



# Open Access Bibliographical Databases

Are they a threat, opportunity  
or even for real?

Presented at 5th Frankfurt Scientific Symposium: Is there any progress in  
alternative publishing?

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## **Bibliographical Databases a.k.a.**

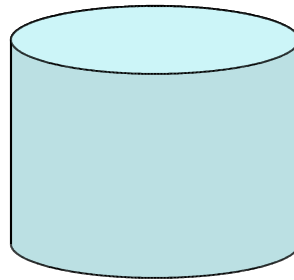
- Abstracting and indexing databases
- Reference databases
- Secondary publishing



Author

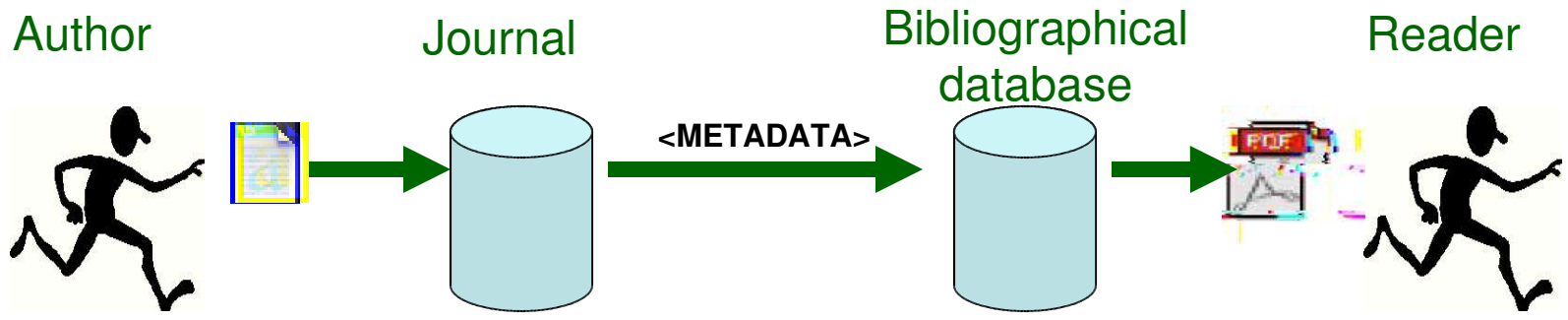


Journal



Reader







# **Comparing and contrasting journals & databases**



# Common characteristics

- From print to electronic
- From local to remote access
- Pricing strategies
  - Bundling
  - Price differentiation
- New companies
- Mergers & acquisitions

