A non-U.S. non-U.K. perspective on OA (Open Access)

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The world outside the U.S. & the U.K. is a very big place. Open Access is both a very simple idea and a very complex concept. For more information about OA, go to Peter Suber’s excellent Open Access Overview, at http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/overview.htm

The purpose of this session is to present a few OA projects and perspectives on open access from around the world, from my viewpoint as an enthusiastic advocate of open access.
Simple definition of Open Access: making scholarly journal articles freely available to anyone, anywhere over the web.

Two basic types of OA: Gold: OA publishing - journals published as open access in the first place. Green: OA self-archiving - authors take responsibility for making a copy of their own articles OA.
We...the peoples of the world...declare our common desire and commitment to build a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society, where everyone can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge...

People talk about the OA movement as based on faith and vision, not down to earth. So let's start here - with vision. How is this for a vision statement?
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This is from the World Summit on the Information Society, first phase, Geneva Dec. 2003, the first U.N. summit with invited participation from the corporate community.
wsis - Declaration of Principles

◆ sharing of research results
◆ access & contribute:
  ◆ information, ideas and knowledge
◆ rich public domain with easily accessible info
◆ institutions such as libraries strengthened to promote
  ❖ preservation of documentary records
  ❖ free and equitable access to information
◆ librarians play active role in promoting the Information Society

Many aspects of the wsis principles touch on academic knowledge and libraries.

Many good things are said about libraries - well worth reading!
wsis Principles - Open Access

We strive to promote universal access with equal opportunities for all to scientific knowledge and the creation and dissemination of scientific and technical information, including open access initiatives for scientific publishing.

(Declaration of Principles, A28).

Open Access is mentioned in the wsis Principles…
wsis Plan of Action - Open Access

◆ Encourage initiatives to facilitate access, including free and affordable access to open access journals and books, and open archives for scientific information.  
*Plan of Action C.3.10.I*

◆ E-Science: promote electronic publishing, differential pricing and open access initiatives to make scientific information affordable and accessible in all countries on an equitable basis.
*Plan of Action C.7.22.b.*

and Plan of Action…note that the Plan of Action supports a number of approaches to facilitate access: OA or affordable access (the HINARI / AGORA type approach), open access or open archives.
wsis, ICTs & Millennium Declaration goals

- Eradication of extreme poverty & hunger
- Universal primary education
- Gender equality
- Maternal health
- Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria & other diseases
- Ensure environmental sustainability
- Develop global partnerships for development for the attainment of a more peaceful, just and prosperous world

These are the main goals of the wsis - using ICTS (Information and Communication Technologies) to achieve the Millenium Declaration goals. There are some real challenges here - broadband in every village, primary education for everyone around the world. There are people working hard to figure out how to achieve these goals!
in comparison with the wsis main goals, OA is a piece of cake!

- we do the research & writing
  (rarely compensated)
- we do the peer review & much of the editing on a voluntary basis
- we pay subscription costs that would more than cover what is needed for open access

Open Access is much easier to achieve than the main goals of the wsis - we are already doing most of the work on a voluntary basis, and paying more than what would be needed for a fully open access scholarly communications system. There are transitional issues, of course, but the resources are already there.
One of the most substantial OA collections around the world is the Scielo collection. Outside the U.S. / U.K., government subsidy is a common means of subsidizing academic publishing. In places where profit is unlikely, this is necessary, this is often the only means of getting academic work published. Where this is the case, the difference between OA and non-OA in economic terms is simply that OA costs less - there is no need to spend money to develop and support authentication mechanisms to prevent people from accessing the information.
This is the home page for one of the Scielo collections, Scielo Cuba.
This is the alphabetical list of Scielo Cuba journals available - 15 titles. Note that these are medical titles. Looking at this list in conjunction with the NIH proposal in the U.S., it looks like we have two world leaders in making their medical information accessible in different ways - Cuba and the U.S. Considering the historical and political differences of the two countries - I don’t think this was planned!

According to the Scielo Cuba web site, Cuba has plans to eventually make all their scholarly knowledge openly accessible.
Scielo article subject index browse.
Scielo - comments

- A substantial collection - let’s use it!
- Cuba’s GDP: $32 billion
- Reed Elsevier gross revenue: $8.8 billion

- if Cuba can afford to make their scholarly output openly accessible - what’s our excuse?

