big Deals if publishers don’t show serious prize reductions
Sustainable Business Models

Open Access Publishers:

- Springer Open - European
- BioMed Central - European
- BMJ Group
- SAGE Open (spring 2011) >
- HINDAWI
- Co-Action - European
- Public Library of Science
- Copernicus Publications - European
- And more!

Article processing charges & Memberships

*Springer and SAGE: setting up NEW journals, they are not transforming*
Welcome to the Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association, OASPA.

OASPA offers a forum for bringing together the entire community of Open Access journal publishers.

Our mission is to represent the interests of Open Access (OA) journal publishers globally in all scientific, technical and scholarly disciplines. This mission will be carried out through exchanging information, setting standards, advancing models, advocacy, education, and the promotion of innovation.

Through a shared interest in developing appropriate business models, tools and standards to support OA publishing, we can ensure a prosperous and sustainable future to the benefit of our members and the scholarly communities they serve. OASPA would like to thank SPARC Europe for its support during our initial phase of operation.

Keep up to date on OASPA via our Blog

We hope you will join us as an OASPA Member!

Announcements

The 2nd Conference for Open Access Scholarly Publishers (COASP), was held at the President Hotel, Prague, Czech Republic 22-24 August 2010. You can view the conference sessions at:

http://river-valley.tv/conferences/oaspe-2010/

OASPA Open Access Week WEBINAR Live Q&A Session with Five OA Publishers - we hope those of you who were able to attend the live WEBINAR enjoyed it. For those of you who were unable to attend, a copy of the
The DOAJ will probably not be used by researchers, but it is THE place to register your new OA journal and to find all OA journals.

The DOAJ is hosted by LUND University in Sweden.
Sustainable Business Models

The challenge is bigger for smaller Open Access publishers, such as

– Library initiatives
  • Igitur, Utrecht Publishing and Archiving Services
  • Revistas CSIS
  • more

– Individual initiatives
  • Journal of Industrial Engineering and Management (JIEM)
  • Cellular Therapy and Transplantation
  • More

*John Willinsky, December 16: a new journal is a sign of academic freedom*
Additional challenges for new, young open access publishers:

- Commit to editorial policies
- Attract authors
- Select quality; thus reject articles
- (Continuous) publication schedule
- Impact factors; Web of Science
- Find hosts >> libraries!
The Public Knowledge Project supports these small ones, with for example Open Journal Systems. Currently more than 7500 journals are published with OJS and most of them operate in a non-professional publishing area.
• October – December:

• PKP, SPARC Europe and OJS users are exploring the establishment of a European PKP Network

• A platform for sustainability, development, improvement of the software and a platform for editors & publishers

• For reinforcing the businesses

*First meeting with initial participants TODAY*
OAPEN: an important model for book publishing. OAPEN is an online library & publication platform.
Aims to promote Open Access book publishing by building a branded collection of Open Access peer-reviewed titles, to increase the visibility and retrievability of high-quality European research and to set quality standards for Open Access books, based on transparent procedures for peer review and recommendations for Open Access licenses.
Address to Funding Agencies >> Open Access Policies for book publishing
Some other initiatives that address some of these challenges

- SCOAP3
- SOAP Project
- MESUR
SCOAP:

A consortium facilitates Open Access publishing in High Energy Physics by redirecting subscription money. This answers the request of the High Energy Physics community.

**Today:** Funding bodies through libraries buy journal subscriptions to support peer-review service and allow their patrons to read articles.

**Tomorrow:** Funding bodies and libraries contribute to the consortium, which pays centrally for the peer-review service. Articles are free to read for everyone.

**Read now:**
- The Executive Summary of the Report of the SCOAP Working Party
- The complete report

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**Latest news**

06/12/2010, Morocco joins SCOAP3

The Moroccan Centre National pour la Recherche Scientifique et Technique (National Centre for Scientific and Technological Research) has joined SCOAP3 on behalf of Morocco, the first African country to do so.

With Morocco, the SCOAP3 consortium has now established partnerships in as many as 25 countries in Africa, Europe, North America, Australasia and the Middle East. So far, these partners have collectively pledged over 7 million Euros per annum towards this innovative Open Access initiative to convert to Open Access the entire
• Consortium of funding bodies, libraries and publishers

• SCOAP3 facilitates Open Access publishing in High Energy Physics by redirecting subscription money
  - Members will contribute to the consortium according to their share of the HEP scientific production
  - *Calculated that Open Access is cheaper*
  - University of Patras is a member of SCOAP3

SCOAP3 *is* transformation for the involved publishers.
SCOAP3 *does* grow awareness amongst authors.
SOAP: A project that aimed to study the new open access business models. Results to be disseminated in January 2011.
SOAP results to be presented at January 13th, Berlin:

“in-depth study of the business models, market success, similarities and differences of several thousand Open Access journals, and a unique large-scale survey on the (surprising) attitudes, drivers and barriers for Open Access Publishing of tens of thousands of researchers across disciplines and around the world.”
The Research Assessment System (ISI)

- The Impact Factors are an obstacle for each new journal to enter the market
- MESUR project aims to enrich the toolkit that can be used for assessment of the impact of scholarly communications with metrics that derive from usage data.
- Conclusion is that citations are only a tiny spot on the map of scholarly communications
- It is an alternative, but not a sustainable service yet: what will happen with MESUR?
- Are there other initiatives in this area?

