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Education, Research and Development in Europe: How Libraries are changing

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Economics

- In June 2009, a study was completed by Professor John Houghton for the Knowledge Exchange, which compared the benefits of Open Access in the UK, the Netherlands and Denmark
  - See http://www.knowledge-exchange.info/Default.aspx?ID=316.
- In the three national studies, the costs and benefits of scholarly communication were compared, each based on three different publication models
- Modelling revealed that the greatest advantage would be offered by the Open Access model

Economics

- Adopting this model, according to Houghton, could lead to annual savings of around
  - €70 million in Denmark
  - €133 million in The Netherlands
  - €480 million in the UK
- Houghton also concludes that, even if the cost saving for Open Access was zero, increased returns on Research and Development alone would justify a move to Open Access
  - Houghton suggests this is worth £172 million increased annual returns on public (Government and academic) research in the UK

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Economics

- Houghton findings and methodology have been fiercely criticised by publishers, particularly in the UK
  - Houghton report, publisher reaction and JISC response, all available here: http://www.jisc.ac.uk/publications/reports/2009/economicpublishingmodelsfinalreport.aspx
  - Steven Hall's critique at the Berlin7 conference (Paris), commissioned by STM: http://www.berlin7.org/spip.php?article57
  - to which Houghton/Oppenheim replied: http://www.cfses.com/EI-ASPM/Comments-on-Hall%28Houghton&Oppenheim%29.pdf

Economics

- Then there was the Prometheus exchange, not just Hall and Houghton, but Martin Hall's paper too is well worth reading: http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/section?content=a920245249&fulltext=713240928
- Houghton and Oppenheim then replied to the Prometheus papers in a more recent issue: http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/content~db=all~content=a925180131~frm=titlelink
- Houghton maintains a website for the report and reaction: http://www.cfses.com/EI-ASPM/
  - I am very grateful to Dr Neil Jacobs of the JISC for providing this reading list of materials

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Economics

- The discussion is complex, with many individual points debated
- Way forward proposed here is to examine two exemplar points and then to suggest a way forward to develop the debate

- 2 points to be examined here are:
  - Savings in, and impacts on, the Library budget
  - Access to research literature
- Next steps in developing the Scholarly Communications debate

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Economics

1. **Where are savings to come from? They will be made from current library expenditure (2007), resulting in some cases in greater savings than the amounts currently being spent**
   - Hall, S. (2009) *Widening access to research information: collaborative efforts towards transitions in scholarly communications*, Paper presented at the Berlin 7 Open Access Conference, Paris, 2 December 2009. Available at http://www.berlin7.org/spip.php?article57
- The primary question addressed in the Houghton/Oppenheim report is the cost-effectiveness of the alternative models at the overall system level, loosely, at the level of the UK economy, not at the level of individual library budgets
- Hall's statement **"*They must be set against UK university library spending in 2007*"** is quite simply wrong
  - John Houghton and Charles Oppenheim, *Widening access to research information: A response.* Available at http://www.cfses.com/EIc-ASPM/Cocccmments-on-Hall%28Houghton&Oppenheim%29.pdf

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Economics

2. **Access to research literature**

- **"The fact is, the report's authors have failed to show that there is any real gap between the access that researchers have today to the scientific literature that they need and that which they might have under an open access model." (Hall 2009, p. 18).**
  - Hall, S. (2009) *Widening access to research information: collaborative efforts towards transitions in scholarly communications*, Paper presented at the Berlin 7 Open Access Conference, Paris, 2 December 2009. Available at http://www.berlin7.org/spip.php?article57

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Economics

- "…access to research information content issues must be addressed if the UK research community is to operate effectively, producing high-quality research that has a wider social and economic impact."
- "The report's key finding is that access is still a major concern for researchers. Although researchers report having no problems finding content in this age of electronic information, gaining access is another matter due to the complexity of licensing arrangements, restrictions placed on researchers accessing content outside of their own institution and the laws protecting public and private sector information.
  - *Overcoming barriers: access to research information content*, Research Information Network, London, 2009. Available at http://www.rin.ac.uk/system/files/attachments/Sarah/Overcoming-barriers-report-Dec09_0.pdf.
  - Friend, F.J. (2007) *UK Access to UK Research*, in *Serials*, vol. 20 (3), pp. 231-34. Available at http://eprints.ucl.ac.uk/4842/

