Open Publishing in the Humanities
An introduction

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Topics

To publish means to make intellectual productions accessible for the public of readers. As a matter of principle, to open publish is a tautology, because making a text public means to maximize the access to texts and documents; but in practice, the equivalence doesn't work.

How to (**Open**) Publish?

The answer depends on a twofold tension:

Science <-----> **Technology**
Cataloguing <-----> **Selection**

Two scenarios of scientific Publishing:

1st. The "**Printing** Era"

2nd. The "**Web** age"

The case of **Humanities** as a **"delay State"**
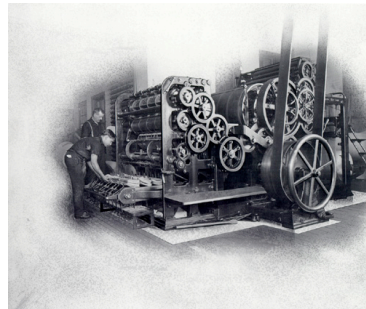
1st framework: the "printing era"

Actors

Scientific Institutions
(Universities)

Scholars

Pressmen
(Publishers)

Librarians

1st framework> early history

- **1665**: *Philosophical Transactions*

- Public register of Intellectual Property

- Parliament conferring Intellectual "Nobility"

- Well-structured hierarchic Society

- *Arbiter elegantiarum*

See:

- **J.C. Guédon**, *In Oldenburg's Long Shadow: Librarians, Research Scientists, Publishers, and the Control of Scientific Publishing*, Association of Research Libraries, Proceedings of the 138th Annual Meeting (2001).
<http://www.arl.org/arl/proceedings/138/guedon.html>

Ist framework > "Science Citation Index"

- **1960s**: E. Garfield (ISI)

- **Bibliographic instrument** born to provide a "**Cartography of Citations"**

- "Impact Factor": a standardized measurement form introduced by the ISI that allows to determine the **impact of an article on later publications**;

- "Core Journals": based on a notion of "fundamental Journals for a fundamental Science";

- Journals' functions: they grant **intellectual property rights**; they provide a **brand**; they work as **career management system.**

See:

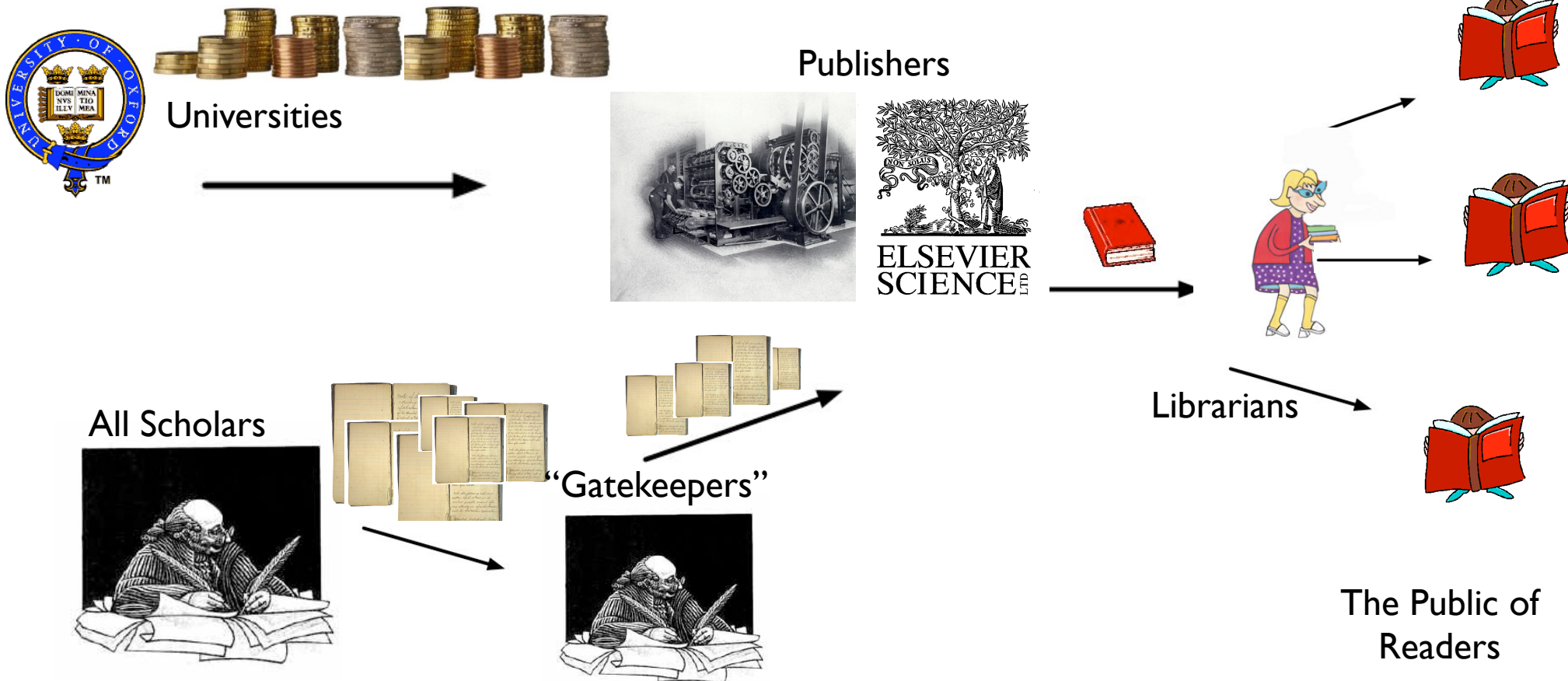- **M. Amin & M. Mabe**, *Impact Factors: Use and Abuse*, "Perspectives in Publishing" 1 (October 2000), 1-6; <http://www.elsevier.com/homepage/about/ita/editors/perspectives1.pdf>.

