

What now? – Beyond libraries and publishing

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Main questions

- Repositories are already there and what use are they?
 - “how to build a repository” is no longer an issue: we have systems, expertise, staff, friendly researchers (though not all are friends), developers and good librarians
 - No doubt any more that repositories are open access, though it does not seem to have immediate impact on journal publishing industry
- My answer is science in the broadest sense.

In summary

- Good job for such a short time
 - The number literally skyrocketed and skyrocketing
 - From 0 to over 110 in 5 years
 - Library community invigorated apparently
 - Lots of workshops, conferences, meeting, blogs, emails
 - Lots of new ideas
 - “Generation” gap more visible (starting with techies and ending up with “conventional” librarians)
 - International harmonization consistently pursued
- But faculty awareness chronically low
 - More librarians than ever talking to the faculty, though

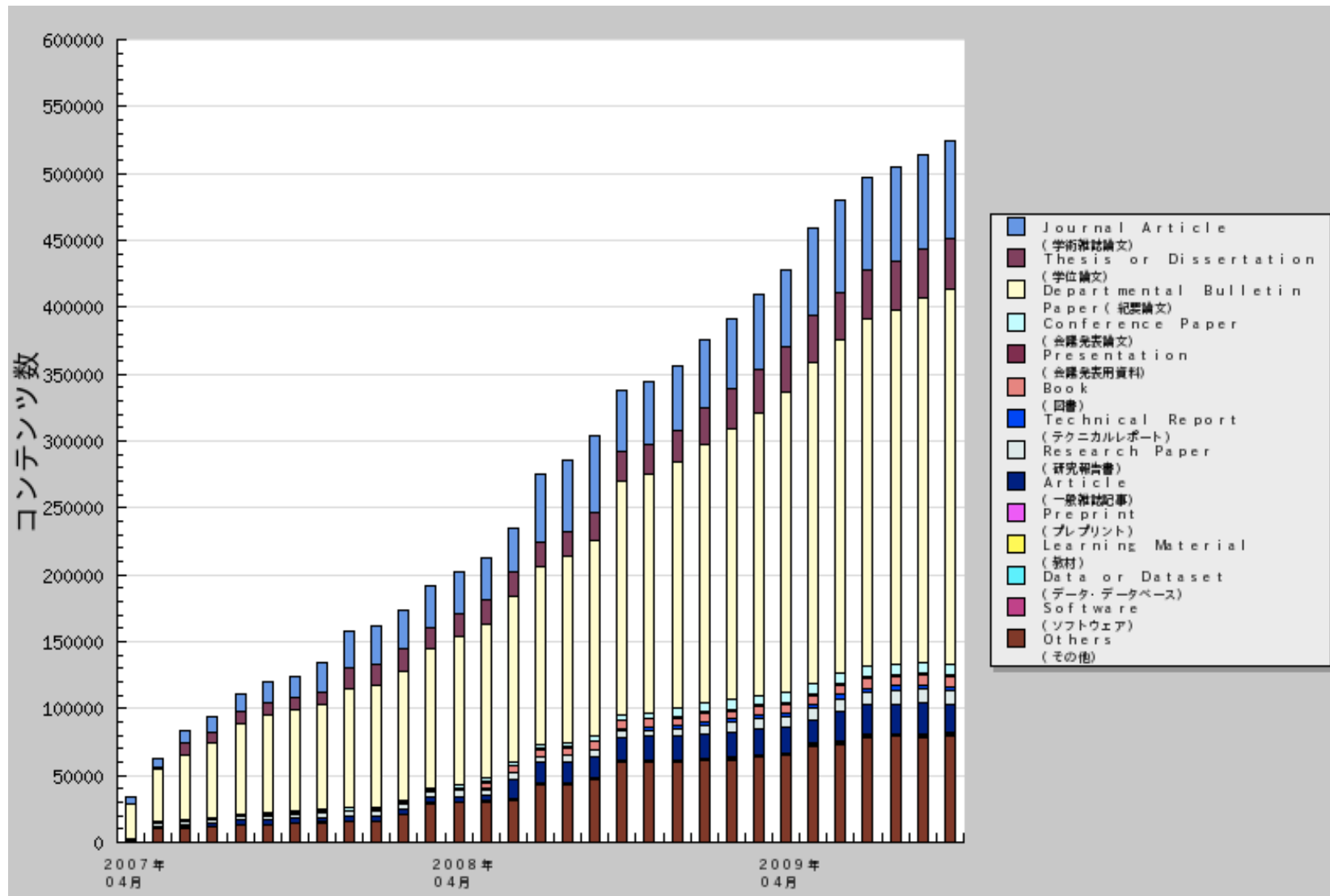
Looking back

- 2002: an institutional repository idea looming on the horizon in Chiba, first in Japan
- News on a series of declarations, Budapest, Berlin, Bethesda, etc, for open access
- Sugita's software installation project at NII in 2004, to some success
- November, 2004: Harnad's visit to Japan(Library Fair, JST, JSPS, NII) but may have been too early
- Chiba's CURATOR officially launched in 2005, first in Japan
- FY2005 – 2007: As part of NII's Cyber Science Infrastructure, "funding" for starting and developing repositories, which included DRF, SCPJ, etc
- January, 2008: DRFIC2008@Osaka in FY2007
- FY2008 – 2009: Second term for NII's CSI funding
- November, 2009: Commitment to COAR

And finally

- Japan has more than 110 repositories in higher education institutions plus some in research-dedicated institutions
- (Almost) all research university libraries now manage institutional repositories
- But no mandate has been declared in Japan
- Still repositories are getting fuller and fuller, to people's surprise
- User-conscious developments are attracting attention, including interests in download counts, liaising with ILL staff, connecting to discovery tools
- Health in short

