International Scholarly Communication Initiative

The International Scholarly Communication Initiative (SPARC Japan) is a project to strengthen the electronic journals of the scholarly publications of Japan’s academic societies, with a view to keeping in the hands of Japanese researchers the outstanding research results that are currently published abroad, and to further promote the international dissemination of research results. Progress in the digitization of scholarly journals has stimulated rapid change in the configuration of the distribution of research results; however, scholarly journals in Japan had not kept pace with this trend toward the digitization and international distribution.

Meanwhile, the project, which was launched in 2003 through support by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, has encouraged the digitization of scholarly journals, especially English language journals, published in Japan, and has fostered the development of scholarly journals in Japan, including English language journals, through support for the digitization of scholarly journals and improvements in their recognition overseas.

The next three years beginning in 2006 is positioned as the 2nd term following the project of 2003-5. In this term, we will promote solutions to issues unresolved in the first term; implementing overarching support activities transcending academic societies; developing an environment that will foster independent scholarly journal publishing activities.

Goals of the International Scholarly Communication Initiative

During the 2nd term, we will develop operations based primarily on the following goals.

- **Development of self-sustaining cost-recovery model**
  We will encourage a shift away from conventional Japanese style publication to international publication including the promotion of site license contracts at university libraries and promote the independence of SPARC Japan Publishing Partners.

- **Promotion of international collaboration**
  With the encouragement of the conclusion of the MDU with SPARC, we will call attention to our activities on a global scale and provide support to expand cross-channel worldwide with the aim of increasing and establishing the name recognition of Japanese scholarly journals.

- **Development of advocacy activities**
  We will provide opportunities to discuss issues and share information through human resources training including continuous seminars for persons involved in scholarly journals. In addition, in regard to support for this development of a self-sustaining cost-recovery model since the realization of site license contracts between libraries and academic societies requires the enhancement of the awareness of researchers who use the electronic journals, we will also promote the dissemination of public information and enlightenment activities for that purpose.

**ACHIEVEMENT OBJECTIVES**

- Independence and expansion of scholarly journal publishing activities through the establishment of a self-sustaining cost-recovery model
- Expansion of global scholarly journals based on the promotion of journal digitization and international collaboration
- International transmission of academic research results and the establishment of a greater awareness of Japan's scholarly contribution

**ACTIVITY ACHIEVEMENTS**

- Launch of the electronic scholarly publishing service “Dokita Press”
- Collaboration with Project Foudil
- Support activities for the establishment of scholarly journals
- Support activities for the establishment of scholarly journals
- Support for scholarly collaboration on global scholarly journals
- Promotion of scholarly journal contracts with university libraries
- Development of scholarly journal publishing activities
- Induction of scholarly journal publishing activities

**PROJECT ACTIVITIES**

- Support for digitization and internationalization
  - Scholarly journals
  - Journal digitization
  - Promotion of scholarly journal contracts
  - Promotion of scholarly journal publishing activities

**Related organization websites**

- SPARC (U.S.) http://www.arl.org
- SPARC Europe http://www.sparceurope.org
- BioOne http://www.bioone.org
- Japan Association of National University Libraries (JUNAL) http://www.junal.or.jp
- Japan Association of Private University Libraries (JAPUL) http://www.japul.or.jp
- Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) http://www.jst.go.jp

**Overseas Initiatives**

Initiatives have been developed in North America, Europe, etc., for the creation of competitive markets to resolve the problem of surging price through support for the digitization of scholarly journals by researchers at the urging of university library organizations.

As a result, SPARC (Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition) is being developed in the U.S., and SPARC Europe activities are being developed in Europe. In addition, the open access movement, which seeks to provide unobstructed access to research results and is also being developed centered in the U.S. and Europe, and activities involving government agencies, research assistance organizations and others are becoming more vigorous.