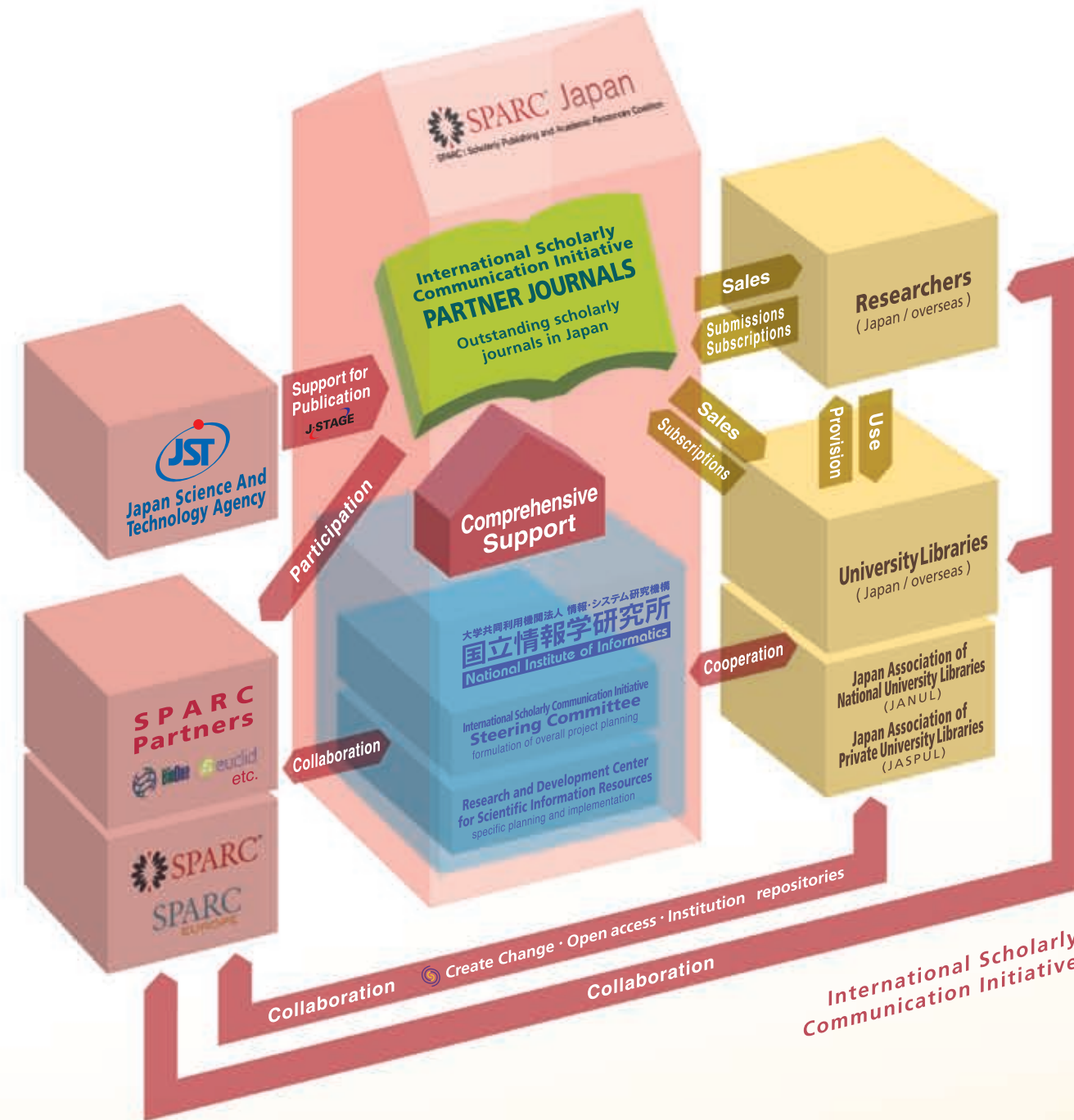


International Scholarly Communication Initiative

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, with SPARC Japan Publishing Partners. The aim of this project is to create a self-sustaining cost-recovery model that will enable the stable transmission of Japanese scholarly journals and improve their name 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 MOU with SPARC, we will call attention to our activities on a global scale and provide support to expand sales channels worldwide with the aim of increasing and establishing the name recognition of Japanese scholarly journals.



Development of advocacy activities

We will provide opportunities to disseminate and share information through human resources training including continuous seminars for persons involved in scholarly journals. In addition, in regard to support for the 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 academic society publishing activities through the establishment of a self-sustaining cost-recovery model

Expansion of global sales channels 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 intellectual contributions

ACTIVITY ACHIEVEMENTS

Launch of the biological journal package "UniBio Press"

Collaboration with Project Euclid in a mathematical journal

Support for launch of electronic versions of English-language journals in electrical and electronic engineering

Promotion of electronic journal contracts with university libraries

Development of advocacy activities for university libraries and academic societies

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Support for digitization and internationalization

- Creation of metadata
- Development and introduction of an editing and peer-review system
- Provision of information regarding digitization, internationalization, etc.

Continuous SPARC Japan seminars

- Cultivation of academic society executive office human resources
- Exchanges between SPARC Japan Publishing Partners

Support for self-sustaining cost-recovery model development

- Electronic journal packages
- Site license contracts with university libraries, etc.
- Expansion of sales channels through collaboration with institutions overseas

Dissemination of information and publicity targeting researchers and university libraries

- Collaboration with library consortiums
- Surveys of the most recent trends in scholarly communication and enlightenment activities
- Collaboration with institutional repositories

Overseas

Initiatives have been developed in North America, Europe, etc., for the creation of competitive markets to revolve the problem of surging prices 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) are being developed

in the U.S. and SPARC Europe activities likewise in Europe.

In addition, the open access movement, which seeks to provide unobstructed access to research results 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.

The name "SPARC" is a registered trademark of the Association of Research Libraries and is used under license.



Related organization websites

- SPARC (U.S.) www.arl.org/sparc
- SPARC Europe www.sparceurope.org
- Project Euclid www.projecteuclid.org
- BioOne www.bioone.org
- Japan Association of National University Libraries (JANUL) www.soc.nii.ac.jp/anul
- Japan Association of Private University Libraries (JASPUL) www.jaspul.org
- Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) www.jst.go.jp