

Towards a Continuum of Scholarship: The Eventual Collapse of the Distinction Between Grey and non-Grey Literature

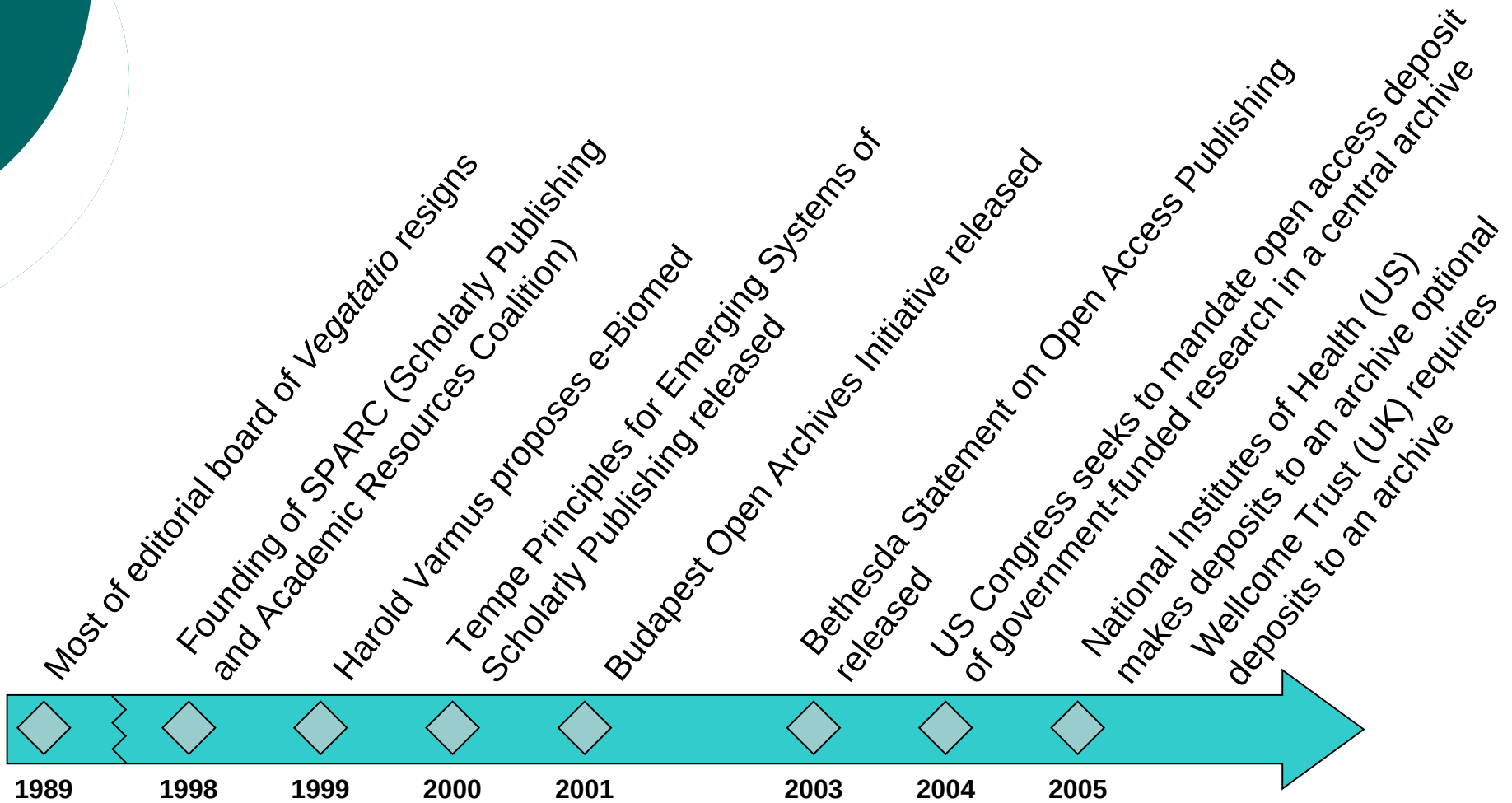
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Agenda

1. Political history of the open access movement
2. Potential for institutional repositories to increase access to grey literature
3. Eventual collapse of the distinction between grey and non-grey literature

Political History of the Open Access Movement





Political History of the Open Access Movement: Alliance for Taxpayer Access

- Advocates principle that taxpayers deserve full access to government-funded research
- “Peer-reviewed scientific articles” perceived as most critical
- Compelling spokespeople: Patients facing conditions funded by NIH, but who cannot access results of relevant research
- <http://www.taxpayeraccess.org/>



Political History of the Open Access Movement: Lessons for Increasing Access to Grey Literature

- Key factors in success of open access movement:
 - Countries value peer-reviewed scientific articles
 - Open access seeks to increase reach of materials that people know they want
- Grey literature advocates should adopt explicit political strategy
 - Compelling beneficiary group is critical

Institutional Repositories: Concept

- Institutional repositories centralize storage and retrieval of a wide variety of content
 - Typically managed by libraries
- Associated with universities, but is applicable to range of institutions
- Open source, freely available repository software
 - DSpace Federation:
<http://www.dspace.org/>
- Improvement over self-archiving

Institutional Repositories: Countries and Contents

Coverage of Institutional Repositories Related to Type of Objects (In Percentage of Total Objects)

| Countries | Articles | Theses | Books | Data | Video, Music, etc. | Course Material | Other |
|-----------------|----------|--------|-------|------|--------------------|-----------------|-------|
| Australia | 8 | 8 | 1 | 83 | | 0 | |
| Belgium | 33 | 66 | | | | | |
| France | 80 | 20 | | | | | |
| Germany | 20 | 40-50 | | | 5 | 1 | 25 |
| Italy | 70 | 5 | | | | 20 | 5 |
| Norway | 10 | 90 | | | | | |
| Sweden | 30 | 70 | | | | | |
| The Netherlands | 20 | 40 | | | | | 40 |
| United Kingdom | 74 | 16 | | 1 | 4 | | 4 |

Source: Academic Institutional Repositories: Deployment Status in 13 Nations as of Mid 2005 (D-Lib Magazine, September 2005)



Institutional Repositories: Challenges

- Difficult to convince researchers of benefits of institutional repositories
 - Consequent lack of interest in depositing materials, even if they will be managed by others
- Will take further evaluation to determine if institutional repositories reach full potential
- For now, coverage of grey literature in institutional repositories is encouraging

Collapse of Distinction Between Grey and non-Grey Literature

- Primacy of peer-review articles an artifact of print-based system
 - Valuable, but not an inherently superior way to depict research results
- Now that institutional repositories have eased distribution, grey literature is more accessible than ever before
- A hierarchy between peer-reviewed and grey literature apparent in institutional repositories, but it is softer than in traditional scholarship

Collapse of Distinction Between Grey and non-Grey Literature (Cont.)

- Envisioning the Future:
 - Continuum of scholarship rather than a hierarchy
 - Grey literature just as valued as peer-reviewed materials
 - Peer-review ratifies rather than validates scholarship
 - Core of scholarship is contained in the grey literature

Selected Resources

- Timeline of Open Access Movement:
<http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/timeline.htm>
- Institutional Repositories: Essential Infrastructure for Scholarship in the Digital Age”:
<http://www.arl.org/newsltr/226/ir.html>
- “Understanding Faculty to Improve Content Recruitment for Institutional Repositories”:
<http://www.dlib.org/dlib/january05/foster/01foster.html>
- “Academic Institutional Repositories: Deployment Status in 13 Nations as of Mid 2005”:
<http://www.dlib.org/dlib/september05/westrienen/09westrienen.html>