

Electronic Publishing Trust for Development

A UK registered charitable trust (No. 1059867)

The aim of the EPT is to facilitate the spread of scientific knowledge generated in the developing world by:

- the electronic distribution of regional journals**
- training and capacity building in e-publishing**
- supporting access to scientific knowledge available electronically and in particular:**
- raising awareness about open access developments.**

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The scientific community in developing countries has three major problems:

- The N to S knowledge gap
- The S to N knowledge gap
- The S to S knowledge gap

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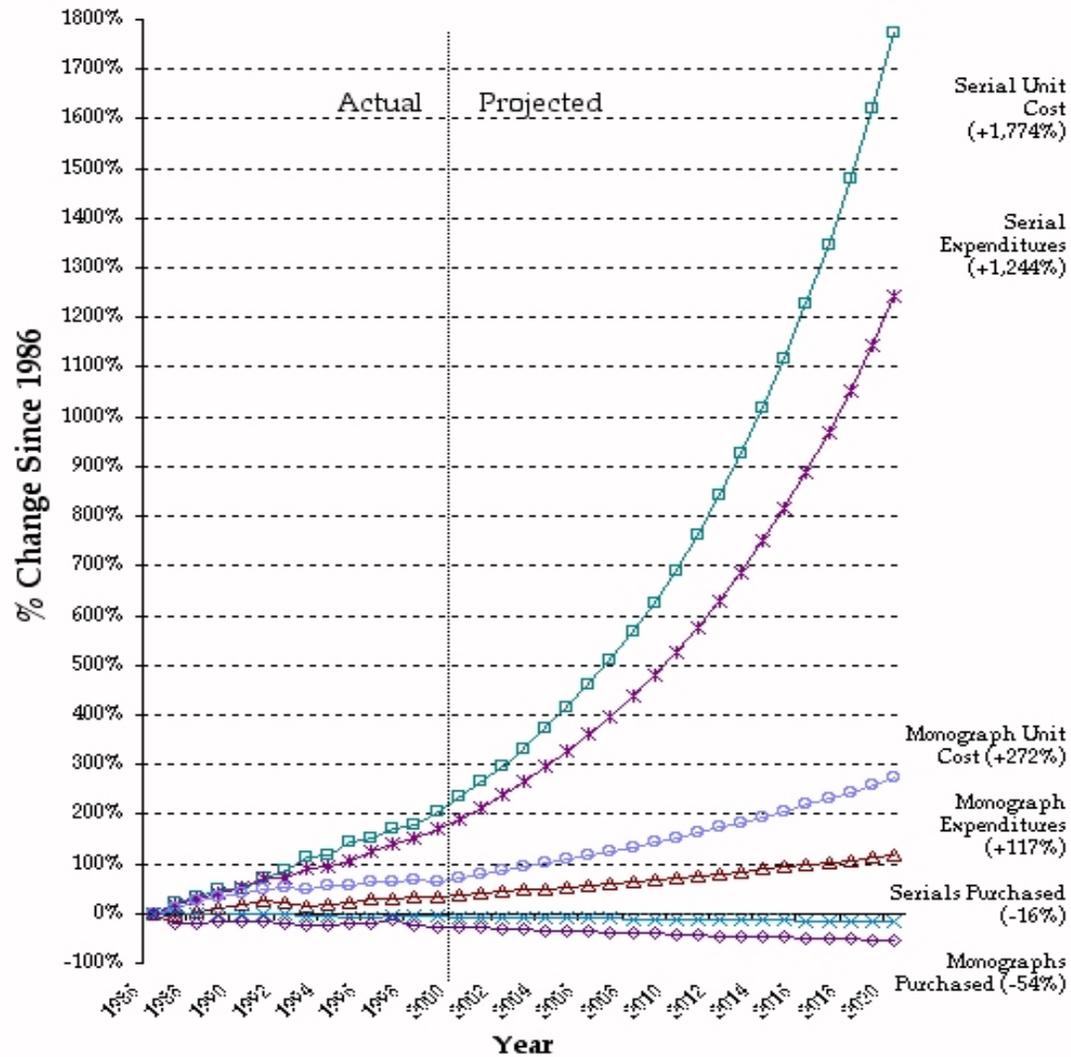
The North to South gap

According to the ARL:

costs of serials have risen by ~15%/year
projected to rise by 1800% by 2020

ARL chart

Monograph and Serial Costs in ARL Libraries, 1986-2020 Scenario 1 Projections



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Problems for academic researchers in developing countries

- regional journals have low distribution levels because of high printing and distribution costs
- have difficulty publishing in mainstream established journals

Consequences:

- research largely unknown and unacknowledged
- research progress slow through lack of information in the field
- feeling of professional isolation; no possibility to form international collaborative programmes or partnerships for grants

Can electronic publishing help?

