OPEN ACCESS

A VIABLE PATH FOR JOURNAL COLLECTION BUILDING

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INTRODUCTION

- Emergence of Printing Press in 15th Century and Copyright in 18th century.
- First Journals in 1665 (Journal de Sçavans and Philosophical Transactions of Royal Society).
- Explosion of scholarly publication in 19th century
- Increase in research result, research publication, copyright protections and Journal subscription cost.
- Cut down in journal subscriptions and narrowed circulation of research results.

Scholarly publishing and pricing

- Scholarly publishing is a huge business worldwide.
- More than 2000 journal publishers are in existence
- Market is dominated by three publishers viz. Elsevier, Springer-Kluwer, and Wiley-Blackwell with 42% of all published journals articles.
- No other publisher accounts for more than 3% share of publication market.

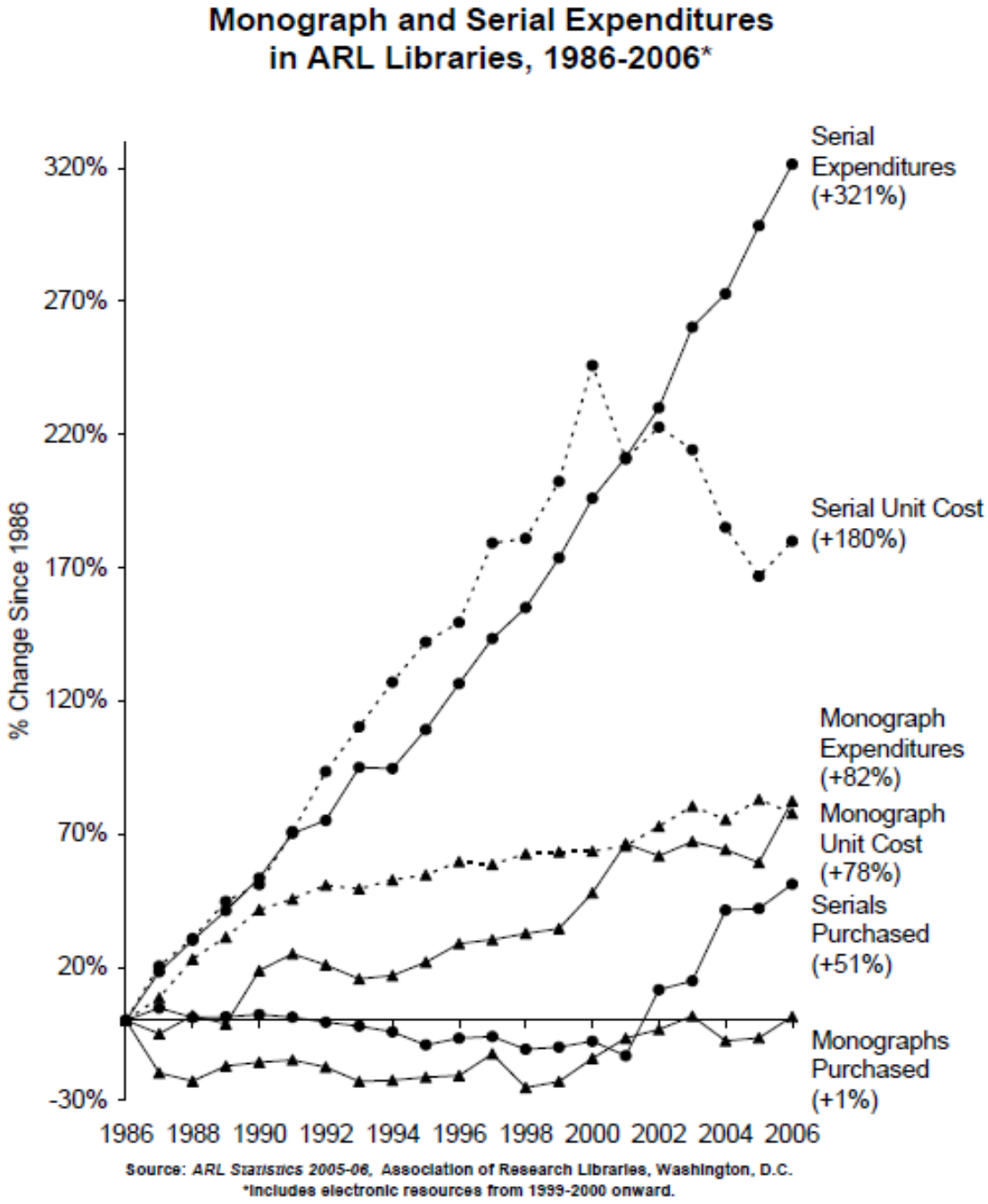
Springer

WILEY-BLACKWELL

ELSEVIER

WHAT IS THE CONCERN?

- Concern is not hold of publishing market by few publishers.
- But the concern is consistent rising price that is resulting in serial crisis.
- It makes serial subscription ‘fiscally unsustainable’ and ‘academically restrictive’.
- The serial crisis is compelling almost every organisation of the world either to cut the journal subscriptions, or increase budget or in some cases both.



• MANY CUT DOWN EXAMPLES

- In 2003 many universities such as Harvard, Cornell,

California, Duke, MIT, etc. either cancelled their subscription to Elsevier or dropped their subscription to hundreds of journals.

- Elsevier accounted for California University's 50% journal budget while its titles accounted for only 25% of total serial titles.

- Recently again Harvard Library issued a memo to University's faculties regarding its inability retain serial subscriptions from Elsevier, Springer and Wiley and <u>requesting researchers to follow open access model.</u>

Some excerpts from the memo

- Robert Darnton, director of Harvard Library told the Guardian: "I hope that other universities will take similar action. We all face the same paradox. We faculty do the research, write the papers, referee papers by other researchers, serve on editorial boards, all of it for free … and then we buy back the results of our labour at outrageous prices.

- "The system is absurd, and it is inflicting terrible damage on libraries. One year's subscription to *The Journal of Comparative Neurology* costs the same as 300 monographs. We simply cannot go on paying the increase in subscription prices. In the long run, the answer will be open-access journal publishing, but we need concerted effort to reach that goal."

