Infrastructures for Gold and/or Green Open Access

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Taking over the Presidency of the Council…

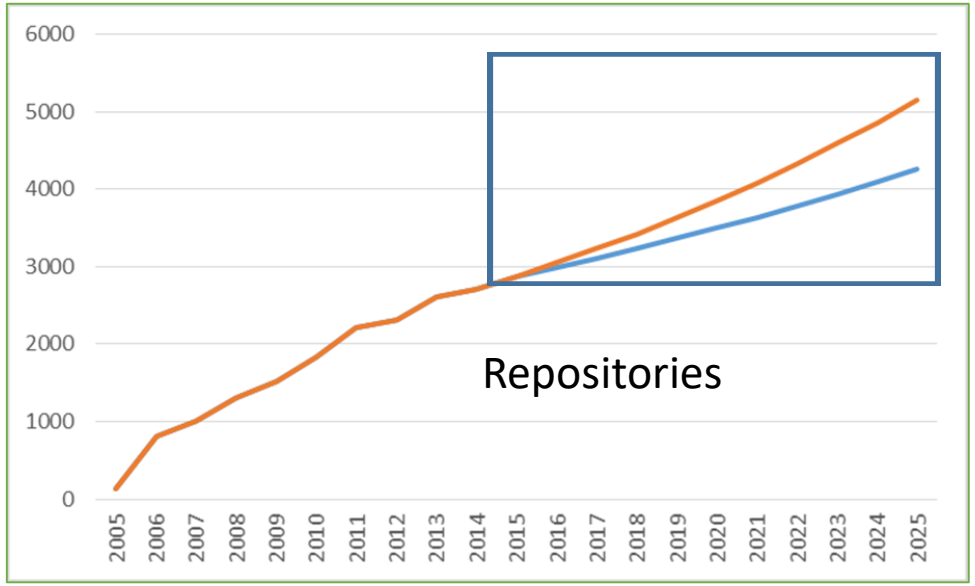
- « Focus on the essentials… »
- Four freedoms: under the 1957 Treaty of Rome, goods, services, capital and people are supposed to be able to move freely across the Union’s internal borders
- What can you do to increase the free movement of scientific information (not only) across the borders?

OA not a goal

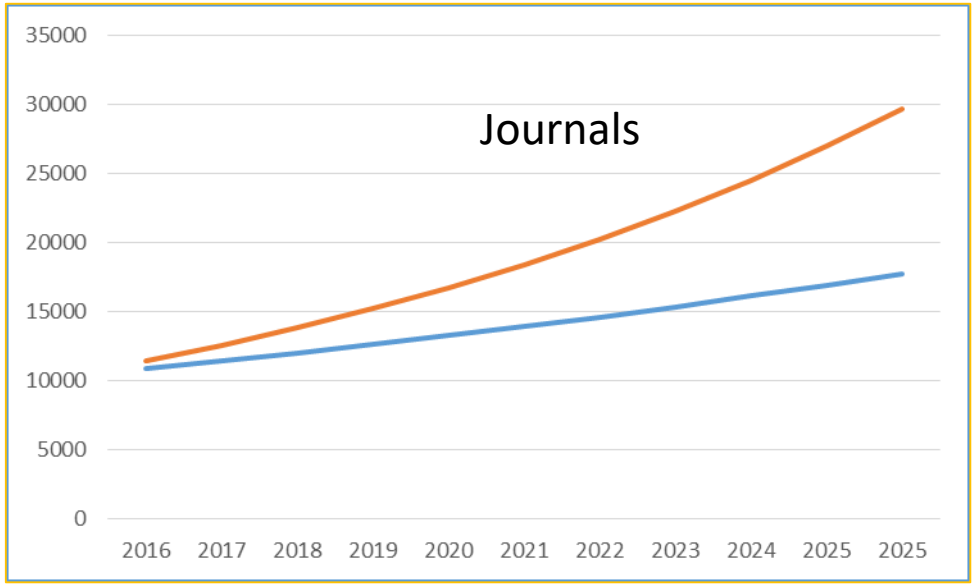
- Open access is not a goal by itself but a way to foster scientific communication
  - Through accelerated communication
  - And larger dissemination
- The essential question is not: what should we do to increase OA?
- But: what should we do to improve scientific communication?
  - It is not about policy (liberalism and/or anti-capitalism)
  - But about efficiency and serving best the research communities' interests
  - Realpolitik rather than ideology

Open access is a success story

- Green



- Gold



"11 years after the Berlin Declaration on Open Access, the rise of Open Access appears to inflict little or no damage on the leading subscription publishers" (Aspesi & Luong 2014)

Key factors of success

Public OA

- Community commitment
- Institutional support
- National research policy and importance of the public sector
- Funding
- Copyright

