



Scholarly Journal Publishing: the 2006 Baseline Report

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Scholarly Communications and the UK Science Base

- Successes of the UK research base
 - “The UK science base is one of the most productive and influential systems of publicly-funded research in the world”
Science and Innovation Investment Framework 2004-2014
 - Second only to US in global scientific excellence as measured by citations
 - UK leads G7 in productivity of its research base
 - c. 8.5% share of world publications in science

- Continuing success of research base an essential element in Government strategy to improve the UK’s R&D and innovation performance
 - Greater connection sought between research and the UK economy and society

Efficiency of the Scholarly Communications System

- Critical role of the scholarly communications system in supporting both research and innovation
- Marginal increases in efficiency of communication could have dramatic effects on impact of research on the innovation system
 - benefits for UK on lowest assumptions (for Govt R&D spend only) of \$171m
 - benefits for UK on mid-range assumptions (for all R&D spend) of \$3.6bn

Why did we commission this study?

- Jointly commissioned by RIN, RCUK, and DTI
- Shared interest in supporting and promoting
 - the UK research community
 - the UK research and innovation “ecosystem”
 - the most effective scholarly communications system to underpin them
- Need for a solid and reliable evidence base for policy-development

How did we commission and run the study?

- Competitive tender won by EPS in collaboration with Loughborough University
- *Active* oversight of Expert Group chaired by Professor Jeffrey Aronson, with representatives of
 - research funders
 - academic librarians
 - publishers
- Aim to produce an authoritative account of the current state of knowledge

Why did we think such a study necessary?

- Debates and developments in open access
- RCUK position statement and the four principles
 - Ideas and knowledge derived from publicly-funded research must be made available and accessible for public use, interrogation and scrutiny, as widely, rapidly and effectively as practicable.
 - Published research outputs must be subject to rigorous quality assurance, through effective peer review mechanisms.
 - The models and mechanisms for publication and access to research results must be both efficient and cost-effective in the use of public funds.
 - The outputs from current and future research must be preserved and remain accessible for future generations.
- Endorsement of the principles not matched by agreement on their implications
- Lack of a shared and agreed evidence base

Scholarly Communications

- A complex system with an interlocking set of purposes
 - Quality assurance, through peer review
 - Registration, recognition and reward
 - Presentation, publication and dissemination
 - Search, navigation and access
 - Assessing and evaluating usage and impact
 - Long-term preservation and access
- Changing roles of key groups of players
 - Researchers as publishers
 - Publishers as hosters of content, providers of search and navigation
 - Librarians as service providers (what services?)

Public Policy Goals

- Effective scholarly communications system to support a world-class UK research base
- Encourage experimentation and innovation
- Speedy access to research outputs, with as few restrictions as possible
- Appropriate market environment, with fair competition, and support for effective partnership between providers in public, commercial and charitable sectors
- Systematic evidence on performance of the UK research base, and on the functioning of the scholarly communications system itself

How has the Report been Received?

- 1250 downloads
- Presentation at Frankfurt Book Fair
 - Publishers' concern about report's findings on access difficulties
- Critique from Stevan Harnad in *Open Access Archivangelism* blog
- Articles in THES, Information World Review

Findings: Key Gaps

- **Market Volume and Value**
 - customers beyond the HE sector; sizing and segmentation of the market
- **Costs**
 - Make-up of publisher costs; research community costs
- **Usage**
 - Usage at the article level (but note CIBER work on log analysis); how researchers use articles once accessed
- **Citations, Impact Factors**
 - Consistent longitudinal data; analyses taking account of all relevant factors
- **New Models**
 - Funding and money flow implications; impact on subscriptions

Purpose of Today

- Are the findings reliable?
- What are the key lessons to be drawn from them?
- What, if any, are the implications for the development of public policy?
- What are the key gaps in the evidence base, and how might they best be filled?