LIBR 559L – June 2, 2011 – Economics of scholarly communication

News: new open access content in digital repositories

<https://arl.org/Lists/SPARC-OAForum/Message/5849.html>

Key concepts

* Serials crisis; price increases above inflation year after year, compound effects
* Inelastic market / no competition
* Market consolidation
* “Big deal” or “big bundle” – lack of flexibility
* Frazier, K. The librarian’s dilemma: contemplating the costs of the big deal. http://www.dlib.org/dlib/march01/frazier/03frazier.html
* Gatten & Sanville – an orderly retreat from the big deal (2004)

# California Digital Library Systemwide Library License Reductions in a Time of Fiscal Challenge (Public Letter) (2011) http://www.cdlib.org/services/collections/current/publicbudgetletter2011.html

* Faculty are shielded from economics
* Huge cost gap between scholarly society publishers & for-profits
* Macroeconomics:
  + $16 billion / year; $8 billion journals
  + academic library budgets provide about 70% of funding for scholarly journals
  + significant % through library consortia
  + ICOLC / statement on global economic crisis http://www.library.yale.edu/consortia/icolc-econcrisis-0610.htm
* Houghton studies http://www.cfses.com/EI-ASPM/
* Microeconomics: cost for producing an article becoming key
  + Willinsky: 2009, 2005
  + Bergstrom & McAfee (in Morrison; working on new approaches)
  + Note that cost per article can also refer to cost per article for purchase
* Double-dipping (when journals charge for both subscriptions and optional open access article processing fees) / and triple dipping (both of the above, plus copyright charges through collectives for uses already covered)
* Transition: key is transitioning economics from demand to supply side (pay to produce publishing not purchase to read)
* ARL E-News: SCOAP3 will be going ahead, arXiv sustainability – ARL E-News May 2011 http://www.arl.org/news/enews/enews-may2011.shtml
* Authors’ funds / OA publishers memberships
* Cdn research group study: any model for supporting OA would be supported by a majority: http://ir.lib.sfu.ca/handle/1892/10882
* Publishing cooperatives and library / publisher partnerships: BioONE, ALPSP Learned Journals, Project Muse, Highwire Press
* Patron driven acquisition: new method for purchasing books, library provides search service, acquisition happens when patron indicates interest (can be one click, pay-for-view first two times, third patron triggers purchase, etc.).