



SPARC Japan NewsLetter provides activity and seminar reports. The seminar report includes its outline, program with speakers' introductions and abstracts, panel discussion, attendee feedback, and afterword.

All affiliations and titles are current as of the time of the event.

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Support for arXiv.org



As a preprint server for physics, mathematics, computer science, etc., arXiv.org <<https://arxiv.org/>> promotes open access and archiving of research results mainly in these fields. In March 2023, the number of available papers exceeded 2.23 million. These papers were downloaded more than 360 million times per year, bringing the total number of downloads to 2.75 billion as of March 2023.

Financial support is provided by the top-ranking institutions in terms of usage, and the arXiv.org Membership Program, launched in 2013, had 278 participating institutions in 30 countries as of October 2022.

In Japan, a consortium of research institutes with extensive experience using arXiv.org has formed to support this effort. The National Institute of Informatics has been confirming intentions to participate and collecting annual membership fees since 2009.

Surveys of institutions in Japan that frequently use arXiv.org concerning their intention to participate in 2022 showed 17 participating institutions as of the end of March 2023.

The website below provides more information about arXiv.org.

<https://www.nii.ac.jp/sparc/about/international/arXiv/>

Related conferences were held as follows, with Professor Hideaki Takeda of the National Institute of Informatics participating on behalf of the Japanese participating institutions.

- Annual Board Meeting: December 19, 2022 (online)

Support for CLOCKSS

CLOCKSS (Controlled Lots of Copies Keep Stuff Safe) <<https://clockss.org/>> is working to realize long-term preservation of electronic scholarly content for researchers around the world. Specifically, CLOCKSS is working to build an archive as well as a community to manage it, and to make the content in the archive widely available in the event that it is no longer provided by publishers. In addition, the National Institute of Informatics is participating as one of the twelve node institutions in the world that hold such content.

In Japan, the National Institute of Informatics has been confirming intentions to participate and collecting annual membership fees since 2013.

A survey conducted on the intention to participate in 2022 mainly among member libraries of the Japan Alliance of University Libraries Consortia for E-Resources (JUSTICE) showed 103 participating institutions as of the end of March 2023.

Related conferences were held as follows, with Professor Hideaki Takeda of the National Institute of Informatics participating on behalf of the Japanese participating institutions.

- CLOCKSS Board of Directors Meeting: June 23 (online), September 21 and 22, 2022 and March 1st, 2023 (online)

Support for the SCOAP³

SCOAP³ <<https://scoap3.org/>> is an international collaborative project led by the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) to provide open access to peer-reviewed journal articles in the field of high-energy physics (HEP). In Japan, support is provided for the open access of major journals in the HEP field by transferring the subscription fees that libraries have traditionally paid to publishers to the article publication processing charge (APC), mainly for research institutions that subscribe to SCOAP³ journals.

In Japan, the National Institute of Informatics has been confirming intentions to participate and collecting annual membership fees since 2014.

A survey of domestic institutions supporting Phase 3 (2020-2024) and their intention to participate in 2022 showed 81 participating institutions as of the end of March 2023.

The website below provides more information about SCOAP³.

<https://www.nii.ac.jp/sparc/about/international/scoap3/>

Katsumasa Ikematsu, Senior Research Administrator of the High Energy Accelerator Research Organization (KEK), and Assistant Professor Chifumi Nishioka of the National Institute of Informatics participated in the related conference on behalf of the Japanese participants as follows.

- Governing Council Meeting: November 9 and 10, 2022 (online)

■ SPARC Japan Seminar Report

SPARC Japan Seminar 2022



“Current Status and Challenges of Open Access Affected by E-Journal Transformative Agreement and the APC Issues”

Friday, February 17, 2023: Online (Attendees: 638)

See the SPARC Japan website for handouts and other details

<https://www.nii.ac.jp/sparc/en/event/2022/20230217en.html>.

Outline



Open science has been in the spotlight as a way to change the face of scientific research, including the re-use of research data and the development of Citizen Science.

On the other hand, the distribution of scholarly information, especially research articles, has changed significantly while still playing an important role in research activities, and Open Access itself has continued to change: the situation surrounding Open Access is different from that in the 2000s or the dawn of Open Access when institutional repositories just started in Japan, or that in the 2010s, when commercial publishers started publishing Gold OA.

