



# The Fiesole Collection Development

Retreat Series, Number 7

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Saturday 30 April, 2005



# Structure of Summary

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- Stakeholder Perspectives
- Conclusions
- Way forward



# Library Perspectives

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Ann Okerson's main points were

- Libraries desire for control and self sufficiency, both a strength and weakness in the digital world
- Success stories to tell in terms of dealing with outsourcing of labour intensive services and in accommodating aggregated digital collections
- Proud of being able to secure "big-deals" with commercial providers
- Greatly increased accessibility to scholarly literature in digital form
- Strong awareness of being reader-driven
- Libraries a partner in creating an electronic marketplace



# Library Perspectives (continued)

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Constraints include:

- Inability to make further cost savings
- Lack of flexibility in pricing models for digital information
- Institutional repositories seen as important
- Preservation of digital information a major challenge



# For Profit Publisher Perspectives

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- Many pressures in a tough consumer market for journal publications
- Reasonably happy with “big-deals”
- Very aware of diminishing resource base in libraries
- Intent on protecting historical print expenditure revenue base
- Further cost savings not easy to achieve
- Process improvement remains elusive



# For Profit Publisher Perspectives

(continued)

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- Open access initiatives viewed as a major threat
- Google scholarly publication program viewed with caution and some scepticism
- Relationship to institutional repositories not yet understood
- In summary, business still good but under stress



# Open Archive Perspectives

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- Much confusion over goals and objectives
- The core driving force is to change the mode of scholarly communication
- The distinction between journal publication and archiving of research publications often becomes blurred
- The various open archives initiatives have had little impact as yet on the international journal publishing industry



## Open Archive Perspectives (continued)

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- Credible business models yet to emerge
- Initiatives very often divorced from the research communities they hope to serve
- In spite of limitations, open archives initiative “here-to-stay”





# Institutional Repository Perspectives

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- Much talked about in the global arena
- A lot of relatively fragmented activity
- The scope of institutional repository roles remains somewhat obscure
- Still major costing and ownership issues to be addressed
- The technological requirements are still a matter for further development
- Institutional repositories likely to evolve rapidly over the next two years



# Research Community Perspectives

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- Still committed to peer review and high prestige commercial journals
- Few signs of willingness to pay for publications
- Very happy with increased digital accessibility to journals
- Sceptical and often ill-informed about open archive initiatives
- Little enthusiasm for institutional repositories
- Mostly immune from price signals in journal market
- Libraries regarded as a “good thing” as long as someone else pays



# Government Perspectives

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- Additional funding for libraries unlikely
- General desire to see greater accessibility to scholarly research output
- Content to accommodate a mixed economy in the journal market
- Very interested in building research infrastructure to enhance reporting and accountability



# Conclusions

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- There are inextricable links between libraries and commercial publishers
- The diminishing resource base is a major threat to this relationship
- The “big-deal” concept is coming under close scrutiny in some library consortia
- Protecting the existing revenue base is a major inhibition to reform of the existing system
- The current situation represents an imperfect market where consumers are immune to price signals
- Innovation in pricing module almost non-existent



# Conclusions (continued)

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- In spite of the illusion of being reader driven the market is supply driven
- There is a plurality of potential and actual business models
- Differentiation in the market place is not easy to achieve
- Usage data has had little effect on library strategies
- Communication lines between all parties in the value-add chain have been disrupted
- Collaboration initiatives between interested parties appear to be stuck in a groove



## Conclusions (continued)

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- The nexus between teaching and research received little attention in the discussion
- The management of large digital data sets looming as a strategic issue
- Intellectual property issues were not readily evident in the various presentations
- All parties recognise an ongoing tension between quality and convenience in serving academic communities



# The Way Forward

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- Rethink the library-commercial publishing nexus in partnership with open archives and institutional repository initiatives