

Open Access in Europe and Beyond

6th UNICA Scholarly Communication
Seminar: Libraries As Drivers for Change,
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SPARC Europe – mission & what we do

- SPARC Europe (founded in 2002) aims to promote an open scholarly communication system in Europe (and elsewhere) through
- advocacy and education,
- the promotion of new models, and
- collaboration with all interested stakeholders
- 110 members (universities etc.) in 20 European countries
- www.sparceurope.org

SPARC Europe – who?

- Alma Swan, Director of European Advocacy – a.swan@talk21.com
- Janna Wellander, Program Officer of European Programs – janna@arl.org
- Lars Bjørnshauge, Director of European Library Relations - lars@arl.org
- All working part time

Open Access – the European landscape

- Declarations, statements etc:
 - Berlin declaration
 - European University Association
 - ALLEA declaration on “Open Science for the 21st Century”
 - Science Europe
 - LERU
- and then of course the European Commission
- It seems that almost **everyone wants Open Access** to research publications, research data etc.
- We won the discussion! and..

We are moving forward

- Lots of figures
- Latest estimates:
- More than 10% of the **annual production** of journal articles are published in Open Access journals and almost 10% are archived in Institutional repositories.

Plenty of activities & projects

- National programmes and projects to support and implement OA:
 - Coordination
 - Supporting advocacy and policy development
 - Harvesting institutional repositories
- Cross-national activities
 - OpenAIRE
 - MedOANet
 - Knowledge Exchange
- Lots of activities in support of **Green** Open Access

Mandates & repositories

- According to ROARMAP, the Registry of Open Access Repositories Mandatory Archiving Policies there is now 163 institutional OA mandates and 54 research funder mandates – **European 50%**
- OpenDOAR - Directory of Open Access Repositories - lists nearly 2.200 open access repositories - **European 47%**

But...

- **Mandates** in general are too **soft** – often only recommendations.
- Follow up on **compliance** is desperately needed!
- The repositories are quite **empty**!
- Huge problems with **interoperability** and **discoverability**!

OA publishing

- The DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals) counts more than 8.300 open access journals and many in process – **European 50%**
- A few, but an increasing number of research funders allow payment for article processing charges or have allocated specific funding for that: Wellcome Trust, DFG, Max Planck, Helmholtz, 5 Swedish research funders, FWF, RCUK etc.
- EU!?

OA publishing

- But still difficult for OA-journals to really take off.
- The long tail of Open Access Journals cannot compete – **quality problems in the delivery!**

We should do better!

- Everyone (except the subscription based publishers) wants OA – so why then so slow progress?
- Why this inertia?
- What's blocking faster progress?
- What are the obstacles?
- Let's take a broader view – and look beyond Europe!

A broader view! – the origins of Open Access!

