OPEN ACCESS IN THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES: A UK PERSPECTIVE

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Changes in HSS Research Dissemination: Cause and Effect and OA Opportunity (1)

Cause

- The pressure to publish quickly in order to meet Research Assessment Exercise deadlines

Effect

- More publication by HSS authors in journal articles, less emphasis upon publication in monographs, unless those monographs can be published within the RAE timescale

OA opportunity

- The open access model suits the move towards HSS journal article or individual chapter publishing
- It is easier to deposit individual articles or book chapters in a repository than it is to deposit an entire monograph
CHANGES IN HSS RESEARCH DISSEMINATION: CAUSE AND EFFECT AND OA OPPORTUNITY (2)

Cause

- Ever-increasing proportion of library budgets spent on STM journal “big deals”

Effect

- Libraries have less money to spend on HSS research monographs, so publishers do not find it economic to publish research monographs unless the author/topic is known to be very popular

OA opportunity

- Repository deposit enables use of monographs chapter by chapter, an advertising tool which could increase sales of an entire monograph
CHANGES IN HSS RESEARCH DISSEMINATION: CAUSE AND EFFECT AND OA OPPORTUNITY (3)

Cause
- Government emphasis upon accountability for taxpayer’s money

Effect
- University administrations look very critically at the cost of maintaining a university press, leading to the closure of many presses or their sale to commercial publishers (N.B. this has a disproportionate effect upon HSS authors)

OA opportunity
- OA provides better value for money than conventional publication
- A university press could develop publications derived from repository copies, using repository usage statistics as a guide to future sales
THANK YOU FOR LISTENING!

- See “Disciplinary Differences” report by Rightscom for JISC
  http://www.jisc.ac.uk/media/documents/themes/infoenvironment/disciplinarydifferencesneeds.pdf