Open Access in Australia: National and Global Perspectives

Colin Steele, Emeritus Fellow
Australian National University
Abstract of Presentation

• Overview of Open Access (OA) developments in Australia - articles, books and data
• Placed within global OA and scholarly communication frameworks
• Academics/researchers caught between the ‘traditional’ metrics of research evaluation and league tables and making their scholarship more widely available
• Can we achieve global access to knowledge with ‘adequate’ recompense for the costs of publishing?
Who should control knowledge? Academics? Publishers? Or, in an online world, should it be freely available?

Dr Rupert Gatti argues that academic copyright no longer serves scholarship.

Illustration Alex Green
Universal Access to Knowledge?

Nearly all Australian institutional research is publicly funded

- But the majority of its published research work is behind subscription paywalls
- Most published articles are relatively little read or cited
- But “publish or perish” pressures increasing
- Who takes responsibility for scholarly communication?
- Embed repositories in institutional research management
2020 - Multinational STM Publishers?

Doug McClure and Bobby Parr in "The Land That Time Forgot" 1974

You try telling it that it's supposed to be extinct!
Green and Gold Open Access

• **GOLD open access** is publication, normally in a journal, but could be a monograph, that allows free access through payment by funder, research councils, institution, author, etc

• **GREEN open access** is ‘self’-archiving of articles. This may be in institutional or subject-specific repositories.
The Australian Government Policy

• The Australian Government has made a significant commitment to the development of a successful digital economy

• Open government approach, aimed at providing better access to government held information and also to the outputs of government funded research

• Recent Australian election has left overall future of OA a little uncertain!
AusGOAL

- AusGOAL, the Australian Governments Open Access and Licensing Framework, provides support and guidance to government and related sectors to facilitate OA to publicly funded information
- AusGOAL makes it possible for organisations to manage their risks when publishing information and data in a way that drives innovation and entrepreneurial activities
- AusGOAL supports the Australian Information Commissioners Open Access Principles
Australian Information Commissioners
OA Principles

• The Principles on open public sector information form part of a core vision for government information management in Australia
• Rest on the democratic premise that public sector information is a national resource available for community access and use
Research Councils OA

• ARC and NHMRC

• “The Australian Government makes a major investment in research to support its essential role in improving the wellbeing of our society

• To maximise the benefits from research, publications resulting from research activities must be disseminated as broadly as possible to allow access by other researchers and the wider community”
Australian Research Councils OA Implementation

• NHMRC policy announced – 1 July 2012
• Journal article to be deposited in 12 months
• ARC article policy from 1 January 2013, but they cover all outputs, including books
• OA Books probably not available till after 2016/17
• Maintain research data and strongly encourage depositing in “appropriate publicly accessible subject to institutional repository”
Australian Research Council

- Not quite the 2014 UK Research Evaluation Framework on impact but:
- ARC now requiring grant applicants to provide 75-word statements defined as:
  - “the demonstrable contribution that research makes to the economy, society, culture, national security, public policy or services, health, the environment, or quality of life, beyond contributions to academia”
- Slowly working through OA futures
- Global Research Councils CEO meeting China
ARC/CAUL OA Policy Survey 2014

- 29 universities responded
- Advocacy and awareness training essential, especially for copyright, licensing and IP issues
- Clear guidelines required on compliance monitoring of ARC rulings
- General support for the research data agenda
- Continuing dialogue with all players required, especially academics re publishing practices
Open Access to Research Data Australia

- Supports “public access to as much publicly funded research data as can be provided within the constraints of privacy, copyright and technology”
- Research Data Australia, http://researchdata.ands.org.au
ANZ University Repositories

• All Australian universities have a repository but with 5 different software systems
• By end of 2013, estimated 268,110 OA items in Australian and New Zealand university repositories, including digital theses
• See major article- *Open-access repositories worldwide, 2005-2012*: Stephen Pinfield et al
  • [http://eprints.whiterose.ac.uk/76839/](http://eprints.whiterose.ac.uk/76839/)
  • “Globally, repositories are predominantly institutional, multidisciplinary and English-language-based”
• Align repository networks globally. Rome March 2014
QUT Repository – Australian Leader

- QUT ePrints is the top ranked institutional repository
- 9th in the world in *Ranking Web of Repositories*
- May 2014, 29,777 full-text publications in the repository, (85% OA)
- For the past 12 months, the monthly download total has exceeded 250,000
- The cumulative total number of downloads is now more than 13.6 million; 98% from an external IP address
- New Zealand repositories, May 2014, have 55,540 items, significant OA proportion
Future Repository Musts

• Maximise benefits through researcher profiles and dashboards
• Connect to researchers workflow and institutional research management
• Analytic reports and article level metrics
• Top downloads of the week, month and year
• Use of the OA button
• Academic advocacy
Australian Open Access Support Group

- Website: [http://aoasg.org.au](http://aoasg.org.au) – best site for Australian OA information
- AOASG is a consortial university group operating through libraries - paying no more than $8,000 pa.
- Small amount compared to their annual serial subscriptions costs
- AOASG averages 140 views per day from Canada, New Zealand, Australia and UK (as at May 6)
- Contact: Dr Danny Kingsley Email: eo@aoasg.org.au
CAUL Open Scholarship

