Open Access in the Scientific Discourse:

Achievements & Perspectives

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Outline

Overview

> motivation & development

Open Discourse in the Humanities

cultural heritage & epistemic web

Open Discourse in the Sciences

multi-stage open peer review

Conclusions

vision & propositions

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Motivation of Open Access

Scientific, educational & economic advantages of free online availability & usability of (publicly funded) research publications.

Educational:

- inform & stimulate interested public (school teachers, students, et al.)
- equal opportunities in the information society (global & social)
- re-integrate scholarly & common knowledge (wikipedia, etc.)

Economic & Technological:

- Iberate distorted scientific information market (prod., distrib., copyright, archiving)
- facilitate technological applications & innovations (text mining by SME, etc.)

Scientific:

- enhance interdisciplinary exchange & collaboration
- foster discussion & peer review (public commenting, etc.)
- advance evaluation & quality assurance (machine-reading & statistics, transparency & new metrics beyond citation counting oligopoly)

Open Access & Quality Assurance

Open Access is not a threat to scientific quality assurance

but an (urgently needed) opportunity for improvement.

Traditional Peer Review: compatible with OA

successful OA journals with traditional & refined review procedures: New J. Phys., Living Reviews, BMJ, BMC Medicine, PLOS Biology, Frontiers, eLife, et al.

Information for Reviewers: augmented by OA

easy & interdisciplinary access to relevant publications

Public Review & Interactive Discussion: enabled by OA

exchange across & between scientific communities:
ACP/EGU, Economics e-journal, Biology Direct, F1000 Research, et al.

Post-Publication Review & Evaluation: enhanced by OA

transparent & comprehensive analyses of article contents & impact (diversity, no oligopoly): Article Level Metrics (ALM): downloads, views, citations, scientific & social media, ...

Predatory OA Publishers: side-issue, transition problem & red herring

Iow quality outlets not new but attracted by "OA vacuum"; OASPA vs. Beall's list ...

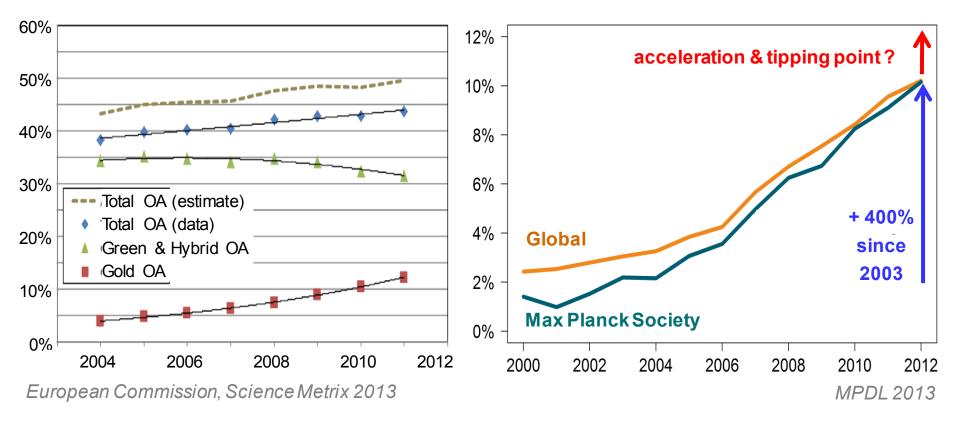
OA Archiving & Publishing

OA Archiving ("Green OA"):

~30+X % of recent peer-reviewed publications, delays & limits in usability & sustainability

OA Publishing ("Gold OA"):

