

Is Open Access a Viable Option for the ASP Conference Series?

Feb. 16, 2010

Pune, India

Joe Jensen, ASPCS Managing
Editor

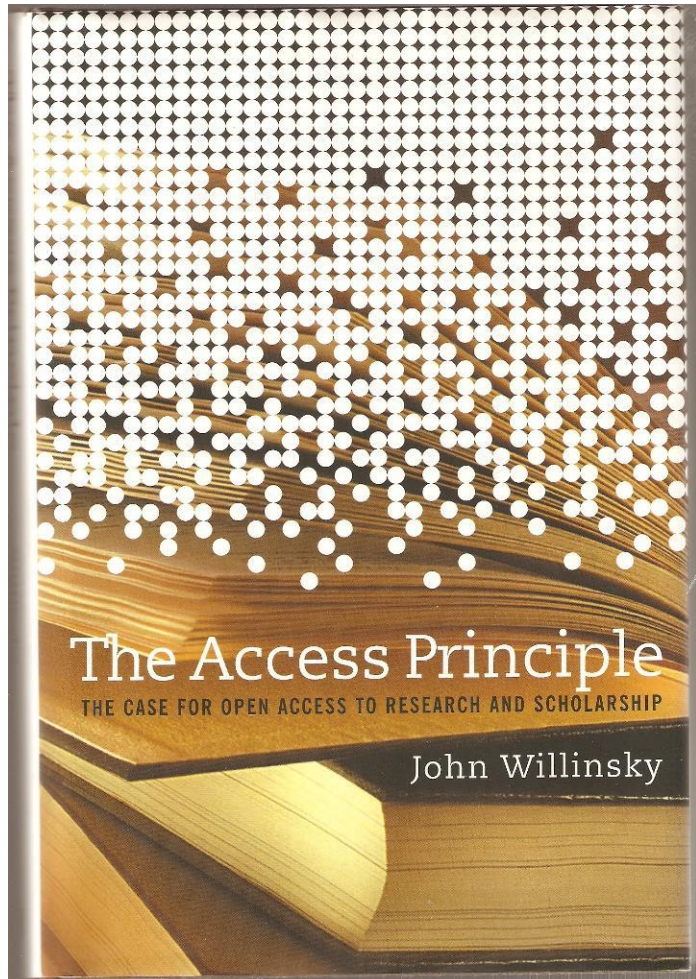


Open Access Issues for ASPCS

- The value of open access
- U.S. government recommendations
- Impact of open access on our revenue and brand reputation
- Alternatives to pure open access



Advantages of Open Access



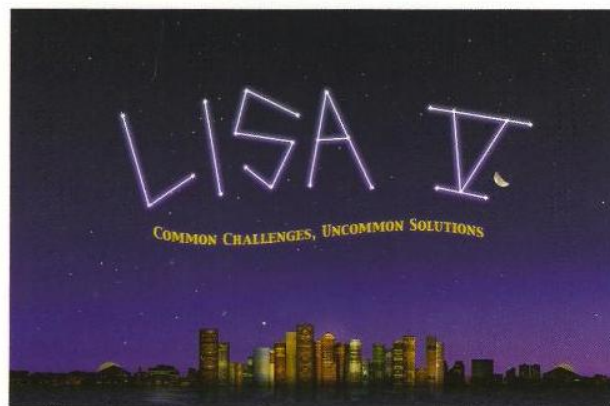
The open access principle:

“A commitment to the value and quality of research carries with it a responsibility to extend the circulation of this work as far as possible, and ideally to all who are interested in it and all who might profit by it.”

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF THE PACIFIC
CONFERENCE SERIES

VOLUME 377

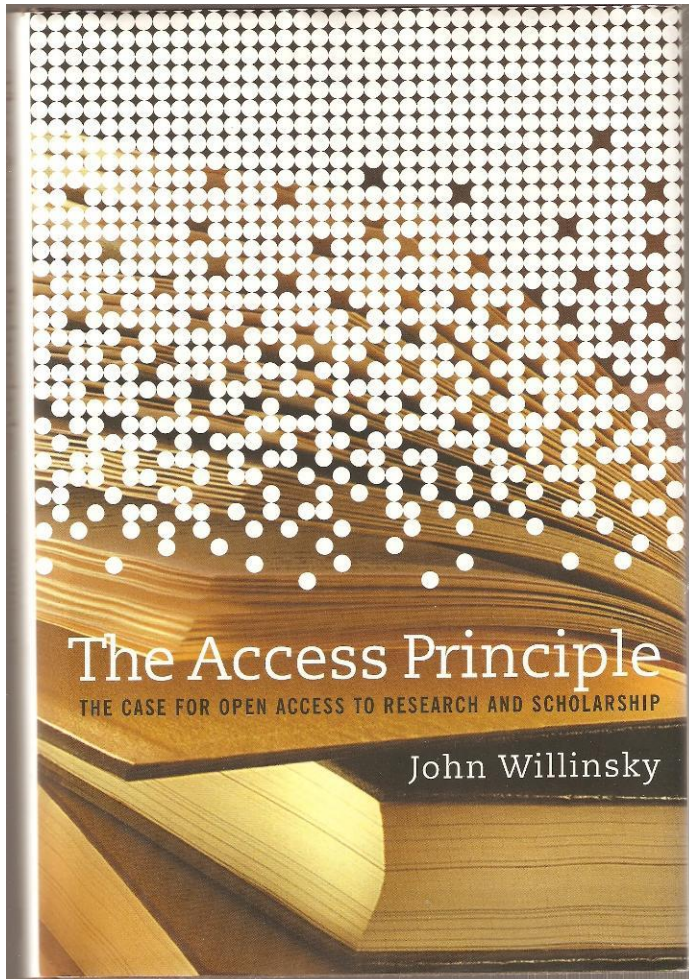
LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES
IN ASTRONOMY V:
COMMON CHALLENGES,
UNCOMMON SOLUTIONS



Edited by
Sandra Ricketts, Christina Birdie and Eva Isaksson

“Open access to the results of scholarly research has the potential to help individual researchers vastly increase the visibility, usefulness and impact of their work. Perhaps even more importantly, its potential benefits extend far beyond individual researchers to institutions, the scholarly community, and to society as a whole.”