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Economics: Next Steps

- Some of the figures used in the Houghton model are necessarily estimates. Should better figures based on solid evidence become available, these should be used
- Publishers have figures, which they do not yet seem willing to share
  - Understandably, perhaps, these figures are commercial in confidence
- Professor Houghton has developed a dynamic model of his Scholarly Communications workflow, which is available for use
  - at http://www.cfses.com/EI-ASPM/SCLCM-V7/

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Economics: Next Steps

- Challenges to the Report are against the inputs rather than against the models themselves, which Houghton-Oppenheim developed
  - Business Processes/Lifecycle by Bo-Christer Björk
  - The Solow-Swan growth model for economic growth
- What is the issue we are trying to address?
  - **It is NOT that Open Access is cheaper than the subscription model**
- Should we not look at the potential of a new scholarly communications system, based on the use of public funds, to transform itself into a completely new system?
- The best outcome of the current debate would be to consider new and differently-located forms of public investment in the development of new knowledge systems, in which Libraries can play an important role

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European Research Theses

- DART-Europe
  - At http://www.dart-europe.eu
  - The principal gateway for the discovery and the retrieval of Open Access research theses in Europe
- As of 3 April 2011
  - 199,729 research Open Access research theses indexed
  - From 333 Universities in 19 European countries
- Run by UCL Library Services on behalf of LIBER

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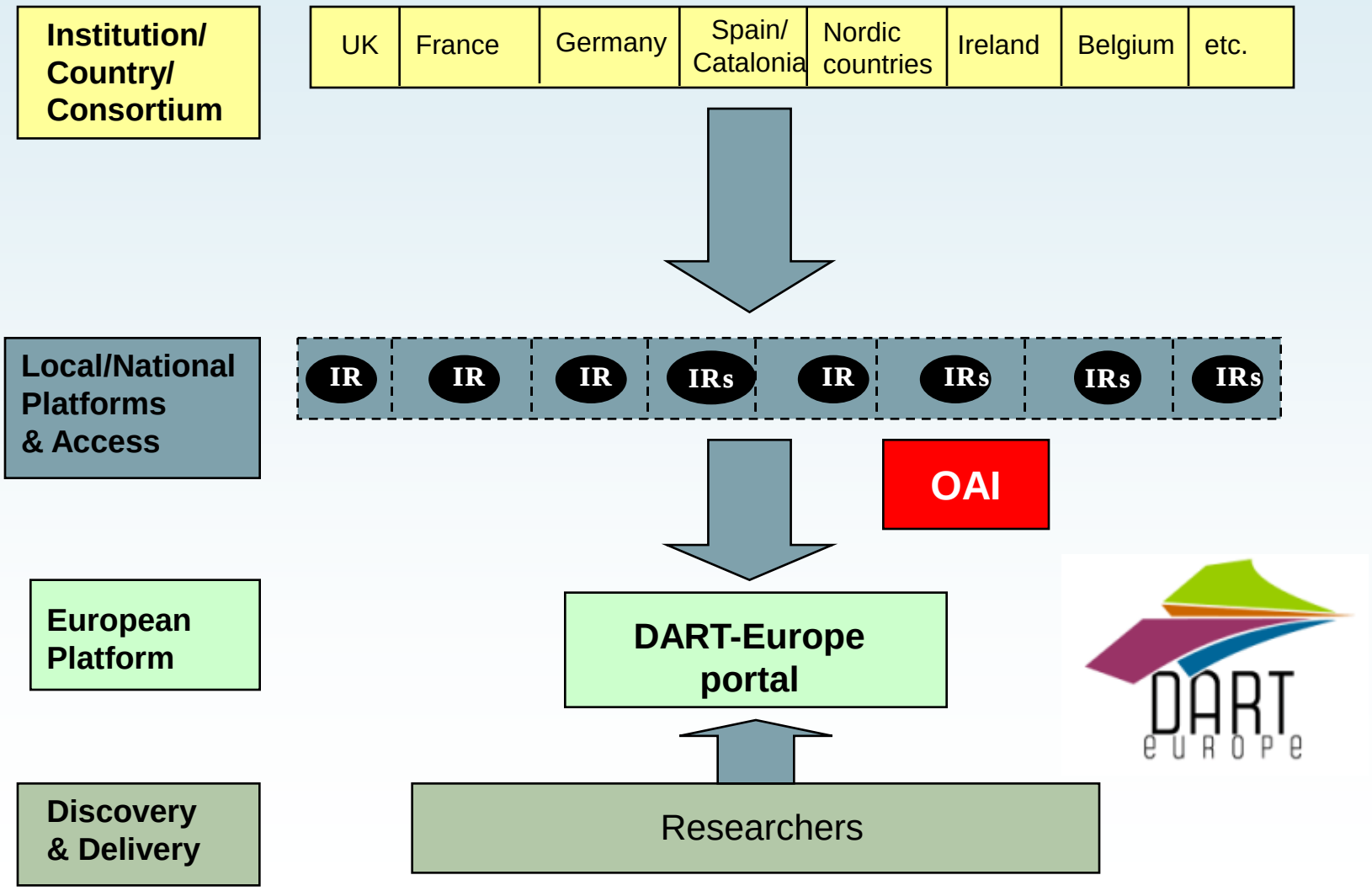