• Collaborating with researchers, research institutions and publishers to raise awareness of OA publishing
• Working with researchers and others to enable appropriate OA to both their published works and primary research data
• Advocating and implementing policies to ensure fair use of copyrighted information for educational and research purposes
ALIA Open Access Statement

• Raising awareness of OA benefits:
• Authors from increased visibility, usage and impact of their work
• Publishers from increased visibility and increased readership
• The nation from greater dissemination of knowledge
• Green OA for ALIA scholarly journals. Taylor and Francis current agreement
Open Access Monographs

• Australia a world leader in this area - a fact often overlooked by northern hemisphere OA commentators. North-South divide?
• Preceded Knowledge Unlatched, Open Library of the Humanities and US publishing initiatives
• Relevant presses operated through university libraries in Australia, as part of scholarly communication infrastructure
• 79% of ARL libraries have publishing programs
Australia OA Monograph Statistics - ANU

- ANU E Press founded in 2003 for digital OA monographs of ANU research
- Relaunched in 2014 as ANU Press as digital now the norm but POD available at cost
- 500th OA title, January 2014
- ANU Press publications 2013: 47 books, 11 journal issues (from 6 OA journals) and 5 ANU eView publications
- 2014 figures forecast to be similar
ANU Press 2

• Average sale of an academic monograph usually now estimated at 200 to 350 print copies
• BUT ANU Press had 910,159 complete or partial downloads of Press books in 2013
• February 2014: first ANU eText book *The Joy of Sanskrit*
• OA text books linking with ANU OA online courses - MOOC support implications
ANU Press Outreach

• All ANU E Press titles are lodged with Google Books and Scholar, Amazon.com, National Library of Australia
• Uploads into university library catalogues (MARC records), WorldCat, Libraries Australia, Thomson Reuters book citation index, JSTOR, Directory of Open Access Books, and more
• Number of press downloads a useful metric
The options—ANU E Press

ANU E Press
peer-reviewed research publications

ANU eTEXT
open access electronic textbooks

ANU eView
non-refereed University publications

ANU Digital Collections
safe, permanent, accessible
Other ‘New’ Australian University Presses

- Monash, Sydney, University of Technology and Adelaide – with ANU – published in 2013 double (98) the number of academic monographs than the ‘established’ presses of Melbourne, UWA, Queensland and UNSW combined.
- Adelaide had 24 OA books- 2013-14 –with 200,000 downloads.
- Sydney had 6 OA books 2013 to May 2014.
Young Researchers: A Cry for OA but …
Open Access And Research Evaluation/Impact

- Major problem for young academics who have to play by the publishing rules for appointments, promotion and tenure
- Changing publishing practice from historical models runs headlong into current conservative ‘print’ models of research evaluation and university league tables
- Major rewards for publishing in high prestige journals from China to Cambridge
Scholarly Communication Frameworks Still In The Horse and Buggy Era?
S&E articles, by selected country/region/economy: 1997–2011

NOTE: Asia total includes China, India, and Japan.
SEI 2014: S&E Article Output, Chapter 5.
Does The Publishing Industry Wag The Academic Dog?

• No one denies there is a cost to publishing, but it is the nature of the profits by multi-national publishers, and the lack of transparency in costs that is the concern
• See 2014 Freedom of Information figures in UK for Elsevier subscription costs: 14.4 million pounds by 19 Russell Group Universities
• Issues on ‘double dipping’ still to be resolved – payment for the same article through subscriptions and then Gold APC OA in UK
Gold Open Access - in UK the Finch Report Widened the Campus Debate
Changing Scholarly Communications Ecosystems - The Open Academy?

- Libraries to play increasing role, with university research offices in the creation, distribution of and access to their institutional research output
- Promote the benefits of repositories through institutional advocacy, especially in publishing and copyright practice, as well as the adoption of appropriate policies/mandates
- Librarians must lobby the political decision makers and interact directly with researchers
Let’s Get Political
“I’m saying all the things that I know you’ll like
Making good OA conversation
You gotta know that you’re bringing out
The OA animal in me
I took you to an intimate repository
Now there’s nothing left to talk about
Unless it’s horizontally

Let’s get political, political, I wanna get political, let’s get political, Let me hear your OA publications talk
Your publications talk, let me hear your publications talk”
Australian Conclusions

• Colin Steele ‘Open Access in Australia’. An Odyssey of Sorts UKSG Insights 26/3 2013 282-289

• Increasing but still slow involvement of the academic community with OA. Much misunderstanding as to the nature of OA, particularly in the humanities
• Lack of knowledge in copyright ownership a key issue
• Lack of Australian government coordination/responsibility for scholarly communication
National Scholarly Communications Forum - Cross Sectoral Body

- The National Scholarly Communications Forum (NSCF) is a body sponsored by Australia's four Learned Academies.
- Organised forums since 1993 for relevant SC issues.
- Eg: OA monographs 2013 and The Value of Humanities Conference August 2014.
- BUT NSCF can only advise not implement.
- Presentations recorded on web.
Reaching the land of OA seems indisputably a goal that will enhance democratisation and contribute to building a better society.

However, the route we take to get there must be carefully planned or we may end up in a place that does not meet our expectations.


Repositories a battle ground in research driven or publisher driven futures?
Tom Leonard
Berkeley, Calif.
Ultimately, “it’s not the strongest species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the ones most responsive to change”. Charles Darwin (Gerald Coppin, *Nature Publishing*, 2005)
When Will Be The OA Tipping Point?
Thank You