I never thought I’d say this about capitalist and communist types, but if a tiny communist country like Cuba can figure out how to make their scholarly knowledge fully open accessible, while our largest commercial STM publishers seem to be having trouble with this - maybe these for-profit commercial, capitalist publisher types need to go to communist Cuba…to learn how to run their businesses!
Bioline International

- [http://www.bioline.org.br/](http://www.bioline.org.br/)
- green & gold
- not for profit
- open access to quality research journals published in developing countries
- reducing the south to north knowledge gap
- 33 OA Journals on website (not required)
- OA not a requirement

Managed by scientists and librarians. Coordinated by University of Toronto Library (management office), the Reference Centre on Environmental Information, Brazil (host computer and software development), and Bioline/UK (liaison).
Bioline International Home Page
Let’s look at one of the journals, JPGM.
Indexed everywhere!
Indexing is a real concern to publishers and authors outside the U.S./U.K. - even if you give your articles away for free, if people are using indexes that don’t include your journals, your articles will not be found.
Journal of Postgraduate Medicine, one of oldest medical journals in India, published continuously since 1911.

Looks nice & highly functional!

All issues are open access.
JGPM Table of Contents
Abstract
Clinical and familial correlates of tardive dyskinesia in India and Israel


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Background: Antipsychotic drugs are widely used for the treatment of psychosis, especially schizophrenia. These long-term antipsychotic treatments are associated with side effects such as tardive dyskinesia (TD). Studies have shown that a substantial proportion of patients on antipsychotic treatment develop TD. The purpose of this study was to examine the prevalence of TD in India and Israel and to identify clinical and familial correlates of TD.

Methods and Material: The study included 100 patients with schizophrenia in India and 100 patients with schizophrenia in Israel. The diagnosis was confirmed using the Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-IV (SCID). The severity of TD was assessed using the Abnormal Involuntary Movement Scale (AIMS). Family history of TD was also recorded.

Results: The prevalence of TD was 25% in India and 20% in Israel. The mean age of onset was 35 years in India and 37 years in Israel. The most common clinical correlate of TD was age over 50 years, followed by male gender and a positive family history of TD.

Conclusion: The prevalence of TD was similar in India and Israel. The most significant clinical correlate of TD was age over 50 years. Male gender and a positive family history were also important correlates. These findings highlight the need for careful monitoring of antipsychotic treatment to minimize the risk of TD.
Bioline International - gold

- collaborative effort of partners in many countries
- helps publishers in developing countries
- founded in 1993
- did not start with OA model
- OA as the best model for publishing a conclusion based on experience
OA green: self-archiving

◆ three projects
  ◆ Bioline International e-prints archive
  ◆ Indian Institute of Science
  ◆ CARL Institutional Repository Project
◆ collection growth
  ◆ slow but steady increase to date
  ◆ prediction: dramatic growth increase
Bioline International e-prints archive
http://bioline.utsc.utoronto.ca/

◆ 1,640 records  
◆ stored in Brazil  
◆ hosted by Cria  
◆ free self-registration to submit articles

Free IR service for authors from developing countries.
Bioline e-prints archive

Browse by Year

Please select a value to browse from the list below.

- 1987 (1)
- 1994 (6)
- 1995 (110)
- 1996 (15)
- 1997 (36)
- 1998 (29)
- 1999 (15)
- 2000 (63)
- 2001 (148)
- 2002 (310)
- 2003 (507)
- 2004 (629)

Note the gradual increase in use of the archive.
Not related to Bioline. Again, gradual increase in usage. Note start date of 1975. OA green (author self-archiving) is a way to open up access to previously published materials - something OA gold (OA publishing) cannot do.
Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL)
Institutional Repository - portal
http://www.carl-abrc.ca/frames_index.htm
Here is a list of the Canadian Association of Research Libraries Institutional Repositories. As you can see, many of the IRs are in early stages of development. The Simon Fraser University Institutional Repository (where I work), for example, contains only 17 records so far. This is because the IR is still in project stage, working out all the details, not full production yet. The vast majority of IRs in Canadian libraries are still in early planning and development stages. A very few, such as the University of Toronto’s T-Space, are very well developed.
Let’s look at the SFU library Institutional Repository Project. Even though it’s not one of the larger repositories at this time, it’s the one I am most familiar with, both as someone interested in IRs, and as an author.
Simon Fraser University Institutional Repository Project

◆ project phase / not full production
◆ host of CARL metadata harvester
◆ Digital Games Research Association Conference Vancouver June 16 - 20, 2005 http://www.digra.org/ (papers)
◆ author’s viewpoint

The SFU Library coordinates the metadata harvester for the Canadian Association of Research Libraries. In addition to peer-reviewed journal articles by SFU faculty, the SFU Library IR will host other kinds of information, such as the papers from the DIGRA conference to be held at SFU next year. This conference could add up to 100 papers to the IR.
This is the library community of the SFU Library Institutional Repository. This is where you will find the powerpoint for this presentation - converted to pdf, so as to be accessible to anyone. As an author, I appreciate having the IR, which both looks after my work (makes sure it is archived) and makes it accessible (I can cite my own work, and know that anyone who sees the citation can click through to the article).