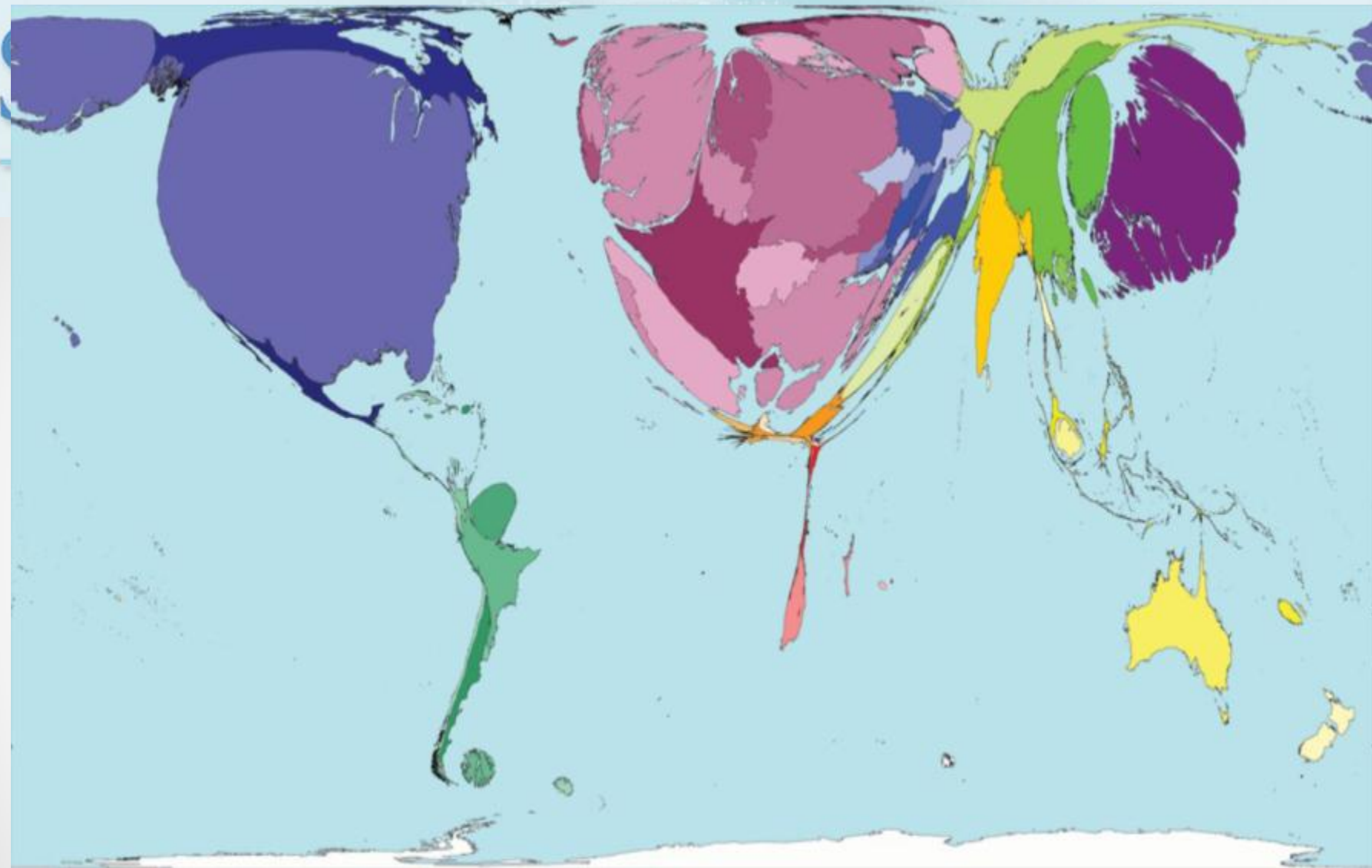
- Triggered by the potential of technologies and the serials crisis
 - Early adapters (researchers) using technologies for better dissemination of research results (Arxiv etc.)
 - Libraries suffering from skyrocketing subscription prices for prestigious journals.
- Primary objective: to solve the problem of access to journals articles behind paywalls
 - Thus the focus on
 - depositing versions of articles in Institutional Repositories (Green OA)
 - Supporting new business models - (Gold OA)

Open Access – pretty much a North/West thing

- Trying to solve the problem of limited access for “our” researchers.
- How does this look from a Southern perspective?:
- “Southern researchers have always been expelled from access to scientific articles due to the high subscription rates for academic journals”
- In other words: the subscription model (even in the print only age) has been a barrier for **the export of knowledge** from the North to the South

Open Access – solving global problems?

- From a Southern perspective solving the access problem is important, but...
- As an isolated change it would only reproduce a "neocolonial" system that "casts the dominant North as the producer and the developing world as the consumer of knowledge" (E. Gray)
- The problem of participation is deeper!
- Eve Gray: Open access in Africa – green and gold, the impact factor, "mainstream" and "local" research - www.gray-area.cza



Map of global research
(World Bank's 2005 World Development Indicators)

What causes this marginalization?

- The dominance of **journals** as the primary vehicle for publishing research results
- The almost universal adoption of **citation counts** and the **Journal Impact Factor** as the primary measures of the impact of research, for recognition and reward
- The resulting marginalization of large shares of the global research – which is labelled "**local**", rather than "**international**"

Some of the obstacles

- The essential features of the system are still in operation:
- **Citation counts** as the dominant impact measure
- The Regime of the Journal **Impact Factor** (JIF)
- The **Journal** as the primary vehicle for dissemination of research results

Citation Counts

- Citation Counts measures impact of research on research itself – **way too limited**.
- Measures of impact of research should be measured as effects on industry, innovation, health and societies!
- Citation is subject to **gaming**:
 - 20% of researchers have been asked to include more citations to the journal to which they submitted their article
 - Mutual back-scratching
 - Peer pressure to cite your professor etc
- Gaming citations is **pumping up** the impact factor!

