

# **OPEN ACCESS in SE Asia**

## **UNRESOLVED ISSUES AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES**

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Open Access (OA) is not well established in Southeast Asia

Two Questions:

1. Why is there not more interest in OA?
2. If OA worked well in Southeast Asia, what would the results be?



# **Baseline Information**

# Universities in SE Asia

<b>Country</b>	<b>Univ</b>	<b>Research Univ</b>	<b># in QS Top 150 Asian Universities</b>
<b>Brunei</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>Indonesia</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>5-10</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Malaysia</b>	<b>30+</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Philippines</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Singapore</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Thailand</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>
Cambodia	19		
Laos	4		
Myanmar	150+		
Timor Leste	3		
Vietnam	69		

# Institutional Repositories in SE Asia

Country	Repositories in OpenDOAR	Listings in ROAR
Indonesia	35	55
Malaysia	20	31
Philippines	6	9
Singapore	4	6
Thailand	8	6
Vietnam	1	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>107</b>

Data as of 3 Feb 2014

# IRs in SE Asia

- ❑ Contents: theses, preprints, post prints, conference papers, unpublished documents, teaching materials
- ❑ Maintained and paid for by universities, institutes

**D: Defined    U: Undefined**

Country	Type of Objects for Deposit		Records Submission Policy		Preservation Policy	
	D	U	D	U	D	U
Indonesia	-	7	-	7	-	7
Malaysia	3	8	2	9	1	10
Thailand	-	6	-	6	-	6

Data from 2011. See Mohammad Nazim and Bhaskar Mukherjee, "Status of Institutional Repositories in Asian Countries: A Quantitative Study", *Library Philosophy and Practice* (2011; <http://unllib.unl.edu/LPP/>): np.

# SE Asian Journals in the DOAJ

Country	Number of OA Journals
Brunei	1
Cambodia	1
Indonesia	109
Malaysia	78
Philippines	13
Singapore	36
Thailand	16
Vietnam	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>255</b>

# Academic Publishing in SE Asia

- Why do authors in SE Asia do research and publish?
  - ▣ To create and share knowledge
  - ▣ But primarily to meet the expectations of their universities
- Major universities want staff to publish in order to
  - ▣ Improve their rankings
  - ▣ Attract exchange and foreign students
  - ▣ Provide a basis for promotion and tenure decisions
- Government funding: should return value
  - ▣ Does OA return value to SE Asian countries? Few in SE Asia will read research articles
  - ▣ Value seen in publication by high prestige journals read outside the region



# HSS Publishing in SE Asia

- English-language Publishing in Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS)
  - ▣ Lags behind sciences
  - ▣ Science faculties complain that HSS dragging down universities in world rankings
- Universities very conscious of ranking, citation indexes, impact factors, etc.
- Universities favor “ISI” citation indexes
- Scopus
  - ▣ Better coverage of Asian publications
  - ▣ Generally accepted by universities in SE Asia

# SCOPUS

- 20,544 peer-reviewed journals

South and East Asia	
Country	Journals
China	728
Hong Kong	42
Japan	708
Korea	143
Bangladesh	18
India	405
Pakistan	75
Sri Lanka	6

Southeast Asia	
Country	Journals
Indonesia	7
Malaysia	45
Philippines	22
Singapore	95
Thailand	33
<b>SE Asia Total</b>	<b>202 (0.5%)</b>
<b>Asia Total</b>	<b>2,327 (11.6%)</b>

# Case Study: Malaysia

## OA Journals

Malaysia is particularly active in promoting Open Access

- 216 peer-reviewed OA Journals (78 in DOAJ)
  - ▣ 2005-2012: 2,067 issues published
  - ▣ 46% HSS; 54% STM
  - ▣ 157 by universities; 59 by institutes
  - ▣ Language: 157 in English; 55 bilingual (esp English-Malay, English-Arabic); 4 in Malay
  - ▣ 24 in Scopus; 6 in Thomson Reuters (“ISI”) indexes
- Malaysian online journals are **not** widely used
  - ▣ Search and display interfaces poorly designed
  - ▣ Poor metadata and poor indexing

Sara Koleini et al., Malaysian Scholarly Open Access Journals during 2005-2012: A Survey, *International Journal of Information Science and Management* 3, 2 (July/Dec 2013): 91-103.

