

# Open Access, the way ahead

Athens

October 18, 2013

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# where are we?

- 15 yrs ago my first talk on Open Access and we are still talking
- yet some impressive results have been achieved:
  - widening support and awareness
  - new open access journals and portals created
  - hybrid payment practiced (APC // subscription)
  - first OA monograph projects
  - broad variety of (interlinked) public repositories available
  - search machines and actual searching much more prominent
- not because of ideologies but based upon usefulness and added value

# more talking and reporting

- endless series of statements, meetings and conferences
- new reports every year; the ones I've been reading:
  - Finch report June 2012  
<http://www.researchinfonet.org/publish/finch/>
  - E-InfraNet consortium “open as the default modus operandi for Research and HE” June 2013 [http://e-infranet.eu/output\\_type/policy-documents-pdf/](http://e-infranet.eu/output_type/policy-documents-pdf/)
  - Science-Metrix for DG Research August 2013 [http://www.science-metrix.com/pdf/SM\\_EC\\_OA\\_Availability\\_2004-2011.pdf](http://www.science-metrix.com/pdf/SM_EC_OA_Availability_2004-2011.pdf)
  - House of Commons September 2013  
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmselect/cmbis/99/9902.htm>

All the fields derive an OA citation advantage. Interestingly, many of the fields where the OA proportion is low have a sizeable citation advantage, such as in philosophy and theology (54% more cited), general arts humanities and social sciences, communication and textual studies, engineering, and visual & performing arts. What is particularly interesting here is that the citation advantage is derived almost exclusively from the green and hybrid portion, as gold OA is associated with a citation disadvantage on average for all fields except for physics & astronomy.

The statistics on gold journals require careful interpretation. First, many gold journals are younger and smaller, and these factors have an adverse effect on the citation rate and hence on measured ARC values. Authors frequently prefer reading and citing established journals, and it is therefore a challenge to start a journal from scratch, and to have authors submit high quality articles. It takes time to build a reputation and to attract established authors. Importantly|

# where are we going?

- from the point of view of universities
  - open access to peer reviewed research publications should be the rule
  - meaning that **all** such publications are accessible in their original format and context
  - which requires a complete overhaul of the present business model to an open access model
  - with a transition phase of doable and fair hybrid arrangements (ACP financially connected to licenses and subscriptions)

# why don't we?

- because of uncertainty and wrong assumptions
  - many of us think open access is or rather should be cheaper than traditional modes
  - publishers fear a new model would endanger their business case and reduce their profitability
  - universities fear they will in the end pay more
  - the new model of author-pays indeed redistributes cost among present subscribers

(amazed they are all about money?)

# we should overcome these hurdles

- key European stakeholders in HigherEd and Research plan for a series of round tables with publishers to find a doable way ahead in fair hybridity
- research funders (outside and inside universities) include the **cost** of open access to peer reviewed publications in their arrangements (not just the principle)

# international road map wanted

- OA globally indispensable
- transition cannot follow same route by the same speed everywhere
- so variety is key, yet the destination should be clear and be embraced (by the whole research community at least)
- and let's please avoid fighting over best concepts in stead of working for good progressive implementations