Advantages of Open Access



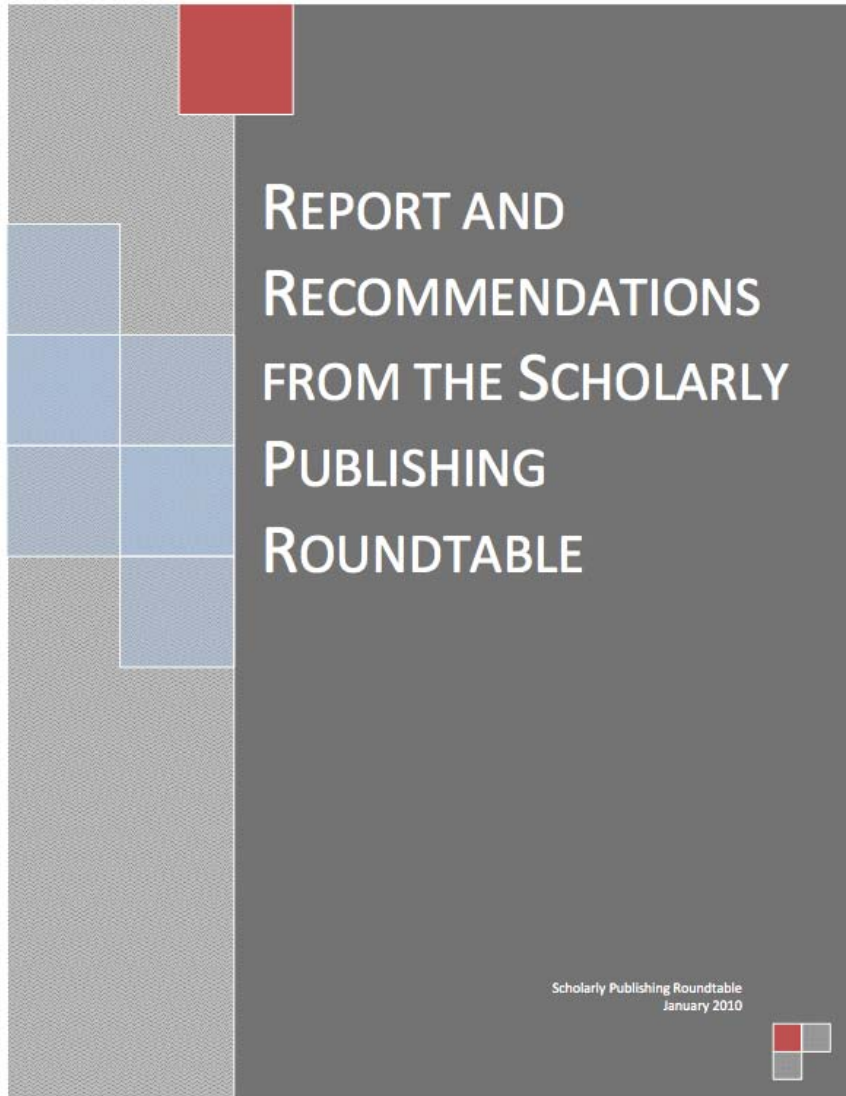
- Open access benefits humanity and the scientists who need support
- Open access increases the impact of research
- Open access is a fundamental right
- But open access requires funding, technology, indexing, and cooperation to work

Advantages of Open Access Conference Series

- Increase the impact of a meeting
- Allow greater participation in meetings
 - People who could not attend the meeting
 - Students
 - Interested amateurs and the public
- Increased readership will increase support for other ASP missions
 - Education, public outreach, etc.



