



THE SCHOLARLY PUBLISHING
& ACADEMIC RESOURCES COALITION
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SPARC Futures: An Evolving Agenda

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The Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources
Coalition

About SPARC

- Active coalition of academic & research libraries (200 in North America + 100 in Europe)
- Initiative to correct market imbalances in the scholarly communication system.
- At the core of SPARC's mission is the belief that these imbalances inhibit the advancement of scholarship and are at odds with fundamental needs of scholars and the academic enterprise.

SPARC's Mission

- SPARC was formed specifically to be a catalyst for action. Its pragmatic agenda stimulates emergence of new systems that:
 - expand dissemination of research
 - reduce financial pressures on libraries.
 - leverage the networked digital environment to serve scholarship
- SPARC collaborates with other stakeholders, and provides practical assistance to innovative scholarly communication initiatives.

What is SPARC?

- Or, to put it another way:

“SPARC is hope and power and action through collaboration...”

- James Neal, *Vice President of Information Services and University Librarian, Columbia University. Chair, SPARC Steering Committee, 2003-2005*

SPARC's Strategy

SPARC's strategy aims to advance a more open system of scholarship by reducing barriers to access, sharing, and use of scholarship - and in particular, scientific research.

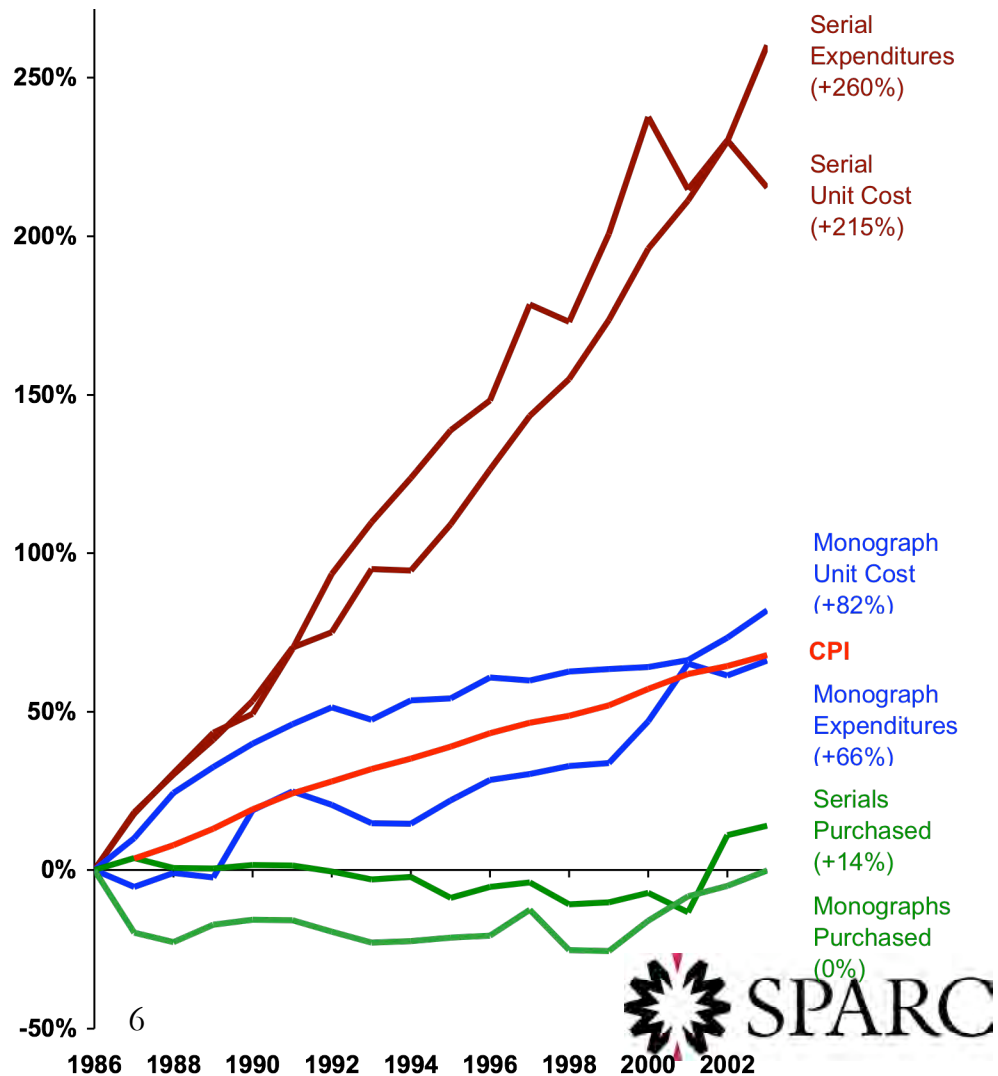
Market Forces

Serial & Monograph Costs, 1986-2003

North American research libraries

ARL Statistics

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Imbalances in Today's Market