- For full story:http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/2012/apr/24/harvard-university-journal-publishers-prices

And the answer is Open Access

- **Open access is not only the answer but the hope against serial crisis.**
- **It is a way of relief for almost all libraries of the world small or large which are under pressure due to consistent increase in price of journal subscription.**
- **The amount which is used by libraries to retain the subscription may be useful for several other services.**
- **Commercial journals can be substituted with the open access journals, and it only requires universal unity.**
- **Calls from libraries such as Harvard University do make an impact on thinking of libraries and library professionals**

Transformation from print to electronic version did not help

- It was hoped that introduction of electronic publishing will be helpful to decrease the subscription cost considerably.
- Steven Harnad said that the transformation from print to electronic may reduce the publishing cost to 75%.
- But it did not make real differences even in online models.
- Moreover, it introduced new purchase models such as pay per view and bundled subscription licensing.

A newspaper article by George Monbiot (2011) published in *The Guardian*, voices this concern:

“Reading a single article published by one of Elsevier's journals will cost you $31.50. Springer charges €34.95, Wiley-Blackwell, $42. Read 10 and you pay 10 times. And the journals retain perpetual copyright. You want to read a letter printed in 1981? That'll be $31.50”. He further points out that, academic libraries are anxiously cutting journal subscriptions to survive; 65% of their budgets are consumed by their journal subscriptions leaving reduced amount for book purchase.

Hence it is highly difficult for an individual to pay such amount, at the same time libraries also find it difficult to subscribe these journals. It creates problem of serial crisis all over the world.

EXCUSE OF PUBLISHERS

- Serial publishers excuse is the cost involved in peer review is responsible for this unexpected rise in serial subscription cost.

REAL SITUATION

- However, many of us know that the articles are reviewed by the members of editorial board and it is a job which is mostly unpaid.

- Instead, many a times authors need to pay a publication fees.

- The returns of the serial publishers tell real story. The earned revenue of Elsevier in 2010 was 36% (£724m on revenues of £2bn)(Monbiot, 2011).

