

# **Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) – from a promising project to an important service**

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# Agenda

- Brief History & Purpose
- Content/Usage/Services provided
- Selection – editorial work
- Collaboration
- Plans for further development
- Funding
- Funding of open access services and the role of libraries



# Brief history

- The idea emerged during the [NCSC](#) conference in Lund October 2002
- Initially supported by [Open Society Institute](#) and a minor grant from [SPARC](#) US
- Project started January 2003
- Service launched 12<sup>th</sup> of May 2003 with 300 journals listed



# Purpose

- **Developing & maintaining a list of Open Access journals to facilitate**
  - **Libraries & Aggregators** to integrate OA-journals in their catalogues and services
  - **OA-publishers** to increase the visibility of their journals
  - **End-users** to find OA-articles
  - **Authors** to find a journal to publish in OA



# Selection criteria

- Peer review or editorial control
  - Publishing research and or reviews of research
  - Academic/scholarly community the main target group
  - Journals should be active
  - No embargo



# Definition

- Open Access – the definition:
  - Open access journals = journals that have a **business model** that does not charge readers or their institutions for access.
  - Extensive **usage rights**: From the BOAI definition of "open access" = the right of "users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full text of these articles"



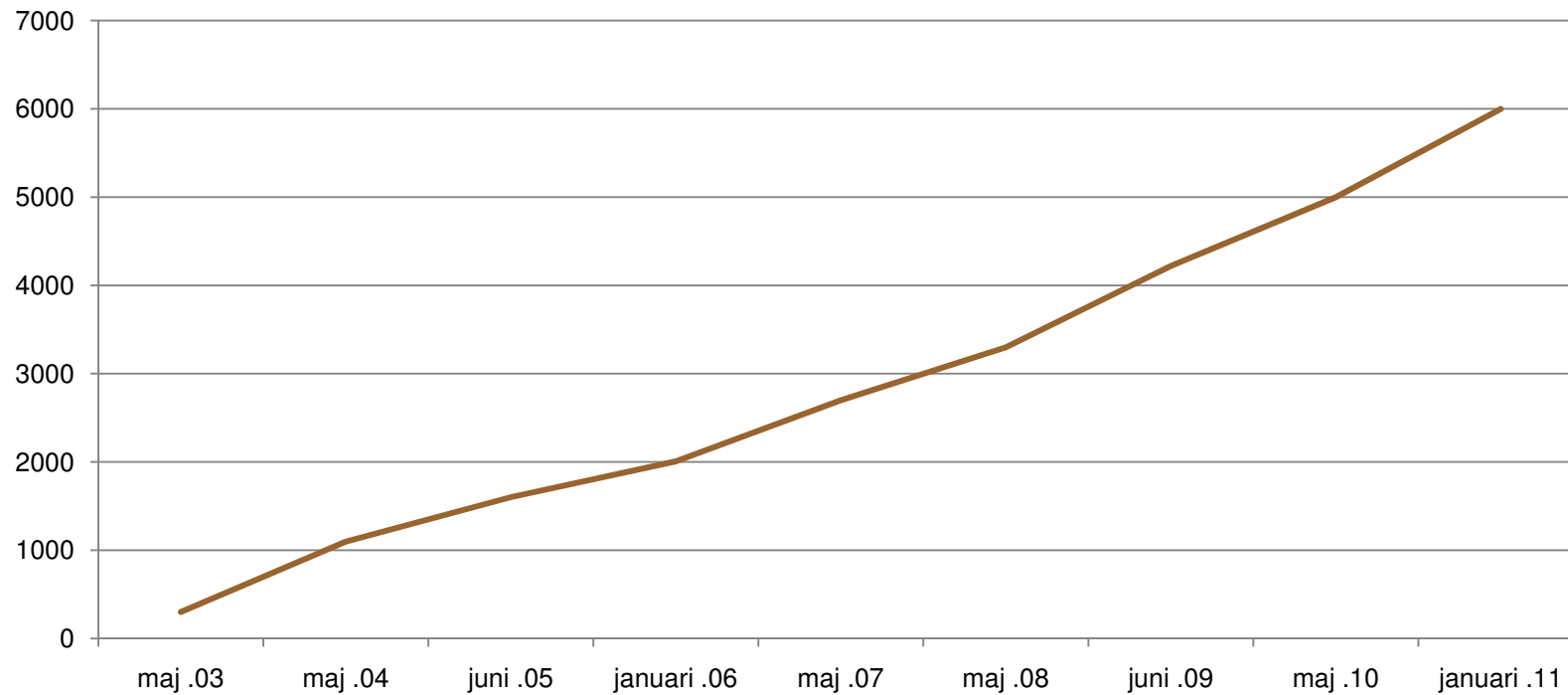
# Content

- June 7th 2011:
  - Journals listed: 6 569
  - Journals with article level metadata 2 926
  - Article level metadata 577 212
- Journals published in 111 countries
- Accepting articles in more than 50 languages



