

# Open Access: What You Need to Know Now

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Open Access: What You Need to Know Now



# THE BASICS

Hour 1: Who Cares, The Basics, Issues for OA, Controversies

Open Access: What You Need to Know Now



# Who Cares?

- You, presumably, since you're here
- Librarians who can't afford every journal in every field (i.e., **all of them!**)
- Scholars who want their work read
- Independent researchers & scholars
- Users who want or need specialized information
- Patients who need to know more



# One More Reason

- Academic librarians should care a **lot** because journal costs are undermining your budgets. More about that later.



# Who Needs OA?

I've already mentioned some:

- Librarians who can't afford every journal in every field (i.e., **all of them!**)
- Independent researchers & scholars
- Patients who need to know more
- But let's get personal...



# Who Needs OA?

I do.

And so

will you.



Open Access: What You Need to Know Now



# Moral and Pragmatic

- **Moral:** Reducing access barriers, serving the underserved, saving lives
- **Pragmatic:** Improves research process, helps authors find readers, improves long-term access



# Definitions – [1]

- Free online access to journal articles. [Minimal]
- Open access literature is available online to be read for free by anyone, anytime, anywhere – as long as they have Internet access [Crawford]
- The practice of providing unrestricted access via the Internet to peer-reviewed scholarly journal articles [Wikipedia]
- Open-access literature is digital, online, free of charge, and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions. [Suber]





# Definitions [2]

- Open access requires that refereed journal articles be fully and freely available on the open Internet, on or before the date of formal publication, to be read, downloaded, distributed, printed and used for any legal purpose (including text manipulation, datamining and other derivative purposes), without permission or other barriers. [Stringent, based on Three Bs]



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# The Colors and Flavors

- Gold OA (and “Platinum OA”?)
- Green OA
- Brown OA – my informal term
- Gratis
- Libre



# Gold OA

Journals that make all peer-reviewed articles freely available for online reading at and after publication, with no fee or registration to read those articles.



# Gold OA Advantages

- Immediate access to the final version.
- All readers read the same version.
- Libraries can spend money elsewhere:  
Immediate savings from Gold OA
- Gold OA journals can be run very efficiently



# Gold OA Issues

- Author-side fees (APCs), charged by a minority of Gold OA journals, *can* disadvantage some authors.
- Gold OA can be subverted by commercial publishers using high APCs.
- “Hybrid gold” really isn’t gold
- Predatory publishers (but some traditional publishers are predatory)



# Platinum OA

- Not a real term, but maybe it should be.
- Platinum OA journals do not charge APCs and require either CC-BY or CC0 licenses.
- Most Gold OA journals meet at least the first half.





# Green OA

Green OA consists of peer-reviewed articles deposited in freely accessible digital repositories (either subject or institutional).



# Green OA Advantages

- Non-threatening (for now): It doesn't directly attack publishing models.
- “Free” if you ignore the costs of digital repositories and time to do the additions.
- Easier to mandate.



# Green OA Issues

- Embargoes
- Awareness and accessibility
- Restrictive licenses
- Differences between deposited and published forms
- No savings for libraries



# Gratis OA

Articles (and other digital resources) that are readable for free online, but possibly no more than that.



# Libre OA

Articles (and other digital resources) that have at least some additional forms of free usability beyond simple readability, ideally including all of those in the Three B statements



# Brown OA

- Hybrid semi-gold OA journals without clear subscription-rebate policies
- Journals with high APCs or limited licenses
- Green OA with embargoes
- Green OA with limited licenses



# Phony Issues: Myths

- Gold OA means authors pay. FALSE
- Gold OA is vanity publishing. FALSE
- OA undermines peer review. FALSE
- Gold OA publishers have an incentive to publish dubious material. NO MORE SO THAN SUBSCRIPTION PUBLISHERS
- OA violates copyright. FALSE