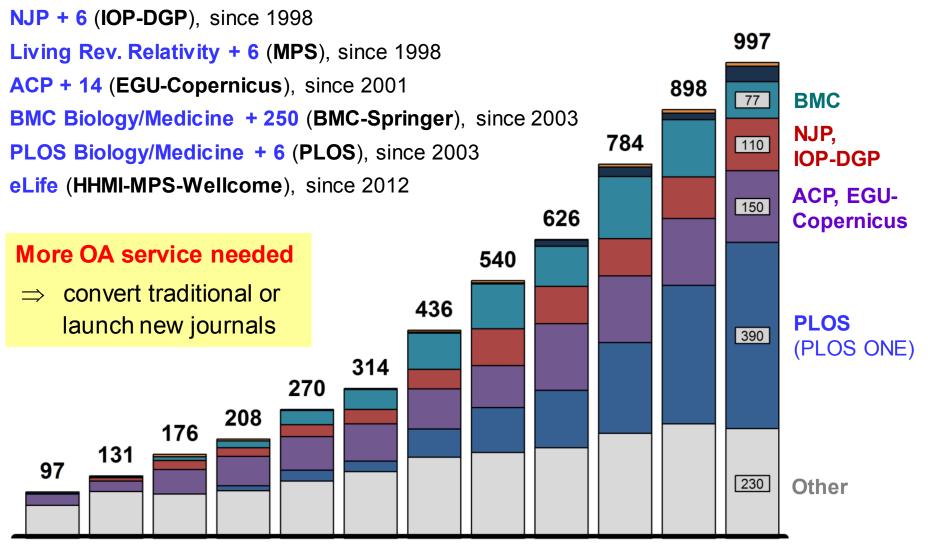
~10+X %, immediate & full benefit, sustainable



Percentage OA Publishing ≈ Percentage OA Journals (WoS: 1500 of 12000) ⇒ OA publishing & increase limited by availability of OA journals (with high quality)

OA Publishing @ Max Planck Society

Major Journals & Publishers



2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012

OA Endorsement by Alfred Nobel et al.

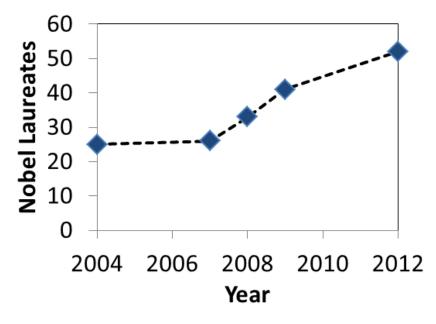


2013 Nobel Prize in Physiology/Medicine to Randy Schekman, Editor-in-Chief of eLife

Similar boost for other initiatives:

- Paul Crutzen for ACP/EGU (since 2001)
- Harold Varmus for PLoS (since 2003)
- ➢ Increasing number of Nobel Laureates publicly signing OA support letters to US Congress (2004 → 2012: 25 → 52)

Reflect top quality & wide spread of OA



Suber, Blog Post 2013-04-20

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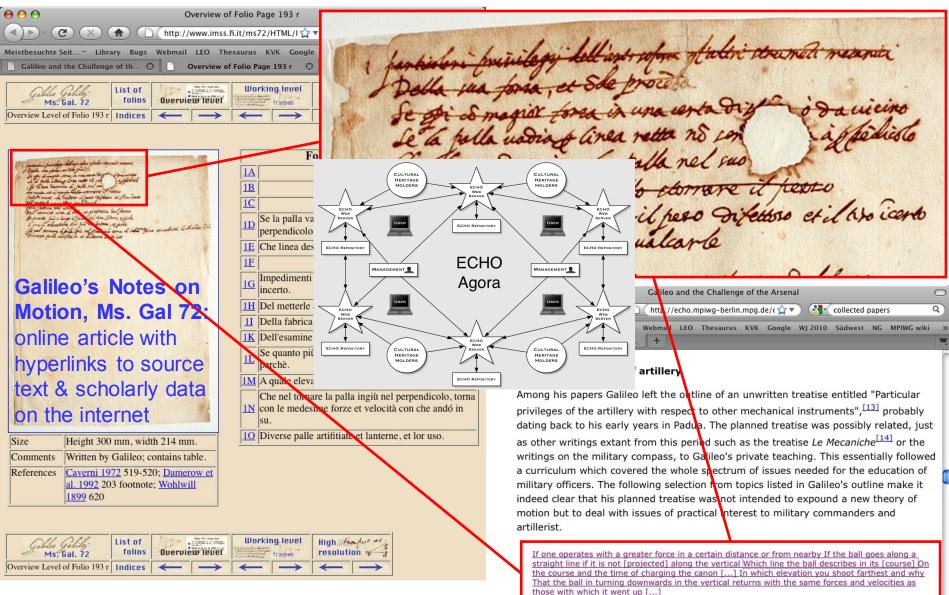
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Distributed Sources, Studies, Annotations & Links



OA essential for epistemic web = universal & traceable web of knowledge

Renn et al., MPIWG 2013

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Scientific Peer Review

Traditional peer review is insufficient for efficient quality assurance in today's (highly diverse & rapidly evolving) world of science.

