Gaining Independence through Institutional Repositories

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What I’ll cover

- State of scholarly journal publishing
- SPARC and other efforts to create change
- Disaggregated scholarly communication
- Institutional repositories
Circle of Gifts
Commercialization

Scientific, Technical & Medical Publishing Market
$7.8 billion

Commercial
68%

Non-profit
32%

Includes Primary & Secondary STM publishing.
Aggregators represent an additional $1.6 billion (Total: $9.5 billion.)

Resulting problems in the market

- Price increases far above inflation, driven by demand for extraordinary profits in commercial STM publishing
- Substantial price disparity between commercial & non-commercial journals
- Bundling of their journals by large commercial publishers reduces competition & harms society publishers
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
Introducing SPARC

SPARC objectives
- Raise awareness
- Incubate alternatives

*In order to:*
- Expand access
- Reduce cost

SPARC approach
- Experiment with change in real situations
- Reduce start-up risk
- Publishing economics important (but can’t override vision)
- Link advocacy and action

_Scholarship for Scholars_
Looking for better ways

- Expanded non-profit publishing capacity
  - Alternative journals
  - Alternative bundles

- New business models
  - Open access journals

- Disaggregated system
  - Disciplinary repositories
  - Institutional repositories
Scholarly publishing comprises four functions:

- **REGISTRATION**: Establishing intellectual priority
- **CERTIFICATION**: Certifying the quality/validity of the research
- **AWARENESS**: Assuring accessibility of research
- **ARCHIVING**: Preserving research for future use

**Current model:**
- integrates these functions in journals
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**Disaggregated models:**

- Allow functions to be fulfilled independently – by logically discrete, networked service providers
- Reveal that academy contributes most of value
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**Disaggregated models:**

- Lower prices by increasing cost efficiency
  - introduces competition throughout value chain
  - forces market efficiency of individual links
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, etc.
- *Cumulative & perpetual*: preserve ongoing access to material
- *Interoperable & open access*: free, online, global
Why institutional repositories?

Local & immediate
- Expands access to & impact of research
- Increases institutional visibility & prestige by clarifying institutional sources of research
- Demonstrates institution’s value to funding sources

Global & long-term
- Key component in evolving disaggregated scholarly publishing model
- Part of global network of interoperable, distributed content repositories

Institutional repositories complement the existing scholarly publishing model.
Practical issues

Impediment to formal publication?
- Trend for publishers to accept that online posting is not prior publication
- Develop discipline-specific policies

Intellectual property issues
- Repository registration protects priority
- Retain rights to e-print
- No more plagiarism online than offline
Practical issues

Perceived quality
- Label & differentiate types of content
- Reveal certification methods

Undermines existing journals?
- Repositories coexist with existing publishing system

Faculty work load
- Put library in charge of metadata tagging, formatting and reformatting, etc.
Next Steps

- Initiate institution- & consortia-based pilot projects.
- Support academy-friendly author/publisher agreements.
- Support learned societies in establishing new roles in disaggregated models.
“Although the battle is being fought over subscription prices, what is really at stake...is the scientific process itself.”


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