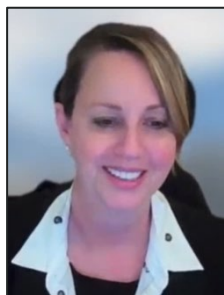
In this seminar, we will re-examine the state of Open Access in its current context, discuss the APC issues and e-journal transformative agreements, review the challenges of distributing scholarly information, and seek solutions that go beyond the boundaries of stakeholders.

Presentation Abstracts and Speakers

The History of SPARC and the Transformation of Open Access



Jennifer Beamer, Ph.D. (The Claremont Colleges)



The Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC) in North America and Japan have interesting origins and histories. Both organizations have played significant roles

in building the movement and are leaders in the present-day transformation of Open Access (OA). Each SPARC is unique and has taken different paths to support OA, including building technical infrastructure, providing education on social norms, and advocating for policies and practices as they have charted and navigated the OA landscape. This past decade has brought many new and exciting twists and turns for OA. I would like to consider the SPARCs' influences on the Transformation of Open Access and what the future holds for the distribution of scholarly information.

Profile

Head, Scholarly Communications and Open Publishing Services, The Claremont Colleges, Claremont California, USA.

Advocate for Open Access and open infrastructure, having recently completed a doctoral dissertation on how the organizations of SPARC NA and JP support open access infrastructure. Recently completed a two-month JSPS Short-term Post Doc with the NII in 2022. SPARC NA Steering Committee member. Chair of the Statewide California Electronic Library Consortium (SCELC) Scholar Communications Committee and of the SCELC IR Subcommittee. Presenter for the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Scholarly Communication Roadshow. An alumnus of the SPARC Open Education Program 2019-2020 and OpenCon 2014 and 2016. Doctorate in Communications and Information Science and a Master of Library Science from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Jennifer's career as a Librarian has been committed to researching and advocating for policy that would help faculty participate in Open Access in alternative ways.

Can #Transformative Agreement solve the #E-Journal Issues?



Noriko Osumi (Tohoku University)



While the e-journal subscription fees paid by universities increase each year, the amount of Article Processing Charges (APC) paid by authors when they choose to make their articles open access also

continues to increase. One short-term solution to this issue is the "transformative agreement", a means of expanding OA publishing by gradually transferring e-

journal subscription fees to APCs. Tohoku University has launched a pilot project for transformative agreements with major commercial publishers in collaboration with several universities. From the standpoint of a life science researcher, I would like to report on the current status of the project and make recommendations for its future prospects.

Profile

Prof. Osumi has graduated Tokyo Medical and Dental University, been given PhD

thesis from the same university, and now is a professor of Tohoku University School of Medicine since 1998. She has been appointed Vice President in charge of public relation, promoting diversity, and

President of University Library from April 2018. Her research background is developmental biology, and she has interest in brain development, evolution, and disease.

Institutional Repositories as a Channel for Implementing Open Access

Chifumi Nishioka (National Institute of Informatics)



Since the late 1990s, researchers, libraries, publishers, and other stakeholders have been working to promote Open Access based on their own motivations. In this context, the library community has recognized institutional repositories as a channel for implementing open access and has been publishing accepted author manuscripts in institutional repositories (a.k.a., Green Open Access). In this talk, I would like to discuss the current status and challenges of institutional repositories with respect to open access, trends in foreign countries, and possibilities in the future.

Profile

Dr. Nishioka is an Assistant Professor of Digital Content and Media Sciences Research Division and Research Center for Open Science and Research Data Platform, the National Institute of Informatics. She received her doctoral degree in engineering from the Faculty of Engineering, Kiel University, Germany (conducted research at the Leibniz Information Centre for Economics). She was involved in the Kyoto University Open Access Promotion Project at Kyoto University Library from March 2017. She is in the current position since April 2022. Dr. Nishioka is currently engaged in research and development in areas related to scholarly communication and open science.

SCOAP³ international collaboration to convert traditional closed access physics journals to open access in the high-energy physics community



Katsumasa Ikematsu (High Energy Accelerator Research Organization (KEK))



The SCOAP³ (Sponsoring Consortium for Open Access Publishing in Particle Physics) International Collaborative Project, led by the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), is an Open Access (OA) initiative in the field of High Energy Physics (HEP), and is a global consortium currently consisting of 45 countries. Since its launch in 2014, the milestone of a total of 50,000 peer-reviewed journal papers being made OA by SCOAP³ in May 2022 has been achieved. This means that more than 90% of the journal papers in the HEP field are

published as OA articles in the 11 academic journals (including “Progress of Theoretical and Experimental Physics” published by the Physical Society of Japan) by SCOAP³, allowing authors to submit them without APCs. This success of SCOAP³ is probably related to the uniqueness of the field (i.e., both preprint server system “arXiv” and WWW were also invented in the HEP field). The current status of the project including the background in the HEP field will be discussed in the seminar.

