



SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES RESEARCH COUNCIL OF CANADA

OPEN ACCESS and SSHRC

Christian Sylvain, Director
Policy, Planning and International Affairs
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We build understanding



OPEN ACCESS /S IMPORTANT TO SSHRC

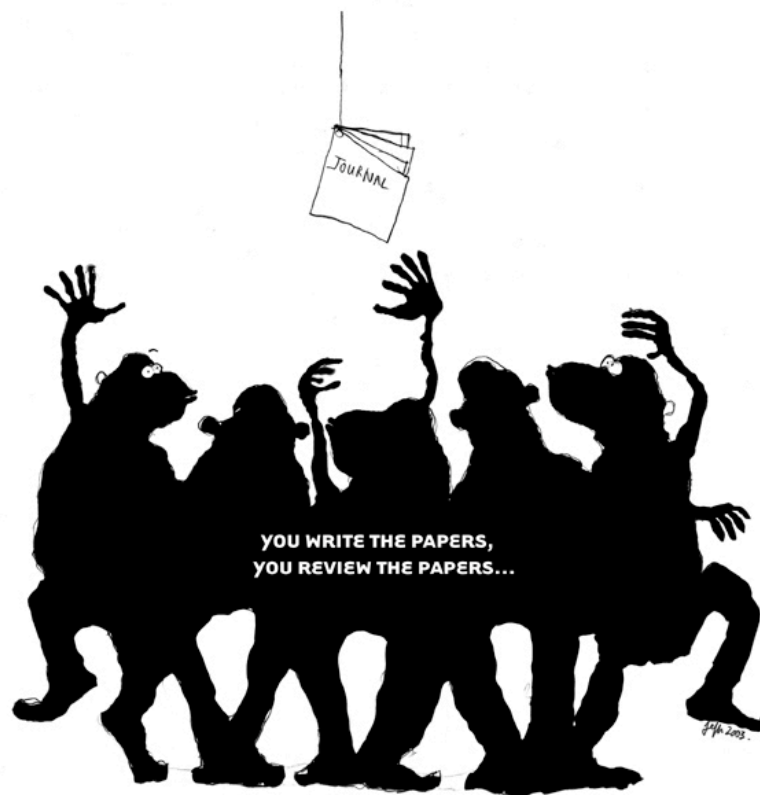
- > Concrete steps taken in the last year
- > New Open Access Journals program
- > We need your support in moving forward faster

- > *Today:*
- > Chronology of key actions taken
- > Issues and challenges faced
- > Where we are headed



SSHRC HAS AN OPEN ACCESS POLICY!

- > SSHRC Council endorsed the concept of Open Access in October 2004
- > SSHRC defines OA as the process through which research funded by SSHRC is made openly, freely and permanently accessible through the Internet to all potential users.
- > The objective is to remove barriers to the access of publicly funded research so to increase circulation and impact.



WHY SHOULD YOU PAY TO READ THEM ?

www.plos.org



PUBLIC FUNDING = PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE = PUBLIC ACCESS

- > Basic premise is that knowledge from publicly-funded research is a benefit to society and must therefore be as broadly accessible as possible.
- > This premise is behind SSHRC's innovative program approaches
 - knowledge creation and mobilization
 - support of research communication and knowledge sharing activities



OPEN ACCESS CONSULTATION

- > SSHRC consulted the SS&H research community from Aug to Oct 2005 (129 submissions received)
- > Key findings included:
 - Little knowledge of OA in general
 - Lack of familiarity with institutional repositories, pre-print archives, moving wall access systems, creative commons licenses, etc.
 - Concerns over financial viability of journals
 - Ability for researchers to publish in international journals
 - Nature and interoperability of repositories



BUT STRONG SUPPORT FOR OA!

- > Nobody disputed the logic of OA but no support for *mandatory implementation*
- > In early 2006, SSHRC adopted a policy statement in support of OA and based its approach on:
 - Awareness raising – active promotion of the concept of OA
 - Educating the community on the value of OA and working on with the community on feasibility and implementation
 - Incorporating OA provisions into programs as appropriate.



WHY NOT A MORE AGGRESSIVE APPROACH?

- > To not undermine the sustainability of a great many SSH journals (most of which, unlike NSE and Health journals, are largely published by small not-for-profit publishers).
- > To ensure that in the long-term the policy would make a difference (learn from Data Archiving Policy and Final Research Report)



COUPLING WITH INFRASTRUCTURE

- > *Synergies* - Electronic publication infrastructure is needed for journals to make the transition to electronic publishing and open access
- > This infrastructure is now being developed at 5 centres across the country.



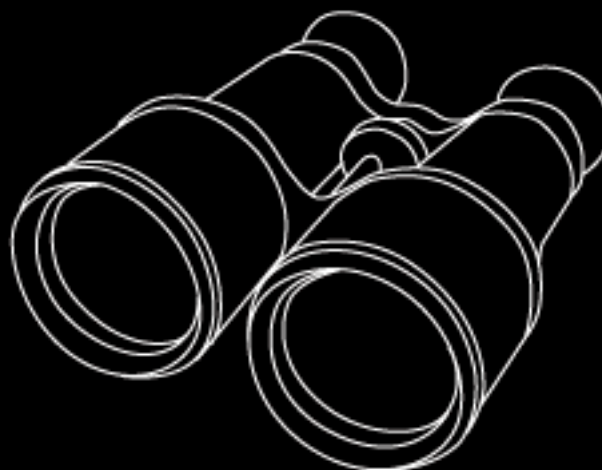
OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS PROGRAM

- > SSHRC has long supported scholarly SSH journals (more than 160 currently receive grants)
- > Vast majority are not-for-profit undertakings that do not have sufficient resources to change from a subscription based business model to an open access business model.
- > Nevertheless, SSHRC has just launched a dedicated support program for Open Access journals because SSHRC believes in the value and legitimacy of OA and of these journals as research communication vehicles.



NEXT STEPS

- > Mainstream OA in the Aid to Scholarly Journals program
- > Release more analytical reports
- > Understand better the scholarly publication system and shifting role of lib., UPs, HEIs, learned societies, etc.
- > Experiment with implementation (business models, nature of “article”, moving walls, etc.) and promote best practices
- > Continue to work with other agencies, here and abroad
- > Determine future role for SSHRC and nature of its OA Policy



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