DILEMMA OF THE UNIVERSITIES

- Academic papers are published in only single place, and they have to be read by researchers to keep track of their subject.
- This makes the demand of the research articles inflexible.
- At the same time market is free from competition as different publishers can't publish same research paper.
- In many cases publishers oblige the university to subscribe a large package whether or not they want all of them.

(source: monbiot, 2011)

In such situation where research papers are unavoidable requirement and the cost of such publication is very high, open access is the only answer to it.

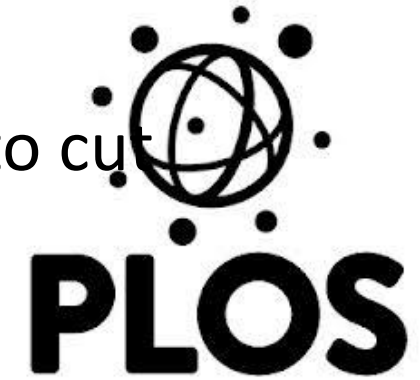
Brief history of open access

- Three factors were responsible for open access movement, first, overpricing of journal subscription, second, advent of internet, and third, aspiration of people to make knowledge of the world within reach of every individual on the globe.

- Micheal Hart invested his life time earning in Project Gutenberg by making ebooks online. Today it has a collection of over 30,000 ebooks. The collection is of copyright free books but it was an effort to make books within reach of every individual without any financial barrier.

- Another notable effort was by Paul Ginsparg who created an online archive physicist i.e. XXX.lanl.gov in 1991(renamed arXiv.org in 1998)

- As discussed earlier the libraries were continuously under pressure to cut the journal subscription due to their financial condition.



- Sometimes the authors of the articles could not access their own articles as their organisations could not subscribe to those journals. This condition invoked not only the consumers but also producers of the such articles.

- An initiative took place in 2001 in the form of an open letter to the journal publishers stating “we pledge that, beginning in September 2001, we will publish in, edit or review for, and personally subscribe to only those scholarly and scientific journals that have agreed to grant unrestricted free distribution rights to any and all original research reports that they have published, through PubMed Central and similar online public resources, within 6 months of their initial publication date”

- This letter was endorsed by scientist all over the world and laid the foundation of Public Library of Science.
- However the formal beginning of the movement was with the Budapest Declaration in 2002(14^{th} Feb). Here the term ‘open access’ was assigned to free and unrestricted access to scholarly articles.
  - It was a call to publish all material in public domain.
  - It also distinguished scholarly research literature produced without monetary gains from the artistic literature which is source of income for their creators.
  - Copyright of open access articles does not restrict access, redistribution, download etc. however, it also retains the right of the author to be properly cited and acknowledged.
- In 2003 two more declarations came into existence i.e. Bethesda Statement on Open Access Publishing to boost open access publishing and Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities.

- A number of open access publishers came into existence to boost the open access. Besides these publishers, there are several universities, organisations, institutes who publish one or more open access iournals.

Open access journals and collection building

- Open access with its wide possibilities impacts the collection development policy
- As soon as they start looking to open access journals, libraries realize that open access has everything they require.
- The libraries can create database of URLs of open access journals, or institutional repository of open access articles dealing with their subjects of concern.
- Preprint or post print of many articles published in commercial journals may available free of cost from the authors website or institutional repository of author’s organisation.

- This availability not only eases up their financial burden but also helps them to use the budget thus saved, somewhere else to provide other services.
- Open access journals are not only free but they are also limitless in simultaneous access, and offer unrestricted distribution.
- A thorough scrutiny of directories of open access journals such as DOAJ, Open-J-Gate etc. made for this research study enabled a collection of more than five thousand open access journals in English language alone from various subject fields.
- In fact, the authors found it difficult to identify a subject which had no open access journal.
- To be precise, 5098 journal titles were identified, which could be grouped into 103 subjects.