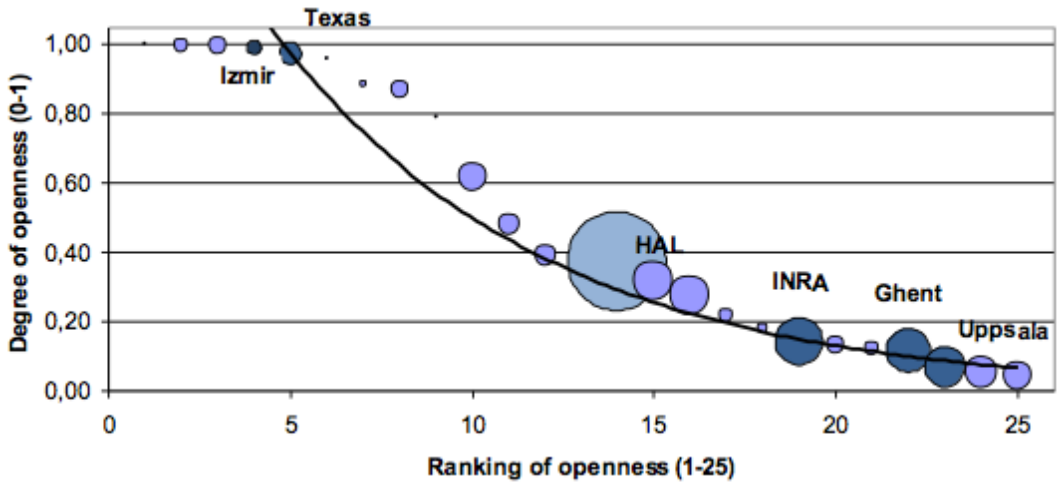
Corporate OA

- Sustainable business model
  - APCs
  - (Freemium)
  - (Ad revenues)
  - (APIs, developer tools)
- Other revenues
  - Added value services
  - Selling data and information

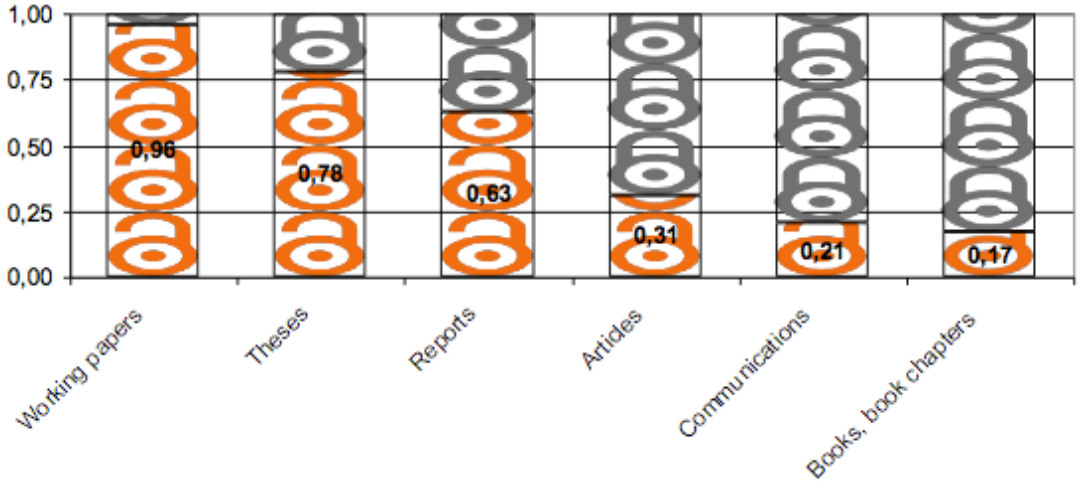
Yet, the success depends on scientific disciplines, countries, information industry.

