



New trends in Scholarly Communication: how do Authors of different research communities consider OA ?

Valentina Comba
Marialaura Vignocchi
University of Bologna – Italy

IFLA Satellite Meeting 17: Oslo, August 13 2005

From the Budapest Manifesto to the Open Access Impact

- The Budapest Manifesto has been the “tip of the iceberg” of a diffuse uneaseness about the cost of the electronic journals and the copyright business at the end of the nineties
- For a long time librarians and Institutions have been denouncing the fact that universities and research institutions were paying three times the researchers publications:
 - First, supporting the Authors research
 - Second, when paying researchers who carry out editorial work for commercial journals
 - Third, when buying access, subscriptions, reprints and photocopies

From the Budapest Manifesto to the Open Access Impact

The debate was very hard, opposing the open access supporters and the commercial publishers

The key topics were:

- The quality of papers in the Open Archives and Institutional Repositories
- The Open Access business model sustainability
- The Authors rights and the permissions to self archive their papers



From the Budapest Manifesto to the Open Access Impact

From hard discussions and contrasts to a “shift in tone”:

- Open Access has started to prove its positive influence on the research impact
- Open Access may be considered an opportunity by the Learned Societies publishers
- Open access may offer a sustainable economic model
- Open Access may not increase digital divide between developing countries and wealthier ones

...new awareness about social aspects

- new consciousness about our Users' "double personality": as Authors and as Readers
- The role of Authors along they career changes. Authors as gatekeepers of science journals and peer evaluation
- Authors of different research communities consider OA in different ways
- Librarians' involvement in the business of e-publishing made them aware of social aspects

A key factor

We discovered that a **key factor** for marketing the new e-publishing services and promote Open Access within our Institutions is to approach the different scholar communities in the right way.

Authors' behaviour in scholarly communication: Astronomers

- A quite small community divided into sub-communities
- They normally rely on a twofold channel of communication:
 - Open Archives: Arxiv – Babbage
 - peer reviewed commercial journals (about 50-60 titles)

NASA ADS free access bibliographic database with linking and citation counting services

- Recent articles have reviewed the major impact of open published articles:
 - GJ Schwarz RC Kennicutt, Jr *Demographic and citation trends in Astrophysical journal papers and preprints*
 - TS Metcalfe *The rise and citation impact of astro-ph in major journals*

Strong key factor for the Astronomers community:

- They are a small community and strictly control their scholarly journals and proceedings

Weakness factor:

- They must work in a well funded Department or Astronomical Observatory to get a sufficient budget to carry out their research

Path of publication: Open Archives-> Peer Reviewed Journals

Multiple Authorship

Authors' behaviour in scholarly communication:

Computer Scientists

- Computer Scientists are a large community
- They follow a standard publication path:
presentation of their papers in a conference->proceedings
publication in a high quality peer reviewed journal (i.e. ACM, IEEE)
- NCSTRL: disciplinary preprints server. Usually authors put papers on their web personal page.
- It is important to point out that their papers are single (max two, three Authors) authored, because their model of communication is similar to the Mathematicians'
- They write not only about single experiments-applications etc. but also about standards (i.e. W3C)
- They evaluate papers through Citeseer/ResearchIndex and OpCit and consider more the number than citations/IF
- Reference sources: i.e. DBLP.uni-trier.de

Authors' behaviour in scholarly communication:

Mathematicians

- Mathematicians are a small community
- They have about 300 journals (30% open access) in the area and use BBS
- They deposit preprints in Open Archives (*Front for the Mathematics*, Arxiv)
- *Mpress/MathNetpreprints* server is an umbrella server a meta-search engine that search metadata in a number of preprint servers.
- They have important reference/bibliographic databases: Mathscinet, Math Zentrablatts, MATHDI –ZDM
- As many have pointed out, the creation of a paper on mathematics is a work of a single ...genius (independent from economic, political and cultural context)
- Because of the mathematics research structure, IF is of NO USE (citations date back usually to more than 10 years)

Authors' behaviour in scholarly communication

Biomedical Authors

- Multiple Authorship
- Very large/international communities and sub-communities
- Over 20,000 journals
- Publication in peer reviewed journals highly read (IF)
- Open Archives and Open Access journals are quite a new e-publishing area
- Funding Agency requires Open Access publication (see NIH)
- Authors feel that their articles should be widely read, not only by academic and research communities (particularly in the Evidence Based Medicine context)
- Evidence of more impact of published research
- Too new title/journals (not widely known)
- Lack of Impact Factor
- Institutional pressure
- Ignorance about new opportunities

Research evaluation

- P.O. Seglen: *Why the impact factor of journals should not be used for evaluating research*
- Methods in evaluating research may differ in the Academic Institutions and Health Care and Medical Institutions
- I.e. in Italy there are different evaluation methods for Academic research (Ministry of Education-MIUR) and Health Institutions (Ministry of Health- Ministero della Salute)
- On the average, citations are always considered...
- There are many other indicators that should be used

Open Access Citation Index Group

- Founded at the 3rd OAI Workshop at CERN, Geneva, February 2004

Proposals:

- Review of existing evaluation methods
- Consider other linguistic areas (neglected by ISI)
- Research on OAI PMH applications on evaluation; combining citations with use data

Recent papers about OA journals /OA Archives research stronger impact:

- Brody, Harnad
- Lawrence
- Bollen, Van De Sompel, Smith and Luce
- Antelman

Librarians' role

- Provide all kind of information to users !
- Inform about new e-publishing opportunities
- Support Institutional archives and repositories, disciplinary open archives
- provide user education about e-publishing, citation tools and research evaluation
- support Institutions about new e-publishing services
- inform about new copyright policies (creativecommons)

and also...

catalog open access peer reviewed journals

collect data about papers impact

edit metadata when necessary

survey and control new services costs and promote cooperation

New exciting times.....

....new roles for
librarians
in the digital era !

Thanks for your
attention