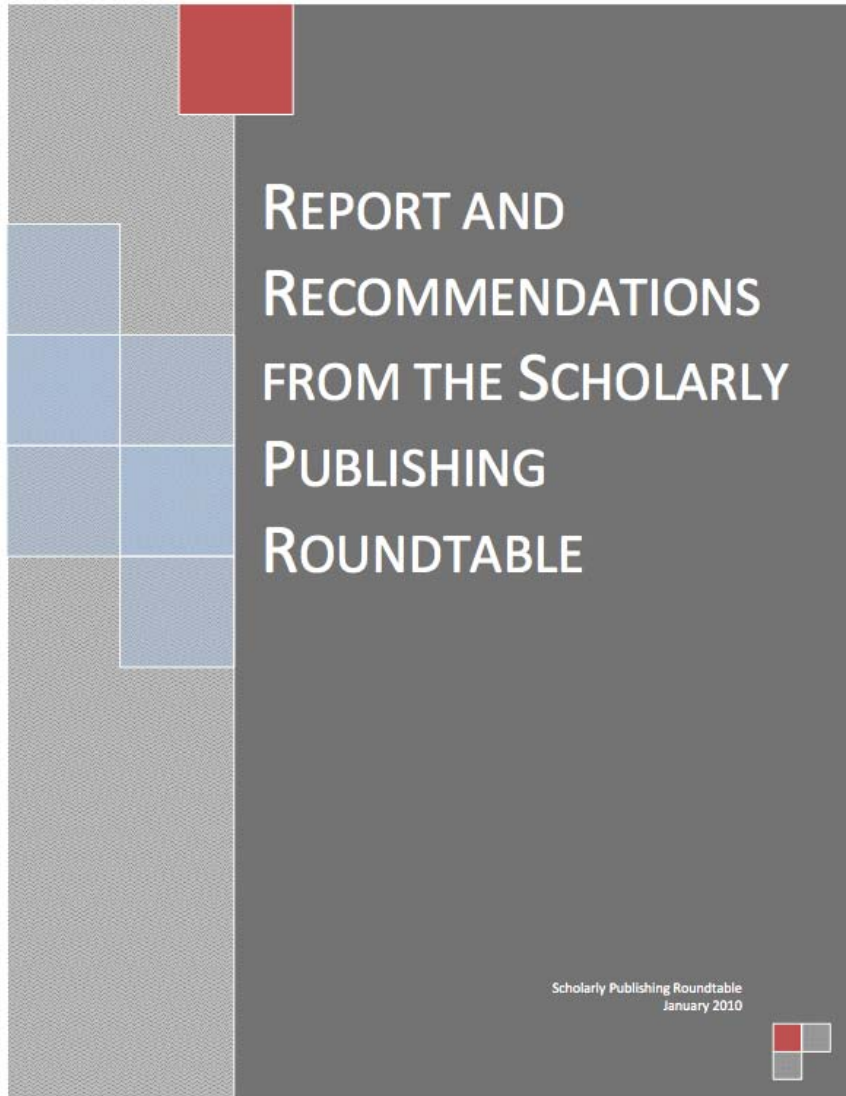
U.S. Office of Science and Technology Policy



Shared principles:

- Peer review
- Adaptable business models
- Increase access
- Sustain archives
- Encourage creative reuse

U.S. Office of Science and Technology Policy

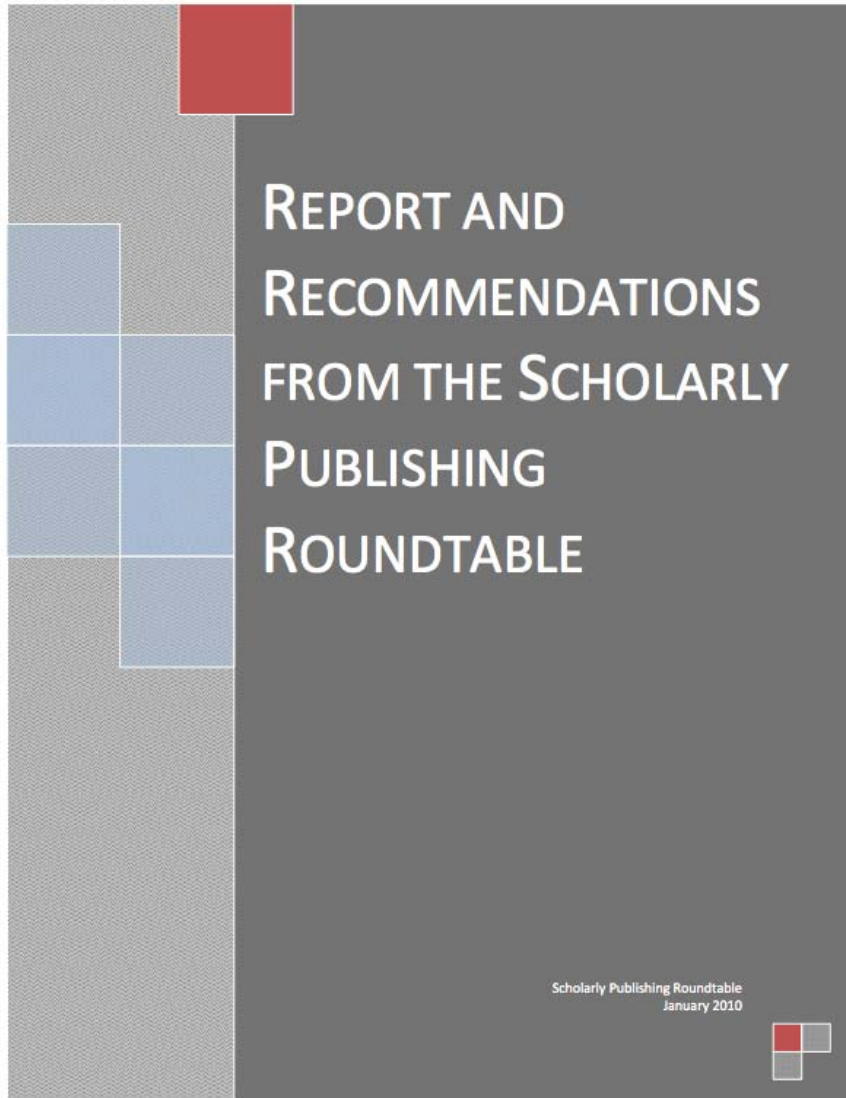


Recommendations:

- Stakeholders should work together to develop policies
- Embargo periods of one year or less
- Encourage collaboration between agencies and stakeholders



U.S. Office of Science and Technology Policy



Recommendations:

- Free access to version of record
- Foster voluntary collaborations with non-governmental stakeholders
- Foster innovation
- Digital preservation

Government Policy: A Case Study

- Research papers funded by National Institute of Health are now required to be made public within 1 year
- Voluntary e-print archiving at NIH did not result in high compliance
- Publisher backlash

Will this policy be applied to NSF or NASA in the near future?



