Scholarly Societies and Open Access Publishing

Presentation based on an ongoing project carried out by Peter Suber & Caroline Sutton

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ANKOS Open Journals Panel, April 2008
Why study scholarly societies?

- Scholarly societies have an important historical role in publishing
- Very little available information on the actual experiences of societies who have launched OA journals or transitioned journals to OA
- ALPSP study from 2005 main information available, but now outdated in addition to some limitations
The Study

Phase 1 is to make a comprehensive list of scholarly societies worldwide that support gold OA for their own journals. The journals might be full OA or hybrid OA, and a society's relationship to the journals might be that of owner, publisher, or partner with the publisher. [www.coaction.net/projects/OAsocieties](www.coaction.net/projects/OAsocieties).

Phase 2 will survey the societies identified in Phase 1 in order to learn details about their transition to OA, their business models, and the financial and academic consequences of their OA policies.
Goals

3 Goals:
1. To test the widespread impression that learned societies feel threatened by OA;
2. To learn details from the societies with Gold OA experience that might help those without;
3. To help societies find similarly situated, OA-friendly societies to engage in dialogue with.
Statistics per 17.04.2008
Focusing on Full OA Journals
Total Number of Journals

Full Open Access journals: 517
Hybrid Open Access journals: 76

A total of 593 society journals published in English are linked to Open Access!

An additional minimum of 139 journals can be added to the full OA list if we extend to other languages (Portuguese – 72, Spanish – 63, German – 3, French – 1, Norwegian – 1)
Total Number of Societies

- 469 societies publish 517 full OA journals
- In some cases societies co-operate on journals; there are examples of 3, 5 and even 9 societies involved with one journal
- 11 societies publish the 76 hybrid OA journals
- 3 societies publish both types of journal
- The total number of societies involved in OA publishing is 477
A total of 59 countries and regions are represented among FULL OA journals.

Only 6 countries are represented among hybrid OA journals with the US and UK accounting for 93% of these journals.
### Professional Publishing Partners- Full OA

145 (24%) of the full OA journals are published by professional publishers (staff employed full-time, dedicated to publishing activities)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medknow</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BioMed Central</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copernicus</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hindawi</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLoS</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Co-Action</td>
<td>1</td>
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Of the 55 journals that use a CCL, 50 are published by the professional publishers: BMC, Hindawi, Copernicus, PLoS, Co-Action Publishing
Fees

Submission Fees Only 4
Publication fee/APC only* 100
Both Publ and Sub fee 7
Other 3

Total charging fees 114 (18%)

*Of these, 41 (36%) are published by professional publishers; 43 (38%) are based in Japan. Among UK journals, only 1 journal operates with fees, and these are voluntary. Of the 100 USA journals, only 11 charge fees.
Subscription Revenues

202 (39%) full OA journals also sell a print edition

Of these, 40 journals also charge some kind of fees
# Fields Represented

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Full OA Journals</th>
<th>Hybrid OA Journals</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STM</td>
<td>428</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Sciences</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-Disc</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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83% of Full OA journals are STM, and 97% of Hybrid OA journals are STM.
A Few Questions

- How are societies funding OA? There appear to be various models.

- Are there financial motivations behind the society journals on this list? That is, is the journal a means to generate income for other activities or do other activities generate income for the journal?

- How do societies approach copyright? The actual list contains nearly 300 different varieties of copyright/licensing. Are many societies naive about the issue? Japan and India are leading the way with OA, but Japan demands transfer of copyright across the board, while India largely provides no information.

- Do cultural influences matter as OA moves forward? The cases of Japan and India raise questions, as do the level of full OA in the UK vs. Hybrid.
THANK YOU!