The access to information divide: Breaking down barriers

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Overview

Improving Access to Scholarly information

Pitfalls and possible solutions
The Access to Information Divide

Within a country

- Licenses for privileged groups/organisations
  Universities, research institutes
- The have-nots
  Health care institutions, patient organisations, vocational schools, individuals
  Interlibrary loan for journal articles is inefficient
The Access to Information Divide

Between countries

- Big Deals: for many hardly affordable
- Pricing policy:
  Per institution: based on former print subscription
  Per country: national licenses? Few examples
The HINARI program

- Set up by WHO with major publishers
- Free or at very low cost: Access to biomedical and health literature
- GNI per capita below $1250
- www.who.int/hinari
The el FL.net program

- Assists in building sustainable national library consortia:
  - Training, national and regional workshops, individual country visits, grants
- www.eifl.net/cps/sections/about
Why is there little improvement?

“What we need is a new business model”

BUT

- New models imply new dynamics
- This implies uncertainty
- Publishers want/need sustainability
- Plus: economic crisis
Open Access

Open Access information

• Is freely available for the reader
• May be re-used by the reader
2 Scenario’s for Open Access

- **Golden Road**
  Open Access Journals: free for the reader

- **Green Road**
  Open archives (*repositories*) with publications:
  Institutional, Discipline, Personal
2 Scenario’s for Open Access

• **Golden Road**

  Open Access Journals: free for the reader
Welcome to the Directory of Open Access Journals. This service covers free, full text, quality controlled scientific and scholarly journals. We aim to cover all subjects and languages. There are now 4398 journals in the directory. Currently 1686 journals are searchable at article level. As of today 321318 articles are included in the DOAJ service.

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- Chemistry
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- General Works
- Health Sciences
- History and Archaeology
- Languages and Literatures
- Law and Political Science
- Mathematics and Statistics
- Philosophy and Religion
- Physics and Astronomy
- Science General
- Social Sciences
- Technology and Engineering
Open Access journals: who pays?

• Publication fee / Article processing costs
• Peer review fee / submission fee
• Institutional membership
• Institutional sponsorship
• Sponsorships, grants
• Advertisements
The hybrid model

Example: Springer Open Choice
When the publication is accepted for a traditional journal, the author may pay $3,000 for Open Access
Springer will lower subscription prices accordingly
2 Scenario’s for Open Access

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OpenDOAR

The Directory of Open Access Repositories - OpenDOAR

OpenDOAR is an authoritative directory of academic open access repositories. Each OpenDOAR repository has been visited by project staff to check the information that is recorded here. This in-depth approach does not rely on automated analysis and gives a quality-controlled list of repositories.

As well as providing a simple repository list, OpenDOAR lets you search for repositories or search repository contents. Additionally, we provide tools and support to both repository administrators and service providers in sharing best practice and improving the quality of the repository infrastructure. Further explanation of these features is given in a project document Beyond the list.

The current directory lists repositories and allows breakdown and selection by a variety of criteria - see the Find pages - which can also be viewed as statistical charts. The underlying database has been designed from the ground up to include in-depth information on each repository that can be used for search, analysis, or underpinning services like text-mining. The OpenDOAR service is being developed incrementally, developing the current service as new features are introduced. A list of Upgrades and Additions is available.

Developments will be of use both to researchers wishing to find original research papers and for service providers like search engines or alert services which need easy-to-use tools for developing tailored search services to suit specific user communities.

The importance and widespread support for the project can be seen in its funders, led by the Open Society Institute (OSI), along with the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC), the Consortium of Research Libraries (CURL) and SPARC Europe. OpenDOAR has also been identified as a key resource for the Open Access community (K.B. Oliver & R. Swain, 2006 - PDF).
Why publish Open Access?

- More visibility
- More downloads
- More citations
- More impact

In an Open Access Journal and/or in a repository
Some good news: the Houghton reports

The Houghton reports
Australia, UK, the Netherlands
Apparent savings within the system
Apparent profits by more use

http://www.surffoundation.nl/en/publicaties/
If every scientific and scholarly article were publicly available, it would save the Netherlands EUR 133 million a year.
Some bad news: why not faster?

- Complications with OA journals
Complications with OA journals

- **Additional costs for universities**
  Principle: the system is already expensive as it is
  Practical: budgets are tied in Big Deals
- **Starting problems for new journals**
  Risk avoiding: Authors choose for traditional journals
  Conservatism: Impact and assessment systems
Some bad news: why not faster?

- Complications with OA journals
- New dynamics
What about dynamics?

- *More competition*
  the reader cannot choose, the author can
  competition generally implies: lower prices

- *Publishers*
  uncertainty about their turn-over (and profits!)

- *Countries*
  Costs may increase for knowledge intensive countries

- *Universities*
  Costs may depend of institutional profile
Some bad news: why not faster?

- Complications with OA journals
- New dynamics
- Getting from A to B
Getting from A to B

- *(Temporary) strategic investments*
  
  By universities: Open Access Funds
  
  By research funders: Wellcome Trust

- *New assessment procedures*
  
  Impact models: international initiatives (e.g. Los Alamos)
  
  Assessment measures: national initiatives
Some bad news: why not faster?

• Complications with OA journals
• New dynamics
• Getting from A to B
• Limited progress with repositories
Institutional repositories: complications

- Difficulties in convincing authors
- Obstacles by publishers: copyright
- Limited use of the content
Some bad news: why not faster?

- Complications with OA journals
- New dynamics
- Getting from A to B
- Limited progress with repositories

So:

What we need is small steps and small scale experiments
Steps to be taken: Inside out

- Making research output available:
  - Institutional repositories
  - Subject repositories
- Mandate for the deposit
- Easy workflow for the authors
Steps to be taken: Outside in

- Experiments with hybrid models
- Increase the use of OA publications
Experiment with hybrid systems

*Open Choice: pilot in the Netherlands*

- Every Dutch publication in Springer Journals is OA
- Evaluation: commitment for OA, # articles, # citations
Experiment with hybrid systems

Open Choice: pilot in the Netherlands

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Follow up could be:

• Extend the consortium: more countries
• Extend the scope for the authors: more publishers
• Limit uncertainty: freeze university budgets
• Analyze the consequences:
  at least some insights about the dynamics
Increase of use of OA publications

- Creation of subject repositories
  Improvement of metadata
- Information infrastructure
  Embedding of international repositories

Access denied? Go to the OA version!
It should be ONE click away!
Conclusion: the role for university libraries

- Setting up Institutional Repositories
  - Promote the deposit
  - Easy workflow
  - Take care of the metadata
  - Additional services for authors (# downloads, personal homepage)
  - Additional services with IR
- Promotion of new copyright licenses
Conclusion: the role for national libraries

• Strive towards national licenses
  Steps:  - digital document delivery
          - pay per view
          at a fair price
          “How much money can a publisher get from a country?”

• Integrate OA publications in the (inter)national infrastructure
“When everything is under control, you’re driving too slow.”

Mario Andretti
Thank you!

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