# A Few More Myths

- OA advocates claim publishing is free. FALSE
- Researchers already have access. FALSE
- Non-scholars have no use for research articles and wouldn't understand them. FALSE
- Most scholars haven't coughed up \$3K-\$5K for our hybrid OA, so nobody wants OA. CONVENIENT...BUT FALSE
- Gold OA disadvantages poor nations & scholars. NOT IF DONE PROPERLY





# Real Issues

- Most top journals are still not Gold OA.
- Some scholarly societies don't like OA because subscriptions subsidize the society
- Predatory OA publishers discredit OA (but there are certainly predatory sub. publishers)
- Institutional repositories have been problematic



# A Few More Real Issues

- Green OA won't save money for libraries – and gold may not right away
- Some people want to raid library funds for OA support
- Preservation may be an issue



# Controversies

- Green, gold or both?
- CC BY vs. more restrictive licenses\*
- How much value do publishers add?
- What **should** Gold OA cost?
- What **does** Gold OA cost?



# WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW

Hour 2: The White House Acts, Lawsuits, Bills, Mandates, New Publishers, Old Combatants – and the Journal of Library Administration

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# Ordinary Developments

- DOAJ hits the one million mark
- COAPI
- NPG buys Frontiers (OA publisher)
- JSTOR becomes *slightly* more OA.
- COAR continues to grow
- Bepress Digital Commons
- And many more...



# The Cost of Knowledge

- January 5, 2012: RWA introduced
- January 21, 2012: The Cost of Knowledge
- Lots' o' discussion, some of it nonsense
- February 3, 2012: *Clear* Elsevier support
- Lots *more* discussion...
- February 27, 2012: Elsevier backs off
- February 27, 2012: RWA withdrawn



# Jenica Rogers & ACS

- *Walking Away: Courage and Acquisitions*
- SUNY Potsdam was faced with spending 10% of its entire acquisitions budget to support American Chemical Society journals – for one undergraduate major out of dozens.
- Jenica Rogers, the university librarian, worked with chemistry faculty on the problem...and finally said No to ACS.



# Jenica Rogers & ACS (2)

- They came up with an alternate package (mostly RCS journals) that's much cheaper and appears to fulfill ACS accreditation requirements.
- Hmm... "ACS accreditation requirements" ...
- Some librarians pushed back at Rogers for doing her job.





# The Finch Report and RCUK

- Major British moves toward OA.
- Controversial partly because of methods.
- See September 2, 2012 SPARC Open Access Newsletter for more info



# FASTR and FRPAA

- FRPAA: Never went anywhere
- FASTR: Fair Access to Science and Technology Research



# The 2013 Petition

- We the People petition: we petition the obama administration to: Require free access over the Internet to scientific journal articles arising from taxpayer-funded research.
- Created May 13, 2012. >65,000 signatures.



# The White House Acts

- Thank you for [your participation](#) in the We the People platform. The Obama Administration agrees that citizens deserve easy access to the results of research their tax dollars have paid for. As you may know, the Office of Science and Technology Policy has been looking into this issue for some time and has reached out to the public on two occasions for input on the question of how best to achieve this goal of democratizing the results of federally-funded research. Your petition has been important to our discussions of this issue.

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# The White House...2

- The memorandum is a six-page PDF covering all agencies spending more than \$100 million per year on R&D.
- Complementary to FASTR...but a longer embargo (12 months instead of 6) and could always be undone by another president.
- Uncovered new faultlines among OA advocates.



# My Way or the Highway

- The continuing and growing problem of OA purists and pundits
- Stevan Harnad
- Michael Eisen
- Heather Morrison
- And many more...



# The CC-BY Controversy

- CC-BY: Fundamental to libre OA.
- Opposition: What if somebody charges for added value? What if OA resources are used to *develop new services* that aren't free?
- Obvious answer: If OA works, **that should happen** – and the articles will still be free.



