Two Roads, One Destination: The Interaction of Self Archiving and Open Access Journals

David Prosser • SPARC Europe Director
(david.prosser@bodley.ox.ac.uk)
SPARC Europe

*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 70 members and is growing
- By acting together the members can influence the future of scholarly publishing
Two complementary strategies:

- **Self-Archiving**: Scholars should be able to deposit their refereed journal articles in open electronic archives which conform to Open Archives Initiative standards.

- **Open-Access Journals**: Journals will not charge subscriptions or fees for online access. Instead, they should look to other sources to fund peer-review and publication (e.g., publication charges).
The Four Functions of a Journal

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- **Institutional Repositories**
- **Open Access Journals**
Utopia!

- All research material freely available in a world-wide network of fully-searchable repositories
- Peer-reviewed papers receive quality stamp from journals, financed by authors not readers
- All peer-review papers are freely available to anybody with internet access
Repositories Alone?

- **Practical:**
  - No peer review! Peer review gives Authors validation of their work and Readers a quality filter
  - Open Access Journals would provide peer review services for a sub-set of the material in the Institutional Repositories

- **Sociological:**
  - Many fear that repositories will ‘undermine’ journals (especially society journals)
Open Access Journals Alone?

- **Practical:**
  - Archiving issue – unanswered, but institutions responsible for their own archives gives some security
  - Repositories are about more than just peer-reviewed papers

- **Sociological:**
  - Change is slow – it takes time to launch new open access journals or convert subscription-based journals
Milestones on the journey – What has happened since OAI-2

- General Open Access Climate
- Open Access Journals
- Growing evidence of the power of open access

- (Other speakers have covered developments in repositories!)
Milestones on the journey – General Open Access Climate

Political Interest:

- UK Science and Technology Committee Inquiry into Scientific Publishing
- SPARC Europe recommends that UK funding bodies should:
  - Make it a condition of grant that authors retain copyright in their papers.
  - Require that authors deposit a copy of their final, peer-reviewed paper in a suitable, fully-searchable, freely accessible internet repository or archive.
  - Should provide as part of research grants monies to allow payment of charges for publication in Open Access journals.
Milestones on the journey – General Open Access Climate

Political Interest:

- Sabo – ‘Public Access to Science’ Act
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development’s ‘Declaration on Access to Research Data from Public Funding’ - ‘...an optimum international exchange of data, information and knowledge contributes decisively to the advancement of scientific research and innovation’ and ‘...open access will maximise the value derived from public investment in data collection efforts.’
Milestones on the journey – General Open Access Climate

Funding Body Interest:
- Howard Hughes in US
- Wellcome Trust in UK
- Berlin Declaration in Support of Open Access
  - Germany: Fraunhofer Society, Wissenschaftsrat, HRK, Max Planck Society, Leibniz Association, Helmholtz Association, German Research Foundation, Deutscher Bibliotheksverband
  - France: CNRS, INSERM
  - Austria: FWF Der Wissenschaftsfonds
  - Belgium: Fonds voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek - Vlaanderen)
  - Greece: National Hellenic Research Foundation
Milestones on the journey – Open Access Journals

- *BioMed Central* (published 4000+ papers)
- Membership schemes
Milestones on the journey – Open Access Journals

Making the transition

- Give Authors the choice:
  - If they pay a publication charge the paper is made open access on publication.
  - If they do not pay the publication charge the paper is only made available to subscribers.
- Over time, as proportion of authors who pay increases subscription prices can fall
- Eventually, entire journal is open access

(http://www.sparceurope.org/Open%20Access/From%20Here%20to%20There.doc)
Milestones on the journey – Open Access Journals

- A number of ‘traditional’ publishers are transforming their closed access journals into open access journals:
  - Oxford University Press
  - Company of Biologists
  - American Physiological Society
  - Florida Entomological Society
  - Entomological Society of America
  - Infotreieve
Milestones on the Journey
The Power of Open Access – Self Archiving

- For 72% of papers published in the *Astrophysical Journal* free versions of the paper are available (mainly through ArXiv)
- These 72% of papers are, on average, cited *twice* as often as the remaining 28% that do not have free versions.

Self-archiving gives authors an advantage, even for journals where ‘everybody already has access’!

Figures from Greg Schwarz
Milestones on the Journey
The Power of Open Access – Journals

- The average number of downloads for articles in ScienceDirect over the past year was 28
- Over the same period the average number of downloads for articles in BioMedCentral was 2,500
- And 1000 for the New Journal of Physics

Open Access gives
- 89 times as much usage in biomedicine, and
- 35 times as much usage in physics as closed, subscription-based access!

Figures from Peter Suber
What Next?

Moral argument has been won!

Increasing momentum for change
- Authors – benefits of open access becoming apparent
- Editors and Editorial Boards - awareness of their power and responsibilities
- Libraries - hosts for institutional repositories
- Libraries – increasing resistance to the old models
- Publishers and Societies – some are beginning to see open access as an opportunity
- Funding bodies – importance of dissemination
- Politicians - awareness of scholarly communication issues
“The public good [made] possible is the world-wide electronic distribution of the peer-reviewed journal literature and completely free and unrestricted access to it by all scientists, scholars, teachers, students, and other curious minds.”

Budapest Open Access Initiative, Feb. 14, 2002

Contact SPARC Europe: david.prosser@bodley.ox.ac.uk