

The Librarian's Perspective: Open Access and Libraries

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The brief

“The library perspective on OA developments”:

- “How OA may help information provision”
- “Any changes in library services arising from OA developments”
- “What should be the role of libraries in the internet age?”
- “What are the issues to be addressed to help the range of stakeholders involved?”



Key points

- OA has the potential to bring benefits to the research community and society in improving information provision
- If there was widespread OA, there will be less library-based activity at institution-level, and more information management at supra-institutional/national level
- However, institutional libraries will continue to have an important role in:
 - managing purchased/licensed content
 - managing institutional digital assets
 - supporting the use of content in teaching and research etc
- Libraries can work within their institutions to help resolve current problems relating to the implementation of OA policies/practices



OA and information provision

- Deeper 'narrow-casting' and wider 'broadcasting'
- Greater impact: citations and other impacts (social and economic)
 - need more analysis
- Not just about access to content but doing useful things with it:
 - searching
 - text mining
 - citation/impact analysis
 - automated plagiarism detection
- Correcting dysfunctional market



Benefits of OA repositories

Additional benefits:

- Rapid dissemination
- Can happen now:
 - no new business model required in short-term
 - relatively low-cost
- Interoperable
- Institutional benefits for IRs:
 - profile raising
 - knowledge management
 - strategic tool
 - compliance/quality assessment



Open access

- Current research output
 - journal articles
 - book chapters
 - e-prints
- Data
 - research data sets
- Historical monographs
 - Google Book Search
 - Microsoft/OCA
- Other institutional assets
 - e-theses
 - learning objects

The screenshot shows a web browser with several open pages. At the top, the PLOS BIOLOGY logo is visible, along with the text 'a peer-reviewed, open-access journal' and 'PUBLIC LIBRARY of SCIENCE'. Below this, the browser address bar shows 'the national archives'. The main content area displays a navigation menu with links like 'Home', 'About us', 'Visit us', 'Research, education & online exhibitions', 'Search the archives', 'Services for professionals', 'News', and 'Shop online'. A search bar is present with the text 'Census records'. Below the search bar, there is a list of links including 'Home', 'Search the archives', 'Access to Archives (A2A)', 'ARCHON Directory', 'The Catalogue', 'Census records', 'DocumentsOnline', 'Hospital records', 'Moving Here', 'National Register of Archives', 'Future projects', and 'Other online resources'. To the right, there is a section for 'The University of Nottingham' with a navigation menu and a search bar. Below this, there is a section for 'Nottingham eTheses' with a list of links: 'Browse', 'Search', 'Deposit Guide', 'Register', 'Deposit', 'About', 'Statistics', and 'Help'. The bottom part of the screenshot shows a Google Book Search result for 'Tristram shandy' by Laurence Sterne. The search results page displays the title 'THE WOLF' and the author 'LAURENCE STERNE.' with the text 'IN TEN VOLUMES COMPLETE.' Below the search results, there are links to buy the book from various sources: 'Buy this book Abebooks - Alibris - Amazon - Abebooks.co.uk - Froogle UK'. A search bar is also present with the text 'Search in this book Tristram shandy' and a 'Go' button.



The role of libraries

Traditional paper-based published content

- Selection of materials
- Procurement of materials
- Cataloguing and classification
- Provision of additional indexes and bibliographies
- Physical preparation of materials
- Access arrangements
- Circulation services
- Ongoing collection management
- Support and training of users



Role of libraries in HEIs

	P	E	OA
Selection of content	✓		
Interface/access selection	x		
Procurement	✓		
Cat & class/metadata	✓		
Provision of indexes	✓		
Physical preparation	✓		
Access arrangements	✓		
Circulation services	✓		
Collection management	✓		
User support and training	✓		

P = Printed material

E = Electronic (purchased) material

OA = Open access material

Role of libraries in HEIs

	P	E	OA
Selection of content	✓	✓	
Interface/access selection	x	✓	
Procurement	✓	✓	
Cat & class/metadata	✓	✓	
Provision of indexes	✓	✓	
Physical preparation	✓	x	
Access arrangements	✓	✓	
Circulation services	✓	x	
Collection management	✓	?	
User support and training	✓	✓	

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Role of libraries in HEIs

	P	E	OA
Selection of content	✓	✓	x
Interface/access selection	x	✓	x
Procurement	✓	✓	x
Cat & class/metadata	✓	✓	?
Provision of indexes	✓	✓	x
Physical preparation	✓	x	x
Access arrangements	✓	✓	x
Circulation services	✓	x	x
Collection management	✓	?	x
User support and training	✓	✓	✓

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New roles

- “Network level”
 - Repositories
 - Service providers (OAI)
 - metadata normalisation/enhancement
 - automatic indexing
 - searching
 - citation analysis
 - text/data mining
 - subject gateways
 - overlay journals
- Institutional level
 - Repositories: managing institutional information assets (text, data etc.)
 - technical infrastructure
 - facilitating deposit
 - metadata production/enhancement
 - content analysis/knowledge management
 - digital preservation, etc.
 - Content expertise for teaching and research
 - Print on demand



The future role of the library

Jerry D Campbell*:

- Providing quality learning spaces
- Creating metadata
- Offering virtual reference services
- Teaching information literacy
- Choosing resources and managing licences
- Collecting and digitizing archival materials
- Maintaining digital repositories
- Others?

* *Educause Review*, January/February 2006, 16-30



IR and the library

The Library is the natural part of the institution to run the IR. The library:

- serves all the University
- is seen as neutral
- has expertise in information management
- has a commitment robust service provision
- has a stewardship culture
- is used to taking an institutional view



The library and institutional policy

Current issues: examples

- Facilitating cultural change
- Institutional procedures for implementing funders' self archiving policies:
 - technical
 - cultural
 - policy
- Institutional arrangements for funding publication/OA charges
- Preservation of content
- Partnership with external stakeholders, particularly publishers and funders
 - policies
 - business models
 - data analysis



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