

The background of the slide is a traditional Japanese ink wash painting (suiboku-ga) on a light yellowish-green paper. It features several pine trees with dense, green, needle-like foliage and dark, gnarled trunks. In the upper right corner, there are three birds in flight, rendered with simple, elegant lines. The overall style is minimalist and elegant, typical of classical Japanese art.

Open Access in Japan: After a long silence

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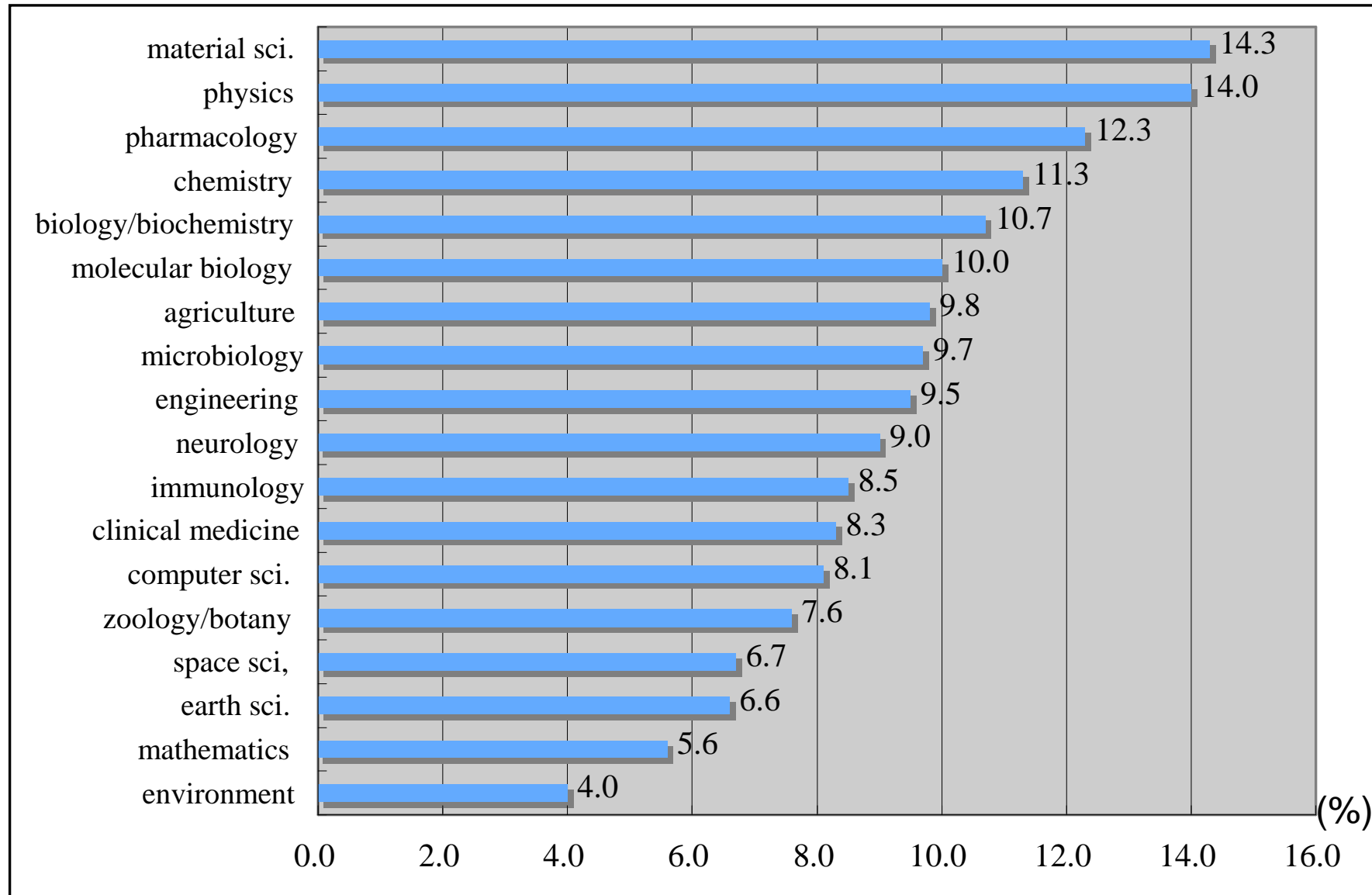
Don't forget historical perspectives