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NOTES&THEORIES

DISPATCHES FROM THE SCIENCE DESK

Unregistered
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Scientific fraud is rife: it's time to stand up for good science

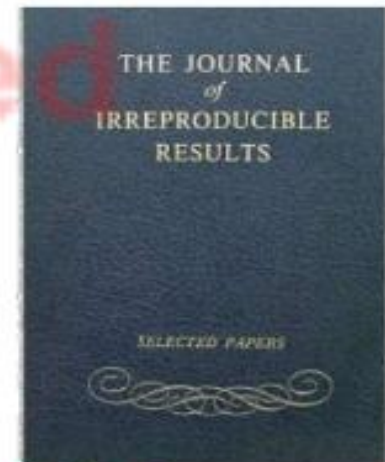
The way we fund and publish science encourages fraud. A forum about academic misconduct aims to find practical solutions

Main Problems with the IF

- Negotiable



- Irreproducible



- Mathematically unsound



Björn Brembs – follow his blog at: bjoern.brembs.net

The Journal Impact Factor (JIF)

- Don't blame Garfield! Blame those who misuse it!
- JIF is **negotiable, irreproducible** and subject to **gaming**!
- Misuse of the JIF is the single most important factor in the marginalization of larger parts of the world from the scholar communication system
- “Mr. Garfield now compares his brainchild to nuclear energy: a force that can **help society** but can **unleash mayhem when it is misused**. ... Impact factors have **assumed so much power**, especially in the past five years, that they are **starting to control the scientific enterprise**” (2005)

The Journal as the dominant vehicle

- Leaving out other types of research output, that are more designed to solve real problems in society!
- Journal **brands** is the single most important feature in the dominant system developed by the large global corporate publishers and database providers!

Reward systems support the system that we want to change!

- Still the reward systems are focused on citation counts, the JIF and publishing in "prestigious" journals!
- Reward systems should be changed to **reward** what the decision makers want: **openness**.
- Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science: **Publishing in open access should be rewarded!**

The Mess we are in!

- How come that we have such a system, which is essentially still in the print age and **that cannot deliver what high level decision makers want** – namely openness?
- **Don't blame the commercial publishers!**
- In reality, they are doing what any for-profit company should do - maximizing their income and pleasing the shareholders.
- They **exploit the conditions offered to them** as any savvy business would.

- Well, research is funded via grants from research funders, universities (via government funding), international organizations etc. In short:
- **Research** is funded, paid for upfront – in other words: research is **subsidized directly**.
- The **dissemination** of the output of research – publications – on the contrary is **not funded upfront**.
- Scholarly publishing has been **outsourced** - the bill sent to (academic) libraries.
- **Nothing wrong with outsourcing**, as long as those who outsource defines what they expect and it happens in a competitive market!

Who is to be blamed then?

- Research funders, universities and governments and the research community have happily outsourced the dissemination of research output
- The result is a system that is dysfunctional and outdated.
- And they have allowed publishers to fine tune a system, that is way too expensive and counterproductive and
- they are still to a large extent supporting the mechanisms that strengthen the commercial publishers and service provider's grip on the scholarly publishing system.

So.....

- Everyone (except the subscription based publishers) wants OA
- We have identified the main obstacles?
 - The important features of the system that we want to change still rules!
 - Reward systems works against Open Access
 - Lack of courage from decision makers
 - Inertia in the academy
- What then can libraries do?

“Libraries as drivers for change!! - I

- Libraries have already done their part!
- They have advocated for Open Access for years now
- They have struggled with setting up and operating institutional repositories.
- They are doing their best to accommodate Open Access Publishing –
- Some are even publishing Open Access Journals.