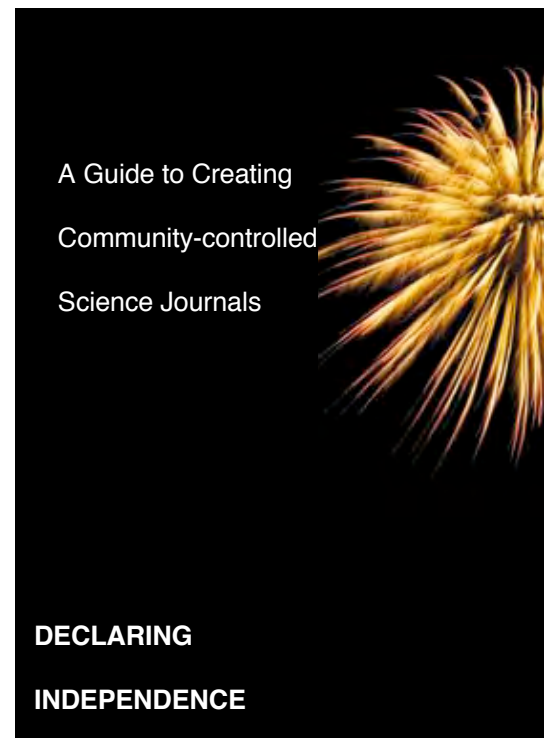
- Explosion in knowledge, both formats and volume
- Poor price signaling
 - Library pays, but author benefits.
- Publisher monopoly of must-have content
 - Author transfers copyright (or exclusive license) to publisher...
 - ...whose core incentive is (generally) to maximize financial return, not access.

Result: high prices, suboptimal dissemination

SPARC's Program Areas

- **Educating** stakeholders about the problems facing scholarly communication and the opportunities for change;
- **Incubating** real-world demonstrations of business and publishing models that advance changes benefiting scholarship and academe;
- **Advocating** policy changes that support use of technology to advance scholarly communication, and recognize that dissemination is an essential inseparable component of the research process

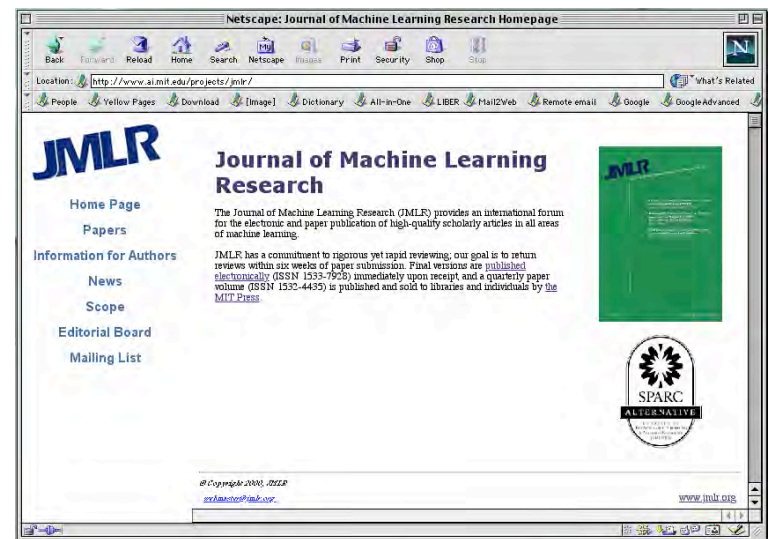
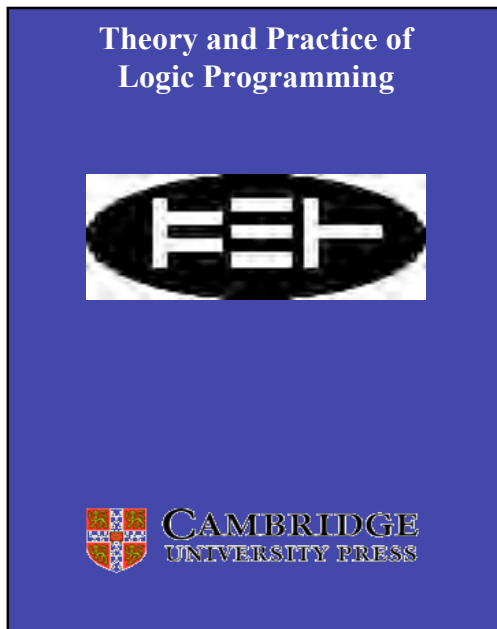
SPARC Education



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Incubating Alternatives...