AAS Newsletter

A Publication for the members of the American Astronomical Society

January/February 2010, Issue 150

CONTENTS

2	From the Executive Office
3	25 Things About...
4	Member Anniversaries
8	Honored Elsewhere
14	Announcements
15	Calendar of Events

Back page
Washington
News



President's Column

John Huchra, president@as.org

As I write this we are gearing up for the January AAS meeting by preparing the Council meeting agenda and preparing for a strategic planning retreat before the Council meeting. Strategic planning has become a fixture of recent Council activities. We are examining our priorities, evaluating our resources and the match between resources and priorities, and thinking of the ways the Society can be of service to its members. I hope you will help in these activities by contacting your elected AAS Council representatives with thoughts on what we are doing right or wrong and also on what the AAS might do in the future. Don't wait for the next AAS meeting, either.

Open access to the results of scientific research is one of the cornerstones of science. In astronomy, particularly in America, we have an enviable system of journals that allows us to publish our results and ideas in an efficient and cost effective way. By all objective measures the quality of our journals is extremely high. Time to publication is short. The cost of publication, now split between institutional subscriptions and page charges, remains relatively low. Our journals even "archive" moderately large tabular datasets as part of publication.

The Society and our publishers have worked hard to keep costs down and at the same time improve service. We have a mixed business model that works, as noted above, split between subscription and page charge revenue. This model does a reasonably good job of allocating costs across the users of the journals. Sometimes librarians and authors complain that their costs are too high, but most think we're still a pretty good deal.

There is a curious threat to this model, though, that has been percolating in the government for the last few years and that may finally need to be addressed. For what we believe are the best of reasons, the administration is now pushing forward a policy to enhance public access to archived publications that result from Federally funded research.

One version of this requirement has been in place for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) funded research for a few years now, with a legal requirement (in the 2008 Consolidated Appropriations Act) that papers resulting from NIH funded research be placed in a publicly accessible repository (Pub Med Central). Fortunately for scholarly publishers (and that includes us!) that requirement was amended to allow a one year "proprietary" period such that journals would still have a basis for charging for subscriptions.

So here's the deal. It costs money to publish—and preserve and archive—quality journals. Most individuals have access rights to the journals through their library subscriptions (not as one might think through the ADS). The Society's current model spreads the cost between readers and writers in a closer approximation to fairness than just institutional subscriptions would. Bigger users publish more papers and thus cover more of the costs. Ultimately, for Americans, this is close to a single-payer system as library costs are part of your institutions' overhead pool. In effect the Federal government in one way or another covers our publication costs. And a reasonable fraction of the journals' costs are borne by foreign subscriptions and page charges from foreign authors. This system has been shown to work extremely well and the results of our research are distributed and cited world wide. But it may need to change. The AAS through the Publications Board, our Director of Publishing and the Council will keep an eye on the situation and act in the best interests of science and the Society.

continued on page 3

AAS journals:

- Split cost between authors and subscribers
- Optimal sharing of costs between users
- 2 year proprietary period
- Publishing and archiving services
- International authors and readership



AAS Newsletter

A Publication for the members of the American Astronomical Society

January/February 2010, Issue 150

CONTENTS

- 2**
From the
Executive Office
- 3**
25 Things About...
- 4**
Member
Anniversaries
- 8**
Honored Elsewhere
- 14**
Announcements
- 15**
Calendar of
Events

Back page
Washington
News



President's Column

John Huchra, president@aas.org

As I write this we are gearing up for the January AAS meeting by preparing the Council meeting agenda and preparing for a strategic planning retreat before the Council meeting. Strategic planning has become a fixture of recent Council activities. We are examining our priorities, evaluating our resources and the match between resources and priorities, and thinking of the ways the Society can be of service to its members. I hope you will help in these activities by contacting your elected AAS Council representatives with thoughts on what we are doing right or wrong and also on what the AAS might do in the future. Don't wait for the next AAS meeting, either.

Open access to the results of scientific research is one of the cornerstones of science. In astronomy, particularly in America, we have an enviable system of journals that allows us to publish our results and ideas in an efficient and cost effective way. By all objective measures the quality of our journals is extremely high. Time to publication is short. The cost of publication, now split between institutional subscriptions and page charges, remains relatively low. Our journals even "archive" moderately large tabular datasets as part of publication.

The Society and our publishers have worked hard to keep costs down and at the same time improve service. We have a mixed business model that works, as noted above, split between subscription and page charge revenue. This model does a reasonably good job of allocating costs across the users of the journals. Sometimes librarians and authors complain that their costs are too high, but most think we're still a pretty good deal.

There is a curious threat to this model, though, that has been percolating in the government for the last few years and that may finally need to be addressed. For what we believe are the best of reasons, the administration is now pushing forward a policy to enhance public access to archived publications that result from Federally funded research.

One version of this requirement has been in place for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) funded research for a few years now, with a legal requirement (in the 2008 Consolidated Appropriations Act) that papers resulting from NIH funded research be placed in a publicly accessible repository (Pub Med Central). Fortunately for scholarly publishers (and that includes us!) that requirement was amended to allow a one year "proprietary" period such that journals would still have a basis for charging for subscriptions.

So here's the deal. It costs money to publish—and preserve and archive—quality journals. Most individuals have access rights to the journals through their library subscriptions (not as one might think through the ADS). The Society's current model spreads the cost between readers and writers in a closer approximation to fairness than just institutional subscriptions would. Bigger users publish more papers and thus cover more of the costs. Ultimately, for Americans, this is close to a single-payer system as library costs are part of your institutions' overhead pool. In effect the Federal government in one way or another covers our publication costs. And a reasonable fraction of the journals' costs are borne by foreign subscriptions and page charges from foreign authors. This system has been shown to work extremely well and the results of our research are distributed and cited world wide. But it may need to change. The AAS through the Publications Board, our Director of Publishing and the Council will keep an eye on the situation and act in the best interests of science and the Society.

continued on page 3

AAS journals:

“A government mandate will disrupt our publishing model and require significant changes to how we manage our journals.”