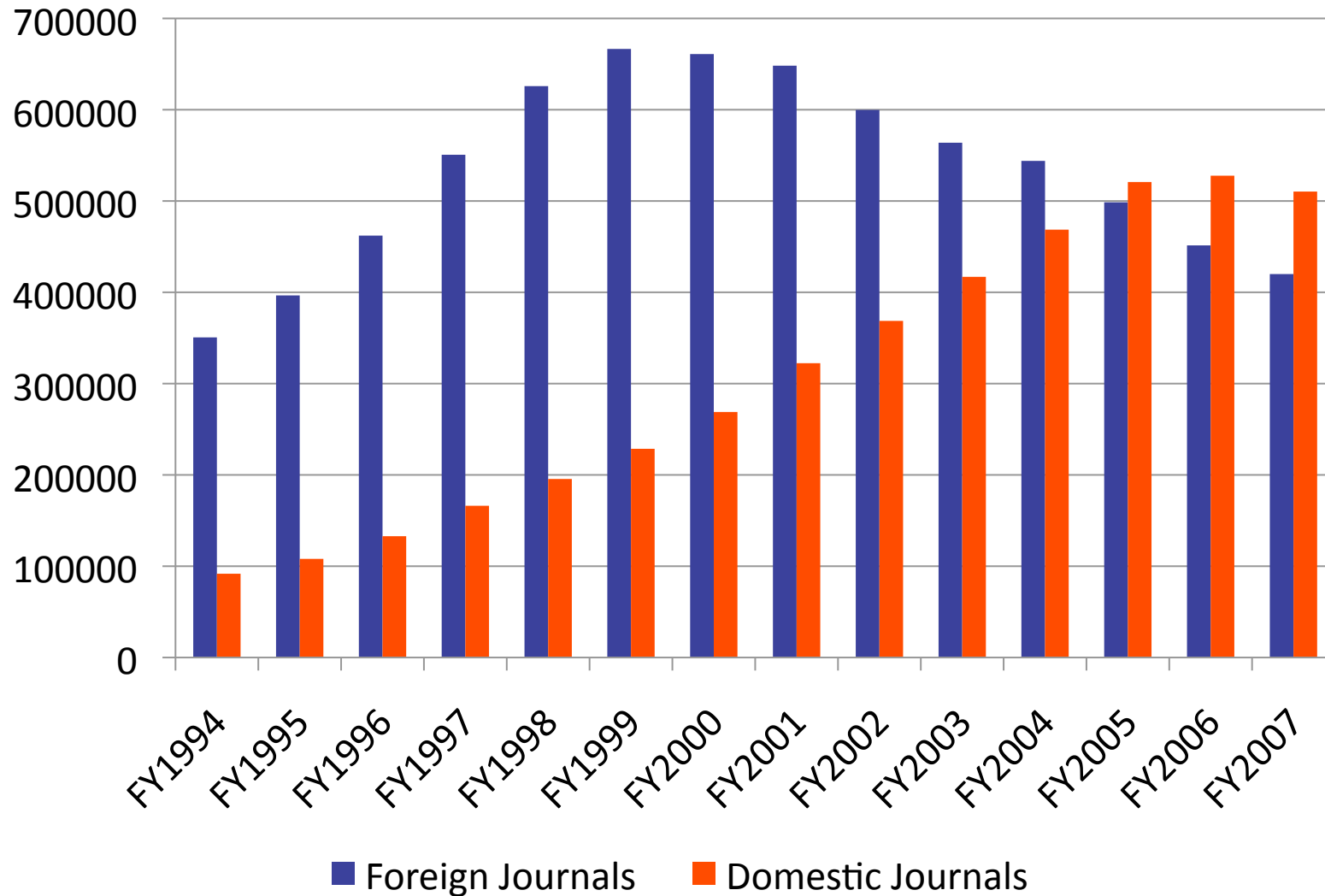
The growing population in IRs



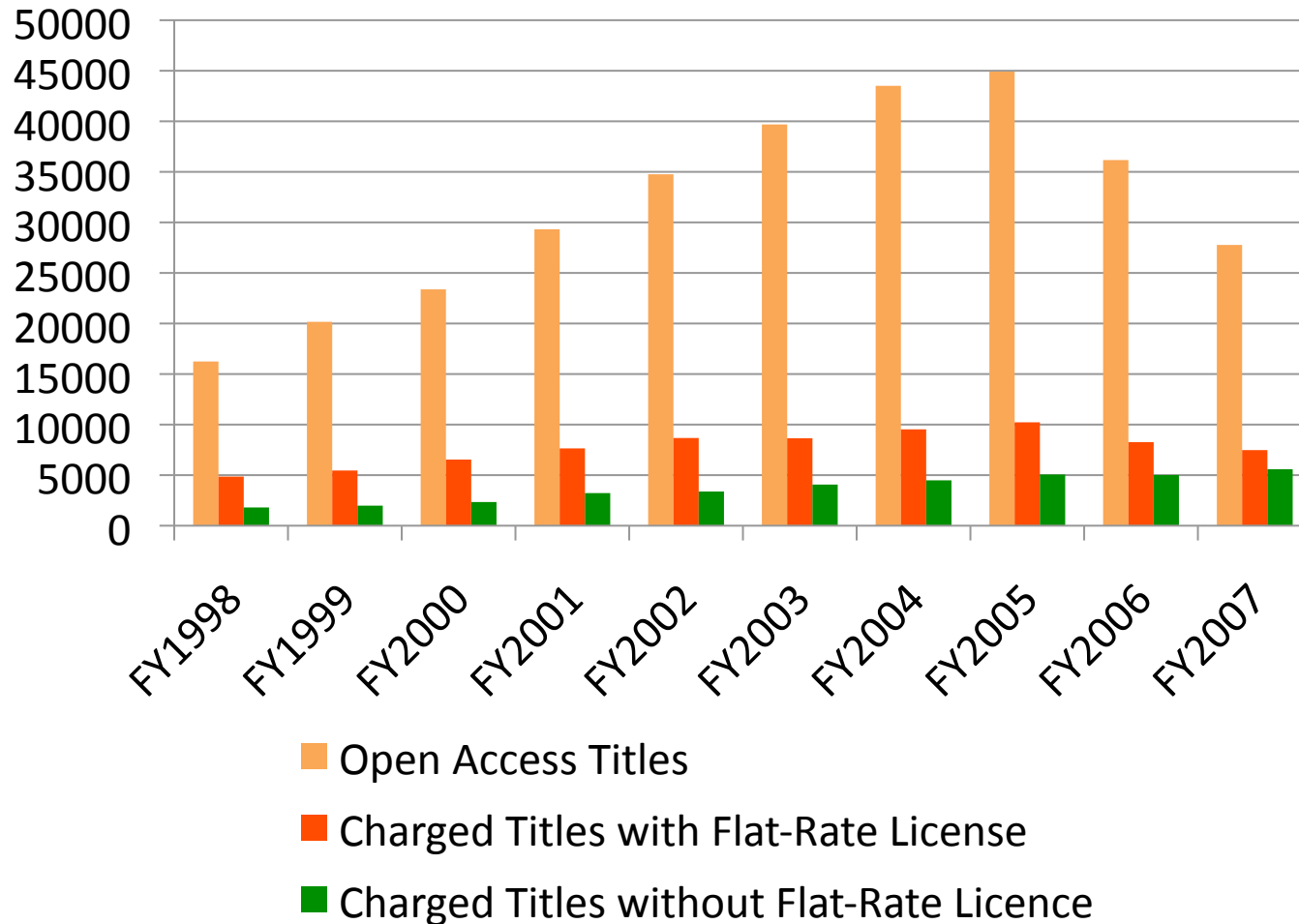
This is not limited to Japan

- Worldwide,
 - Repositories are increasing
 - In many countries, continents, regions
 - Facilities arising for easier access and better use like OAlster@OCLC, Sherpa/RoMeO etc
 - Librarians meeting everywhere more and more often to share ideas and opinions
 - So far so good – A successful decade
- But how about the faculty and researchers?
- Simply put, Japan is no exception

Helping “domestic” scholarly communication



As evidenced by CiNii stats



Other driving forces are

- Local (ie national) demand for research assessment
 - UK
 - Australia
- Lack of money
 - But repositories can not replace journal publishing
- Survival of libraries
 - No collections necessary, no services necessary

Now it is time to rethink

- After 10 years of phenomenal but apparent success,
- still faculty/researcher awareness is not enough,
- it is not certain if library is the right entity to operate the repository, and
- nobody knows for yet what repositories are for, in spite of the obvious zeal all around

Why are faculty/researchers not interested enough

- Simply because they are not aware of the existence of repositories, or repository ideas
- Simply because they believe they have survived, or even flourish, through the days of no repositories, maybe
- Simply because their imagination is so poor that they can not imagine how better they could avail themselves of them

One thing which is too obvious not to forget,
but has been brought home to us

- “Open access” is a means, and not a goal of scientific research: except for a very few cases,
 - “open access” advocacy does not reach researchers’ “” working on decent campuses, who have access to most of what they need, licensed through library
