

The ethics of open access

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State of scholarly communication I

- 1665: Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society London
 - Initiated communication between scholars; inform those who were not present, advancement of the scholars' knowledge
- Currently: Publishers
 - High journal subscription price= high journal quality
 - Gain big profits from subscription costs
 - Raise subscription prices more than inflation
 - Retain copyright of the published articles due to commercial interests
 - Sue libraries, faculty, institutions for using copyrighted material in their classrooms

State of Scholarly Communication II

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- Scholars publish:
 - Inform, distribute, develop, build, add, educate
 - Share their work; cooperate with others
 - Promotion and tenure; publish or perish
- Referees:
 - Do not receive royalties
 - Belong to editorial boards for prestige
 - Their work could be conducted outside the publishing industry

Commercial Publishing Industry



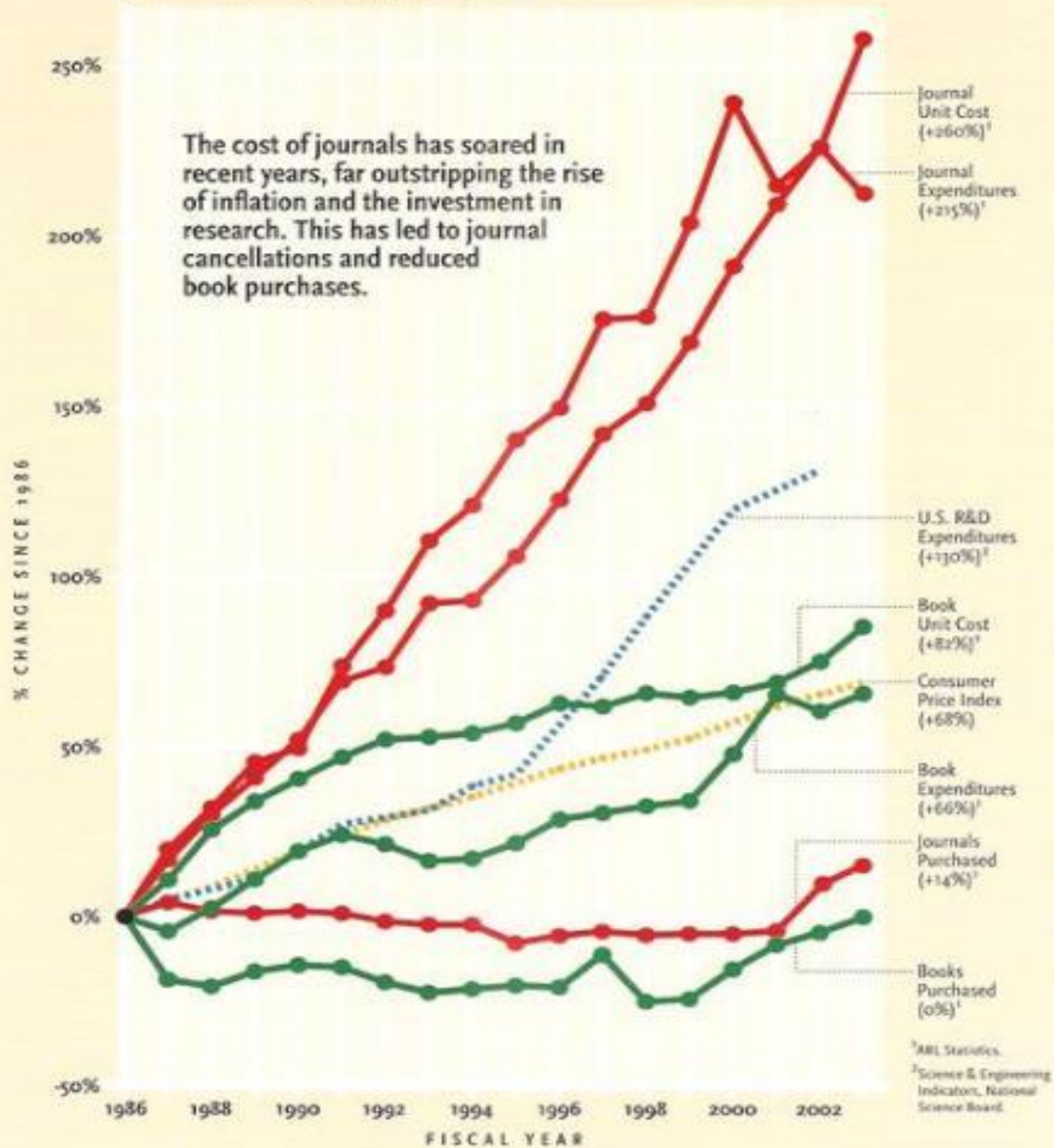
Commercial Publishing Industry



The period 1986-2003, subscription prices increased more than 260%

Book and Journal Costs, 1986–2003

North American Research Libraries



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Open Access to all?

- * Bill of Rights 1776
- * Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948

- No privilege access
- Researchers, students, the public should not be divided as the “haves” and “have nots”
- Free access to information supports promotion of knowledge
- Benefits not only individuals but the society as a whole
- Advances scholarly communication for current and future generations

Open access movement

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“Open-access (OA) literature is digital, online, free of charge, and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions. What makes it possible is the internet and the consent of the author or copyright-holder”.

(Suber, 2007)

OA initiatives

- The Budapest Open Access Initiative, December 1-2, 2001
- Bethesda Statement on Open Access Publishing, June 20, 2003
- Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities, October 22, 2003





Goal: accelerate progress in the international effort to make research articles in all academic fields freely available on the internet

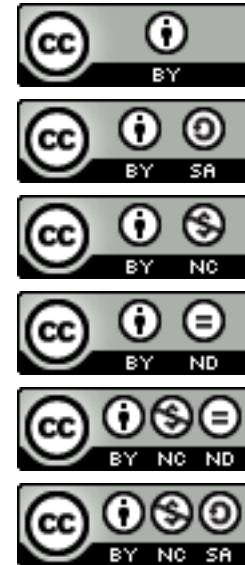