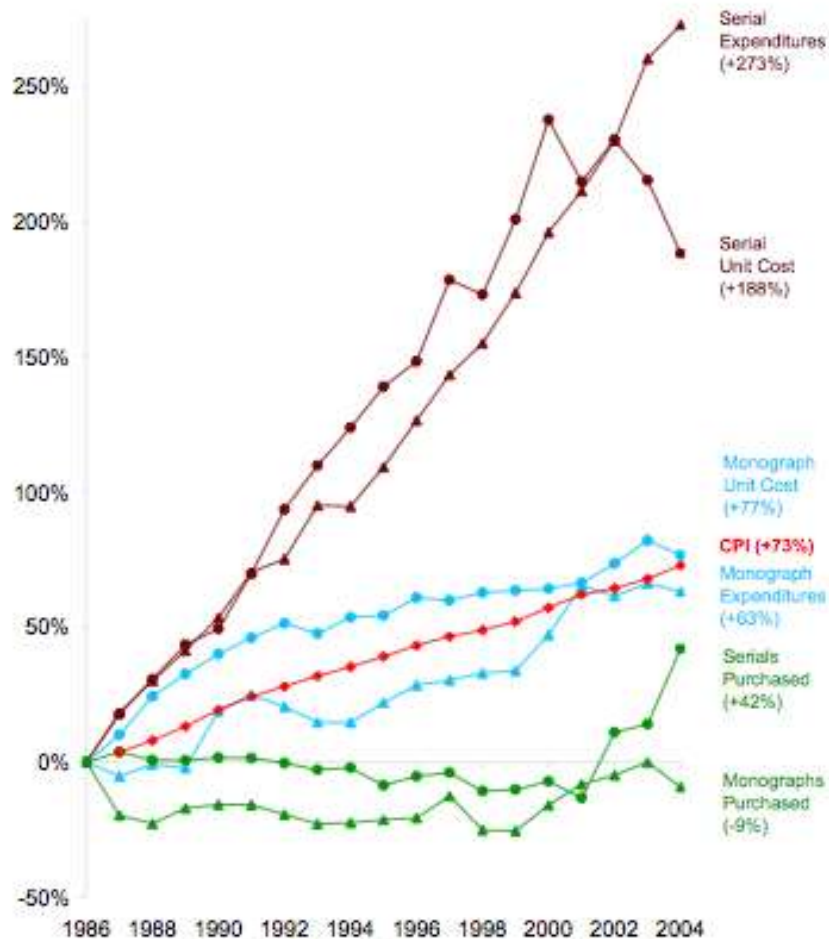


# Differences (1/2)

- Journals:
  - ‘Serial crisis’



Graph 2  
Monograph and Serial Expenditures  
in ARL Libraries, 1986-2004\*



Source: ARL Statistics 2002-03, Association of Research Libraries, Washington, D.C.  
\*includes electronic resources from 1999-2000 onward.

<http://www.arl.org/stats/arlstat/graphs/2004/monser04.pdf>





# Differences (1/2)

- Journals:
  - ‘Serial crisis’
  - Series of studies on price increases
  - A vocal open access movement



# Differences (2/2)

- Bibliographical databases
  - No talk of ‘database crisis’
  - No studies of price increases
  - No vocal open access database movement



# Why not?

- I do not know, but perhaps...
- Less expensive, moderate price increases?
- Budget ~
  - 5% databases
  - 95% on journals
- Less of a feeling among researchers that publishers profit from donated work



# **“Subscription-based” bibliographical databases**



# EconLit from AEA

## UNRESTRICTED OPERATING REVENUES

License fees	2,330,532
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## OPERATING EXPENSES

Index of Economic Articles and EconLit	368,725
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*Source: AEA 2005 Audit report*



# PsycINFO from APA

- “In 2004, PsycINFO generated gross revenues of approximately \$12,000,000”\*
- Total APA revenue 2004: \$81,000,000\*\*

*Sources:*

*\*) e-mail conversation APA representative,*

*\*\*) Annual report 2004*



# CAS from ACS

“The society owes most of its wealth to its two ‘information services’ divisions — the publications arm and the Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS), a rich database of chemical information and literature.

**Together, in 2004, these divisions made about \$340 million — 82% of the society’s revenue — and accounted for \$300 million of its expenditure.”**

*Source: Marris, E. Chemical Reaction. NATURE Vol 437 #6 October 2005*



# **Open Access Bibliographical Databases**





# Are they real?

- Medline
- ERIC
- The Astrophysics Data System (ADS)
- PubChem
- Research Papers in Economics (RePEc)
- (PubSCIENCE)



# Threat or Opportunity?

- Medline & ERIC
  - Are available through Ovid, Ebsco et al.
- PubChem
  - CAS
- RePEc
  - Provides working paper metadata to EconLit



# RePEc

Number of “archives”	500
- Working paper series	1,400
- Journals	425
Current awareness subscribers	15,000
	36,000
Files (mostly PDF) downloaded in July	340,000



# Conclusion

- Threat, opportunity?
- What may make them real?
  - Proliferation of institutional repositories
  - Lower cost of collecting metadata
    - OAI-PMH will make it easier to gather metadata.
  - Higher cost of bibliographical databases
- ? & !