

What now? -- Beyond publishing and libraries

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I have enjoyed the privilege of watching the history of institutional repositories in Japan from the very beginning to the very present time point, while never being in the position of operating or populating repositories. The history began with the Chiba University Library in 2002, since when Japanese university library community have managed to launch more than a hundred institutional repositories and fostered a substantial number of repository managers. In my talks, I will first summarize the lessons we had learnt from our experiences in promoting repositories and, based or unbiased on those experiences, provide for a set of prospects for the future of research and higher education in Japan and, for that matter, in the world.

The lessons we have learned so far are as follows:

1. Researchers and professors are innocent, and selfish people most of who you must not turn to.
2. Librarians can have those researchers and professors convert to the causes of open access repository, if they work properly.
3. Global infrastructure for interoperability is necessary for repositories to function as the basis for future eScience.
4. The management of repositories will replace a major part of librarianship in the future academic libraries in the digital age.

So that the lessons above may contribute to the promotion of repositories, we have to

1. consolidate the now seemingly independent stakeholders who would eventually have to interact into one voice which responds to the needs of the scientific community and its funders,
2. start to work together with subject repositories and identify the common grounds for institutional and disciplinary needs, like accreditation and assessment and virtual laboratories.
3. implement, as soon as possible, some of the currently available ideas so that the general public may realize how the science in future should be supported.