

Free & Open Scholarship in the Internet Age

Heather Morrison, MLIS, PhD Student
Simon Fraser University School of Communication

The Question

Background

Scholarly communication has been in crisis for decades. Journals are costly, resulting in serials cancellations by academic libraries. Academic books are printed in small runs, limiting readership.

Meanwhile, the internet makes it possible to post one copy for immediate access to anyone, anywhere.

Open Access (OA)

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 on reproduction and distribution, and the only role for copyright in this domain, should be to give authors control over the integrity of their work and the right to be properly acknowledged and cited. (Budapest Open Access Initiative).

Open Access Journals (gold)

>5,000 journals listed in the Directory of Open Access Journals <http://www.doaj.org>

Open Access Archives (green)

>23 million publications (Bielefeld Academic Search Engine)

The Question

How to transition to a fully open access scholarly communication system?

Methods



Action Research Sites

Open Access Journals Support in Canada
research team: pan-Canadian survey of university presses and academic libraries on current and potential models of support (technical and economic) for open access journals. Open research process.

E-LIS, the Open Archive for Library and Information Science: Hosted by CILEA (Italy) and managed by a volunteer group of editors from over 50 countries on 6 continents. Member, E-LIS Governance Team.

Scholarly and Research Communication

<http://www.src-online.ca/>

- new open access journal published at SFU
- Associate Editor
- helping to build and grow a new OA journal

Stream (SFU School of Communication Graduate Student Journal) <http://www.streamjournal.org/>

- incoming Managing Editor
- helping to address sustainability issues for a graduate student journal when founders graduate

Plus economic analysis & discourse analysis

Early Results

Open Access Journals Support in Canada

34 respondents (28 libraries, 6 university / scholarly presses):
33% response rate

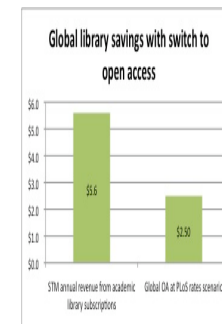
Scholarly journal hosting: 18 respondents

- ALL journals open access: 8
- MANY journals open access: 5
- SOME journals open access: 2
- NO journals are open access: 3

Assessing economic feasibility

Global academic library revenues are about 5.6 billion USD annually for academic journals.

It would take 2.5 billion USD annually to publish the world's estimated 1.5 million scholarly articles open access at the rates of the highly prestigious open access publisher Public Library of Science (PLOS). That's top quality and a huge increase in access, at least than half the cost. (Morrison).



References

Bielefeld Academic Search Engine (BASE) <http://base.ub.uni-bielefeld.de/en/index.php>
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Heather Morrison ~ hgmorris@sfu.ca
The Imaginary Journal of Poetic Economics
<http://poeticeconomics.blogspot.com>