Profile

Research Administrator at High Energy Accelerator Research Organization (KEK). Completed the doctoral program at Department of Physical Science, Graduate

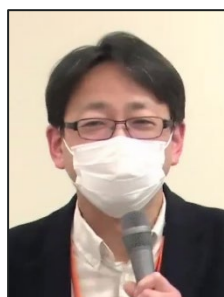
School of Science, Hiroshima University in 2004. Ph.D. (D.Sc.). Research fellow at Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron (DESY) in 2004; Research associate at Institute of Particle and Nuclear Studies, KEK in 2008; Research associate at Faculty IV (Faculty of Natural Sciences and Technology), University of Siegen in 2010; Researcher at Graduate School of Sciences and Engineering, Saga University in 2014; and Senior Assistant Professor at Institute of Multidisciplinary Research for Advanced

Materials, Tohoku University in 2016. Current position since April 2021. Involved in high-energy physics experiments and R&D on detector instrumentations / Synchrotron radiation beamlines at accelerator research facilities in Europe for over ten years. Based on those experiences, Dr Ikematsu is currently working to promote international collaboration projects.

Promotion of Open Access for research capability enhancement



Amane Koizumi (National Institutes of Natural Sciences)



In various indicators, the decline in the research capabilities of Japanese universities has become more and more pronounced. To begin with, the research activities of researchers are intellectual pursuits

that involve building up "bricks" one by one, and it is very important to know how to create and combine these bricks. In order to face major academic and social issues that cannot be solved by a single brick alone, it is necessary for many researchers to bring together and combine a number of bricks, rather than the power of a single researcher. To this end, researchers must share the same major objectives and visualize the results of their research. Making papers and other materials open access is an essential process to challenge larger issues by visualizing one's own research results so that they can be seen by many researchers and stakeholders. In this presentation, I will discuss how to strengthen research capabilities by promoting open access.

Profile

Graduated from Keio University School of Medicine. After graduation, he studied basic electrophysiology and retinal visual physiology in the Department of Physiology, Keio University School of Medicine. From 2002, he was a research fellow at Professor Richard Masland of Harvard Medical School in the U.S. He returned to Japan in 2007 and became an Associate Professor in the Public Relations Promotion Office of the National Institute for Physiological Sciences (NIPS). Since 2014, he has been a specially-appointed professor (Supervisory URA) at the headquarter of National Institutes of Natural Sciences (NINS). During this period, he also served as an academic investigator in the Research Promotion Bureau of MEXT, a JST Science Communication Fellow, and an ad-hoc member of the Basic Research Promotion Subcommittee of the Council for Science, Technology and Science, MEXT. Member of the International Advisory Board of THE World University Rankings. He has developed methods for analyzing the research capability of universities and conducted analyses of the social impact of universities.

Introducing examples of article processing charges in life science research**Hiromasa Ono (Database Center for Life Science, ROIS-DS)**

The rise of Article Processing Charges (APCs) has been a concern in recent years, as the costs associated with publishing open access articles in many journals have grown significantly. This can be a financial burden for researchers, particularly those from institutions or countries with limited funding, and may limit their ability to publish their work in open access journals. In September 2022, we published a paper in *Bioinformatics* on TogoID, a web application that allows users to perform ID conversion while exploratively checking connections among life science databases. We chose to publish the paper immediately in open access in the hope that it will be widely used by many life scientists as a research resource. From a researcher's perspective, I would like to

share information about the evolution of APC and Open Access with those actual examples.

Profile

Dr. Hiromasa Ono joined the Database Center for Life Science (DBCLS) as a Research Assistant in 2007. After serving as a Project Technical Specialist, he was promoted to the role of Project Assistant Professor in 2012, where he was responsible for the development of technology for utilizing large-scale data focused on gene expression information, as well as the development of applications related to the integrated use of databases in the life sciences. He has been instrumental in the development of "RefEx" and "TogoID", and also contributes to the production and editing of "TogoTV", which features videos that demonstrate the use of bioinformatics tools and databases.