- Modernization of Japan from the late 19th century is based on the idea of “**catching up with the West**” by “**importing scientific knowledge**,” which has determined the structure of higher education, R & D funding and scholarly communication in contemporary Japan, where there is **much science** but almost **no scholarly publishing industry**.
- Open access in Japan must be discussed from this perspective, but before discussing it we need to know facts, which we are going to present here..

Japan's impacts on the contemporary scholarly communication

- The second **most productive** country in the world only next to US since 1990 (ISI stats)
 - Approx. 10% of articles are produced in Japan,
 - though with relatively small number of citations
- The second **most spending** country in the world only next to US
 - This is hard to show evidence, but most publishers say so
 - \$300M annually only by universities
- **No major publisher** with international circulation

Japanese contribution



Unconsciousness

- Open access has never been seriously discussed:
 - No signatories on Berlin Declaration or anything
 - Government, funding agencies, research institutions never recognized self-archiving
 - Stats say scientists are generally neither interested in nor aware of open access
 - One vague mention of embargoed public access to results from public funding in a document for the 3rd S&T Basic Plan in 2006, but no further policy action has been taken

In spite of that,
institutional repositories mushrooming

- **Almost 100 repositories** in university libraries in a couple of years for various justifications
 - **Libraries** want open access under journal price pressure
 - **Universities** want public relations, accountability for public funding in case of national universities
 - Some **people in the powers that be** on campus need information on their employees' research for assessment in the "Thatcher"-type reform with no universities added
 - A **"government-funded" indexing service** wants to keep up with the world trends, and funds libraries for starting repositories

Researchers on campus

- have access to almost all literature for research...
 - Maybe that is why they are not interested in open access
- worry, as members of societies, that open access would cause the cancellation of membership by those who become members only to have access to their journals

Problem is with domestic journals

- “Domestic” means
 - published by a publisher who is located in Japan
 - In Japanese language
- 2 kinds
 - Department journals/bulletins(15,000 titles)
 - Society journals(more than 2,000 titles)