Manuscripts often careless & faulty, diluting rather than generating knowledge

Limited capacities of editors & reviewers; delay & hidden obstruction of scientific exchange & innovation; little incentive & reward for constructive reviews ...

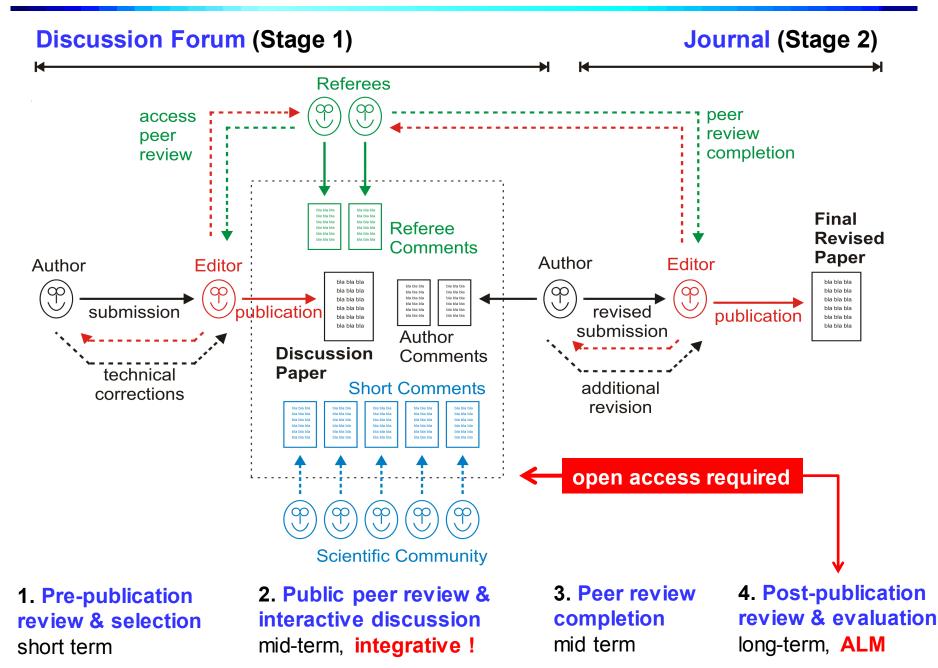
Information loss: review comments & discussion often as interesting as papers

 \Rightarrow waste of reviewer capacities as most limited resource in scientific evaluation

Replacement of traditional pre-publication review & by post-publication commenting not really successful

Evolution into Multi-Stage Open Peer Review: combine & integrate strenghts of traditional peer review with virtues of transparency & self regulation

Multi-Stage Open Peer Review – Interactive OA Publishing



Advantages

All-win situation for community: authors, referees, editors, readers

Discussion Paper

free speech, rapid publication, citable record (authors, readers)

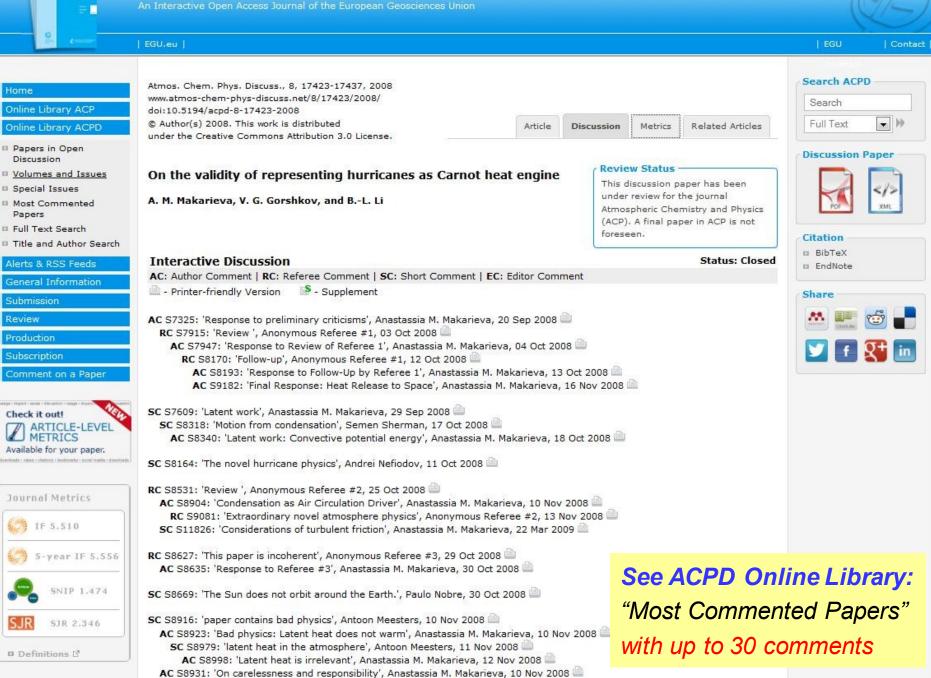
Public Peer Review & Interactive Discussion