 - should all relevant articles have been made open access, there would still be need for services which help researchers search for and make use of them

Assessment means something

- Social pressure to show ROI (return on investment) growing
 - Indeed scholarship is not investment, tax payers want something which could convince them that their money was not used in vain
 - Management wants to know that they are operating their organization efficiently
 - Prospective students and their parents want to make sure that their teachers are not stupid
- So show the accomplishments!

More stress on subject repositories

- Institutional repositories can last without being used under the assessment pressure and for the sake of institutional identity as academic institution
- But science always overflow the border of campus
- So scientific community across campuses must be appealed to
- Hence the need for more stress on subject repositories,
- And “subjects” will more easily justify spending money

More stress on international harmonization

- Science is, by definition, universal, so
 - The real scientific communities spread worldwide, though of course centering around North America, at least for now
 - Again they spill over the border of campus and country
 - Repository content must be usable across country boundaries, pace the source of funding
 - Anyway science is now consolidating, and has to be doing so

International harmonization requires international collaboration

- Beyond question, to harmonize, you have to work together
 - Toward standardizations
 - Toward International subject repositories
 - Toward mutual understanding across different cultures
 - Toward worldwide infrastructure

Is it really a library chore?

- No, that is a job for computer engineers
- But they don't speak well enough most of the time
- So we need librarians, whose job was not but could have been talking with people/researchers/students
- If you librarians can talk, it is the library's job to maintain repositories

Immediate need for good practices

- Define standards and protocols and implement them immediately
 - Talk with journal publishing community
 - Talk with scientific community
 - Talk with university administration
- Especially we have to decide on identifiers of
 - Institutions
 - Repository
 - Researchers
 - Data pieces or database items

To conclude

- The past, successful 10 years is just the first stepping stone for repositories.
- Must admit researchers do not have get involved
- “Open access” is just a presupposition
- What is needed is
 - Practices, Practices and Practices, good or bad
 - International collaboration

Three roles of institutional repositories

- IR for II (institutional identity)
 - Higher education and research institutions seem to be required to represent themselves as more contributive to society than ever, maybe because of public money, hence competition
- IR for the humanity
 - Knowledge must be accumulated. In the digital age, it is no longer by publishing and library, but shared on the Internet
- IR for science
 - Scientific paradigm is changing,
 - from theory/experiment to data/computation
 - from individual to institutional

A couple of ideas for immediate action

- Humanities could be a key, given STM fields can subsidize themselves both in terms of monetary and human resources
 - Text, or language, resources are something to exploit
 - Crossrepository, hyperlinked materials for research and pedagogical uses
- Non-competitive natural sciences, too