Survey of Open Access Publication and Article Processing Charges (APCs) in Japan by JUSTICE**Yoshiro Hirata (The University of Tokyo)**

Japan Alliance of University Library Consortia for E-Resources (JUSTICE) had focused on negotiations with publishers regarding terms and conditions for subscription. In light of the progress of Gold OA via APC payment, however, we came to the realization that comprehensive negotiations that include both subscription fees and APC are necessary. Based on this recognition, we have conducted a series of surveys on the number of published articles, the ratio of OA, and estimated total APC payments by researchers affiliated with Japanese

institutions since FY2015. I would like to introduce the outline of these surveys as well as how JUSTICE has been approaching OA.

Profile

Manager of Libraries for Engineering and Information Science & Technology, The University of Tokyo. While working as a library staff at national universities, Mr. Hirata joined the Negotiation Working Group and PR Working Group as a member of JUSTICE Working Groups (April 2011-March 2018). Executive Director of JUSTICE (April 2018-March 2022). Current position since April 2022. Also belongs to the OA2020 Taskforce as a JUSTICE collaborator.

Panel Discussion



Summary:

There was an exchange of opinions between speakers and the audience during the panel discussion session.

- In Japan, green open access (Green OA) through institutional repositories represents a mainstream means for OA. However, as it takes time and effort to register for OA through the repositories while the advantages gained by doing so are unclear, registration by researchers themselves has not been well promoted. Also, the cost for librarians to operate institutional repositories does not get the consideration that it deserves. Under these circumstances it is expected that linking institutional repositories with discovery services will lead to the building of an appropriate researcher evaluation system and to more proactive use of the repositories and services by researchers.

- Preprints have a long history in research fields such as physics and they are also included in the PubMed database. Preprints provide benefits such as enabling prompt reporting and thus have potential for the future. However, the availability of peer-reviewed papers should also be ensured. Publishing companies' preprint servers provide new benefits, such as facilitating the publication of papers, and are expected to be utilized more effectively.

- Transformative agreements are fostered mainly by universities, but some researchers are expressing concerns about the fact that the agreements might limit the destinations to which researchers can submit their papers. Also, transformative agreements might make it difficult to clearly estimate the cost of subscribing to journals and of promoting OA. For the APC issues, it might be necessary for researchers and academic societies and associations, in addition to universities, libraries and policymakers, to have a conversation about how to increase the visibility of research activities and improve the evaluation of universities as well as how to find the financial resources to pay the related costs. Going forward, greater examination is needed to ensure that the academic community can support the sustainability of knowledge infrastructure.

Moderator: Ui Ikeuchi (Bunkyo University)



Profile

Ui Ikeuchi is an associate professor, in the Faculty of Language and Literature at Bunkyo University since 2019 and a Ph.D. in Library and Information

Science. She has a Bachelor of Law degree (1995) and a Master of Library and Information Science degree (1997) from Keio University. After working at Ferris University Library from 1997 to 2005, she became a housewife and entered the doctoral program at the University of Tsukuba. Her research focuses on research data sharing and open science. She is a

senior researcher of Japan Center for Constructing Data Infrastructure for the Humanities and Social Sciences (JSPS) and a Visiting Researcher, National Institute of

Science and Technology Policy (NISTEP). She is also a member of the SPARC Japan Seminar planning working group since 2020.

Moderator: Tomomi Yamagata (Hokkaido University Library)



Profile

Tomomi Yamagata is a librarian of Hokkaido University, and a member of SPARC Japan seminar working group. She is also a member of OA2020

taskforce of Japan Alliance of University Library Consortia for E-Resources (JUSTICE). Her main interest is changes in scholarly communication by spreading of Open Access movement.

Attendee Feedback

(person affiliated with university library)

– My university has just concluded a transformative agreement. The discussion of transformative agreements was thus particularly interesting to me. I was able to gain comprehensive insight into the current situation regarding open access (OA) and the positioning of transformative agreements in relation to it, as well as the desirable future of OA. Also, reports made by those engaging in different jobs and different research fields made it clear to me that there are differences in the perception of the current situation and the vision about how to realize OA. At our university, librarians and other staff are presently sharing relevant information, and going forward we need to think how to promote a shared vision for OA across the organization. In this regard, the event was indeed inspiring.