# New Models

- PeerJ
- Knowledge Unlatched
- Epijournals
- IEEE Access and other megajournals
- Open Library of Humanities





# Old Controversies

- The word of the year: “Sustainable”
- “Real costs”
- “Politics” and scholarship
- If your lies aren’t working, lie, lie again



# The Predatory Problem

- The real problem: “Publishers” that exist primarily to gather APCs and spam researchers for articles.
- Toll publishers have taken other predatory actions, including phony journals.



# Predatory Continued

- Jeffrey Beall and his all-OA crusade
- Mushrooming list of “predatory” publishers
- Now clear that Beall’s opposed to OA in general
- The libel threat from Canadian Center for Science and Education



# More Mandates

- University faculties continue to vote for OA. Recent examples include Georgia Tech and UCSF.
- The White House action effectively creates a mandate for several large Federal agencies
- There will be more...



# Journal of Library Administration

- Taylor & Francis subscription journal with tough licenses and \$2,995 “hybrid OA” fee.
- Entire editorial board resigned in March 2013 because of license/access issues.



# WHAT'S NEXT & WHAT YOU CAN DO

Hour 3: Libraries as Publishers; Locating and Promoting OA Journals; Coping with Green OA; Likely Next Steps

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# Gold OA Library Journals

- The Journal of Creative Library Practice (2013)
- College & Research Libraries (ACRL)
- Information Technology & Libraries (LITA)
- Library Leadership & Management (LLAMA)
- School Library Research (AASL)
- Journal of Research on Libraries and Young Adults (YALSA)



# More Gold OA LIS Journals

- Issues in Science & Technology Librarianship (ACRL/STS, OA since 1991)
- Code4Lib Journal (2007)
- Collaborative Librarianship (2009)
- Communications in Information Literacy (2007)
- Evidence Based Library and Information Practice (2006)





# ...and a few more

- Information Research (1995)
- Journal of Librarianship & Scholarly Communication (2012)
- Journal of Library Innovation (2010)
- Journal of the Medical Library Association (2002)
- Library and Information Research (CILIP, 2007)



# Walking the Talk

- When publishing scholarly articles, look for OA journals first.
- If that doesn't work, look for Green OA – and deposit your article.
- Favor OA resources and versions when linking.
- Promote OA in your library.
- Keep up to date



# Libraries as Publishers

- Should your library publish Gold OA journals – alone or in conjunction with departments?
- It's getting easier, and it's getting more common.
- Good chance your library should be publishing or facilitating publishing – but that's another talk.



# Improving Findability

- Can people get to Green OA versions from your serial databases?
- Do Gold OA journals show up in your discovery layer?
- Do you give more respect to resources that are strangling you? Should you?



# Coping with Green OA

- Does your library have an institutional repository? Does it need one?
- Do you know the appropriate subject and megarepositories?
- Again – can people get from article indexes to Green OA versions?



# Likely Next Steps

- More disinformation from big STM publishers and societies
- More mandates at universities
- More “hybrid” and high-priced OA journals from commercial publishers
- More megajournals at various prices



# But also...

- More societies converting journals to Gold OA
- More access to government-sponsored research
- More libraries directly active in OA
- And maybe some relief...



# Breaking: The Real Damage

- This dummy slide will, with luck, be replaced with one or more slides detailing what's actually happened with ejournal costs and book budgets in various sectors of academic libraries: How bad **is** the damage?





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# Thank You!

- [waltcrawford@gmail.com](mailto:waltcrawford@gmail.com)
- *Cites & Insights*:  
<http://citesandinsights.info>
- Current coverage of OA issues in *C&I*:
  - December 2012: [citesandinsights.info/civ12i12.pdf](http://citesandinsights.info/civ12i12.pdf)
  - January 2013: [citesandinsights.info/civ13i1.pdf](http://citesandinsights.info/civ13i1.pdf)
  - February 2013: [citesandinsights.info/civ13i2.pdf](http://citesandinsights.info/civ13i2.pdf)
  - June 2013 (out soon!): [citesandinsights.info/civ13i5.pdf](http://citesandinsights.info/civ13i5.pdf)

