Open Access: Oh, that old thing

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PHILOSOPHICAL
TRANSACTIONS:
GIVING SOME
ACCOMPT
OF THE PRESENT
Undertakings, Studies, and Labours
OF THE
INGENIOUS
IN MANY
CONSIDERABLE PARTS
OF THE
WORLD.

Vol I.
For Anno 1665, and 1666.

In the SAVOR,
Printed by T. N. for John Martyn at the Bell, a little with-
out Temple-Bar, and James Allestry in Duck-Lane;
Printers to the Royal Society,
Scientific journals in publication

- 1670: 4
- 1800: 90
- 1900: 10,000
- 1990: 70,000
Growth in research articles

- A cancer research article is published every 10 minutes
- 230 articles each day in HEP
- 311 each day in social sciences
Monograph and Serial Expenditures in ARL Libraries, 1986-2005*


*Includes electronic resources from 1999-2000 onward.
Information Management: A Proposal

Abstract

This proposal concerns the management of general information about accelerators and experiments at CERN. It discusses the problems of loss of information about complex evolving systems and derives a solution based on a distributed hypertext system.

Keywords: Hypertext, Computer conferencing, Document retrieval, Information management, Project control
Information Management: A Proposal

Abstract

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Growing problems for research

• Access:
  – Prices not decreasing in an online world
  – DRM locking down content
  – DRM locking out some user types
  – DRM reducing backfile access
  – Web advantages not available to research community
  – Access control rather than maximisation

• Information management

• Peer review process under pressure

• New research technologies locked out
Open Access

• 1990s:
  – Free Online Scholarship
  – The Subversive Proposal

• Longer history:
  – CERN
  – Bell Laboratories
Open Access

• Online
• Free to use, free of restrictions on use
• Two main routes:
  – OA journals (“Gold” OA)
  – Repositories (“Green” OA)
Why so low after > 15 years?

• Lack of awareness
• Lack of understanding
• Overdose of misunderstandings
• Fear of repercussions
• Reward systems in academia entrench conservative behaviour
• Glacial pace of academic adoption of the Web
What have been the drivers?

- Advocacy, including gathering an evidence base of the benefits
- Infrastructure:
  - Technical (repository networks)
  - New publishing venues
- Policy
OA infrastructure for EU research

Authors → Institutional repositories → OpenAIRE → Readers

HARVEST

Google, etc
RIAN.ie

• National portal
• Collects from repositories in universities
• The ‘shop window’ for Irish research
RIAN, the Irish word for path, is your route to Open Access Irish research publications.
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Open Access policies
Open Access policies

• 200 institutional policies
• 87 funder policies
• H2020 Rules have a mandatory OA policy
• Recommendation to Member States (2012)
European national funder mandates
Irish policies

- HRB
- HEA
- IRCSET
- SFI
- Dublin Institute of Technology
- TCD
- *Consortium of Irish Research Organisations*
Thank you for listening

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