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European Research Theses

- Research theses gain more visibility when available in electronic format, preferably Open Access
  - Good for research and good for the researcher
  - DART-Europe now a target for SFX link resolver
- Preferred mode of working is for DART-Europe to work with national aggregators
- DART-Europe working with Europeana to model DART-Europe providing the European view on E-Theses
  - Part of the Europeana Libraries project

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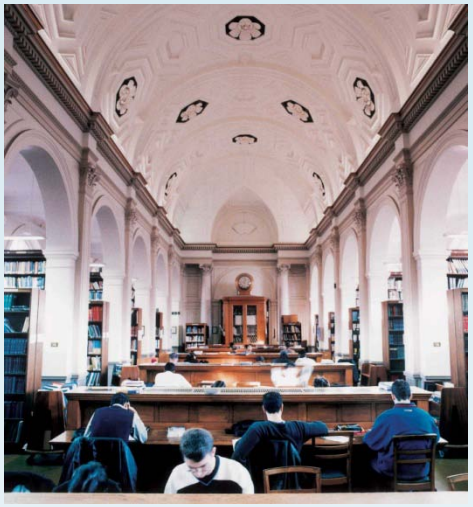

UCL E-Publishing initiatives

- UCL Publications Board favours work in 4 broad areas:
  - Research publications, particularly research monographs and conference proceedings
  - Teaching support, particularly textbooks
  - Journal publication
  - Data publication
- UCL is minded to take forward work in all these areas, in a phased way

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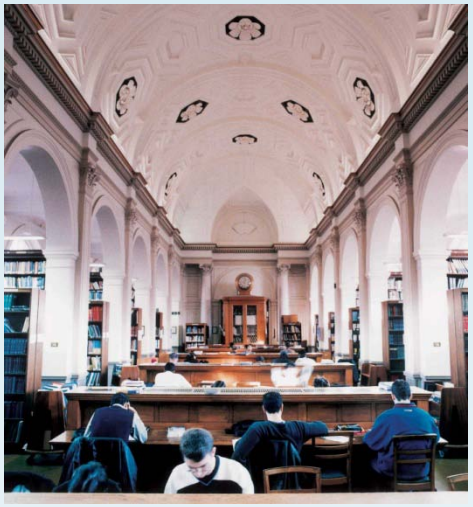

UCL E-Publishing initiatives

- Journal Publishing
- There is great interest in UCL in developing an overlay journal publishing system, based on copy housed in UCL Discovery, the institutional Open Access repository
- Development work being planned would build on the earlier successful RIOJA project (2008)
  - See http://discovery.ucl.ac.uk/11927/

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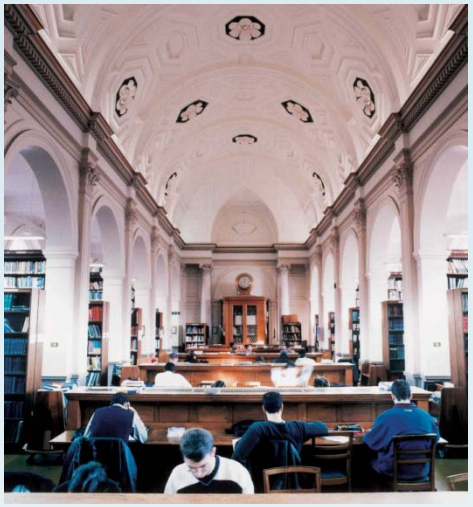

UCL E-Publishing Initiatives

- RIOJA project investigated the feasibility of an overlay journal model in collaboration with arXiv
- RIOJA toolkit comprised a set of XML-based APIs for the exchange of data between digital repositories and journals to facilitate overlaying of academic journals on several digital repositories
- Overlay Journals have to address issues known to conventional publishing
  - Peer review
  - Sustainable Business Models
  - Academic buy-in
- UCL plans to scale up the RIOJA work to develop a publishing platform for Overlay Journals in the University