Advocacy Programs

*Why
open
access?*

**Societal Benefits
Develop Public Policy**

**SCHOLARLY
COMMUNICATION SYSTEM**

*How
open
access?*

**Market Forces
Grassroots Efforts**

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A Focus on Open Access

- Immediate free availability of research literature on the Internet that scholars produce without expectation of payment
- A *vision* of scholarly communication in the networked digital environment:
 - user toll barriers to research access are eliminated
 - potential usage is maximized
 - the value of research is more fully realized
 - dysfunctions in the legacy system are addressed
- An *access* model, not a *business* model

SPARC's Current Activities

SPARC's Current Challenge:

Working to balance a focused and aggressive public policy strategy with key market-based activities.

SPARC's Current Activities

Advocacy

- National Institute of Health (NIH) Public Access Policy - targeted work to ensure successful implementation
- U.S. Public Access legislation- Focus on two key pieces - Cures Bill (introduced Dec 05) and new proposed public access act (06 introduction)
- Support emerging international public access policies

Advocacy Program - Coalitions

- Develop internal “networks” of libraries poised for specific actions
- Establish larger, external coalition of library organizations similarly poised to act
- Deploy issue-specific coalitions with membership beyond academic community
 - Alliance for Taxpayer Access

“Taxpayer Access”

THE ALLIANCE FOR TAXPAYER ACCESS



member



media

birds
of a
feather



Action

Watch for opportunities or recent progress involving:

- [U.S. Congress](#)
- [NIH](#)
- [ATA](#)
- [You](#)

News

These sources will keep you updated on the latest developments related to taxpayer access:

- [SPARC Open Access Newsletter](#)
- [Open Access News blog](#)

A diverse and growing alliance of organizations representing taxpayers, patients, physicians, researchers, and institutions that support open public access to taxpayer-funded research.

Statement of Principles:

1. American taxpayers are entitled to open access on the Internet to the peer-reviewed scientific articles on research funded by the U.S. Government.
2. Widespread access to the information contained in these articles is an essential, inseparable component of our nation's investment in science.
3. This and other scientific information should be shared in cost-effective ways that take advantage of the Internet, stimulate further discovery and innovation, and advance the translation of this knowledge into public benefits.
4. Enhanced access to and expanded sharing of information will lead to usage by millions of scientists, professionals, and individuals, and will deliver an accelerated return on the taxpayers' investment.

What is “Taxpayer Access”?

Access to scientific and medical publications has lagged behind the wide reach of the Internet into U.S. homes and institutions. Subscription barriers limit U.S. taxpayer access to research that has been paid for with public funds.

Taxpayer access removes these barriers by making the peer-reviewed results of taxpayer-funded research available online, and for no extra charge to the American public.

To achieve this, the ATA supports applying the developing practices of Open Access as defined by the [Budapest Open Access Initiative](#) in February 2002.

Current Activities - Incubation

- **Publishing Cooperatives** - discussion paper to be released this Spring
 - Discussion
 - Beta test projects
- **Partnerships**
 - New Open Access journals
 - Encourage and support “Life Cycle” projects
 - explore “Data Driven” scholarship models
 - Provide business planning expertise

Current Activities - Education

- **Institutional Repositories - Int'l Workshop**
 - “Open Data” groundwork
- **“Create Change”** revision with ARL
 - Move to a faculty-focused campaign
- **Authors Rights Campaign** - working in partnership with Science Commons
 - Provide support for SPARC Authors Addendum program

Current Activities - International

- **Partner** with appropriate international organizations
 - CRL, eIFL, etc.
- **SPARC Europe**
 - close collaboration on advocacy and education issues
- **SPARC Japan**
 - Scheduled to launch Summer 2006
- **SPARC Representation at WIPO**
 - Application for observer status pending

Contact SPARC!

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