# Case Study: Malaysia

## Institutional Repositories

Few Malaysian academics self-archive. Why?

- Unaware of institutional repositories
- No institutional mandates requiring deposit of work
- Time and effort involved
- Fear that others will steal or alter their work
- Concern that deposit might hurt publication prospects
- Unfamiliar with procedures
- Unfamiliar with copyright rules
- Perception that institutional repositories of no value

Feria Wirba Singeh, A. Abrizah, Noor Harun Abdul Karim, "What inhibits authors to self-archive in Open Access repositories? A Malaysian case" *Information Development* 29, 1 (Feb. 2013 ): pp. 24-35.



# **Unresolved Issues**

# Article Processing Charges

- Funders may limit payments to certain journals
  - ▣ Journals in Thomson Reuters or Scopus index
    - Probably acceptable
    - Some universities already specify a minimum journal impact factor for an article to count in research evaluation
  - ▣ Will journals not in citation indexes be acceptable?
  - ▣ “Predatory Journals” (e.g., on Beall’s List) presumably not acceptable
  - ▣ Possible restrictions based on journal’s political orientation

# Ownership of scholarly research

- Work under contract for a commercial firm is owned by the firm
- Universities increasingly copying this approach
  - ▣ STM: potential profits from patents, licensing technology, etc.
  - ▣ Little commercial value from HSS material but rules written broadly and apply to everything
- Scholars cannot make material available for Open Access unless they hold rights to it

# Copyright

- Few academics understand copyright, and few academics want to
- For STM, copyright is important in connection with patenting and licensing technology
- For HSS, copyright is important for claiming credit for work done, and to prevent unauthorized use
  - ▣ Data re-used freely under existing rules if source acknowledged



# Creative Commons and HSS

- CC-BY-ND (no derivatives) adds little to normal copyright
- CC-NC (non-commercial) mostly not relevant
- CC-BY (Attribution) allows others to “remix, tweak, and build upon” material “as long as they credit you for the original creation”
  - ▣ Risky for HSS
  - ▣ An author’s main contribution is analysis and interpretation, not data
  - ▣ These elements should not be changed

# HSS and Open Access Mandates

- HSS based on books rather than journal articles
- Research materials often used in several articles
- Articles often draw on several research projects
- Data used over an extended period and not easily allocated to a specific research project
- HSS articles generally longer than STM articles
  - ▣ Major societies report average cost per article = US\$10,000
  - ▣ Costs paid by membership fees and library subscriptions
  - ▣ APCs cannot cover these amounts
  - ▣ Open access mandates threaten their survival

# OA and Embargoes

- Will a one-year embargo period before material released as Open Access preserve existing publishers and publications?
  - ▣ Some researchers require immediate access to scientific research, but the citation half life for scientific articles is more than one year
  - ▣ The citation half life for HSS material is between 5 and 10 years
  - ▣ Many HSS researchers willing to wait a year to see published material
  - ▣ Libraries will not pay for material they can get free
- Conclusion: a one-year embargo will be ineffective

# OA and Scholarly Research in SE Asia

- Will more people read academic material if it is available through Open Access?
  - ▣ With digital publishing, HSS researchers access a much wider range of material
  - ▣ Reading technical STM research requires specialist training
  - ▣ In SE Asia, Scholars at many universities weak in English and do little research; OA will provide few benefits
- Will OA result in more high quality research?
  - ▣ Scholars at major universities read English well and will have access to more material
  - ▣ APCs could limit their ability to publish

# **A SWOT Analysis**

## **Open Access and SE Asian Academic Publishing**

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>

# Strengths (Positive Effects) of OA



- Broad access to scholarly literature
- Scholars at universities without large library budgets can access academic literature
- Funds used to pay journal subscriptions might be shifted to research
- More readers means more citations and increased impact