- **It can hugely increase visibility**
- **The technology is cheap**
- **It is easy to learn**
- **Global visibility leads to partnerships**
- **Ends feeling of professional isolation (contacts, scientific collaboration etc)**
- **Scientists become enthusiastic to publish in local journals**
- **Overall strengthening of the science base**

..... Upward spiral, gap begins to close

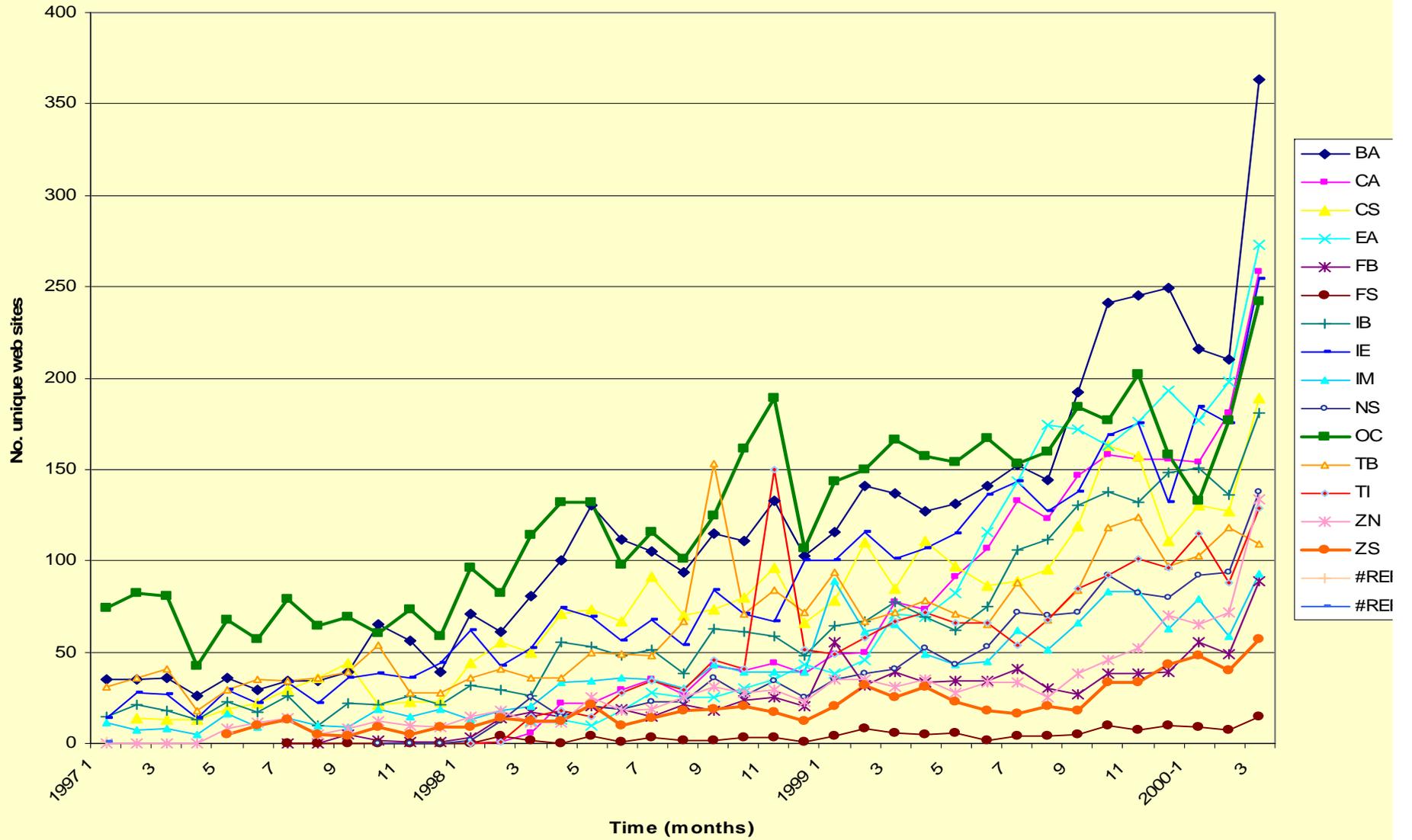
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The S to N gap

“The invisibility to which mainstream publishing condemns most third world research thwarts the efforts of poor countries to strengthen their indigenous science journals, and with them the quality of research, in regions that most need them.”

Richard Horton, Editor *The Lancet*, 1996

Usage Chart



Can open access help?

If documents free to readers, N to S gap can be closed

If institutional archiving free to authors (or costs paid by their institutions), S to N gap can be closed

If access and archiving free to readers and authors, S to S gap can be closed

What needs to be done?

- **Raise awareness of open access movement via writing, talking, visiting**
- **Training courses/capacity building on establishing institutional archives**
- **On-going infrastructure development**

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<http://www.epublishingtrust.org>

ept@biostrat.demon.co.uk

EPT Secretariat

Wilmots, Elmton

Worksop S80 4LS, UK

Tel: +44 1909 724184

Fax: +44 1909 724190