

国立情報学研究所 国立大学図書館協会 共催シンポジウム

「大学からの研究成果オープンアクセス化方針を考える」

ーハーバード大学, レディング大学, 北海道大学を事例にー

A few thoughts on the “contents”; which are to be openly accessed and to whom?

Kenji Kato

(Chief librarian, Shizuoka University Library)



Kenji Kato

OA journal Microbes & Environments and Shizuoka University SURE Repository

Some have made comments; *Microbes & Environments* is a journal published using membership fees of the Japanese Society of Microbial Ecology, to which I belong. It is an open-access journal to which both members and non-members can contribute articles free of charge, and one article can be prepared in a hardcopy and on-line journal for \$1000. Of course, JST is letting us use their server, and that is an important factor. In October 2010, thanks to the zealous efforts of the members, we have finally reached an impact factor of 2.238.(Figure 1) The reason why I used the English word “amounts” was that, in general, with

The reason why I’m here, I guess;

- I was the Editor-in-chief of full open access journal of “Microbes & Environments”, which is sustained by the membership fee of the Japanese Society of Microbial Ecology consisted of just 1,000 members but [charge free both for members and non-members](#).
- “Microbes & Environments” gets IF from Thomson & Reuters this year and it amounts 2.238.
- [Publishing cost per paper is 1000 USD!!](#)
- A great point of [Shizuoka University’s repository](#) is; 55% of professors contribute to “SURE”, and recapture ratio of papers published from international journals amounts over 12% (3.7% for Japan).
- But, today I want to talk.....

(Figure 1) The reason why I’m here, I guess;

the exception of molecular biology, a number above two is considered to be good. Then, too, Shizuoka

University is a regional university with 10,000 students and 700 faculty members, and 55.8% of the faculty members have deposited articles in our repository in one form or another. When I make sarcastic remarks at a board meeting that such and such departments have such and such numbers, each department begins to put forth efforts, and, for instance, some departments have made repository registration a requisite for receiving funds to pay for the expense of English copy-editing. The rate of registration for department that do this goes up. As a matter of fact, I feel I was invited to this symposium because I have been involved in these two cases.

Hyperinflation in journal prices and a view of repositories

What I want to say concerning the hyperinflation in journal prices and repositories can be narrowed down to four points.(Figure 2)

First, there is naturally the problem of a “big deal,” no matter how one views it, is the problem of a “long tail.”

The second point is, publishing companies often say that the community is expanding. China and some other countries have been publishing many articles, and it is being said that these activities are expensive to support. However, I think that is a bit strange and should be a subject for debate. For instance, our country has paid for the rising costs itself providing financial support by academic community itself or by government.

The third point is—and this is my opinion—that since the cost of writing an article and reviewing and editing it is substantially negligible, it should essentially not be difficult to create an open-access journal. Please do not forget this fact. We do not

Comments from somewhat different standpoint on hyper inflation of publishers’ journals and repository

- Long tail journals must be eliminated from the “big deal”, as they spend cost.
- Who pays the cost for expanding scientific activity in academic field and regionally ?
- To realize who paid the cost for the work of peer reviewing and editing.
- The very positive point for supporting open access journals supported by contributors and/or institutional repository is to encourage the diversity of academic interest.

(Figure 2) Comments from somewhat different standpoint on hyper inflation of publishers’ journals and repository

receive a salary for reviewing work.

The fourth point is something that I thought of while listening to your talks; if very free open access, including open access and repositories, increases in the near future, the greatest advantage will be the preservation of academic diversity; so how can we endorse the present situation in Japan? If there is a problem, could it not lie in an insufficient awareness of responsibility toward the tax payers, or insufficient awareness of how one’s research is supported?

I had an experience—I think, in my early thirties. I went to Washington D. C., with a professor who was then at Tokyo University. Our counterpart, who happened to be a member of the Regan administration, invited us to a party. During the party, someone who I think was a Nobel laureate in physics was giving a very well prepared explanation to a group of high school students. I asked him, “Why do you go to so much effort?” His answer was, “Responsibility to the tax payers.” I wonder if such a concept will take root in the Japanese research community. In many universities there were many who spent time considering arguments against the notion of having to write articles. I feel

that their number is decreasing, but there may still be some who embrace the same objections. Today you are engaged in quite practical discussion within the framework of open access, but I am thinking of something different.

When we look at the future, what matters is the content. In short, speaking in terms of numbers, I don't think that everything has to be open access. What do those outside the universities want to read? The comedian Kanbi Fujiyama, for whom I have great respect, has five turns or so ready, and puts on the one that wins the most votes from the audience. He also prepares stage sets for the five turns. When I observed this, I thought he was the real thing. Although a researcher appears to be doing things his own way, he is, in a sense, driving a car that is constrained by impact factors and driving along within a paradigm of his own making. Is this really necessary? The recent Nobel Prize may be close to it, but what is the probability that the path will lead from the very basic idea to becoming truly open to society? I am afraid this likelihood is quite small. That in itself is not a problem, but I am afraid it will be impossible to create a system that will give support throughout the process. If that is the case, researchers themselves and research itself will have to change. One more thing I would like to add is that I do not particularly desire a flood of information. Not everything, no matter what it is, need be open access.

Glocal—what sort of academic information is required from regional universities?

I would like to go back to the case of Shizuoka University. In our repository the subjects most often accessed are psychology, local history, and

Glocal

- Well accessed articles of SURE are; psychology, local history, and problems related to elementary and junior high school education.
- So, not only articles published from international journals, in major STM journals, but “contents” which respond closely to the public interest are the dual contents to be opened at least for “local university”.

(Figure 3) Glocal

educational problems.(Figure 3) These sorts of things are naturally not found in international journals like STM; but taking a realistic view, perhaps we can say that such subjects are truly the ones that should be in the repository of Shizuoka University. We should not forget this aspect of the issue.