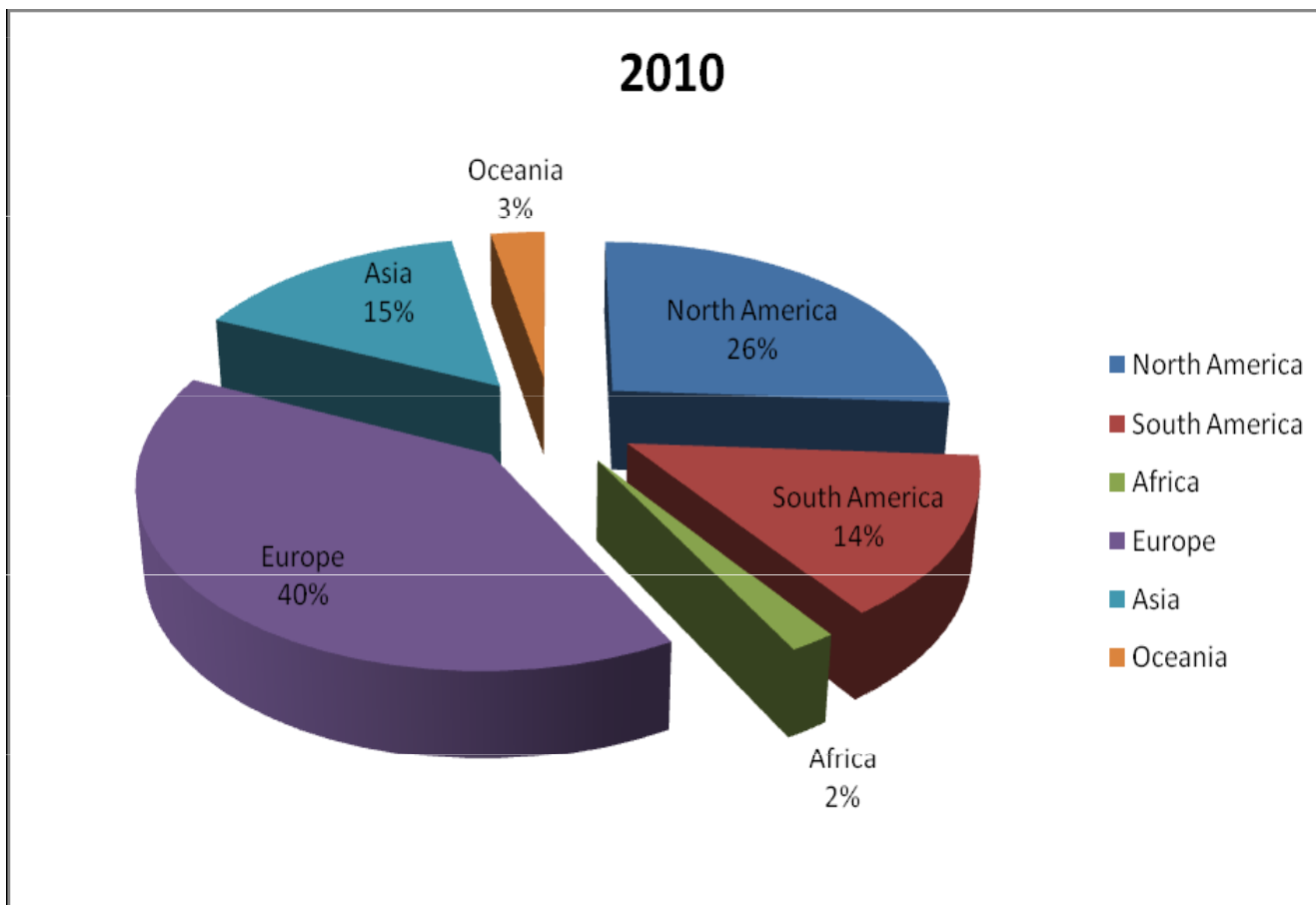
# Steady growth

## Number of journals in DOAJ





# Geographical spread 2010



# Direct usage from the DOAJ-site:

- Every month visits from 160+ countries
- Millions of visitors each month
- Visits from OAI-harvesters substantial



# Usage May 2011

- Successful requests 13 500 000
- Daily average 435 000
- Redirected requests 4 225 000
- Distinct hosts served 213 000
- Data transferred (OAI-PMH) 162 Gb