OA vehicles

- **OA archives or repositories/ Green OA:** do not perform peer review; simply make their contents freely available to the world; subject or institutional repositories
- **OA journals/ Gold OA:** perform peer review; content is available at no cost; open access journals business models

Contracts

Creative Commons Licenses:

- Attribution 
- Share Alike 
- Non-commercial 
- No Derivative works 



Author addendum: legal contract proposal giving non-exclusive rights to authors

US Government & OA

- George W. Bush: 2007 Consolidated Appropriations Act
 - National Institutes of Health Public Access Policy; subject to annual review
- Barack Obama: 2009 Consolidated Appropriations Act
 - National Institutes of Health Public Access Policy; permanent
 - “...investigators funded by the NIH submit or have submitted for them to the National Library of Medicine's PubMed Central an electronic version of their final, peer-reviewed manuscripts upon acceptance for publication...”
- Federal Research Public Access Act (FRPAA)- June 2009: Introduced in the House of Representatives

Student Statement Right to Research

- Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC)
- Efforts to promote OA to students
- Students demand OA from faculty and academic institutions
 - improves educational experience
 - a democratic way to access research
 - advances research
 - allows more visibility and greater impact to research

Moral arguments

- Gratis or libre OA
- Researchers are in charge of their published research papers
- Empowers free flow of scientific information
- Maximizes access to “have nots”
- Enables access to taxpayers for publicly funded research

(Suber, 2008)

Open results for all

- Research usage: peer review articles OA
- Publish or perish: OA use of research papers increases impact factor
- Taxpayer Access: publicly funded research should stay public
- Researcher access: maximize researcher to researcher access
- Post-Gutenberg era: mandate OA

(Harnad, 2007)

Librarians teach OA & ethics

- Formal or informal training
 - Faculty members
 - Administrators
 - University press
 - Scholarly Communications officer
- Librarians assistance (serials):
 - Know how to evaluate journals
 - Familiar with publishing practices
 - Resources to research for OA information
 - Deal with copyright and licensing issues

(Luey, 1996)

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Thank you!

