

# Policy environment for better scholarly communication in Japan

Syun Tutiya  
(Chiba University)

SPARC Institutional Repository Meeting, Baltimore, MD  
November 18, 2008

# Points today

- There were “institutional repositories” in Japan in 90s, funded by the government, at the size of \$10M.
- They were failures, waste of money and time.
- There are lessons to learn, fortunately.
- Describe lessons in form of policies
- State that we are consistent with the policies stipulated.

Nov 18, 2004

Institutional Repositories: the next stage

5

Nov 18, 2008

2

# Our(who?) policy decisions

- Technical part first:
  - Collect anything, as opposed to digitization; “Libraries don’ create.” Collecting and preserving come hand in hand even in the electronic age, though coordination is necessary
  - Careful but progressive about copyright: ask for author’s licensing, and if she can’t, check if it is green at least(mayby not in terms of “right” but “obligation”)
  - Metadata tagged by librarians for now, and to be harvested by National Institute of Informatics, accessible at GeNii, which is a national portal to scholarly resources
  - NII also provide platforms
  - Statistics should be take seriously(COUNTER is hard with open access)

## Policy decisions(cont'd)

- Intrauniversity lobbying: No principled ideas yet: though, in the current Japan situation,
  - Assessment
  - Industry/Society relationship
- To funders/government: No principled ideas yet but Japanese modernization history might be convincing: Promotion of outflow, but this turns to the problem in general of society publishing

Nov 18, 2004

Institutional Repositories: the next stage

17

# After four years in Japan,

## 2004

- Technicalities
  1. Collect anything—principled promiscuity
  2. Authors are to deposit
  3. Harvest metadata nationally
  4. National platform, maybe
  5. Statistics
- Politics
  6. Lobbying to campus community
  7. Lobbying to government/funders

## 2008

- Achievements:
  1. # of IRs: 4 to over 80
  2. Rights issues yet unsettled
  3. JAIRO@NII
  4. Collaborative repositories emerging
  5. ROAT
  6. Liaison librarianship, but not just advocacy
  7. No results

# Did we have any policies from 2004 to 2008?

- No policies is our policy
  - For everything to be on repository platform, any content and any approach must be ok
- NII came in with CSI idea
  - Resulting in a new culture in library community
  - Sharing and collaboration
  - Government reluctantly following up with its committee report
- Assessment did not drive
- OA is a “foreign” issue, still

# After another four years,

## 2004

- Technicalities
  1. Principled promiscuity
  2. Author's right
  3. Metadata
  4. National platform
  5. Statistics
- Politics
  6. Lobbying to campus community
  7. Lobbying to powers that be/funders

## 2012

- Achievements
  1. 200
  2. "digital publishing first"
  3. ?
  4. ?
  5. Should be better, but no guarantee
  6. From advocacy to promotion
  7. ?

**Lesson: Environments are more important**

# Repositories are not in a vacuum

- Higher education contexts
  - Different from country to country, but moving toward standardization, or Americanization
- Research/Science contexts
  - Changing science practices
    - Protocols, simulation, visualization, ...
    - Knowledge for its own sake?
  - Changing relationship between science and society/government
- Publishing contexts
  - Internet/Web changed everything
- Library contexts
  - After “physical storage” gets unnecessary

# As applied to Japan

- Higher education
  - “Relative” open access in Japan to scholarly results
    - OA advocacy unpopular both on campus and in scholarly communities
  - Reforms in the science and technology plans and in higher education system
    - Increased dependency on “competitive money” or “soft money”
  - “Identity” talk has worked and works, though
  - Faculty accomplishments in focus but not seriously yet
  - Well, budget cuts and the decreasing number of children but maybe better than US

# As applied to Japan,

- Research and science practice
  - Computational science
    - Science by computing, but all science has been done by computing. Some history
  - Data centered science
    - Science centering on data, but no science has been free from data
  - “Protocol” “journals”
  - Humanities and social sciences databases
    - Linguistic corpora etc, but humanities have been libraries
- These are all good news for IR community

# As applied to Japan,

- Publishing and library contexts
  - No accepted viable models for electronic/online publishing, scholarly or otherwise, in Japan
    - Publishers simply refuse to “think,” apparently
    - Something has to be done, but nobody knows the something
  - Publishers approaching researchers not only as author, sometimes skipping libraries
    - Websites, direct emails, workshops, ...
    - Scientists paying 1% of salary can buy most of commercial articles, in theory

# Anything missing?

- International collaboration
  - To share experiences
  - To exchange information
  - To standardize
  - To discuss infrastructure, but not only for IRs but for everything relevant
  - Europeans seem ready. We are ready. You are not.
- Next meeting, anywhere anytime