– What I came away with is the understanding that we need to address the theme across the board and across the nation. We cannot deal with it without understanding and support from the top. The case reports made by pioneers are genuinely useful in helping me to understand the situation.

– Transformative agreements and the APC issues need to be addressed urgently for agreements on journals, and the event provided us with materials that we can refer to when providing explanations to

the faculty and conducting relevant examinations across the university.

– Regarding open access (OA), in my capacity as a university librarian, I have attended some seminars held from the viewpoint of libraries on read and publish (R&P) and other transformative agreements. However, the event provided me with a rare opportunity to learn about OA from the viewpoints of different researchers and was thus stimulating. I found the speech about SCOAP³ particularly inspiring.

– It was quite useful for me to have the chance to listen to a series of speeches given by forerunners in the field. I share the speakers' sense of irritation regarding the fact that OA cannot easily be promoted through efforts made by librarians.

– The time allocated to each of the speeches following the keynote speech was about 10 minutes, which was too short for the great content.

(person affiliated with business / fields related to academic publications)

– The services provided by publishers of academic publications, preprints and repositories should not be considered in parallel with one another. I think the details of such services should have been evaluated more

appropriately and, to make the discussion even more meaningful, the speakers and audience should have developed a shared understanding of the features in advance. However, the speeches made by Professor Osumi and Professor Koizumi were quite commendable.

(person affiliated with business / others)

– I found it very interesting and useful to listen to a range of speakers, not just those linked to libraries, talk about OA and transformative agreements.

(other library staff)

– The panelists expressed their opinions very frankly and the moderators did a fine job encouraging the panelists to do so. I found the panel discussion quite interesting.

– After a long interval, I was able to learn about the present and future of the distribution of academic information from a quite advanced viewpoint, thereby reconfirming the kind of future I am now working for on-site. It was quite useful. Thank you very much.

Afterword



😊 We were able to hold a panel discussion face-to-face for the first time since the outbreak of the pandemic. Forerunners in the field spoke frankly, and I hope that their passion was communicated to the online audience. Questions raised by the audience contributed to making the discussion even more exciting. We will continue to hold a range of events that are unique to SPARC going forward.

Ui Ikeuchi
(Bunkyo University)

😊 The theme for the seminar was “E-Journal Transformative Agreements and the APC Issues,” which is a theme that is outside the framework of our core tasks. The event provided us with an opportunity to observe the tremendous interest of libraries in the theme and to understand how difficult it is to solve the related problems. It is important to regard transformative agreements as a short-term solution. For a fundamental solution on a medium- to long-term basis, the event helped remind us that not only university libraries but also those in the upper layers need to pursue the theme on a continual basis.

Tomoki Ueno
(The University of Electro-Communications)

😊 At the SPARC Japan Seminar 2022, participants had a profound discussion on the theme of e-journal transformative agreements and the APC issues from various standpoints and perspectives. Personally, I was able to acquire a lot of new knowledge through the event. I also felt that it is up to every research institute and researcher to make efforts for sustainable academic publication while discussions with a wider range of stakeholders continue.

Hiromasa Ono
(Database Center for Life Science,
ROIS-DS)

😊 In the previous fiscal year, the discussion theme was policies on research data. This fiscal year we discussed the theme of transformative agreements for papers. For both of the themes, we are still facing a difficult situation. I hope that the topics unique to SPARC will continue to be dealt with in a versatile manner and discussed by diverse stakeholders from various viewpoints for the promotion of behavioral changes.

Kazuhiro Hayashi
(National Institute of Science and Research
Unit for Data Application)

😊 The website of NASA introduces a range of Citizen Science initiatives and communicates the message that the science community needs citizens' support. I think open science will be promoted based on the support of citizens.

Jun Maeda
(National Institute of Informatics)

😊 The stage of discussing the need to foster OA has already ended and we are now in the stage of implementing specific measures to foster OA. In the seminar, various people talked about the best way to promote OA from different standpoints, and I was able to learn how OA has been diversified. The event was truly useful.

Nobuhiro Yabuki
(Yokohama National University)

😊 Initially, I was worried that the focus would be solely on gold open access (Gold OA). However, the seminar turned out to be quite meaningful, thanks to the speakers. I was reminded of the diversity of issues regarding OA. We took a closer look at transformative agreements in a very timely manner, as such agreements have just started to also be concluded in Japan. I personally found the seminar quite interesting.

Tomomi Yamagata
(Hokkaido University Library)