# Weaknesses: Gold OA

- Article Processing Charges
  - ▣ Currently too high for most academics in SE Asia
    - Current range: US\$500 to US\$5,000
  - ▣ Absence of funding sources in SE Asia
  - ▣ Disproportionate burden on Research Universities; others become free riders
- The transition from traditional subscriptions to Gold OA would be very expensive if universities pay APCs while also paying subscription fees

# Weaknesses: Green OA in SE Asia

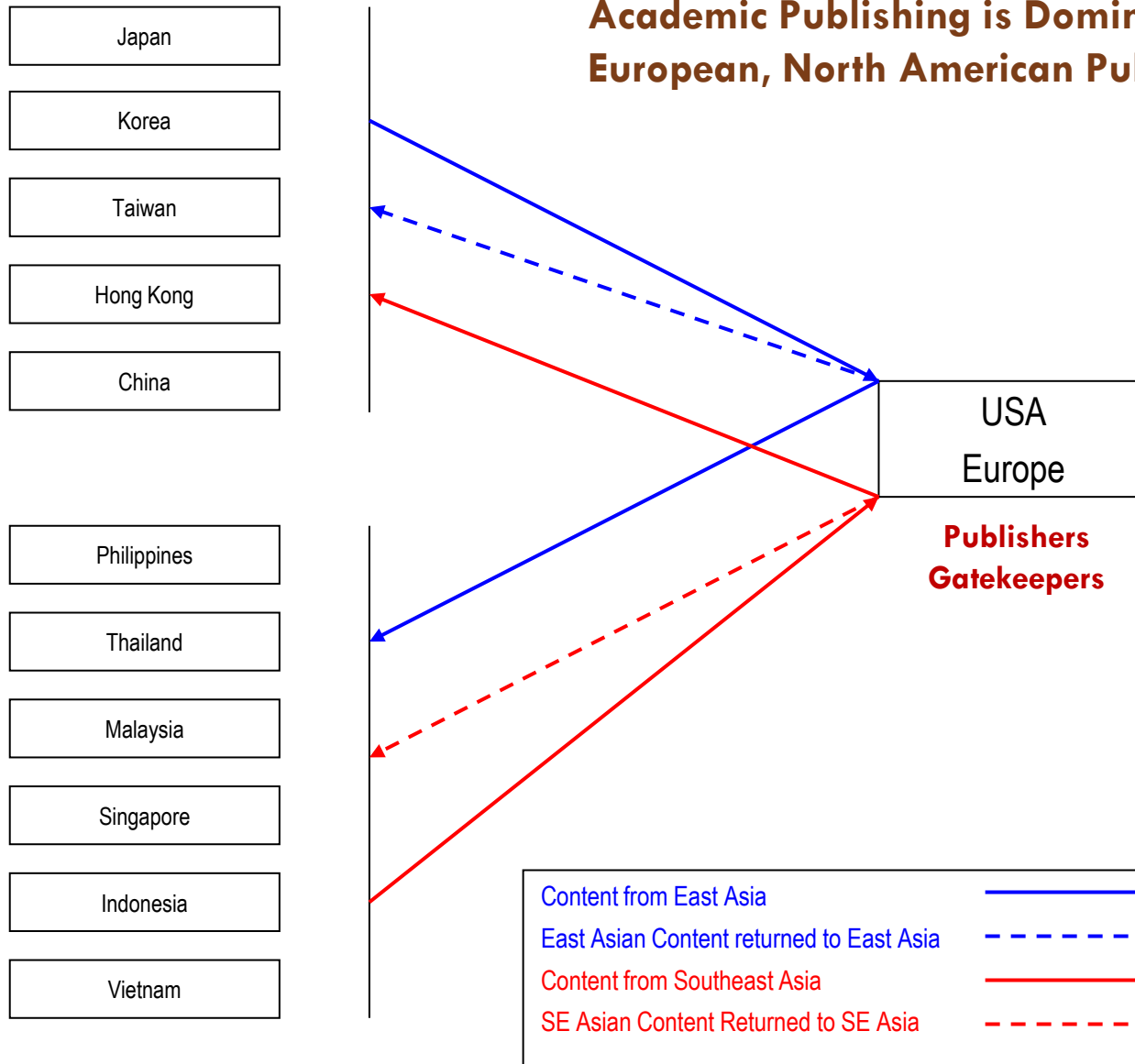
- Academic performance judged on publication in subscription-based peer-reviewed journals
- Little awareness of OA among senior administrators
- Many universities don't have repositories
- Limited funding for institutional repositories
- Platforms, metadata, etc. lack common standards (e.g., DSpace, EPrints, Greenstone, Unknown)
- Insufficient staff dedicated to OA projects
- Prevalence of standalone facilities; little linkage or integration
- Lack of mandates calling for deposit of publication
- Content of existing repositories of limited value

