



## ■ The 1st SPARC Japan Seminar 2013

### “Future Perspective: SPARC and SPARC Japan”

Friday, June 7, 2013: Hitotsubashi Hall (Attendees: 239)

The 1st SPARC Japan Seminar was held on June 7 as part of the Open Access Summit 2013 (June 6 and 7), which theme was "Toward More Open Access to Scholarly Information: Current Situation and Future Perspective". We invited Ms. Heather Joseph, Executive Director of SPARC North America, as the best guest speaker to kick off the fourth phase of SPARC Japan activities. The seminar program and the details are below. (<http://www.nii.ac.jp/sparc/en/event/2013/20130607en.html>)

#### **Open Access: Delivering on the Promise**

##### **Heather Joseph (SPARC North America)**

In her keynote address, Ms. Joseph described the activities of SPARC in North America and talked about the following three aspects of Open Access.

1. The pressures involved in distribution of scholarly information
  - 1-1.The appearance of new network tools with the advance of the Internet and technology
  - 1-2.The flood of digital information
  - 1-3.Budget constraints faced by libraries
2. Reconfirming the concept of Open Access: Access + Reuse / Efforts toward realization and results
  - 2-1.Surge in Open Access journals and increase in scholars choosing Open Access publishing
    - With sound growth it has become clear that this movement is both sustainable and profitable.
  - 2-2.Growth of Open Access repositories
    - Increase in volume of content and quality
  - 2-3.Copyright and licensing issues
    - Conventional licenses are being made more flexible for the sake of “access and reuse” under Open Access.
  - 2-4.Open Access policies
    - Some are drawn up by institutions, such as universities, and others by governments and support organizations. They reflect growing awareness of and expectations for Open Access, as seen in the mandating of Open Access, for example.
3. Issues and problems in new systems for realizing new Open Access concepts
  - Licensing (establishing a copyright that

enables full reuse) is the most important issue. It will be necessary to further the spread of ALMs (Article Level Metrics), the growingly popular method for assessing a variety of individual papers, to establish more open academic communication, and to promote an academic culture suited to this environment.

The aim is that the SPARC program will continue to develop through global cooperation and joint activities.

#### **SPARC Japan: Where We've Been and Where We're Going**

##### **Koichi Ojiro (National Institute of Informatics)**

Mr. Ojiro talked about the birth of SPARC Japan and its future outlook.

Whereas SPARC in North America was formed in part for the purpose of putting academic communication back into the hands of researchers and countering the price rise resulting from monopolization by commercial publishers, SPARC Japan has been focused more on solving issues specific to Japan, concentrating first of all on supporting digitalization of journals published by Japanese academic societies and other such organizations.

During the first three phases, the efforts to solve issues and the sharing of information proceeded relatively well, but the issues of tying up with university libraries and supporting Open Access remained to be tackled. With these issues in mind, plans are being made for phase four to enhance our framework, including our cooperation with international Open Access initiatives. Particular aims will be to consider an institutional burden model for article processing charges (APC), and to strengthen ties with university libraries.

## Expectations for SPARC Activities

### Nobuyuki Tose (Mathematical Society of Japan)

Mr. Tose spoke of his expectations for SPARC Japan with regard to the publishing services of the Mathematical Society of Japan and related issues. The Mathematical Society of Japan, getting the opportunity of support by SPARC Japan, successfully completed the digitalization of the entire contents of its Journal of Math. Soc. Japan (JMSJ), as well as many more of its various other publications.

Compared to other disciplines, mathematicians have a variety of means for announcing their research results, such as preparing preprints and posting them to arXiv.org or the like; and the Mathematical Society has shown flexibility in this regard. Among recent activities are publishing abstracts of conference presentations and, in cooperation with Asian countries, recording videos of special lectures. The society is also developing DLM-JP as a Japan-based version of the Digital Mathematics Library created as a portal for international publications of universities.

Expectations for SPARC Japan include consulting on negotiations with publishers, and assistance with monograph digitalization and DML-JP expansion.

## Panel Discussion

### Moderator: Jun Adachi

(National Institute of Informatics)

**Panel members:** Heather Joseph (SPARC), Nobuyuki Tose (Mathematical Society of Japan), Masahiko Sekikawa (University Library, the University of Tokyo), and Kazuhiro Hayashi (National Institute of

### Comment by one of the attendees

Ms. Joseph's presentation was easy to understand. I felt that she explained complex issues quite clearly. The phrase "Open Access = Access+Reuse" simply and powerfully expressed the direction aimed for in Open Access activities. Also, from NII Deputy Director Ojiro's explanation I gained an understanding of the background to and characteristics of SPARC activities in Japan, while Mr. Tose's talk was informative regarding the steady accomplishments through the third phase of those activities. The raising of the issue of APC by Mr. Sekikawa and Mr. Hayashi in the panel discussion caused me to think about what can be done by university libraries.

No one person on their own can reach the goal on the road to open distribution of scholarly information. It will take researchers, libraries, academic societies, and other concerned people and institutions working hand in hand. The seminar strongly reinforced this understanding for me.(Minako Suzuki, National Institute of Informatics)

### Afterword

😊 Today when the situation regarding Open Access is undergoing major changes, this seminar provided much food for thought as to whether or not to become involved and how best to be involved in the movement. Jolted into awareness by the request to recommend panel members and speakers just two months before the event was to be held, we managed somehow to complete eve-

### Science and Technology Policy)

The moderator, Mr. Adachi, started off the discussion by noting the underlying theme of the Open Access Summit, that of changing the rules of the game.

One remark that made a lasting impression was by Mr. Hayashi. He pointed out that as mid-level Open Access journals dependent on article processing charges (APC) have begun to flourish, some journals of a dubious nature have appeared. He suggested that libraries should be involved in the appraisal process for deciding where articles should be published.

Ms. Joseph noted that in North America it is common practice for APC revenue to be donated to institutions. Librarians in the United States are a diverse lot, and cooperation with researchers appears to be going relatively well.

Mr. Sekikawa, talking about the standpoint of libraries with regard to Open Access promotion, expressed the view that after many academic journals have adopted an Open Access policy, the role of institutional repositories will need to be considered. He also wondered if there was really any essential difference between APC and subscription fees.

Mr. Tose pointed out that for academic societies in Japan the absence of a publisher selling and promoting academic journals internationally is a problem, which forces them to do their own such promotion individually. Another view given in the discussion was with respect to publications in the humanities and social sciences. It was suggested that more active methods should be incorporated making use of altmetrics.

rything from preparing flier to issuing the newsletter. We want to thank our speakers and panel members, those who attended the seminar, and the Secretariat for their hard efforts.

(Takao Namiki, Faculty of Science, Hokkaido University)

😊 Not having a clue. I was really helped by

everyone involved in the planning of this seminar. It turned out to be quite thought-provoking in terms of what the role of libraries should be, and made me aware that libraries still have much potential. I also was made aware that it will be essential for libraries to continue building stronger cooperative relationships with researchers.

(Ayuko Nishiwaki, librarian at Ikuta Campus of



Keynote address (Heather Joseph, SPARC North America)

Meiji University)

☺ This being the first time for us to plan SPARC Japan Seminar by working group, we had to proceed largely by trial and error. Many thanks to the working group members who nonetheless patiently followed through to a successful conclusion. (Secretariat)



Panel discussion