# Services and current projects

- Uploading of article level metadata so that the journal becomes searchable on article level
- SPARC Europe seal for OA journals  
(<http://www.doaj.org/doaj?func=sealedJournals&uiLanguage=en>)
- The long term preservation project
- Collaboration (translation and pre-evaluation of journals for inclusion)



# Back office

- Candidates for inclusion:
  - Suggestions from the community - +150 per month (<http://www.doaj.org/doaj?func=suggest&uiLanguage=en>)
- Collecting information for evaluation against the criteria
- Continuously monitoring for compliance – weeding uncompliant journals
- Harvesting and submitting full text for long term archiving



# Benefits of being indexed in DOAJ

- Global visibility
- Increased usage, citation, impact
- Integrated in OPAC's in many, many libraries
- Commercial service providers are harvesting data for inclusion in their aggregation services
- Feedback from publishers indicate that DOAJ is among the top 5 referral sites



# Collaboration

- SPARC Europe seal for OA journals – improving the functional quality of OA journals – metadata delivery, copyright policy (CC-licenses)
- Long term archiving (Royal Library of the Netherlands)
- Agreements regarding pre-evaluation of journals and translation of the DOAJ-website
  - Couperin, France
  - ANKOS, Turkey
  - ISTIC, China (MOU)
  - HEAL-link, Greece
- 



# Future development and activities:

- Increased support and advice to publishers: article level metadata, usage statistics, copyright policy etc.
- Continue long term archiving – part of the service
- More collaboration: translation and pre-evaluation of journals for inclusion
  
- Article processing charges – submission charges
- Additional (new) metrics
  
- All these things depending on funding from the community





# Funding

- Initial project grant from Open Society Institute + minor contribution from SPARC US
- Special project funding:
  - SPARC Europé SEAL
  - Long term archiving (funded by the Swedish Library Association)
  - Sponsors
  - Membership



# Membership programme

- Fees:
- Universities/research centers etc  
Euro/year 400
- Library consortia 4 000 Euro/year
- Aggregators 5 000 Euro/year
  
- Current members:
- Universities/research centers etc  
100
- Library consortia 15
- Aggregators 5



# Potential new revenue streams for DOAJ

- Existing revenue streams could be exploited more
  - Sponsors & membership
  - Chicken & egg problem – marketing expenses should be justified
- Voluntary contributions from publishers?
  - indications that the benefits of being listed are actually worth paying for
- Adds?
- Added services could attract new target groups
  - Research funders??



# Funding of OA-services

- Nature of OA-services:
  - Free of charge for all
- Funding of such services is tricky – why support/pay for services that those who do not support get for free anyway?
- The special role of librarians, libraries & library organizations??



# The role of libraries

- Librarians and libraries is heavily engaged in OA-activities.
- Especially on the local institutional level:
  - Developing and managing institutional repositories (green OA)
  - Advocating for OA
  - Providing publishing support (OJS etc)
  - Setting up funds for paying for researchers publication fees
  - etc.



# Open Access has momentum!

- Librarians, libraries and library associations has from the outset been the driving force in the OA movement!
- Now universities, university associations, research centers, research funders, governments and international organizations are onboard as well!
- We all want to see OA become reality!
- We won the argument!
- Now we have to work (more) together.
- What can we do? What should we do?



# The two tracks! – not green or gold

- Libraries and library consortia are very much engaged in negotiating license agreements with commercial publishers – the big deals!
- The big deals has made it possible for libraries to provide much better, much faster and user friendly services to their end users, but ...
- the big deals conserves a publishing system that is unfair, biased and unsustainable and
- at the same time we want OA to become reality!



# Bring the tracks together!

- Libraries have organized themselves in consortia to negotiate with publishers
- Libraries must as well organize to support OA.
- It is not enough just to talk about OA
- We must support those who work for the same cause we work for!
  
- We must support projects, initiatives, organisations and services working for OA!





# Support those who work for our cause!

- Organizations working for OA (incomplete list):
  - SPARC US/Europé, COAR, OASPA – become members
- Publishers: PLoS, BMC, Hindawi, Copernicus, Co-Action, BioLine etc. - Provide institutional membership with discounts on article processing fees
- Service providers: Archiv, OpenDOAR, DOAJ – become members
  
- They need more support!



# 1%

- Imagine if library consortia allocate 1% of their turnover to support international OA-organizations, initiatives and services.
- This would make a lot of difference!!
- Do it!



## Thanks to our Sponsors:



# And thanks to DINI for covering my costs

- Credits to the DOAJ-Team:
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- Sonja Brage
- Linnea Stensson
  
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