Scholarly Communications Crisis: Setting the Context

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The Issues (1)

- Finance
- IPR
- SPARC and SPARC Europe
- Public Library of Science
- Digital Preservation
- Advocacy campaigns
- Open Archiving Initiative (OAI)
The Issues (2)

• International Scholarly Communications Alliance (ISCA)

• Manifesto for action!
Periodical price increases mapped against the RPI
Finance (2)

- Commercial publishers are predominantly interested in profit margins
- ‘We can talk about anything but profit’ – Derk Haank
- Librarians have not sold their case well in the past!
- Dialogue starting but difficult
Finance (3)

• What model best suits a CURL library?
  – ‘All you can eat deal’
  – Paper bundled with electronic access?
  – Tiered model? Now to be tested by CURL with Blackwells Science

• VAT a big problem for a move to electronic only delivery
IPR (1)

- *The model:*
- Academics/researchers are paid to produce research
- IPR is handed over to commercial publishers
- Universities buy it back in journal subscriptions
• Universities coming to a resolution about local IPR arrangements – which are not identical

• CURL has composed a questionnaire on IPR for the Russell Group Vice-Chancellors to map local arrangements
IPR (3)

- CURL is trying to lobby the Funding Councils
- Library Committee of the Welcome Trust to discuss the question tomorrow!
- CURL is trying to get statements about free access to IPR written into the Letters of Grant from Funding Agencies
SPARC

• SPARC
• Set up by ARL in the U.S.
• Produces electronic journals at a fraction of the cost
• Some Editorial Boards have moved wholesale to SPARC
PLoS (1)

- Public Library of Science
- Campaign by academics and researchers
- Current publishing model is questioned
- Commercial publishers are calling our bluff
PLoS (2)

• What is the next step?
• PLoS to launch new electronic journal/suite of journals
• But how many are needed to make an impact?
Digital Preservation (1)

• Digital Preservation is a principal constraint in the new e-economy
• No-one is doing it
• Reed Elsevier is in discussion with international libraries over trusted repositories
• CURL CEDARS project a good exemplar
Digital Preservation (2)

• Digital Preservation Coalition launched at the Houses of Parliament
• A principal aim is to foster debate and to attribute responsibilities for digital archiving
• We need action!! Not just words
Advocacy campaigns (1)

• Librarians are on the whole converted!

• Sir Brian Follett says the escalating costs in periodical subscriptions are marginal to a university

• Academics see periodical inflation rates as a problem only for the Library
Advocacy campaigns (2)

- CURL has devoted Jan.-April 2002 to a national advocacy campaign
- We are trying to reach academics and Subject/Liaison Librarians
- You have an enormously important local role to play!
- Partnership between Library and academics is vital
Open Archiving

- Open Archive Initiative
- Pre-print servers to archive papers
- Subject-based or institution-based?
- What is the role of refereeing?
OAI: SHERPA (1)

- CURL-led project for the community
- Bid submitted to JISC
- Outputs
  - Collaboration with MIMAS at Manchester as a long-term digital store
  - Service servers set up at CURL exemplar sites
OAI: SHERPA (2)

- Nottingham (lead); White Rose partnership (Leeds, Sheffield, York); British Library; Glasgow, Edinburgh; Oxford, MIMAS
- Advocacy to academics at these sites
- Consultancy service to all other CURL institutions on setting up OAI servers
- Architecture will enable all CURL institutions and others to join within the 3 years of the project, if funded
ISCA (1)

• International Scholarly Communications Alliance
  – A CURL initiative comprising library consortia in US, Canada, UK and Ireland, the rest of Europe, Hong Kong, Japan, Australia and New Zealand

• Global problems require global solutions
ISCA (2)

• Press release launched in early 2002; covered in the UK by the THES

• A joint work plan now being prepared:
  – Globalise the SPARC brand
  – Share advocacy materials
  – Commission research
Manifesto for Action (1)

• Train all Subject/Liaison Librarians in the issues
  – How is that best done in your own institution?

• Establish a web presence
  – Cf. Glasgow’s excellent website at http://www.gla.ac.uk/createchange/
Manifesto for Action (2)

• Is Scholarly Communication the correct title for this? 
• Launch local Advocacy campaigns to engage academics, subject by subject 
• Make sure that the Research Support Libraries Group takes the issue seriously
Questions and Discussion

• And now over to you…