The toughest barrier to tackle will probably be the research assessment system that is currently mainly focused on impact and citations. This system is deeply concerned with citation counts. The MESUR project aimed to prove that there’s lot of other indicators in the dynamic, inter-disciplinary system of Scholarly Communications.
Third theme: Repositories and Infrastructures
Challenges

- Improve and focus on dissemination
  - Metadata quality
  - Content quality
  - Completeness
  - Indexing for Google etc.

- Disseminating research data & linking to articles
  Semantic web / linked data: starting now!

*Confederation of Open Access Repositories (COAR)*

The first point is important because it forms a basis for developing additional services.
National repository programs support this challenge

- Aim to disseminate the national research output
- Aim to develop institutional repositories: guarantee each university establishes one
- Aim to share knowledge & expertise with regard to technology, communication

One of the trends is a national repository program; which aims to harvest all data from all IR’s.
National Repository Programs

**United Kingdom**
- Sherpa Partnership: search all repositories throughout the UK
  ([www.sherpa.ac.uk/repositories/#sherpasearch](http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/repositories/#sherpasearch))

**Netherlands**
- NARCIS (DAREnet): all Dutch Repositories harvested
  ([www.narcis.nl](http://www.narcis.nl))

**Ireland**
- RIAN: all Irish Repositories harvested
  ([http://rian.ie/](http://rian.ie/))

**Italy**
- PLEIADI: all Italian repositories harvested
  ([http://www.openarchives.it/pleiadi/](http://www.openarchives.it/pleiadi/))
On the highest level the European Commission underwrites the importance of openness to data and interoperability of research infrastructures. The Open Access Pilot is evidence for this.
The Arxiv is not only the oldest one, but it is also special because it is highly important to researchers; ones you have your preprint ready you deposit it in the Arxiv ASAP. I believe the Arxiv is one of the few that really meets the needs of the scholars; it’s fully integrated in their processes.
Services built on existing repositories > development

Subject Repositories / harvest programs

• Aim to provide an information container for specific academic disciplines / academic cultures > focus on researchers

• Aim to collect the newest articles via submitting and / or harvesting

• One place to find all

Once the infrastructure is ready, we can start developing additional services on top of them, such as subject repositories. I mention here some that have proven to be successful (= used) and one that has high potential but is hardly used
At Utrecht University a small user survey showed that students and researchers in health sciences do use PubMed the most, besides, of course, Google.
Eprint service for economics
Ivy Academic search is a typical “harvest-only” subject repository; it collects incrementally data from other repositories.
Last but not least: Google. In the end, most users use Google, so on our priority list should be: visibility via Google. If we focus on dissemination and qualitative high infrastructures, Google will do the rest?
Services built on existing repositories > development

• Additional services such as data linking and enhanced publications can use the available repositories and their content;

• Developments have “just” started;

• And will need time --

• repositories have to be filled

Once the infrastructure is ready, we can start developing additional services on top of them, such as subject repositories. I mention here some that have proven to be successful (= used) and one that has high potential but is hardly used.
In the light of the previous slides, we can ask ourselves if the PEER project appeared a little bit too early. It is a collaboration of publishers and research communities that aims to monitor the effects of self archiving in the long term; will that really increase visibility?
Because Publishers and research communities “hold different views on whether mandated deposit in open access repositories will achieve greater use and impact”.

Aims to measure the effect of long term depositing over time.

Services built on top of institutional repositories will influence a project such as PEER; if there is no interoperability, the impact will not per se increase. The main question here is again: is it not too early for such project?
We were there from the beginning and we did a lot of advocacy work >> talking talking, spreading the word
Advocacy & information services

- SPARC Europe, North America and Japan: lobbying, networking, advocating: represent over 90 European University Libraries
- eIFLE: access for developing countries
- Enabling Open Scholarship (EOS): information service for scholars
- Open Access Scholarly Information Sourcebook (OASiS): practical steps for implementing Open Access
- Knowledge Exchange (DEFF, DFG, SURF & JISC, with participation of SPARC Europe): studies & surveys
- National levels ... national helpdesks OpenAIRE and others
- Institutional levels: scholarly communications officers

Advocacy work depends on memberships, grants and sponsorships; the benefits are for all.
SPARC Europe: an Alliance of European Research Libraries

• 2002

• 90 European Universities

• One voice:

“To create a change in the scholarly communications”
SPARC Europe: an Alliance of European Research Libraries

- We scan the horizon
- We advocate
- We lobby
- We create synergies
- We inform
Agenda

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Agenda for today.
Support Implementation of Open Access Policies at all levels

Strengthen Open Access Publishing

Encourage competition on the publishing market

Support alternative measurement models

Grow awareness amongst all stakeholders

Support Open Access Services

Collaborate with relevant partners such as PKP, COAR, DOAJ and more
• www.sparceurope.org

• www.twitter.com/sparc_eu

• LINKEDIN GROUP: SPARC Europe
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Is there a master plan in the Open Access Movement?

- Are we (= everyone involved!) tackling the real barriers?
- Will the current system of Scholarly Communications really change?
- Will publishers in the end transform to Open Access?
- Are we bold enough?
What do you think?

Thank you for listening!!

Astrid van Wesenbeeck
SPARC Europe
Aristotle and medical students