



SCHOLARLY PUBLISHING & ACADEMIC RESOURCES COALITION  
*SPARC EUROPE*

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# **Institutional Repositories & Open Access – The Future of Scholarly Communication?**

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## The Situation Today

- Dissatisfaction with the current scholarly communication model
- Even the wealthiest institution cannot purchase access to all the information that all of its researchers require
- Site-licenses and consortia deals have helped, but mainly in the richest countries
- Many commercial publishers charge extra for online access – so causing more pressure on budgets



# Aggregated system

Scholarly publishing comprises four functions:

|   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <b>REGISTRATION</b><br>Establishing<br>intellectual<br>priority | <b>CERTIFICATION</b><br>Certifying the<br>quality/validity<br>of the research | <b>AWARENESS</b><br>Assuring<br>accessibility<br>of research | <b>ARCHIVING</b><br>Preserving<br>research<br>for future use |
|---|---|--|--|

## Current model:

- integrates these functions in journals



## Unlocking opportunities

- Opportunities for **expanded access** and **new uses** offered by
  - evolving digital publishing technologies
  - ever-expanding networking
- Better ways to handle increasing volume of research generated
- Technology offers the chance for academia to take back control of scholarly communication



## What are institutional repositories?

### Essential elements

- *Institutionally defined*: Content generated by institutional community
- *Scholarly content*: preprints and working papers, published articles, enduring teaching materials, student theses, data-sets, etc.
- *Cumulative & perpetual*: preserve ongoing access to material
- *Interoperable & open access*: free, online, global



## Why institutional repositories?

- **For the Individual**
  - Provide a central archive of their work
  - Increase the dissemination and impact of their research
  - Acts as a full CV
- **For the Institution**
  - Increases visibility and prestige
  - Acts as an advertisement to funding sources, potential new faculty and students, etc.
- **For Society**
  - Provide access to the world's research
  - Ensures long-term preservation of institutes' academic output



## Certification

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- Peer review journals sit above institutional repositories to form ‘overlay journals’
- Overlay journals give stamp of quality to the research presented in the repositories
- Existing journals could convert to overlay journals or new journals could be launched
- Overlay journals should be open access



# Open Access

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What is it?

Call for *free, unrestricted access* on the public internet to the literature that scholars give to the world *without expectation of payment*.

Why?

Accelerate research, enrich education, share learning among rich & poor nations, enhance return on taxpayer investment in research.

How?

Use existing funds to pay for *dissemination*, not *access*.





## Move to Open Access

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- Can costs be reduced by not producing print journal (or using new digital printing technology)?
- Online production costs can be covered from:
  - Academies
  - Libraries
  - Government
  - Independent foundations
  - Authors
  - Advertisers
  - A combination of the above



# Advantages of Open Access Journals

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- They increase the dissemination authors' research from a few hundred institutes to everybody in the world with web access
- They increase the profile of authors, institutes, and countries
- By removing print and postage they reduce costs
- They allow the possibility of revitalising non-English language publishing



# Theory Into Practice - Institutional Repositories

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- Eprints.org – Southampton produced software
- D-Space – MIT Repository, expanding to Cambridge, UK
- SHERPA – UK
- DARE – The Netherlands
- SPARC Resources –  
(<http://www.arl.org/sparc/core/index.asp?page=m0>)



# Theory Into Practice - Institutional Repositories

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Australia National University

Universite de Montreal

Aalborg University

Universitat Essen

Universitat Stuttgart

Utrecht University

Lunds Universitet

CERN

National University of Ireland

University of Bath

University of Glasgow

University of Nottingham

California Digital Library

Caltech

MIT

Academy of Sciences, Belarus



# Theory Into Practice - Open Access

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SPARC open access journal partners:

- *Algebraic and Geometric Topology*
- *BioMed Central*
- *Documenta Mathematica*
- *Calif. Digital Library eScholarship*
- *Geometry & Topology*
- *Journal of Insect Science*
- *Journal of Machine Learning Research*
- *New Journal of Physics*



# Theory Into Practice - Open Access

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- Two new journals from the Public Library of Science
  - *PLoS Biology* and *PLoS Medicine*
- Indian Academy of Sciences has made their 11 journals available free online



