



# Removing the barriers! Promoting open access to research through advocacy and collaboration.

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# SPARC



- \* The Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC)
- \* founded by the Association of Research Libraries (US) as an international alliance of academic and research libraries
- \* +200 members (universities) in North America
- \* Primary objective: working to **correct imbalances in the scholarly publishing system**

# SPARC Europe - mission



- SPARC Europe aims to promote an open scholarly communication system in Europe through
  - advocacy and education,
  - the promotion of new models, and
  - partnerships with all interested stakeholders

# SPARC Europe – how we work



- taking leadership in the debate about Open Access,
- acting as a catalyst through partnerships with all interested stakeholders, and
- coordinating lobbying actions within Europe

for the benefit of researchers and society at large in Europe and beyond.

# SPARC Europe



- 80 members (universities etc.) in 16 European countries
- 2 members from France
  - Couperin
  - Institut National Polytechnique de Toulouse

# Advocacy & collaboration



- \* Supporting experiments with new business models
- \* Facilitating creation of networks
- \* Facilitating projects
- \* Supporting emerging infrastructure services
- \* Lobbying with decision makers:
  - \* Universities & university associations,
  - \* Research funders,
  - \* Governments & supranational organizations

# Scope and focus of presentation



- \* Not
  - \* open access through institutional repositories
  - \* free access through digitization projects
- \* But
  - \* Focus on scholarly peer reviewed open access publishing (primary publishing)
    - \* Open access journals (& monographs)

# Open Access - the early years



- \* 1991:
  - \* Ginsparg's preprint server – arXiv
- \* 1993:
  - \* BioLine launched,
- \* 1997:
  - \* SPARC founded by ARL,
  - \* SciELO launched,
- \* 1998:
  - \* African Journals Online (AJOL) launched,
- \* 2000:
  - \* BioMed Central publishes first OA-article.



- \* 2001:
  - \* deadline for the open letter from Public Library of Science (PLoS).
  
- \* 2002:
  - \* SPARC Europe founded,
  - \* Budapest Open Access Initiative (BOAI) launched by Open Society Institute (OSI),
  - \* Creative Commons launched,
  - \* OJS launched by PKP.
  
- \* 2003:
  - \* DOAJ launched by Lund University Libraries (300 journals),

# Universities and Research funders are coming onboard



- \* 2003:
  - \* Wellcome trust endorses open access,
  - \* PLoS launches first OA-journal
  - \* **the Berlin Declaration launched**
- \* 2004:
  - \* CrossRef announced.
- \* 2005:
  - \* Wellcome Trust implements open access mandate.

\* 2006:

- \* European Research Council (ERC) issues a Statement on Open Access,
- \* PLoS launches PLoS ONE.
- \* The European University Association (EUA) releases Statement on Open Access.
- \* ERC issued guidelines that allows for payment for publication charges in OA-journals.
- \* The European Commission launch the Open Access pilot within the FP7.

- \* 2008:
  - \* Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association (OASPA) founded,
- \* 2011:
  - \* IFLA publish Statement on Open Access,
  - \* Howard Hughes, Wellcome Trust and Max Planck announced plans to launch a mega OA journal
  - \* SCOAP<sub>3</sub> goes for tender

# The balance so far



- \* Hundreds of institutions have signed the Berlin Declaration and similar declarations. Universities, university associations and research centers have issued policies that mandate open access.
- \* According to ROARMAP, the Registry of Open Access Repositories Mandatory Archiving Policies there is now 132 institutional OA mandates and 52 research funder mandates
- \* The DOAJ counts more than 7100 OA journals and many in process (+15 000 000 visits a month).

High level decision makers in university associations and research funders, governments, in supranational organizations like the European Commission are increasingly and explicitly demanding, working for and supporting open access to research results and research data and increasingly Gold open access.

# What brought us here?



- \* What have made it possible to envisage a substantially changed scholarly communication system?
  - \* Technology
  - \* Standardization
  - \* Early adaptors in the science community
  - \* Librarians, libraries and library organizations
  - \* Innovative publishers with new business models
  - \* **Advocacy & collaboration**

# A collaborative effort



- \* All this is not the results of the efforts and work of one single organization, but much more
- \* The results of many organizations and initiatives working for the same goal
- \* Sociologists would label this as a global social movement



# Others are lobbying as well



- \* Open access publishing is poor quality publishing,
- \* Open access publishers publish rubbish,
- \* Business models based on article processing charges corrupts peer-review.
- \* Blurring the concept, create confusion: free access, delayed open access, universal access etc.