Limitations of green

Reduced openness in institutional repositories



Openness depends (also) on document type

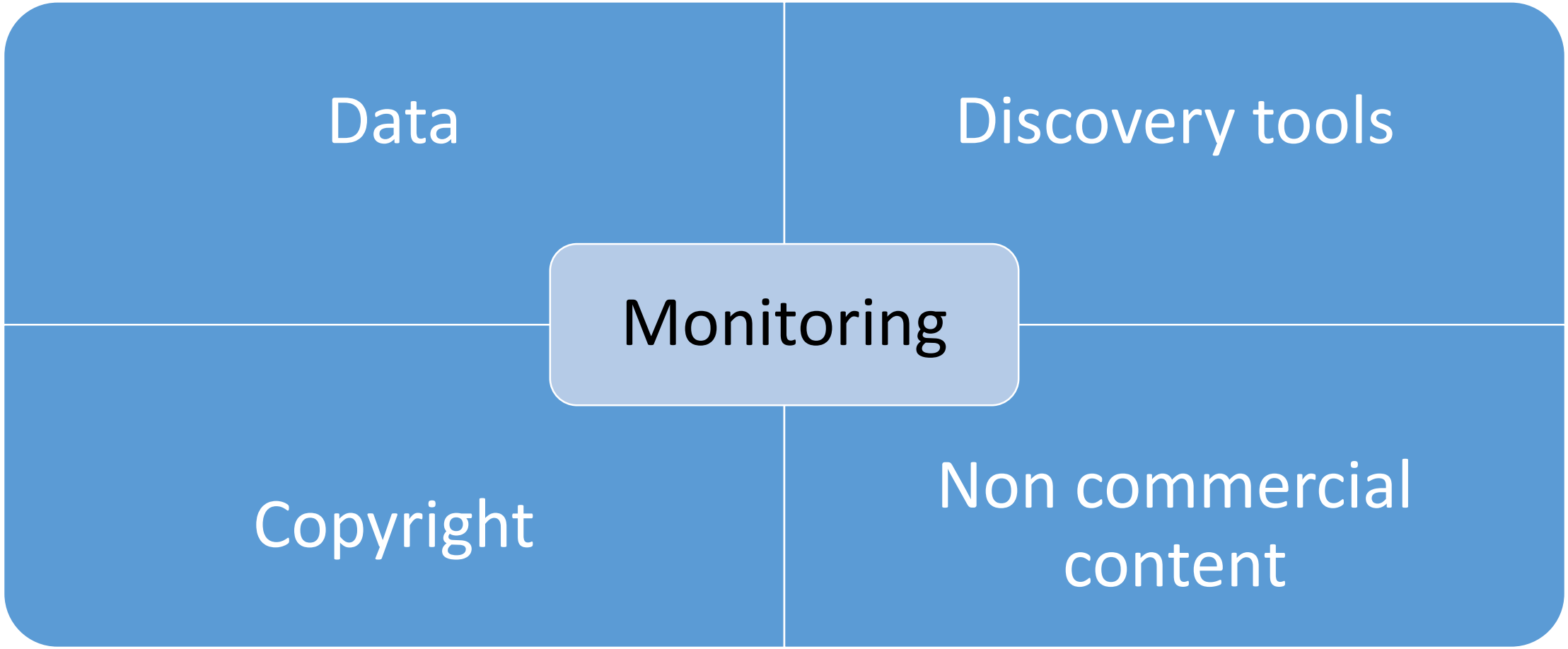


Challenges: interoperability, balancing global and local requirements, sustainability, visibility, added value services (COAR 2015)

Limitations of gold

- A new digital divide?
  - Gold for the rich
  - Green for the others
- Impact on quality (predatory publishing)?
- Fostering oligopoly of academic publishing?
- Increasing impact for those who can afford APCs
- Divide between information (raw) and knowledge (added value)

Five priority areas for action taking



Monitoring

- No unique solution… but criteria to evaluate them
- Impact of OA on STI budget
  - Overall expenditure
  - Part of public R&D spending
- Impact of OA on availability
  - Part of all STI
  - Delay between submission and dissemination
- Impact on STI market consolidation
  - Oligopoly? competition? price level?
  - Removing barriers to innovation?
- Wanted: accepted criteria for quality auditing
  - Labels for tools and services (DANS Data Seal of Approval, DINI certificate…)

Data

- Research data
  - Contribution to a coherent open data ecosystem (RECODE 2015)
  - Key issues: heterogeneity and standardization; accessibility and discoverability; preservation and curation; quality and assessability; security
  - Legal and ethical challenges: intellectual property and data protection rules
- Data on research
  - Research information systems
  - New metrics based on output, citations, usage etc.

Discovery tools

- Growing success of OA means need for discovery tools
  - Filtering, selection, retrieval…
  - Portals, harvesting…
  - Content mining
  - Scientometrics, altmetrics…
- Should OA depend on Google Scholar?
- Support improvement of existing tools
- Support development of new tools

Copyright

- EU copyright reform
  - A single European copyright title?
  - Mandatory Pan-European exception for text and data mining? (LIBER Europe)
- A specific regime for public research output?
- Again, removing barriers to innovation?

Grey content

- OA is not only about (commercial) journal publishing
- How does the EU support non commercial research output (« grey literature »)?
  - ETDs: DART Europe
  - Reports?
  - Conferences?
  - Working papers?
  - Master of Research dissertations?
- A new network? A new infrastructure?

A final question on public policy: outsourcing?

- OA contributes to stimulate innovation and R&D, through gratis and/or libre dissemination of publications and research data
- Both are extremely useful for knowledge-based intelligence
- Does this mean that not only scientific publishing but also research evaluation will be outsourced to private companies?
  - Data: publications, citations, usage, results, research management…
  - Shift of control from public research evaluation agencies to the private sector
  - Following the example of financial auditing (the « big four ») and credit rating (the « big three »): the « big two » for research auditing?
  - Again, data protection rules?
- Needed: a new debate on public responsibility, ethics and action in the field of scientific research

Thank you!

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