

Some notes and comments to presentations at the 2nd session of Fiesole 2013

New Directions for Scholarly Publishing: Changes in Asia

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*Revised after the
session



Who comments?



- ❑ Majored in Chemistry (Organic Synthesis): *Scientist*
- ❑ Once a Computer geek to develop E-journal system starting from the digital tracking system of peer reviewing in 1995: *System Developer*
- ❑ Got a job at the Chemical Society of Japan: *Editor and Publisher*
- ❑ Then Journal Manager at CSJ: *Project and Business Manager*
- ❑ Now National Institute of Science and Technology Policy, Japan: *Researcher for policy makers*
- ◆ To see scholarly publishing from a bird-view and find a way to implement new paradigm such as Open Access
- ◆ Want to be: enhancer, catalyzer, or translator between stake holders to get all transferred to the next stage

Japan's state



- ❑ Japan's states are unique in some points.
- ❑ There are almost no commercial scholarly publishers that are active in global. Japan's commercial publishers are very domestic and rather conservative. So scholarly publishing in Japan is mostly by learned societies.
- ❑ There are over 1800 societies in this small country. And they publish their own small number of journals. Then they could not take advantage of "scale-merit" which is one of the significant merits of e-journals.
- ❑ Still, Japan Science Technology Agency (JST) has a aggregated platform called J-STAGE. But the number of journals are over 800, smaller than China's one (>3000).
- ❑ One good thing is over 75% of J-STAGE journals provide their journal free of charge, but it is just free and copyrights are on publishers. (not adopt to Creative Commons)

Japan's serious state



- ❑ Most serious fact is that # of younger researchers are declining and # of graduate students in STM fields are declining also in Japan.
- ❑ The budget for R&D in 2011 is increased slightly (1.6%) to 2010. (missing number in Flora's presentation) We should say it's flat compared to China's exponentially growing.
- ❑ It is apparent that Japan could not compete with quantities of papers or any outputs but qualities in the near future.
- ❑ Or Japan has to play a game on some "efficiency."
- ❑ In any way Japan must find a way to show its presence in scholarly communication and it is possible from my optimistic view.

Asian's nature



- ❑ “Secular” and “Unconscious” were impressive words for me at Prof. Tuchiya’s presentation to understand Asia’s state.
- ❑ Consider that the history of the STM publishing in Asia is rather young compared to that of westerners from 17th century. And still behind in many parts.
- ❑ Then it is reasonable that Asian must be unconscious of any cultural background of scholarly communications commonly discussed among western people. And so that OA could be prevailed to some extent despite that OA mandates are not well prepared. We found similar contexts in other presentations. (Nobuko, Ben and Lakshman)
- ❑ Such nature or behavior sometimes confuse people. However, Asian might be able to take an advantage of such natures to implement new paradigm like OA. It is because they don’t have to take care of things that come from legacy frameworks plausibly based on “print.”

Beyond regional backgrounds



- ❑ Linking and connectivity are important keywords for the next generation of Scholarly Communication.
- ❑ Trustworthiness (Carol pointed) is another important and universal keyword.
- ❑ As studied of brain-cells in neurosciences, we have to connect each other first and, if the connection is efficient or vital, then the connection would be strengthen in the network somewhat spontaneously.
- ❑ While increasing of international collaborations all over the world, new emerging countries (potentially Indonesia) would be easily captured and be involved in the networks that could be established in the way described above.
- ❑ We have to have such networks(collaborations) at any level and it should be beyond some thoughts based on “Western and Eastern. “ That network will make the future.