Publishers Win a Bout In E-Book Price Fight

By MOTOKO RICH

Could book publishers suddenly be in the position of telling Google what to do?

With the impending arrival of digital books on the Apple iPad and feverish negotiations with Amazon.com over e-book prices, publishers have managed to take some control — at least temporarily — of how much consumers pay for their content.

Now, as publishers enter discussions with the Web giant Google about its plan to sell digital versions of new books direct to consumers, they have a little more leverage than just a few weeks ago — at least when it comes to determining how Google will pay publishers for those e-books and how much consumers will pay for them.

Google has been talking about

*Tough negotiations
with Google about
costs and access.*

entering the direct e-book market, through a program it calls Google Editions, for nearly a year. But in early discussions with publishers, Google had pro-

Open Access in the Private Sector

- The trend towards less expensive electronic books and open access (including searching, indexing) is now running up against the publishers' willingness to cut prices any further.

“...publishers have managed to take control – at least temporarily – of how much

consumers pay for their content”

New York Times, Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2010

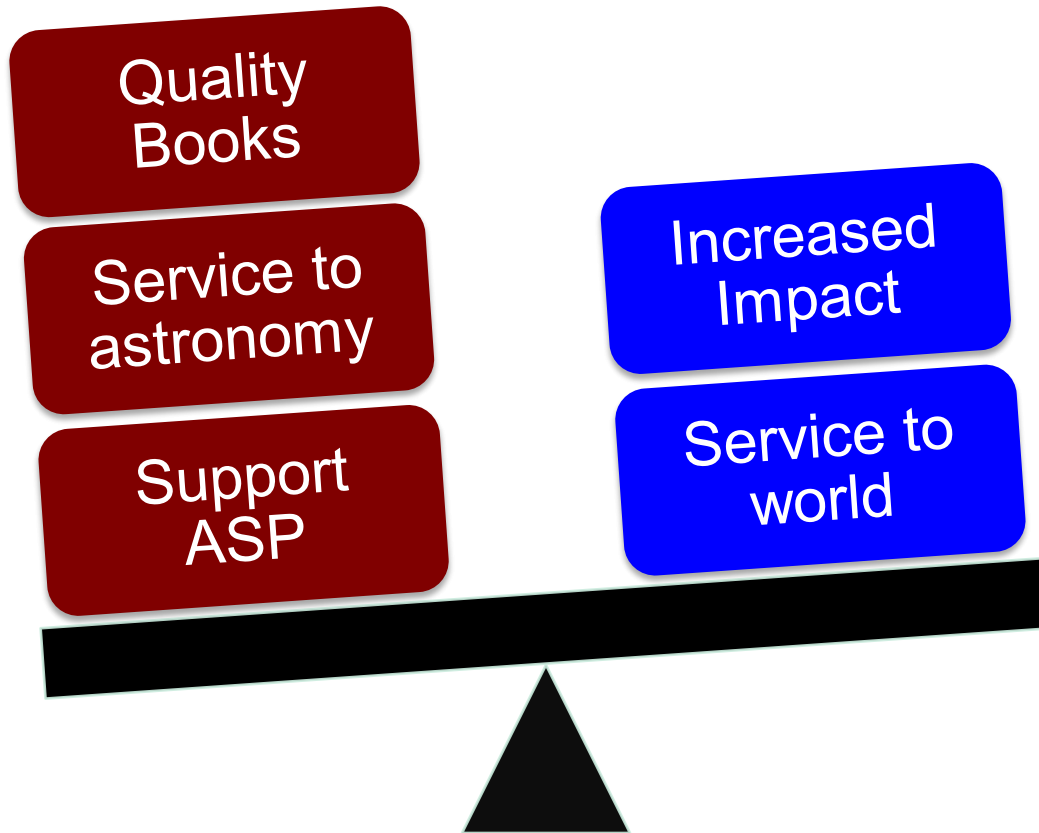


**So where does the ASP
Conference Series stand?**

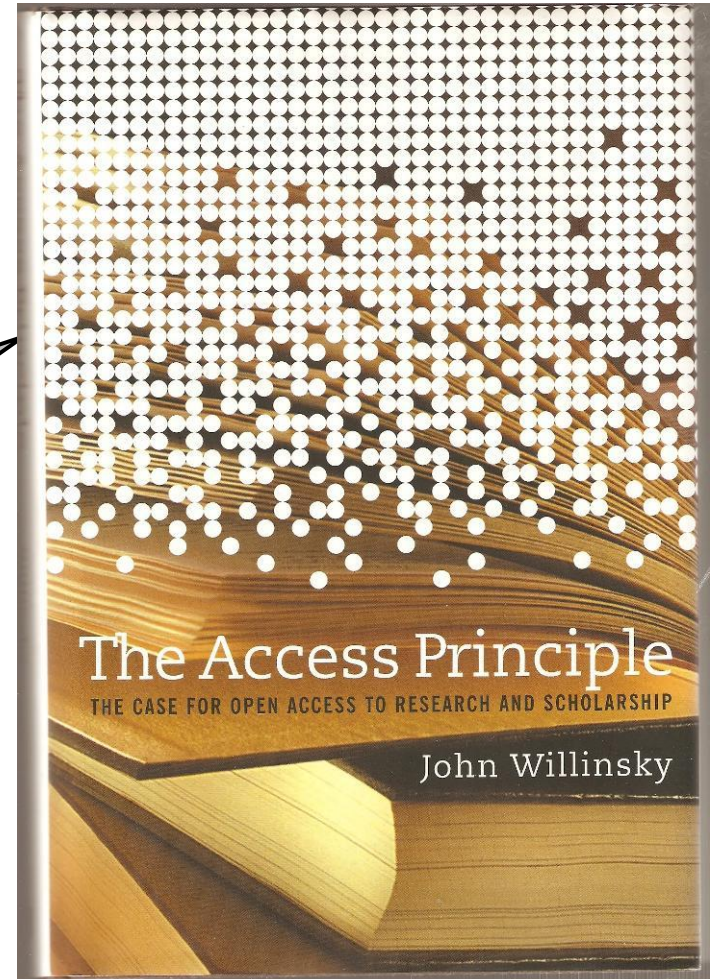


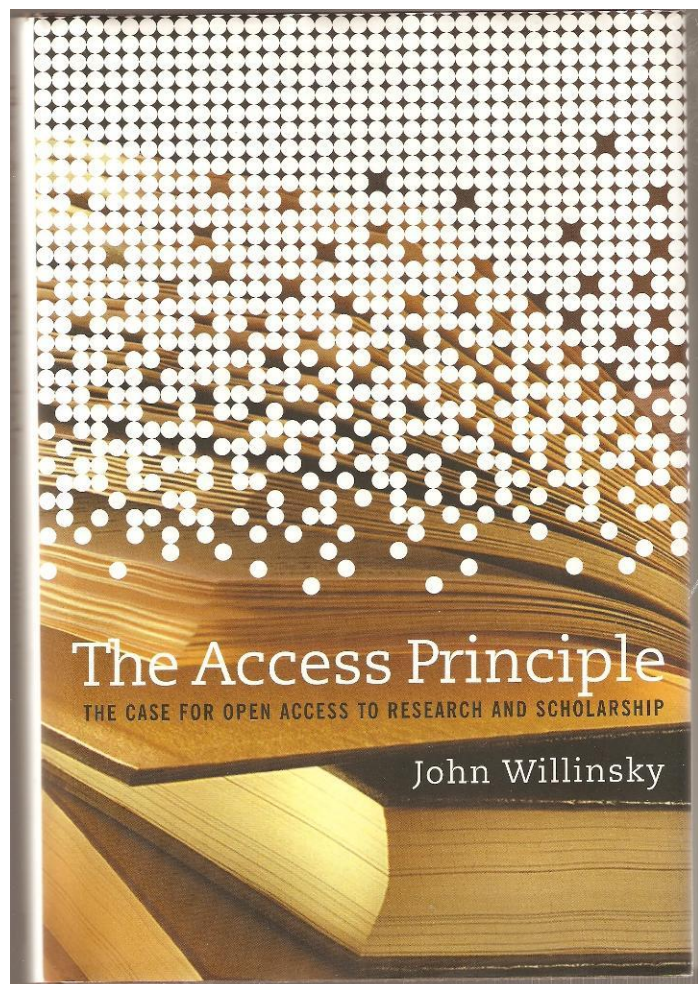
**Sales &
Subscriptions**
(higher costs)

Open Access
(lower prices)



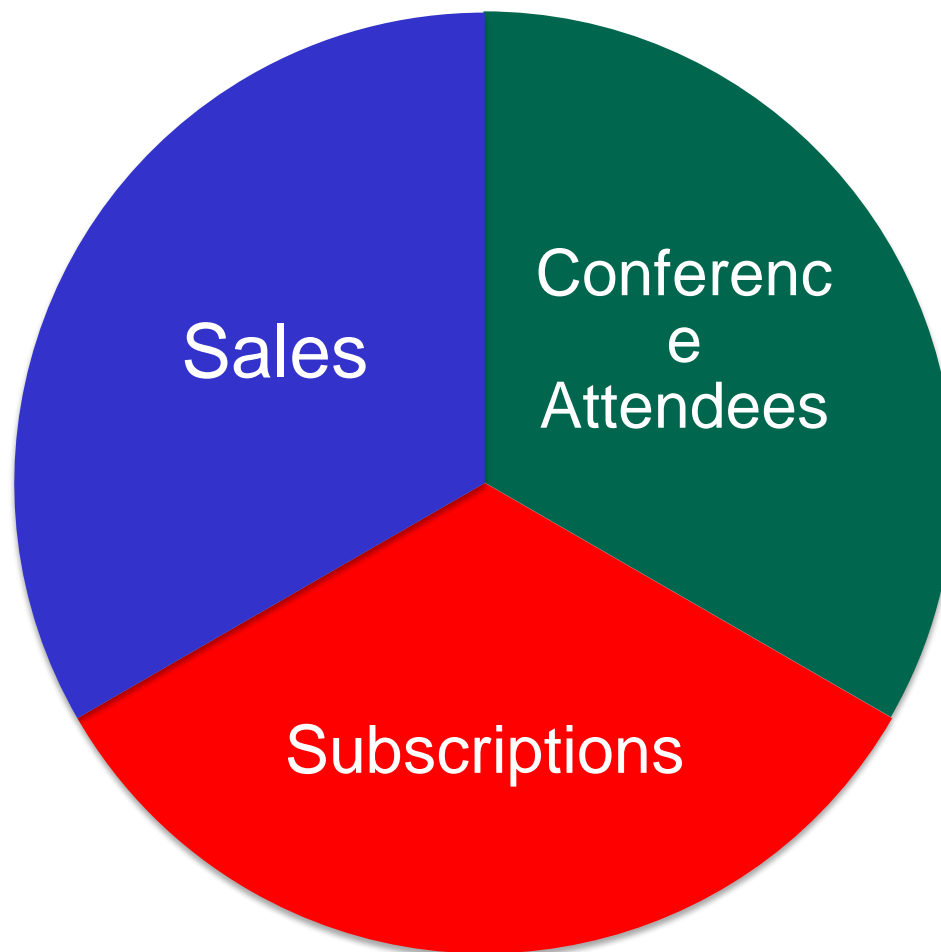
“From a researcher-as-author perspective, increased readership (and citation) will always trump journal revenues.”