- direct feedback & public recognition for high quality papers (authors)
- > prevent hidden obstruction & plagiarism (authors, editors)
- foster & document scientific discourse: critical comments, constructive suggestions, complementary information (authors, referees, readers, editors)
- document controversial arguments & innovations or flaws & misconduct (referees, editors, readers)
- deter submission of weak & false papers (referees, editors)

Final Paper

maximize quality assurance & information density through integration of peer review, public discussion & final revision (readers)





Achievements

Atmospheric Chemistry & Physics (ACP) launched 2001 with P. Crutzen, A. Richter & European Geosciences Union (EGU)

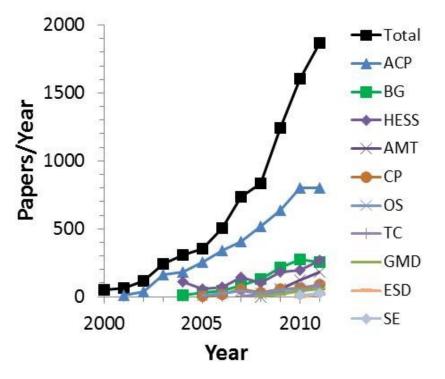
14 EGU sister journals followed: *Biogeosciences, Climate, Hydrology ...*

Large-scale move to OA publishing in geosciences

Concept spread to other communities: e.g., *Economics*, *F1000 Research*, ...

Unique combination:

- top speed: 1+x weeks from submission to citable publication (discussion paper)
- top impact & visibility (across atmospheric, environmental & geosciences)
- large volume (~10% market share)
- Iow rejection rates (~15% vs. ~50%)
- low costs (~1000 EUR/paper) vs. ~2000 EUR/paper)
- fully self-financed & sustainable (incl. review, production, archiving & 10-20% surplus for publisher & society), 2013: ~3000 papers, ~3 MEUR turnover, ~500 kEUR surplus for EGU



Future Perspectives

Muli-Stage Open Peer Review as well-defined but flexible new standard of QA:



Pre-publication review & selection magazine \leftrightarrow critical, repository \leftrightarrow technical

Public peer review & interactive discussion integrative

Peer review completion iterative, optional

Post-publication review & evaluation continued commenting, rating, ALM, ...

Combination & Integration with

- repositories (arXiv.org, PLOS ONE ...)
- living reviews (Schutz et al.)
- rankings & tiers (BE Press Economics)
- article level metrics (SPARC et al.)
- virtual journals & assessment houses (F1000) highlight selections, seal/stamp of approval ...
- **Epistemic Web** (Renn et al.)

Pöschl, Frontiers Neuroscience 2012

Vision

Promotion of scientific & societal progress by open access, public review & interactive discourse in global information commons

Access to high quality scientific publications

review & revision involving the community ⇒ more & better information for scientists & society

Documentation of scientific discourse

public record of scientific evidence, arguments & progress

 \Rightarrow universal & traceable web of knowledge (epistemic web)

Demonstration of transparency & rationalism

transparent & rational approach to complex questions & problems \Rightarrow role model for societal decision processes

Propositions

1) Continue & build on successful recent development

support existing & new OA archiving & publishing pathways

2) Mandate OA archiving for journal papers

- > explicit & specific request: full access & usability (CC BY) after embargo period
- MPS Rules of Good Scientific Practice (2009, Sect.1c): "make research results achieved with public funds freely available wherever possible."

3) Trust the basic principles of mass/energy conservation & evolution

- > OA publishing costs can be covered by conversion of subscription budgets
- subscription journals & publishers can adapt or be replaced

4) Cut journal subscription budgets by 20-30% per year & convert into OA publishing funds

start & pursue concerted international action (2014-2015)

5) Arrive at ~90% OA publishing in 3-5 years

various studies & publisher feedback indicate that tipping point is close