SPARC Europe
Creating change in scholarly communication

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Presentation delivered by Frank Scholze,
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SPARC Europe

• Established in 2002
• Sister organisations: SPARC (US), SPARC Japan
• Legally and politically independent organisations but work in close collaboration
• Members: research libraries
• Mission: to create change for the better in scholarly communication
Past initiatives

• Promotion of, and education about, Open Access
• Research-based expert papers
• Funding for key infrastructural initiatives (e.g. SHERPA Services and to set up DOAJ)
• Co-sponsoring of advocacy drives (e.g. the petition to the European Commission in 2007, co-sponsored with JISC, DEFF and DFG)
A Seat at the Table

Current areas of focus

- Developing strategic partnerships with other organisations whose activities address OA and who share our aims
- Lobbying in Brussels and across the Union on the H2020 policy
- Involvement with other related issues (Open Data, copyright) at EU level (not national level)
- Aim for involvement in European projects:
  - Partner on two successful bids for projects starting in 2014: details to be announced shortly
Some new strategic aims laid out in 2012

• Begin work at national level in European countries, where needed

• Contribute to development and improvement of European OA-services

• Involve member institutions in our work:
  ➢ Where they want to be involved!
  ➢ Increases our expertise, and expands their areas of operation and interest
  ➢ Creates greater value from our resources and gets the job done better
Programme areas 2013-15

• Advocacy and policy support
• Infrastructure support
• Information and engagement
• Business models
• Continue to build organisational strength
Advocacy and policy support

• European level:
  - H2020 policy formulation: our work is almost completed on that: policy comes into force 1 January 2014
  - Involved considerable lobbying work to inform MEPs and Council members, and to help the Commission explain the need for certain wording

• National level in Member States:
  - European Commission’s Recommendations to Member States, 17 July 2012: effectively told Member States to develop policy on Open Access to research results
  - We will support local experts and advocates where needed to stimulate debate, discussion and policy development
Policy examples

• Guidelines for Open Access and Open Data policies (27 June 2013) by the Conference of the Rectors of Italian Universities (CRUI)

• Croatian Open Access Declaration (24 October 2012)

• Irish National Principles for Open Access Policy Statement (23 October 2012)
  ➢ ‘Green’ mandate and encouragement to publish in ‘Gold’ OA journals
  ➢ aligns with the European policy for Horizon 2020
  ➢ can be used as a model for other national policies in development
Infrastructure support

• Will consider providing (limited) financial support for new OA-infrastructure initiatives (with Europe-wide applicability)
• Will try to assist existing services seeking help or advice on service development or sustainability issues
Information and engagement

• Library support programme (advocacy materials, presentations, etc)
• Researcher support programme (advocacy materials, presentations, etc)
• Record and monitor progress on Open Access
Business models for OA services

• Encourage the study of, and learning from, successful business models for OA services

• Develop new thinking around cooperation and collaboration to ensure sustainable solutions
Continue to build organisational strength and capacity

• Build membership
• Greater member engagement
• Exploit alliances with like-minded organisations
Thank you for listening

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