- **E. Garfield**, *Citation Indexes for Science: A New Dimension in Documentation through Association of Ideas*, Science, Vol:122, No:3159, p.108-111, July 15, 1955
<http://www.garfield.library.upenn.edu/papers/science_v122(3159)p108y1955.html>

Ist framework > Market Scenario

- Inelastic market -------> "Serial Price Crisis"

Universities

Publishers

ELSEVIER SCIENCE LTD

All Scholars

"Gatekeepers"

Librarians

The Public of Readers

2nd framework: the "Web age"

Actors

Publishers

Scientific Institutions
(Universities)

Scholars

Librarians

Computer Scientists

2nd framework >(recent) history

The Idea is to set up a **Documentation system based on citations** (links):

- **1945**: V. Bush, *As we may think?*

- **1981**: T. Nelson coined the term **Hypertext** (*Literary Machines)*

- **1970s-1990s**: **Internet and the Web** as a "Decentralized **System**"

- **1991**: Los Alamos Archive and Open Archive Initiative (**OAI**)

See:

- **V. Bush**, *As we may think*, The Atlantic Monthly (July 1945) <http://www.ps.uni-sb.de/~duchier/pub/vbush/vbush.shtml>

- **T. Nelson**, *Literary Machines*, Self-published, Swarthmore, PA, 1981.

2nd framework > Open Access

- **Content** and **software tools** openly accessible and compatible.

- Content: **Public-funded scientific results, that authors publish for free,** such as original scientific research results, raw data and metadata, source materials, digital representations of pictorial and graphical materials and scholarly multimedia material

- "By "open access" to this literature, we mean its free availability on the public internet, permitting any users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of these articles, crawl them for indexing, pass them as data to software, or use them for any other lawful purpose, without financial, legal, or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the internet itself. The only constraint .. should be to give authors control over the **integrity** of their work and the **right to be properly acknowledged and cited**" (Berlin Declaration for Open Access, 2003).

See:

- *Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities (Oct. 2003)*
<http://www.zim.mpg.de/openaccess-berlin/berlindeclaration.html>

- *Budapest Open Access Initiative* (2001-2004)
<http://www.soros.org/openaccess/>

2nd framework > Open Access

- Authors use **public repositories** to archive their work.