Problem is with **domestic** journals

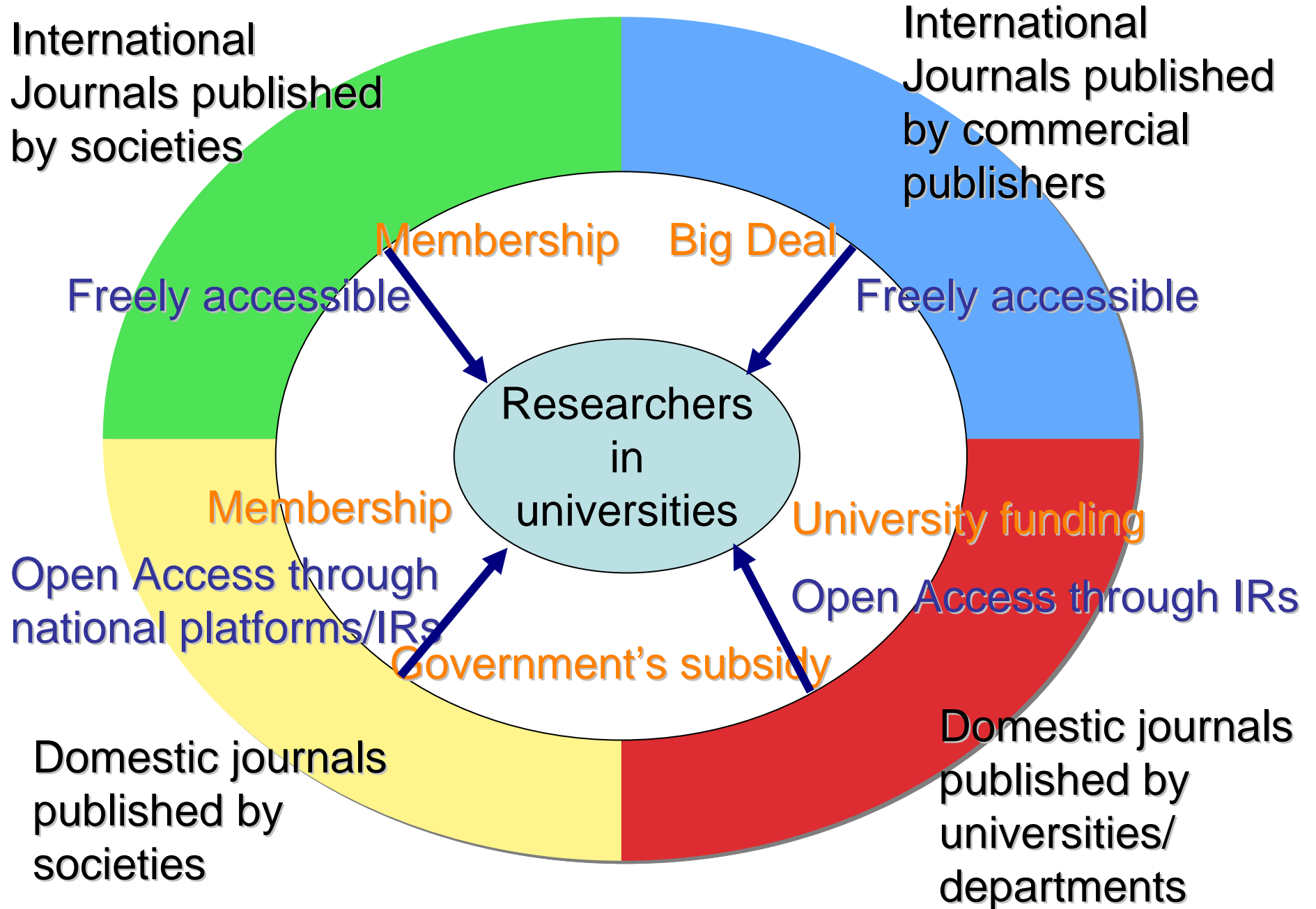
- **Department journals** are published and sent by university money, donated or exchanged between departments
 - => **Fully open access**. Good, old circle of gift, but still mainly in print!
- **Society journals** are published, or printed, to distribute and most of the time supported totally by membership fee, which is paid to commercial publishers/printers

Society journals in Japan

- More than **2000 titles** being published, monthly, quarterly, or annually
- Out of them, between **200 and 300 titles are in English**
- Between 70 and 100 are published in corporation with foreign for-profit/not-for-profit publishers
- Some of them are subsidized by JSPS' grants (total 0.7bJPY) to printing

NACISIS-ELS & J-STAGE

- Starting in mid-90s, two major services
 - NACISIS-ELS: electronic publishing through image digitization(less than 0.1bJPY/year)
 - J-STAGE: online publishing of born-digital PDF files(2bJPY/year)
- Both services **subsidized by government**
 - NACISIS-ELS now provides 2.8M articles in 1,000+ society journals
 - J-STAGE hosts 200+ journals, open access made possible by government funding
- Now both suffer from “archaic architectures”
 - Only PDFs are delivered, no XML/HTML



So...

- With natural growth of institutional repositories,
 - self-published articles will be made wholly online soon
 - Science data will be accumulated
 - Domestic journal articles will be made online from institutional repositories eventually
 - And with big-deal licensed materials accessible

Almost all materials will be made freely accessible for Japanese researchers and students, which is good but only for Japan(?)