“Libraries as drivers for change!! - II

- Libraries are
 - doing the work in OpenAire plus.
 - trying to solve interoperability problems related to IRs
 - the founders and supporters of organizations working for Open Access – like SPARC Europe
 - are funding OA-infrastructure services like the DOAJ
- But of course libraries should continue, and they will
- – simply because Open Access is a good cause – openness is a core value of librarians and libraries!
- But libraries cannot do this by themselves!

The time is ripe for radical approaches!

- Libraries should be more self-confident now – given the work we have done so far.
- We should tell the vice-chancellors, the research funders etc. that when they have signed the declarations they are in fact calling for a new system – and that they should do something about it!
- They have to change the reward systems and tell the researchers to publish in Open Access and
- Stop forcing the libraries to support the old system!

The strong message we have to send to the research managers, vice-chancellors, research funders and to the research community is:

Stop the senseless outsourcing of scholarly communication and publishing and **reclaim the responsibility for the dissemination of research results and research data.**

The libraries are more than happy to help!

But there is hope! – we have allies!

- The dominant system is **beginning to implode!**
- Game changers are emerging:
- Megajournals like PLoS ONE are changing the landscape – other publishers are following.
- Big funders are launching their own journals – eLife!
- PeerJ - <https://peerj.com/>

There is more hope!

- Traditional peer review is challenged!
 - PeerEvaluation - <http://www.peerevaluation.org/>
 - Peerage of Science - <http://www.peerageofscience.org/>
- The gatekeeper function of editorial boards do not satisfy younger researchers!
- “I don't want people I don't even know deciding over which papers are relevant to me!” (Brembs)
- Altmetrics:
 - <http://altmetrics.org/manifesto/>
 - <http://readermeter.org/>
 - <http://impactstory.org/>

"Libraries as drivers for change!! - III

- Innovative Open Access publishing initiatives need library support:
 - Open Editions – <http://www.openedition.org/>
 - Knowledge Unlatched - <http://www.knowledgeunlatched.org/>
 - Social Science Directory - <http://www.socialsciencesdirectory.com>
 - Humanities Directory – to follow shortly
- Continue to support OA, OA publishing and OA Infrastructure services.
- BTW: Do not support **Hybrid OA** – This is a **parasite!**
No transparency what so ever.

There is even more hope!

- The system will implode or explode anyway!
- The more we push for Open Access, the more we must be prepared for the day when OA becomes the default!
- Better help it disrupt than be disrupted!
 - Follow Eric van de Veldes blog here - <http://scitechsociety.blogspot.be/>

- Some of my recent talks & presentations:
- Talk at the Berlin10 meeting in Stellenbosch - available here:
<http://sparceurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/What-it-takes-for-the-stakeholders-involved-to-facilitate-the-full-potential-of-open-access-to-unfold3.pdf>
- Editorial in the UKSG news: <http://sparceurope.org/lars-bjornshauge-in-the-uksg-enews/>
- Presentation the symposium in the Hague -Participation in Research: Open Access crucial for scientists in the global south : <http://sparceurope.org/ppt-by-lars-bjornshauge-is-participation-really-the-problem-if-so-participation-in-what/>
- Article in ScieComInfo:
<http://www.sciecom.org/ojs/index.php/sciecominfo/article/view/5674>

- We are grateful for the support from our members in the audience:
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 - Ghent University
 - Copenhagen University
 - Helsinki University
 - University of Oslo
 - KTH Royal Institute of Technology
 - Stockholm University
 - Bibliothèque Cantonale et Universitaire Lausanne
 - King's College London
- Join SPARC Europe: <http://sparceurope.org/submission-form/>

		National and Academic Libraries*
Tier 1 (GNP per capita > \$35.000)	Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, San Marino, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom	€ 1.600 € 800 (Research institutions)
Tier 2 (GNP per capita betw. \$ 35.000 and \$ 20.000)	Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain	€ 800 € 400 (Research institutions)
Tier 3 (GNP per capita betw. \$ 20.000 and \$ 10.000)	Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Russian Federation, Slovak Republic, Turkey,	€ 400 € 200 (Research institutions)
Tier 4 (GNP per capita < \$ 10.000)	Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kosovo, Macedonia (FYR), Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Ukraine	€ 200 € 100 (Research institutions)

Thank you!

For your attention.