Setting Open Access as the Default

Open Access Session at UN-LINKS Meeting, Rome Oct. 26th 2012
Lars Bjørnshauge,
Chair, IFLAs Open Access Task Force
SPARC Europe Director of Library Relations
Outline

• Open Access to Research Results – where are we now, what brought us here?

• The Rationale of Open

• One size fits all?

• Various flavours of Open – there is one for you as well!
The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) is committed to the principles of freedom of access to information and the belief that universal and equitable access to information is vital for the social, educational, cultural, democratic, and economic well-being of people, communities, and organizations.
ToR for the Task Force

The taskforce will engage in advocacy for the adoption and promotion of open access policies (as set out in IFLA's Statement on Open Access) within the framework of the United Nations institutions (UN, UNESCO, UNEP, WHO, FAO, WIPO, etc. – list incomplete!).
SPARC & SPARC Europe

- The Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC)
- founded by the Association of Research Libraries (US) as an international alliance of academic and research libraries
- +800 members (universities etc) in North America
- Primary objective: working to correct imbalances in the scholarly publishing system
SPARC Europe - mission

- SPARC Europe (founded in 2002) aims to promote an open scholarly communication system in Europe (and elsewhere) through advocacy and education,
- the promotion of new models, and
- partnerships with all interested stakeholders
- 100 members (universities etc.) in 16 European countries
- www.sparceurope.org
Open Access - October 2012

- Hundreds of institutions have signed the Berlin Declaration and similar declarations. Universities, university associations and research centers have issued policies that mandate open access.
- According to ROARMAP, the Registry of Open Access Repositories Mandatory Archiving Policies there is now 153 institutional OA mandates and 53 research funder mandates.
- The DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals) counts more than 8,200 open access journals and many in process (+10,000,000 visits a month).
- OpenDOAR - Directory of Open Access Repositories - lists nearly 2,200 open access repositories.
Policies and mandates

• One of the drivers for the increasing OA-content is policies and mandates issued by the various stakeholders:
  
  • Research centers
  • Universities
  • Research funders
  • Governments
  • Supranational organizations
High level decision makers in university associations and research funders, governments, in supranational organizations like the European Commission are increasingly and explicitly demanding, working for and supporting open access to research results and research data.
Open Access – inevitable!? 

- Information wants to be free!
- We have **won** the argument about Open Access!
- Not necessarily because:
- it is **cheaper** (it probably is!)
- it can **bridge the digital divide** (it can!)
- it is a **good cause** (it is!)
- But ......
Open Access is inevitable

Because it has become obvious that innovation, industry and societies will only enjoy the full benefit from science if the texts, the objects and the corresponding research data are available, interlinked, mined and reusable in an open networked environment without barriers.
What brought us here?

- What have made it possible to envisage a substantially changed scholarly communication system?
  - Technology
  - Standardization
  - Early adaptors in the science community
  - Librarians, libraries and library organizations
  - Innovative publishers with new business models
  - Advocacy & collaboration
  - Policies and mandates
What have we learned so far?

- Easy and free access:
  - Attracts new readers and users
  - Facilitates new kinds of use
  - Connects users across the globe
  - Adds value and increases impact for the researchers and their institutions and funders
The Open Agenda is widening!

• So far the focus have been on publicly funded research mainly at universities & research centers

• Now Open Educational Resources and Research Data are becoming more and more important!
So much for research, research data and open educational resources!

But, does this apply equally well for other kinds of information, knowledge and publications?
The rationale of Open

• Open for all:
  – Free to read
  – Widest possible re-use conditions (Licenses)
  – Widest possible dissemination

• Research is paid upfront (subsidized) and the notion that the publishing and dissemination of research results should be paid upfront is gaining momentum.

• Upfront funding makes open possible

• The same could/should apply for other kinds of information/knowledge
Changing the mind set!

- Advocating Open Access to Researchers:
  - In order for you to do your work properly and effectively it would be the best that the work of your colleagues were open access, right?
  - Why then don’t you publish your work in open access?
- It is a part of good research behaviour to make your work open access and re-useable!
- It is bad style to put your work behind barriers
- Changing the culture

PIAM, Frankfurt 2012

Lars Bjørnshauge
SPARC Europe – www.sparceurope.org
Your organization!? 

- Your organization
  - has a mission
  - produces important information and knowledge
  - is engaged in publishing (publishing is making things available for the public)
  - wants to distribute the information and knowledge as efficiently as possible
  - wants the information and knowledge to reach your audience – decision makers, policy makers, civil servants, development workers, doctors, practitioners, lawyers, engineers, entrepreneurs, farmers etc. without barriers!?
  - why then not set open access as the default!

PIAM, Frankfurt 2012

Lars Bjørnshauge
SPARC Europe – www.sparceurope.org
Sure, but ....

• But
  – what about our current business?
  – what about the costs of the first (digital) manuscript?
  – what about our agreements with third party publishers?
  – what about the integrity of the knowledge we provide?
  – what about....

• There are various flavours of Open licenses, with
• Various degrees of re-use permissions, that can
• Protect the integrity of the content and
• Facilitate revenue streams of enhanced editions (if needed)etc.
• There is one for your organization as well.

• Rethinking the purpose and mission of the publishing unit – aligning it more with the ultimate mission of your organization

• Creating more value and impact of the work of your organization
• Dissemination of research results is an integral part of the research itself and should be funded by those who fund research!

• Dissemination of the information and knowledge produced by your organization is an integral part of the work your organization is undertaking and .......
Thank you for your attention

Lars Bjørnshauge
lars@arl.org