Open Access, Open Minds

Pondering Selected Issues from a Research Librarian’s Perspective

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Introduction

- Institutional setting
- Definition of terms
- Selection of issues
- Potential impacts on research institutions
- Summary
University of Chicago

Established 1890 by founder John D. Rockefeller

Facts and figures on following slides from http://www.uchicago.edu/uchi/about/
University of Chicago

Large, but not LARGE

- 2,160 faculty members
- 4,400 undergraduates
- 9,000 graduate/professional students
- 12,460 employees
University of Chicago
Interdisciplinary research and teaching
The John Crerar Library

6th floor of the Marshall Field building
(1897-1920)

Randolph and Michigan
(1920-1962)

IIT campus
(1962-1983)
The John Crerar Library
High Technology Info Center
Chemical Information Retrieval
Portable Documents
High Throughput Process
Definition of Terms

Open access by **GREEN** or **GOLD**?

**GREEN** “self-archiving” in institutional repository with contents available to all

**GOLD** published articles are supported by some form of payment on behalf of author with access available to all
Green Issues: Institutional Repository

Definition

“...set of services that a university offers to the members of its community for the management and dissemination of digital materials created by the institution and its community members.”

Abbreviation = IR

http://www.arl.org/newsltr/226/ir.htm
Green Issues: IR

• Will enough institutions participate?
• What standards will be used?
• What will be the content?
• How much will it cost?
• Who is going to be responsible?
• How will long-term preservation be accomplished?
• How will discovery and dissemination take place?
Green Issues: IR

• Will enough institutions participate?

“If institutional repositories are to serve as a viable framework for global scholarly communication, a prerequisite is pervasive, even universal, participation by institutions, as well as the seamless interoperability of repositories”

Green Issues: IRs

• What standards will be used?

Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting (OAI-PMH)

• Simple

• Dublin Core

• Widely adopted

http://www.openarchives.org/OAI/openarchivesprotocol.html
Green Issues: IRs

• What standards will be used?

“Simple Dublin Core is too simple.”

Tennant, R. Bitter Harvest: Problems & Suggested Solutions for OAI-PMH Data & Service Providers March 8, 2005
http://www.cdlib.org/inside/projects/harvesting/bitter_harvest.html

“… if metadata are exposed in formats that are richer than unqualified DC, the additional maintenance may push the low barriers that make the protocol attractive too high”

Green Issues: IRs

• What will be the content?

“Digital materials which are unique, and for which we are the primary steward, will be given high priority for direct management. Digital materials in which stewardship is shared, or which are not unique to our institution, will be addressed collaboratively both within the University and in conjunction with the national and international library community”

The University of Chicago Library Digital Archiving Program: Scope, Mission, and Functions with Recommendations for Phase One, The University of Chicago Library, February 2005
Green Issues: IRs

• What will be the content?

On the Elsevier Author Gateway:

“Can I post my article on the internet?

You can post your version of your article on your personal web page or the web site of your institution, provided that you include a link to the journal's home page or the article's DOI and include a complete citation for the article. This means that you can update your version (e.g. the Word or Tex form) to reflect changes made during the peer review and editing process.”
Green Issues: IRs

• How much will it cost?

“Institutional repositories make librarians very nervous. They seem practically guaranteed to ensure that any monetary and/or labor savings generated by Open Access will be immediately absorbed into building Institutional Repositories.”


http://www.charlestonco.com/dnloads/v6n1.pdf
Green Issues: IRs

• How much will it cost?

“Full consideration of the Total Cost of Ownership of storage is clearly an issue that no organisation can afford to neglect”

http://www.dpconline.org/docs/dpctw04-03.pdf
Green Issues: IRs

• Who is going to be responsible?

• Institutional commitment

• Content recruitment

• Metadata

• Hardware/software acquisition and maintenance

• Digital rights management
Green Issues: IRs

• How will long-term preservation be accomplished?

“Libraries and archives have a traditional role of preserving and allowing access to materials over (in cultural terms) long times-scales, i.e. for many decades, even centuries. The digital age is not going to alter this role substantially, but it is making it more difficult to carry out...”

http://www.dpconline.org/docs/dpctw04-03.pdf
Green Issues: IRs

• How will discovery and dissemination take place?

• Role of indexing and abstracting services
• Linking solutions
• Search engines
• Digital rights management
Gold Issues: Some Facts of Life

• Peer review
• Distribution
• Infrastructure support
• Enhancements and developments

Gold Issues

- Cost shift from readers to authors
- Print and non open access decline, but not eliminated
- Other non-subscription costs will remain
Gold Issues

- Cost shift from readers to authors

“Interest in supporting peer-reviewed material is not equal within the existing revenue base. Many readers are located in commercial organizations having little interest in altruistic support – the revenue stream would be channeled through far fewer institutions”

Gold Issues

• Cost shift from readers to authors

“Author pays models also disadvantage major research institutions…”

877 faculty x 2 papers/year x $1500/paper = $2.6 million

Library annual budget for serials 2003/2004 = $1 million

“Paper Cuts”, Jennifer Durgin, Dartmouth Medicine, Winter 2004, p.52-59
Gold Issues

• Cost shift from readers to authors

“Based on current estimates, if the entire Cornell Library journal budget were used to support Open Access publishing, the cost per article would need to be less than $1100 per article to save money as an institution”

Among 113 ARL institutions, average article costs might be more expensive in an OA environment for most libraries.

Gold Issues

• Cost shift from readers to authors

_Nucleic Acids Research_ at Yale:

22 papers x $500 fee/paper = $11,000 (plus institutional membership fee)

Current library subscription = $2,855 for paper plus online

In Summary

Thinking about the future of scientific publishing...

...is like putting together a jigsaw puzzle while riding on a roller coaster.*

* Apologies to John M. Allin, Presiding Bishop, Episcopal Church
Thank you for your attention!

Sources Consulted


