



Open access: an overview from the UK

Allan Foster

INFORUM 2006, Prague, 24th May 2006

allan@allanfoster.co.uk



Scholarly communication: 1970s-

- increasing reliance on journals as main channel for dissemination of scientific knowledge, growth paralleling that of research produced
- dominance of 'reader-pay' or 'library pay', as opposed to 'author-pay' model of journal dissemination
- existence of many publishers in market, with two big groups of publishers, For-profits (FP) and Not-for-profits (NFP - including learned societies and university presses)
- very fast growth of some big FP publishers, through new journal introduction, administering journals for learned societies, and through mergers.



Tensions in traditional pattern of scholarly communications

- Economic & financial change – for buyers, contributors and providers
 - Pressures on universities & funding bodies, incl. selectivity, re-focusing, costing, static library budgets
 - Pressures on ‘researcher as author’
 - Pressures on publishers – costs, markets, margins, technology & voluntarism (editing & reviewing)
- Technological change
- Social change



Scholarly communications market now

- Core STM publishing: \$7-11B
- 1975-1995 journal prices increased by 300% over inflation rate
- Very imperfect market mechanism
- FP journals are 3 times more expensive than NFP titles
- Positive link between quality of journal and its price

Source: **Study on ... scientific publication markets in Europe.** EC, 2006.

<http://digbig.com/4hrnh>



The Open Access agenda

- Open access journals
- Self-archiving
- Repositories



Landmarks in OA in Europe

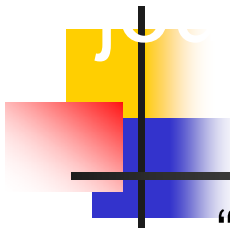
- Budapest Open Access Initiative (Feb 2002)
- SPARC Europe established (2003)
- Berlin Declaration on open access to knowledge in the sciences and humanities (Oct 2003)
- OECD Declaration on access to research data from public funding (Jan 2004)
- UK Parliament's Science & Technology Committee report advocating OA
- Research Councils UK Position statement on access to research outputs (2005)



Open access to ...

- Original scientific research results, raw data and metadata
- Source materials
- Digital representations of pictorial and graphical materials
- Scholarly multimedia material

(Berlin Declaration, 2003)



“**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 to 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. The only constraint on reproduction and distribution, and the only role for copyright in this domain, should be to give **authors control over the integrity of their work** and the right to be **properly acknowledged and cited.**” (my highlighting)

Budapest Open Access Initiative FAQ: <http://digbig.com/4hrbg>

Directory of open access journals - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help Links Customize Links Free Hotmail RealPlayer Windows Windows Marketplace Windows Media my delicio.us post to delicio.us

Address http://www.doaj.org/ Go Google gadwin print screen Search PageRank ABC Check AutoLink AutoFill

DOAJ DIRECTORY OF OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS

[Find journals](#)
[New titles](#)
[Search articles](#)
[Suggest a journal](#)

Welcome to the Directory of Open Access Journals. This service covers free, full text, quality controlled scientific and scholarly journals. We aim to cover all subjects and languages. There are now **2232** journals in the directory. Currently **633** journals are searchable at article level. As of today **97184** articles are included in the DOAJ service.

[About](#)
[Questions & answers](#)
[News](#)
[Cooperation](#)
[Contact](#)
[Support DOAJ](#)
[OpenDOAR](#)

For journal owners

Browse by title

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Browse by subject

[Expand Subject Tree](#)

Agriculture and Food Sciences	Arts and Architecture
Biology and Life Sciences	Business and Economics
Chemistry	Earth and Environmental Sciences
General Works	Health Sciences
History and Archaeology	Languages and Literatures
Law and Political Science	Mathematics and Statistics
Philosophy and Religion	Physics and Astronomy

start 10 Internet E... 4 Firefox Joho the Blog - ... Address Book 2 Microsoft Of... 2 Microsoft Of... EN 08:52

Source: DOAJ, www.doaj.org

Screen shot 18/5/2006



Effect of open access publishing on impact factors

- Disputed claims
- BMC et al claim that some open access journals have already achieved high impact factors
- Elsevier questions this evidence
- It appears that some OA journals have at least achieved average impact. Impressive for such new titles.
- Journal affordability isn't the focus of open access. Real issue is article access/impact (Harnad)



Some key issues

- Acknowledge contribution of commercial publishers – establishment of powerful brands, understanding their markets, production excellence, managing the peer review quality system, marketing and promotion
- ‘Author pays’ model: PLoS charges author \$1,500 per article



Variants of OA journals

- E-prints archive
- Completely free
- Free online; subscription for print equiv.
- Delayed open access
- Partial open access
- Per capita OA (eg WHO agreements)

JISC's open access programme

- Limited funding to allow authors to experiment with OA publishing
- 6 participating publishers: PLoS, Institute of Physics, J. of Experimental Botany, Inter. Jnl of Crystallography, BMJ, OUP
- 124 authors; 78% would publish in an OA journal again. Factors include:
 - Free access for users
 - Wide exposure and consequential academic discourse
 - Prestige
 - Impact factor
 - Citations
- Publishers: performance positive; OA experience fruitful
- Authors 50:50 split on whether fees should be paid by govt agencies or from research grants

Source: Evaluation of the JISC's open access funding initiative. Key Perspectives Ltd, Spring 2006. See <http://digbig.com/4hrfa>

EU Survey of ... scientific publication markets in Europe: recommendations



- Guarantee public access to publicly funded research results shortly after publication
- Aim at a level playing field in terms of publishing business models
- Extend quality rankings of scientific jnls
- Guarantee perennial access to scholarly journal digital archives

Source: **Study on ... scientific publication markets in Europe.**
EC, 2006. <http://digbig.com/4hrnh>



EU Survey ... policy recommendations (cont.)

- Foster interoperable tools to improve visibility, accessibility & dissemination
- Promote pro competitive pricing strategies
- Scrutinise future significant mergers
- Promote the development of electronic publications (VAT treatment; public/private partnerships)

Source: **Study on ... scientific publication markets in Europe.**
EC, 2006. <http://digbig.com/4hrnh>



Repositories

- Research publications, data and learning/teaching resources
- Institutional *and* disciplinary
- Inter-relationships between institutional repositories and specialist data centres
- “Scientific data is best handled by scientists in data centres” (NERC - UK)
- Open access embraces self-archiving in repositories *and* new business models for publishers



Repositories (cont.)

- Currently, how interested are researchers and institutions in repositories??? (Some hostility)
- Should deposit be a requirement by funders? (NIH, RCUK & Wellcome policy directions)
- Once again, cultural change is essential
- **D**igital **R**epository **I**nfrastructure **V**ision for **E**uropean **R**esearch (DRIVER)
 - Initially a common network of 51 existing repositories in 5 countries
 - Collective and enabling service layers
 - Using standards such as OAI-PMH, persistent identifiers and some technology standards (SOA, web services)



Repositories in UK universities

- JISC \$6 programme 2005-7
- Most universities don't have a fully functioning repository but are planning one
- Most use Southampton University's e-print or DSpace software
- JISC considering staff support



Summary & questions

- Mixed views about OA, including from within UK Government, and amongst researchers themselves
- Will OA journals continue to increase their impact factors?
- What will be the role of traditional commercial publishers?
- Will learned society journals perish as their funding sources are threatened?
- Will research funders demand self-archiving?