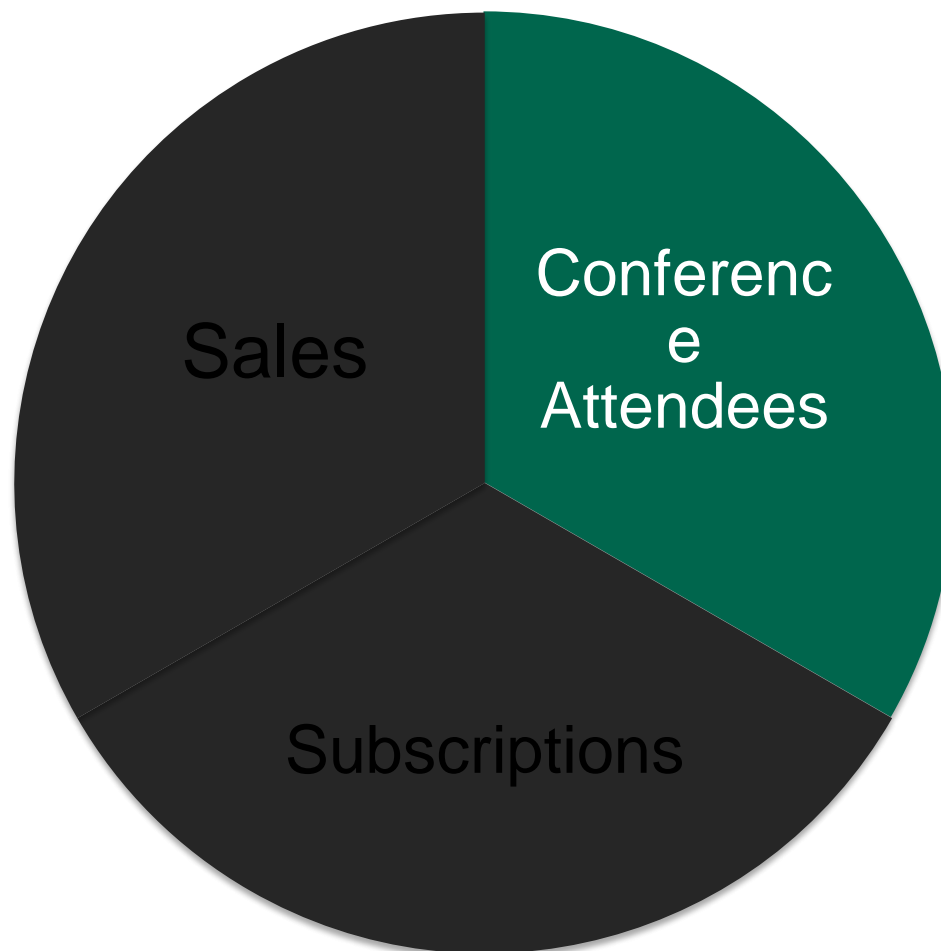


“Publishers are there...to support the authority, quality, accessibility, longevity, and recognition of scholarship.”