-"a complete version of the work and all supplemental materials, including a copy of the permission, in an appropriate standard electronic format is deposited (and thus published) in at least one online repository using suitable technical standards (such as the Open Archive definitions) that is supported and mantained by an academic institution, scholarly society, government agency, or other well-established organization that seeks to enable open access, unrestricted distribution, interoperability, and long-term archiving" (Berlin Declaration for Open Access, 2003).
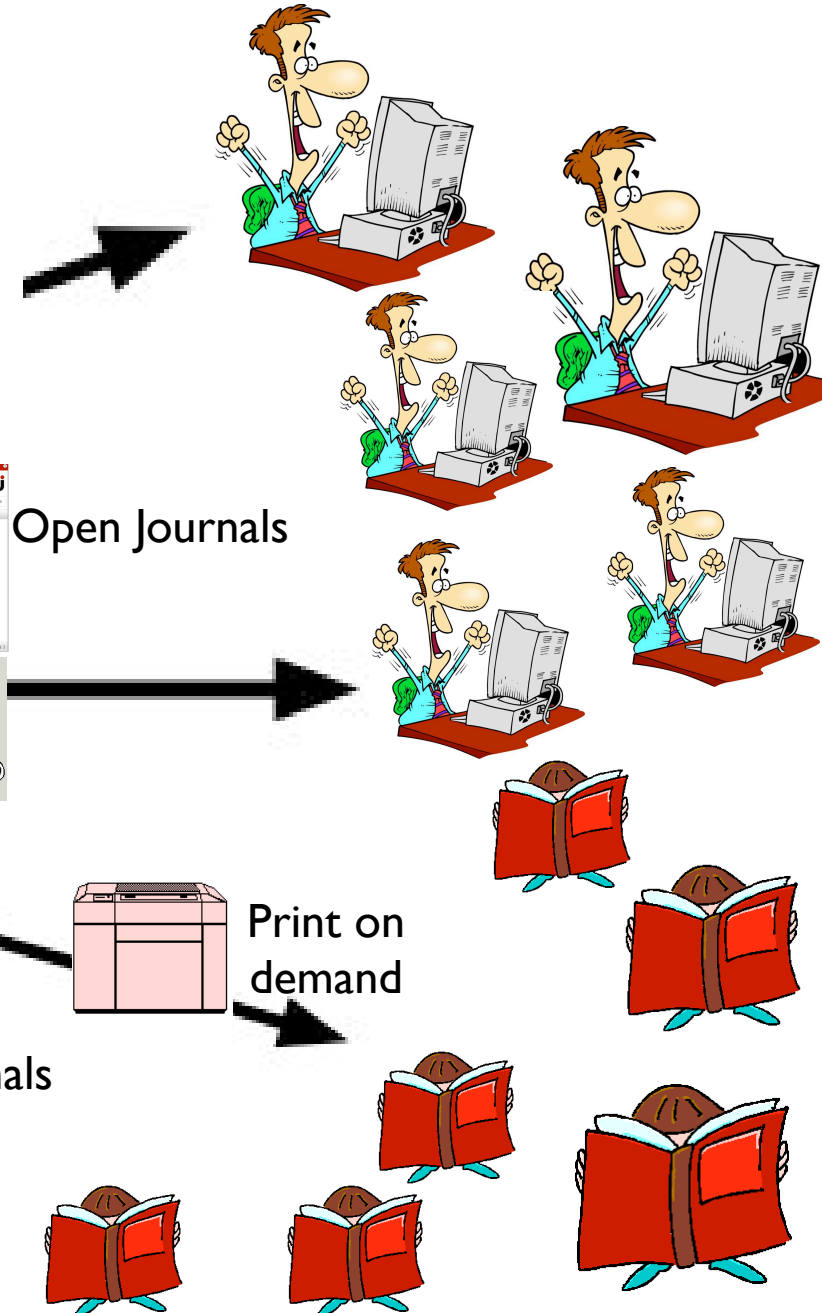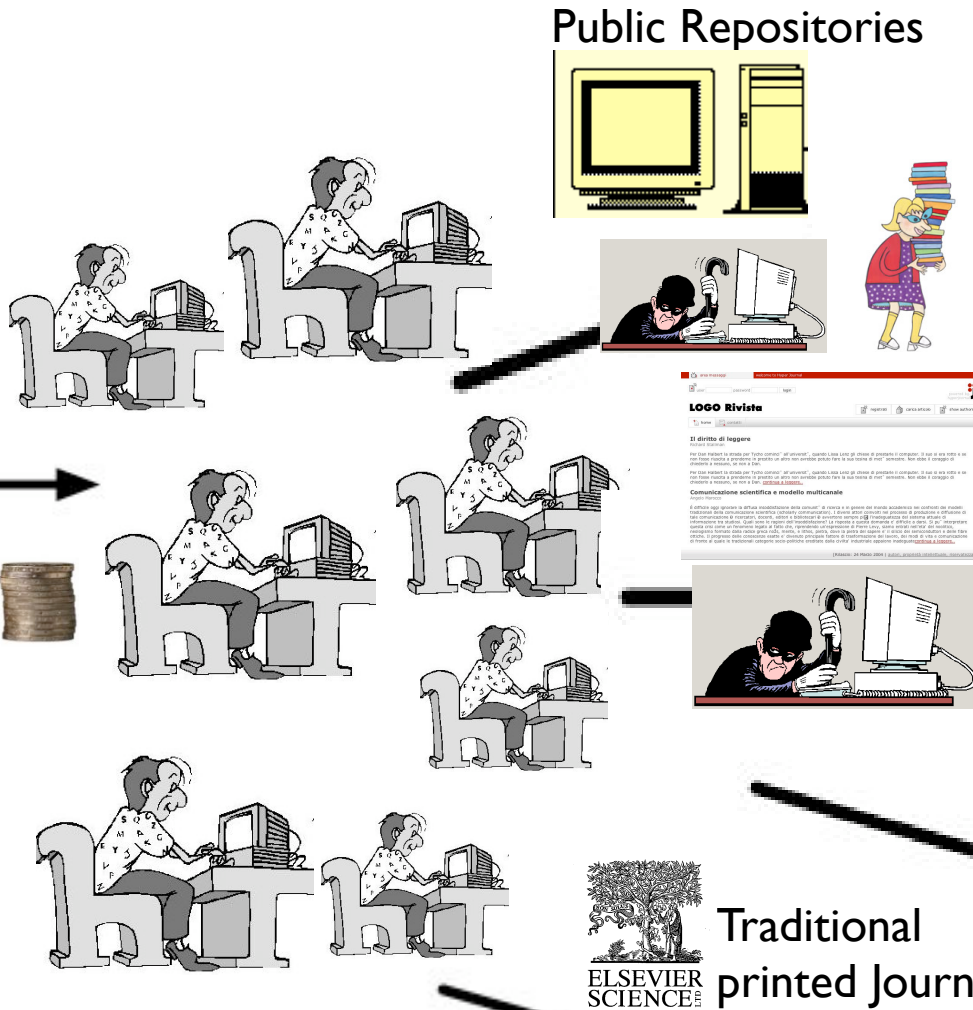
-What about Journals?