## But the times they are a`changing



- \* 'Gold' open access continues to gain acceptance as an attractive solution for authors, readers and publishers alike.
- \* Open access has been at the heart of NPG's expansion for the last two years.
- \* Quotes from the Annual letter to customers from Nature Publishing Group published September 21st 2011

# Open Access – inevitable!?



- \* Information wants to be free!
- \* **We have won the argument about Open Access!**
- \* Not necessarily because
  - \* it is cheaper (it probably is!)
  - \* it can bridge the digital divide (it can!)
  - \* it is a good cause (it is!)

## \* Open Access is inevitable!

Because it has become obvious that innovation, industry and societies will only enjoy the full benefit from science if the texts, the objects and the corresponding research data are available, interlinked, mined and reusable in an open networked environment without barriers, or put otherwise: the only way to unfold the potential of technology and innovation is to create the universe of science in an open and transparent environment without walls.

# Remaining barriers!



- The big deals
- The regime of the journal impact factor
- Hesitation to invest in Open Access Publishing

# The Big Deals!

- The big deals are conserving the scholarly communication system
- However difficult it seems library consortia must find ways to decompose the big deals
- This requires collaboration, brave decisions and support from university managements and research funders.
- **This is inevitable, but will take time!**

# Challenging the Big Deals!



- Research Libraries UK are now putting increasing pressure on some of the major publishers – we must follow their example
- The High Energy Physics community in their SCOAP<sub>3</sub> project are now going for tender – the publishers/journals that win the tender will have to unbundle those journals from the big deals

# Megajournals.

## Starving out the Big Deals?



- Megajournals – a new feature:
- PLoS One – launched in 1996
- Now the biggest journal in the world
- Conveyor belt production & peer review
- Huge editorial boards (4-digit number of editors and referees)
- Traditional publishers are copying this now!
- Has the potential to starve out the subscription journals



# Challenge the regime of the Journal Impact Factor



- The regime of the journal impact factor is **a major obstacle for open access publishing** and has devastating effects on research in developing countries and countries in transition
- Some publishers are gearing or manipulating in order to get higher journal impact factor
- We need much more differentiated indicators and measures of impact that goes beyond measuring impact of science on science itself.

# We need additional metrics and indicators:



## ➤ Article metrics:

- Lots of promising experiments and initiatives are underway
- These have the potential of delivering measures that can inform about the impact of science on higher education, on human health and wealth, on societies, on equality, participation and democracy.

# Invest in Open Access Publishing!



- it has become obvious for high level policy and decision makers **that innovation, industry and societies will only benefit** from science if the texts, the objects and the corresponding research data are available, interlinked, mined and reusable in an **open networked environment without barriers**
- Next thing for these decision makers now is to realize that this **transition will not come to reality without costs, without investments**, without author publication charges, without investments in infrastructure.

# What can we do then!?



- **keep on doing the good work:**
- building repositories,
- filling them
- linking documents to research data
- making the repositories work together (interoperability)
- keep pressure on publishers for lowest possible embargo periods
- etc

and .....



- Support Open Access Publishing – journals and monographs by:
- Lobbying with research funders and university managements for publication funds (paying for article processing fees)
- Provide assistance in publishing journals (OJS etc)
- Arrange for institutional membership deals with Open Access publishers (BMC, PLoS, Hindawi, Copernicus, Co-Action, BioLine etc.)

# Support OA-organizations!



- Support the organizations and service providers working for Open Access:
- SPARC,
- OASPA (Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association)
- COAR (Confederation of Open Access Repositories)
- EOS (Enabling Open Scholarship)
  
- OpenDOAR
- DOAJ

# Remember!



- SPARC was founded as an international alliance of academic and research libraries working to correct imbalances in the scholarly publishing system.
- We are not there yet.
- But I am confident that we are coming closer!

# Thank you for your attention

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