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Europeana Libraries

- This bid was submitted to the **ICT PSP fourth call for proposals 2010** for a **Best Practice Network.**
  - The **ICT PSP Objective identifier is 2.2 Enhancing/aggregating content for Europeana**
- Aims of the project are:
  - To bring together, as a pilot, research library content from 11 countries in Europe
  - Via the Europeana portal
    - http://www.europeana.eu/portal/index.html

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Europeana Libraries

- Be the first project to offer digital collections where the text will be fully searchable in Europeana, making it possible to search inside books and other materials
- Establish systems and processes capable of ingesting and indexing significant quantities of digitised material, including text, images, moving images and sound clips
- Service will be fully capable of extension to other libraries across Europe, including the rest of LIBER and CERL membership - over 400 libraries in over 40 countries across Europe

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Europeana Libraries

Pages	Images	Books/Theses
3,319,045	848,078	598,130

Film/Video clips	Mixed content	Articles
1,200	34,000	368,000

Total content to be Ingested
5,168,453 units of material (pages/ images/ books+theses/ AV clips/ articles)

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Europeana Libraries

- Open Access content well represented
  - All Open Access research theses in DART-Europe
  - All articles indexed in the Directory of Open Access Journals
    - http://www.doaj.org
- Benefits
  - Researchers, teachers and learners have to look in just one place
  - Full-text will be indexed in Europeana
  - Scaleable solution which can be available to ALL European research libraries

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LEAGUE OF EUROPEAN RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES

LERU

- A consortium of 22 research-intensive universities in Europe
  - See http://www.leru.org/index.php/public/home/.
- LERU is committed to
  - Education through an awareness of the frontiers of human understanding
  - Creation of new knowledge through basic research, which is the ultimate source of innovation in society
  - Promotion of research across a broad front, which creates a unique capacity to re-configure activities in response to new opportunities and problems
- The purpose of the League is to advocate these values, to influence policy in Europe and to develop best practice through mutual exchange of experience

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LEAGUE OF EUROPEAN RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES

LERU

- LERU wants to know what position, if any, it should take on the Open Access debate
- General meeting of LERU Chief Information Officers/University Librarians in December 2009
  - Appointed a Working Group to draw up a **LERU Roadmap towards Open Access**
  - Road Map is now with LERU Vice-Chancellors for consideration. Outcome should be known by the end of 2010

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LERU

- Purpose of the Roadmap is to offer guidance on how to position your University in the European Open Access landscape
- Builds on the Open Access Statement of the European Universities Association
  - See http://www.eua.be/eua-work-and-policy-area/research-and-innovation/Open-Access.aspx
- A Roadmap for *all* European Universities, not just LERU members

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LERU Roadmap addresses …

- Open Access in a wider context: Open Scholarship and Open Knowledge
- Advocacy Statement on behalf of LERU Universities
- The LERU Roadmap – an Exposition
- The Green route for Open Access – Steps to Take
- LERU and the Gold route for Open Access
- Models of Best Practice to support the Roadmap
- Benefits for researchers, Universities and Society
- LERU is considering funding for a pan-European implementation of the Roadmap

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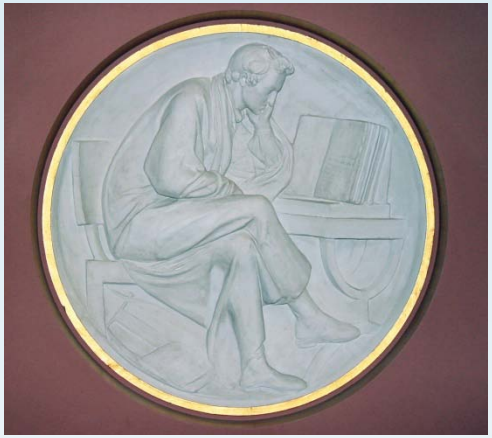

Conclusions

- European Universities are:
  - Engaged in global debate about the economics of Open Access
  - Developing sustainable services, using Open Access protocols, which bring greater visibility to European research
  - Creating pan-European partnerships, with innovative project funding, to develop cutting-edge projects to support the European user
  - Developing tools for all European Universities to tackle the Open Access agenda

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If you have been…

- Thanks for listening
- Further discussion to follow in Panel discussion