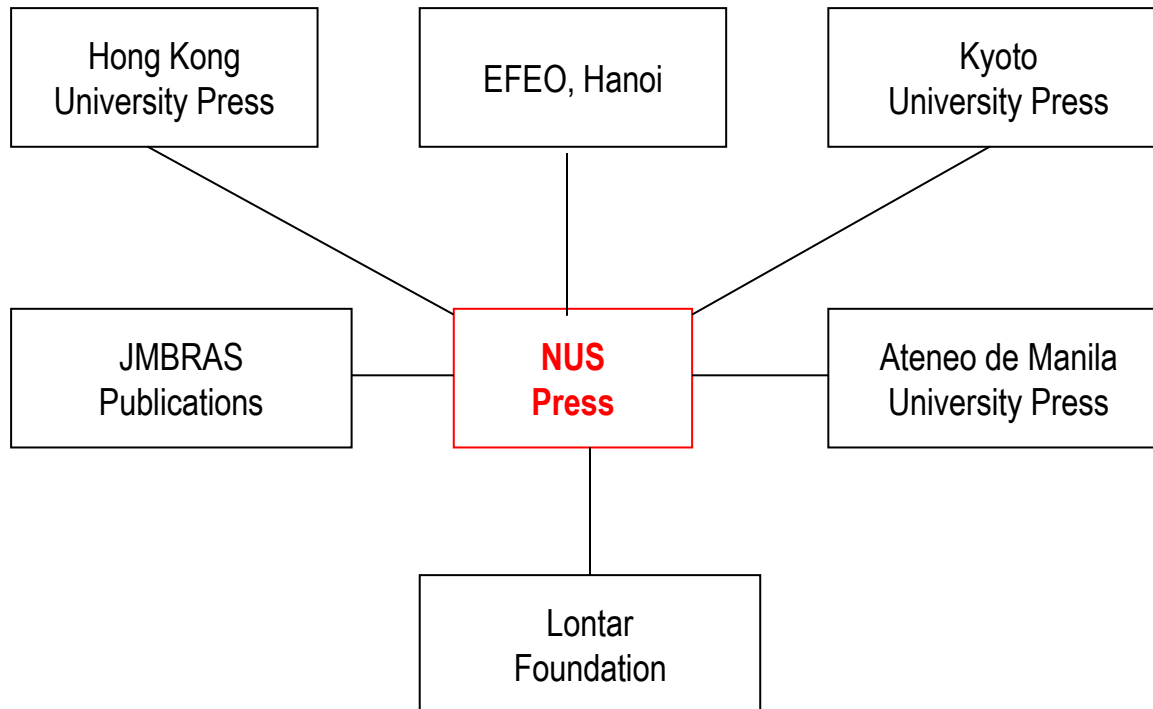


# Opportunities

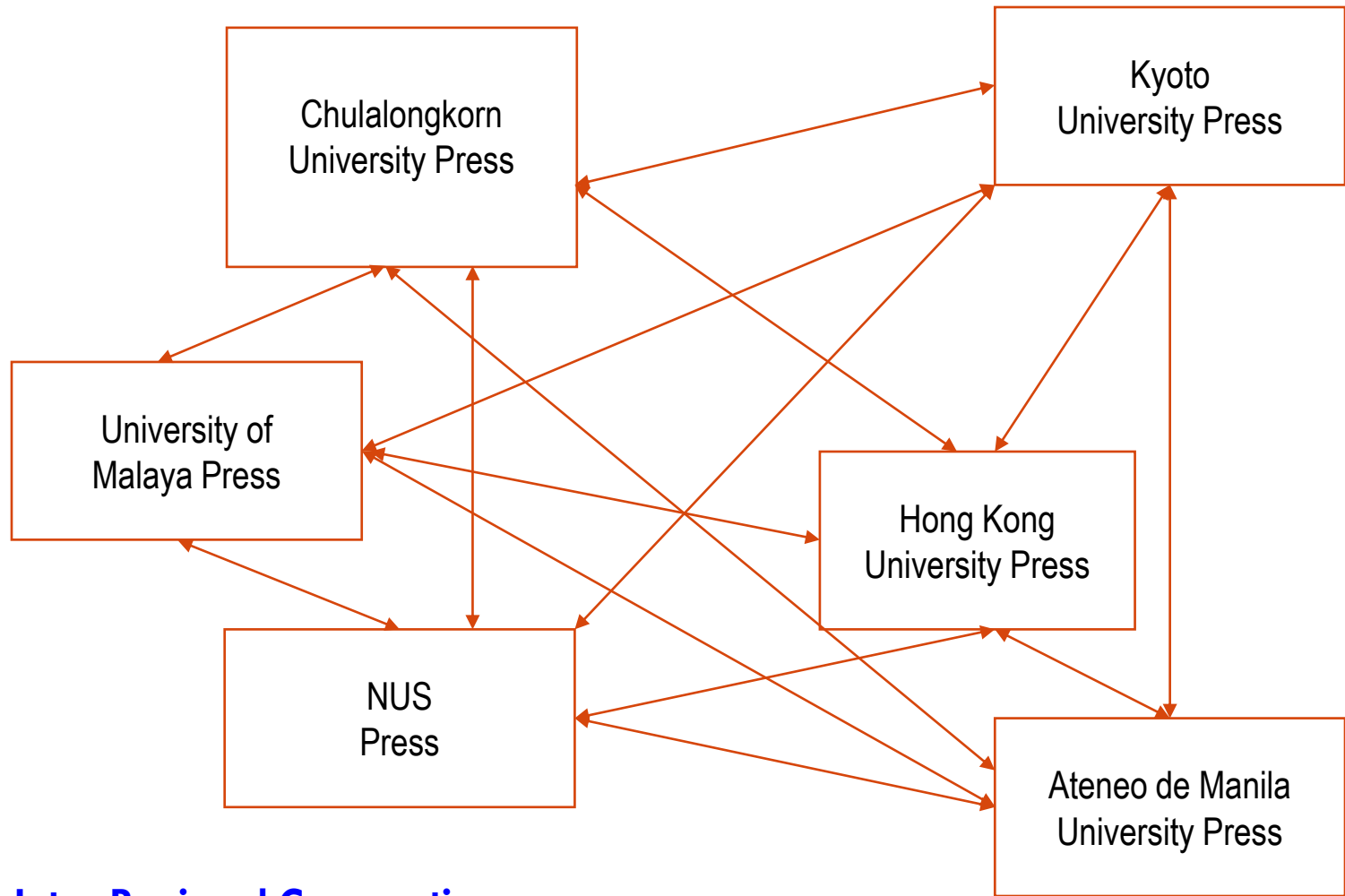
- Access to a broader academic literature could help scholars write better research papers
- Asian OA publications could cultivate non-Western research paradigms
- Asian universities fund numerous journals that could be made OA without APCs
  - ▣ Quality, visibility, and technical improvements needed for journals to have significant impact
- OA could help intra-Asian scholarly communication

## Academic Publishing is Dominated by European, North American Publishers





**Ad Hoc Cooperation with Individual Presses**



**Intra-Regional Cooperation can  
Broaden distribution in Asia**

# Threats Arising from OA

- Scholars without access to funds could find it difficult to publish
- Commercial academic presses are already monetizing OA (e.g., through CHORUS), which can nullify benefits of OA
- OA threatens the survival of university presses and academic societies
  - ▣ Rely on subscription fees
  - ▣ Most do not have an e-publishing platform
- Embargo periods of one year insufficient to sustain the user pays/subscription model
- Emergence of predatory journals and publishers

# Thank you

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