



THE SCHOLARLY PUBLISHING
& ACADEMIC RESOURCES COALITION
21 Dupont Circle NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 296-2296
www.arl.org/sparc

SPARC: An Evolving Agenda

Heather Joseph
Executive Director

The Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources
Coalition

About SPARC

- Active coalition of academic & research libraries (200 in North America + 100 in Europe)
- Initiative to correct market imbalances in the scholarly communication system.
- At the core of SPARC's mission is the belief that these imbalances inhibit the advancement of scholarship and are at odds with fundamental needs of scholars and the academic enterprise.

SPARC's Mission

- SPARC was formed specifically to be a catalyst for action. Its pragmatic agenda stimulates emergence of new systems that:
 - expand dissemination of research
 - reduce financial pressures on libraries.
 - leverage the networked digital environment to serve scholarship
- SPARC collaborates with other stakeholders, and provides practical assistance to innovative scholarly communication initiatives.

SPARC's Strategy

SPARC's strategy aims to advance an **open system of scholarship** by reducing barriers to access, sharing, and use of scholarship - and in particular, scientific research.

A Focus on Open Access

- Immediate free electronic availability of research that scholars produce without expectation of payment
- *A vision* of scholarly communication in the networked digital environment where:
 - user toll barriers to research access are eliminated
 - potential usage is maximized
 - the value of research is more fully realized
 - dysfunctions in the legacy system are addressed
- An *access* model, not a *business* model

SPARC's Program Areas

- **Educating** stakeholders about the problems facing scholarly communication and the opportunities for change;
- **Incubating** real-world demonstrations of business and publishing models that advance changes benefiting scholarship and academe;
- **Advocating** policy changes that support use of technology to advance scholarly communication, and recognize that dissemination is an essential inseparable component of the research process

Advocacy Programs

*Why
open
access?*

**Societal Benefits
Develop Public Policy**

**SCHOLARLY
COMMUNICATION SYSTEM**

**Market Forces
Grassroots Efforts**

*How
open
access?*
www.arl.org/sparc

Current Activities - Advocacy

Advocacy

- National Institute of Health (NIH) Public Access Policy - targeted work to ensure successful implementation.
 - Goals of the policy: access, archive, advancement of science, accountability.
 - Current implementation: requests deposit of final manuscript within one year of publication.

Current Activities - Advocacy

Advocacy

- U.S. Public Access legislation
- US Center for Cures Bill (introduced Dec 05)
- Proposed public access to research act
 - Spans 10 major research agencies with \$100m+ research budgets.
 - Requires deposit of final manuscript within six months of publication

Advocacy Program - Coalitions

- Develop internal “networks” of libraries poised for specific actions
- Establish larger, external coalition of library organizations similarly poised to act
 - OWAG - ALA, ARL, SLA, ACRL, etc.
- Deploy issue-specific coalitions with membership beyond academic community
 - The Alliance for Taxpayer Access

Current Activities - Incubation

- **Publishing Cooperatives** - discussion paper to be released this Spring
 - Discussion
 - Beta test projects
- **Partnerships**
 - New Open Access journals
 - Encourage and support Open Data projects
 - Data driven scholarship models
 - Provide business planning expertise

Current Activities - Education

- **International Workshop** on Institutional Repositories
 - “Open Data” groundwork
- **“Create Change”** revision with ARL
 - Move to a faculty-focused campaign
 - “Support Change” campaign?
- **Authors Rights Campaign** - working in partnership with Science Commons
 - Provide support for SPARC Authors Addendum program

SPARC's Current Challenge

Current Challenge:

Working to balance a focused and aggressive public policy strategy with key market-based activities.

What is SPARC?

“SPARC is hope and power and action through collaboration....”

- James Neal, *Vice President of Information Services and University Librarian, Columbia University. Chair, SPARC Steering Committee, 2003-2005*

Contact SPARC

The Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources
Coalition (SPARC)

21 Dupont Circle

Suite 800

Washington DC 20036

202 296 2296

www.arl.org/sparc