



# The access to information divide: Breaking down barriers

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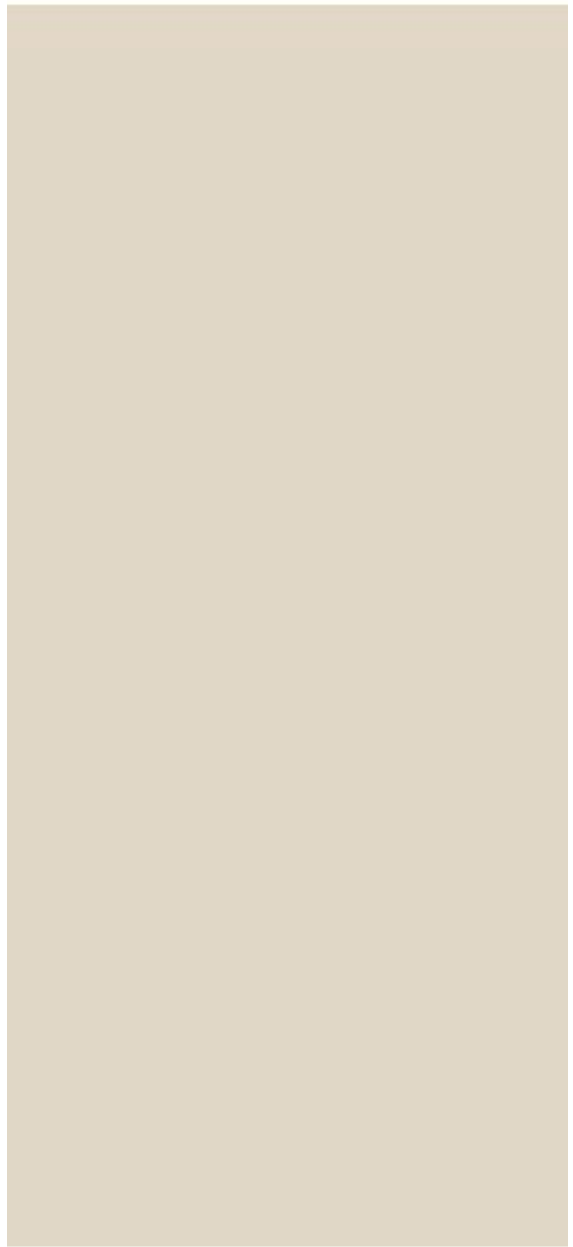
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## Overview

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](http://www.who.int/hinari)

## The eIFL.net program

- Assists in building sustainable national library consortia:

Training, national and regional workshops, individual country visits, grants

- [www.eifl.net/cps/sections/about](http://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

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# The Access to Information Divide


Directory of open access journals - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.doaj.org/ Live Search


View Favorites Tools Help

Directory of open access journals

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## 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

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# OpenDOAR

## Directory of Open Access Repositories

Home | Find | Suggest | Tools | FAQ | About | Contact Us

### The Directory of Open Access Repositories - OpenDOAR

[Search for repositories](#) | [Search repository contents](#) | [List of repositories](#) | [Repository Statistics](#)

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.

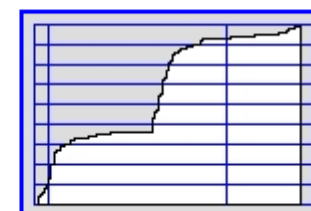
As well as providing a simple [repository list](#), OpenDOAR lets you [search for repositories](#) or [search repository contents](#). Additionally, we provide tools and support to both repository administrators and service providers in sharing best practice and improving the quality of the repository 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](#) page - 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.

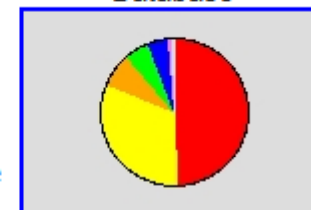
Developments will be of use both to users wishing to find original research papers and for service providers like search engines or alert services which need easy-to-use tools for developing tailored search services to suit specific user communities.

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 [SPARCEurope](#).

OpenDOAR has also been identified as a key resource for the Open Access community ([K.B.Oliver & R.Swain, 2006](#) - PDF).



Growth of the OpenDOAR Database



Repositories by Continent

## 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



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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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