- Authors publish in on-line free **Journals** which do perform **peer review**

See:

- **S. Lawrence**, *Online or Invisible*, Nature, Volume 411, Number 6837, p. 521, 2001.
<http://www.neci.nec.com/~lawrence/papers/online-nature01/>

- **P. Suber,** *Open Access Overview* (2004). <http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/overview.htm>

A "futuristic" scenario

Public Repositories

Open Journals

Traditional printed Journals

Print on demand

Conclusions

Citations and the problem of "**Quality**":

"Many documentation systems used to be designed for specific collections of information, and one could assume that the information in such a system had achieved a certain quality. However, the Web itself cannot enforce any single notion of quality. Such notions are very subjective, and change with time. How can we give the user a subjective perception of higher quality, while maintaining an open Web for people whose criteria are different?" (TBL, *The World Wide Web - Past, Present and Future*, "*Quality*").

- "Dynamic contextualization": allows the navigation in a free space of knowledge, simply following inter-textual indications of authors.

- Distributed peer-to-peer Network compatible with OAI-PMH.

- Powerful filtering Tools completely under control of the user.

See:

- **T. Berners-Lee**, *The World Wide Web - Past, Present and Future*. Japan Prize 2002, Commemorative lecture. <http://www.w3.org/2002/04/Japan/Lecture.html>

References

- **M. Amin & M. Mabe**, *Impact Factors: Use and Abuse*, "Perspectives in Publishing" 1 (October 2000), 1-6; <http://www.elsevier.com/homepage/about/ita/editors/perspectives1.pdf>.

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- **T. Nelson**, *Literary Machines*, Self-published, Swarthmore, PA, 1981.

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