Sr. No.	Subjects	Number of Journals
1	Acoustics	4
2	Agriculture	88
3	Allergy and Immunology	35
4	Analytical Chemistry	16
5	Anatomy	6
6	Anesthesiology	14
7	Animal Sciences	65
8	Anthropology	30
9	Aquaculture and Fisheries	13
10	Archaeology	9
11	Architecture	13
12	Arts in general	27
13	Astronomy	15
14	Biochemistry	36
15	Biology	193
16	Biotechnology	41
17	Botany	48
18	Business and Management	156
19	Cardiovascular	59
20	Chemical Engineering	12
21	Chemical Technology	25
22	Chemistry In General	82
23	Computer Science	272
24	Construction	14
25	Cytology	13
26	Dentistry	55
27	Dermatology	20
28	Earth Sciences (Geology)	52
29	Ecology	31
30	Economics	83
31	Education	241
32	Electrical and Nuclear Engineering	49
33	Electricity	7
34	Environmental Engineering	8
35	Environmental Sciences	66
36	Environmental Technology	8
37	Ethnology	6
38	Forestry	14
39	Gastroenterology	34
40	Gender Studies	16
41	General and Civil Engineering	111
42	Genetics	52
43	Geology	29
44	Geophysics and Geomagnetism	9
45	Gynecology and Obstetrics	27
46	Heat	5
47	History of arts	43
48	Hydraulic Engineering	3
49	Industrial Engineering	13
50	Inorganic Chemistry	5
51	Internal medicine	243

Sr. No.	Subjects	Number of Journals
52	Languages and Literatures	67
53	Law	60
54	Library and Information Science	58
55	Linguistics	36
56	Manufactures	4
57	Mathematics	173
58	Mechanical Engineering	35
59	Media and communication	33
60	Medicine In General	346
61	Meteorology and Climatology	21
62	Microbiology	46
63	Migration	3
64	Military Science	5
65	Mining and Metallurgy	11
66	Multidisciplinary	100
67	Music	21
68	Neurology	90
69	Nuclear Physics	3
70	Nursing	15
71	Nutrition and Food Sciences	17
72	Oceanography	15
73	Oncology	76
74	Ophthalmology	28
75	Optics and Lights	18
76	Organic Chemistry	13
77	Otorhinolaryngology	15
78	Pathology	31
79	Pediatrics	32
80	Performing Arts	15
81	Pharmacy and Pharmacology	98
82	Philosophy	51
83	Physics In General	58
84	Physiology	32
85	Plant Sciences	29
86	Political Science	72
87	Psychiatry	32
88	Psychology	55
89	Public Health	136
90	Religion	34
91	Science In General	98
92	Social and Public Welfare	21
93	Social Sciences	96
94	Sociology	45
95	Sports Science	29
96	Statistics	32
97	Surgery	73
98	Technology In General	68
99	Therapeutics	86
100	Transportation	20
101	Urology	23
102	Visual Arts	8
103	Zoology	53

- Open access is a progressive concept, every day a new open access journal is being launched; hence, this number will increase continuously.
- There is a possibility for library to create database of journals and digital library of journal articles.
- Even small libraries managed by solo librarians can build impressive digital libraries if they have a PC and the internet connectivity.
- All that they have to do is, install open source digital library software like Greenstone or DSpace, download and gather articles which could be useful to their users on different subjects, enrich them with metadata, appropriately design and build collection on different subjects.
- As of today, Directory of Open Access Journals (doaj.org) has 9,912 open access journals from different languages with 5,812 searchable at article level.

In summation

- Open access is the offspring of the collective sensitivity of the scholarly world.
- The world was fed up with the ever rising costs of journals and multiple pay debates.
- Eventually a happy confluence of Internet and World Wide Web with the search for knowledge and the willingness to share by the scholars all over the world gave birth to the concept of Open Access.
- Now as the libraries are finding it difficult to subscribe journals due to escalating subscription costs and inelastic budgets, open access journals can help in collection building.

- Open access journals are making a significant impact and are competing well with commercial publishers and compelling many of them to offer open access in one way or the other.

- Now it is the turn of universities, research institutions, and funding agencies to push open access by encouraging publication in open access journals.

- Additionally, scientists also should go for publication in open access journals instead of commercial journals.

- One must shed this misconception that publication in a commercial journal will alone earn them good impact factor and reputation.

- It will not be an overstatement to say that it is not the journals which provide reputation to authors; rather authors render reputation to journals by submitting their high quality articles.

Have open access and serve open access

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Happy Librarian's Day

Thank you