As one illustration of the value that the IR adds to the university, consider that 3 of first 5 titles (60%) are articles published in journals not purchased by SFU library: Collection Building, Library Hi Tech News, Letter of the LAA. These are not expensive journals - it's just that no library can afford to subscribe to all the journals.
Selected recent / Upcoming OA conferences

◆ Pretoria July 2004
  http://isis.sabinet.co.za/dspace/handle/123456789/38
◆ India September 2004
  Journal of Postgraduate Medicine Gold Con
◆ Canada October 2004
  http://www.carl-abrc.ca/frames_index.htm
  Institutional Repositories: the Future is Now!
◆ Kiev, Ukraine Dec. 2004

This is just a small sample of the OA conferences held recently, or coming up, around the world. Watch for the OA self-archiving approach to grow dramatically in India, for instance, as they have just held their conference, with lots of emphasis on e-prints and author self-archiving.
Let’s look at some projects & journals that use the PKP software, and talk about the evolution of business models for online journals. We’ll see why OA just makes sense!
AJOL - collection 200 African journals online, use Open Journals System software.

Abstracts are freely available online, but not fulltext - yet.

The Sahara Journal: Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS is the first of these journals to become freely available online.
Chronic Tea Consumption Lowers Blood Pressure in Rats: Some Associated Mechanisms

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Abstract
The study was designed to investigate the effect of chronic tea consumption (1.75g/kg b w/day/ret for 42 days) on blood pressure (BP), heart rate (HR) and cardiovascular responses to bilateral carotid occlusion (BCO), coupled with some associated mechanisms. Five experiments were performed in paired weight matched groups of rats (n = 5). In the first experiment, group 2 (kept on normal feed; NF and tea drink) had lower systolic, diastolic and mean arterial pressure (MAP) (P < 0.005) compared with group 1 (kept on NF and normal drinking water), with little change in HR and cardiovascular reflex. Experiments 2 to 5 were used to investigate some mechanisms responsible for the hypotensive effect of tea using appropriate pharmacologic blockers. In experiment 2, group 3 (kept on NF and furosemide solution) had similar
Ordering the article involves a requesting process. For some requestors, there is a charge involved.

Note that anyone who has internet access who can get to this point can access many materials on the internet for free, as well as Scielo journals, JPGM, etc. Many will also have access to significant subscription resources, e.g. HINARI, AGORA, etc. Articles from this journal, IMHO, are more difficult to access than these other resources.

Is it obvious yet why people are more likely to read and cite this article once it becomes freely available online?
how giving away our knowledge benefits us 
(why OA just makes sense)

◆ research impact (tea business)
◆ epidemiology
◆ public health (food handling)
◆ environmental science

We’ve looked at why NOT making our article OA can discourage use. Now let’s look at some reasons why giving away our knowledge benefits us - we get more value from giving away our information than we ever possibly could get from cost-recovery.

If the article were open access, it would be more likely to be read and cited, by some people the author would probably like to be reading and citing the article - other researchers, or commercial entities like pharmaceutical companies that just might want to invest in the author’s research.

The knowledge we give away just might result in an epidemic being discovered early and contained in another country, and never affecting us at all. Similarly, what our neighbour learns about food handling improves our own food safety, whenever we import our food. What our neighbouring country learns to protect or repair their environment impacts our own air, water, etc.
Asia-Pacific Forum on Science Learning and Teaching
http://www.ied.edu.hk/apfslt/
(an OA Journal, Hong Kong)

◆ PKP software
◆ english and/or chinese articles & abstracts
◆ support from:
  ◆ Government
  ◆ Nonprofit publisher
  ◆ For-profit publisher

Interesting example of an OA journal that uses PKP software.
Ad hoc collaboration - Canadian software, Hong Kong publisher, sponsors from several geographic regions.
Title page - note the sponsors of various types.
gpgnet forum
Sept. 20 - Oct. 4, 2004
http://groups.undp.org/read/?forum=gpgnet-oa

Open Access to Scholarly Publications: A Model for Enhanced Knowledge Management?

Global Public Goods Network, a U.N. sponsored forum on Open Access.
e-polymers
http://www.e-polymers.org/
(OA journal, Poland)

◆ membership model
◆ free to libraries worldwide - on request
◆ total publication cost = price of about 10 subscriptions to leading journal
◆ “e-Polymers is the answer to the paradoxical situation that scientists in universities cannot (or hardly can) afford to subscribe to journals which - at the same time - they strongly support by submission of high-quality papers, refereeing etc. Its creation is an act of self-defence of the scientific community.”

Stanislaw Penczek, gpgnet,
http://groups.undp.org/read/messages?id=97695#97695

Not related to PKP
Free on request model on web site, but actually appears to be OA. This is one example of the many journals that are experimenting with various mechanisms for funding their journals.
Here is what e-polymers looks like.
“in Latin America, Africa and large parts of Asia and Oceania, inaccessibility to scholarly publications is the common fact.

open access is the alternative to stay updated in the Third World, as well as the least costly outlet for publication.

in Latin America and elsewhere in the Third World we are lacking of a chance to convey well-represented gatherings like those that gave rise to OA in Budapest and the ensuing international meetings and declarations.”