# Theory Into Practice - Building Momentum

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- Increasing numbers of libraries are taking on role of hosts for institutional repositories
- More open access journals prove the feasibility of the business model
- Increasing awareness of authors of need to retain their publishing rights
- Increasing awareness amongst funding bodies of publishing issues
- Entry level for new players reduced
- Membership of SPARC Europe increasing



## SPARC Europe

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### *Scholarly Publishing & Academic Resources Coalition*

- Formed in 2002 following the success of SPARC (launched in 1998 by the US Association of Research Libraries)
- Encourages partnership between libraries, academics, societies and responsible publishers
- Currently focused on STM, but coverage expanding
- Has over 50 members and is growing
- By acting together the members can influence the future of scholarly publishing





# SPARC Europe: Linking Advocacy & Action

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## ADVOCACY

Enhance  
awareness

Promote  
action  
options

Demonstrate  
success

## PUBLISHING INITIATIVES

Aid editors,  
societies,  
universities

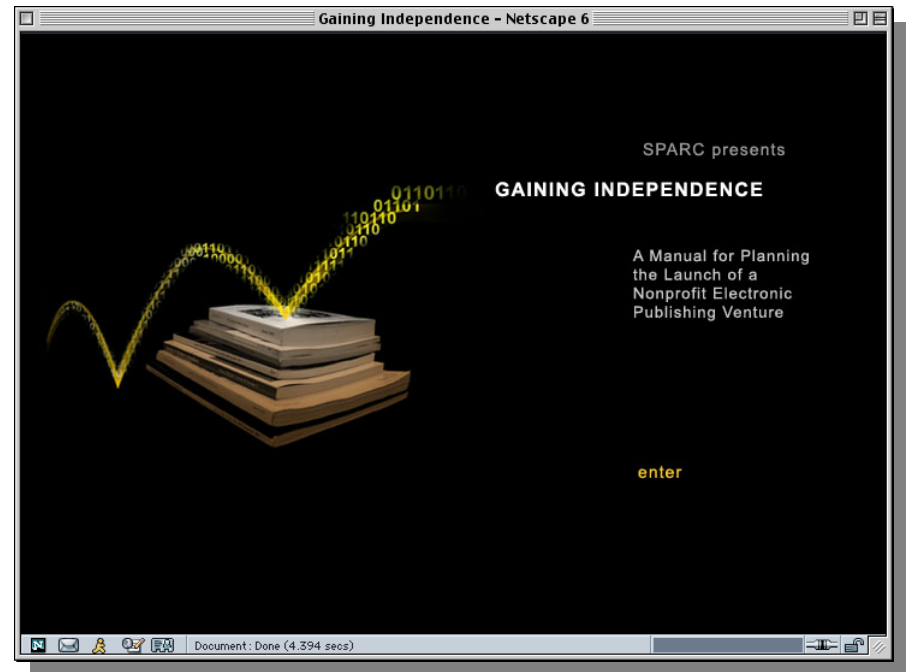
Build  
capacity

Reduce  
startup risk



# SPARC Education & Advocacy

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**Create Change**

**www.createchange.org**



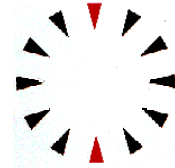
# SPARC Publishing Initiatives

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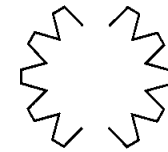
SPARC  
ALTERNATIVE

- Alternative vehicles for editorial boards
- Head-to-head competition with high-priced journals



SPARC  
SCIENTIFIC  
COMMUNITIES

- Broad-scale aggregation, integration
- Community control of broad channels
- Collaboration among scientists/societies and institutions



SPARC  
LEADING EDGE

- Innovative business models
- Alternatives to institutional subscription-based journal economy



## Measures of Success

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- SPARC supported projects are financially viable and significantly less expensive
- SPARC supported products are attracting quality authors and editors
- New players have entered the STM marketplace (SPARC partners and others)
- Created an environment where editorial boards are emboldened to take action
- STM journal price increases have moderated
- New models are gaining acceptance



# Create Change!

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**“Although the battle is being fought over subscription prices, what is really at stake...is the scientific process itself.”**

New York Times, Dec. 8, 1998

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