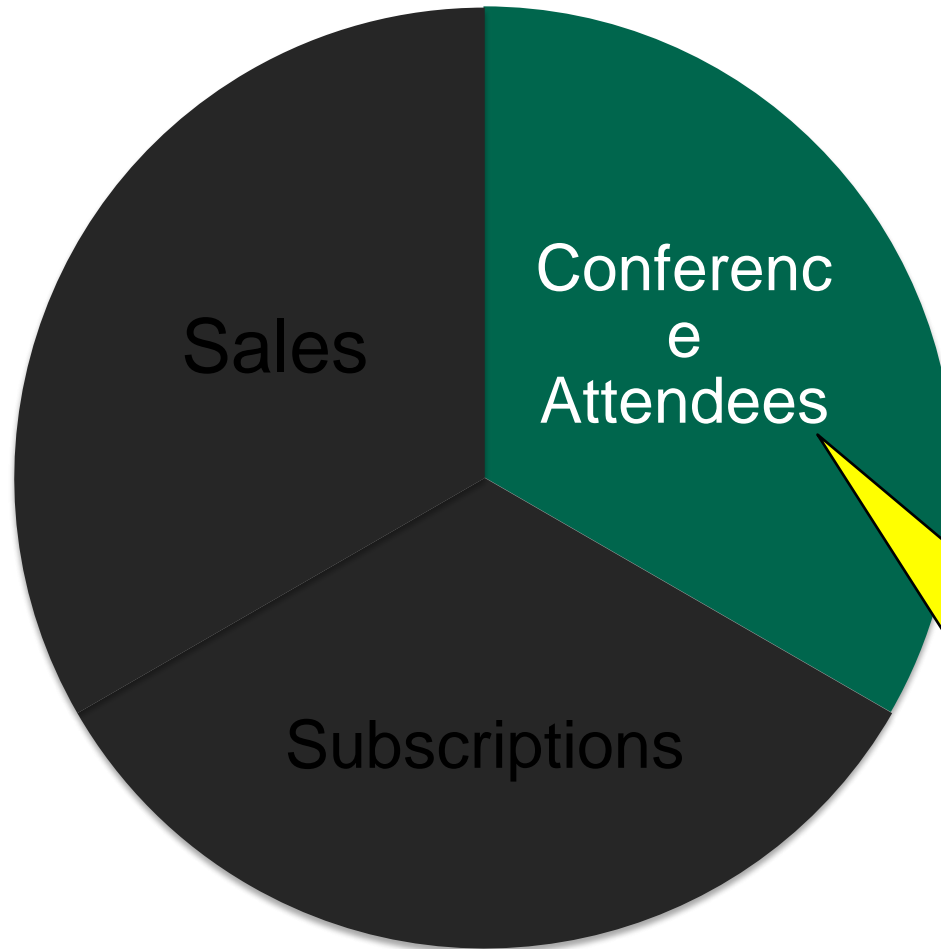
Conference Series Sources of Income



Conference Series Sources of Income



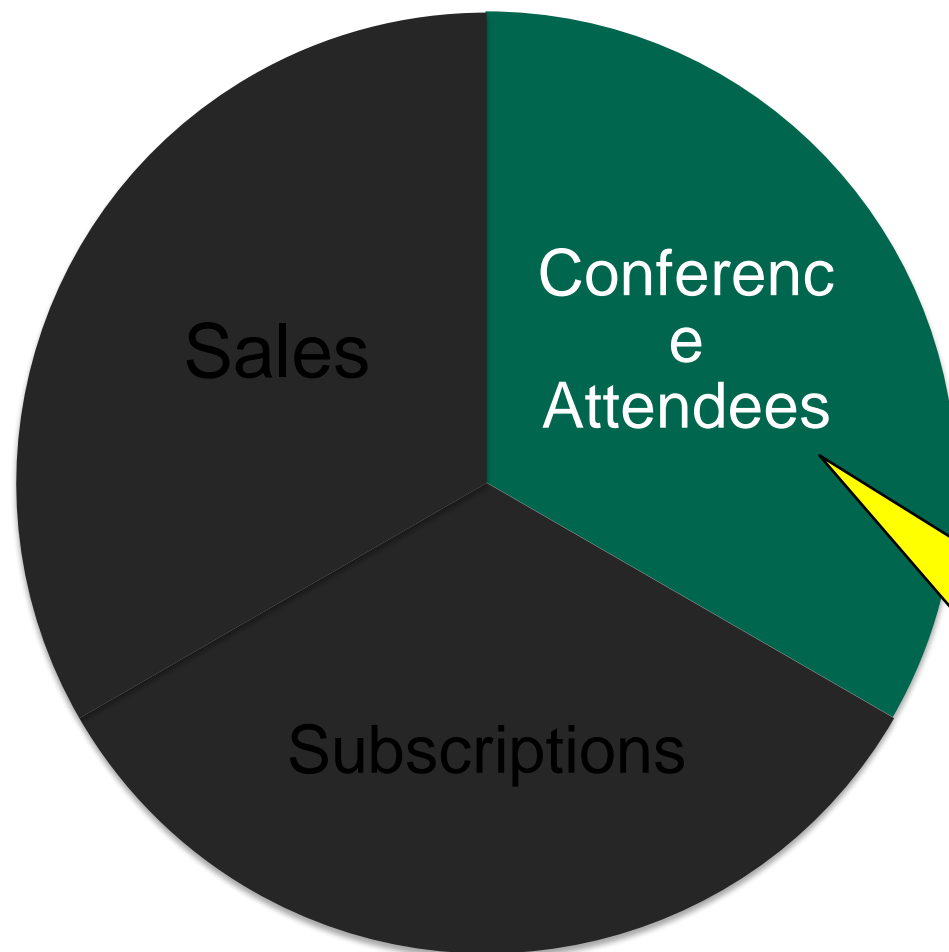
Conference Series Sources of Income



Should authors and conference organizers have to pay for everyone else to use their work for free?



Conference Series Sources of Income



Will government agencies sponsoring meetings pick up the tab?

2. Open Access Issues

Should we...

- Pass on all expenses to authors, conference attendees, and conference sponsors?
- Stop printing books?
- Look for completely new ways to fund the series (i.e., sponsors)?

2. Open Access Issues

Should we...

- Pass on all expenses to authors, conference attendees, and conference organizers?
- Stop printing books?
- Look for completely new ways to fund the series (i.e., sponsors)?

2. Open Access Issues

Should we...

- Pass on all expenses to authors, conference attendees, and conference organizers?
- Stop publishing books?
- Look for completely new ways to fund the series (i.e., sponsors)?

2. Open Access Issues

Should we...

- Pass on all expenses to authors, conference attendees, and conference organizers?
- Stop publishing books?
- Look for completely new ways to fund the series (i.e., sponsors)?

Since libraries don't have the budgets to pay for publication, who will our sponsors be?

Open Access and the ASPCS

- Open access is already allowed via the arXiv.org web site (astro-ph) and ADS; ASPCS allows authors to use this free e-print archive and server.
- The ASP discourages open-access for individual conferences because of the inequities it engenders and because it degrades the value of our product to subscribers.

Personal Perspectives

- Open access for ASPCS will require that a significant cost savings can be achieved by going to electronic-only publication
- Demand for our printed volumes is still high
- We can increase our impact by printing volumes more quickly and reducing the workload on the authors and editors
- Open access is already available in part



Personal Perspectives

We want to remain known for our
affordable, high-quality
conference proceedings!

...and prepare for the possibility that
we must reduce our proprietary time to
comply with new government
regulations.