H.F. Ruqinque, Bogota, Columbia. Has been publishing geotropico as an open access journal using personal funds.
Bienvenidos al N° 1 del Vol. 2 de la Revista

Welcome to GeoTrópico. The first 2004 issue is ready for you!

GeoTrópico se publica en Junio y Diciembre

An open access journal

Revista geográfica internacional electrónica del Grupo GeoLAT, publicada semestralmente, con el patrocinio parcial de la Universidad de Córdoba, Montes de Oca, Colombia. A peer-reviewed geographical journal, published semi-annually by the GeoLAT Group.

Ingrese aquí
Please enter here
Views from Chernobyl and Siberia (Leukaemia)

◆ “In our cooperation with Russian colleagues in the field of Leukaemia access - or rather the lack of access - to current research results was always a crucial factor”.

◆ “I welcome ever increasing open access to scientific results most heartedly also as a human rights to information issue and I hope to see much more progress in all fields very soon.”

Rolf Neth, Germany, gpnet
http://groups.undp.org/read/messages?id=98584#98584

German, has been in medical research for last 50 years, has worked with Russian colleagues. In the long run, I am convinced that not only is open access the best possible model for philosophical reasons, it will be the only sustainable economic model at some point in the future for scholarly communication.

Rolf Neth, gpnet, http://groups.undp.org/read/messages?id=98584
Portal for free science information transfer.
CHAPTER VI
Clinical Applications of Bone Marrow Transplantation and Related Experiments

The identification of haemopoietic chimaerism following the transplantation of bone marrow to lethally irradiated animals offered a variety of theoretical possibilities not only for the restoration of an atrophied haemopoietic system but also for the replacement of abnormal blood forming tissue. In addition, this development seemed to be the beginning of a real breakthrough in the field of organ transplantation because it had been demonstrated in experimental animals that the homograft rejection could be completely avoided by the replacement of the host's immunological system by cells of the future organ donor. Interest has been very much concentrated on the application of bone marrow transplantation in the treatment of two conditions: haemopoietic failure—radiation-induced or from other causes—and leukaemia. In neither of these conditions, however, has any consistent success been achieved, although a considerable number of clinical trials have been made in the past 3 years. In addition, a few unsuccessful trials have been made with high doses of whole body irradiation and bone marrow replacement as a preliminary to kidney transplantation.

Apart from many disappointing experiences, it seems, however, that some limited but real progress had been made, which justifies a careful continuation of clinical work concerned with bone marrow transplantation. Many of the clinical trials were destined to fail from the outset, however, because some of the conditions known from animal experiments to be necessary for graft acceptance were ignored. In other instances the results have made it quite clear that extrapolation from rodents to man is a very unreliable approach in transplantation biology.

One of the fundamental advances of recent years seems to be the realisation that the reactions of monkeys to both irradiation and bone
View from Croatia

“For instance, in Croatia, majority of scientific journals is subsidised by the government. They are mostly non-profit journals whose publishers are learned societies. A number of them cannot even afford an online edition. If the government has offered a tool for easy online publishing (preferably with OAI compliance), asking for OA to online edition in return, such an arrangement would probably be beneficial and acceptable to all. (Such a project has been proposed to the government.)”

Tibor Toth & Iva Melinscak Zlodi, gpgnet, http://groups.undp.org/read/messages?id=98579#98579

Government subsidy model for academic publishing.
OA proposal to government.
Summary

◆ many open access initiatives springing up around the world
  ❖ GOLD: Scielo, Bioline, PKP,...
    • best economic model for publishing
    • subsidy model common for any kind of publishing - OA or not-OA
    • SUBSIDY model: OA costs less (no subscription tracking, authentication & associated support)
  ❖ GREEN: India, Canada, Bioline...
    prediction: dramatic growth
◆ people in developing countries are finding the means to make their scholarly knowledge openly accessible
Summary

 Desire for OA expressed by:
 - U.N. Summit (government & corporate reps)
 - individuals and groups from many places around the world, from India to Chernobyl, Poland to South Africa

 south to north knowledge gap
 - language barriers
 - indexing concerns
Final Thought

Looking back from the future, what will historians see as the truly new events of our times? Terrorism? There is nothing new about people trying to control each other through fear and terror - it’s a recurrent theme throughout human history.

From my viewpoint, what is truly new and exciting about our times is the kind of global cooperation we have seen with the mapping of the human genome. This illustrates the potential when we work together to solve common problems and advance all our knowledge together…this is the potential of Open Access.