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State of the art open access in Switzerland: the point of view of a university library

BioMed 2023, Sept 5th, Bern, Meet & Greet

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«We are here,
because developments brought us
to where we are.

This does not mean,
we are necessarily in the best place.»

Looking back ...



American Libraries Are in Crisis Over the Cost of Scholarly Journals

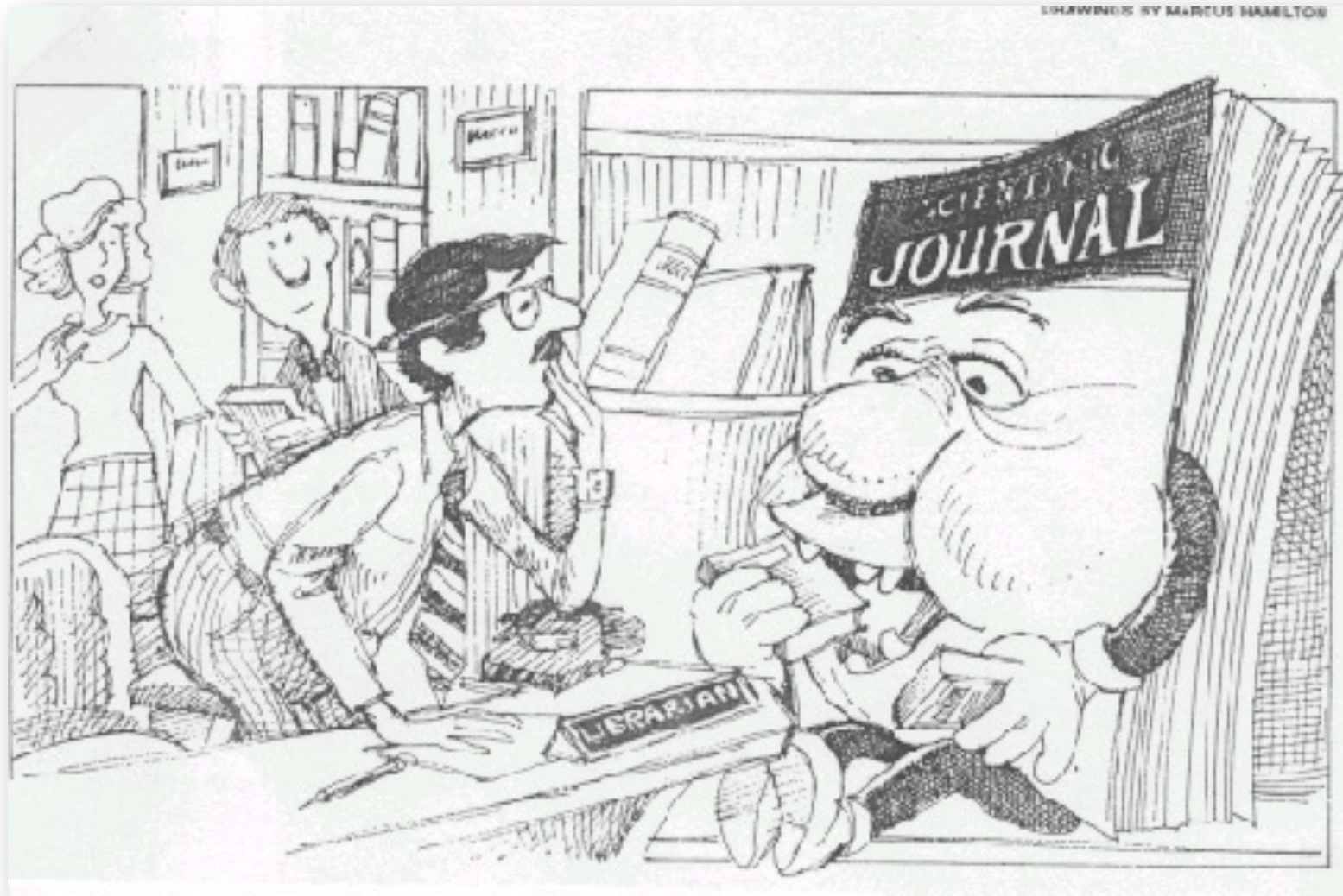
"I'm sitting here right now with a stack of invoices trying to decide which subscriptions to cancel," said Keith McKinney, the chief of periodicals at the New York Public Library. The New York Times, 5 September 1988



The New York Times/Jack Manning

Keith McKinney, who is in charge of the periodicals department at the New York Public Library.

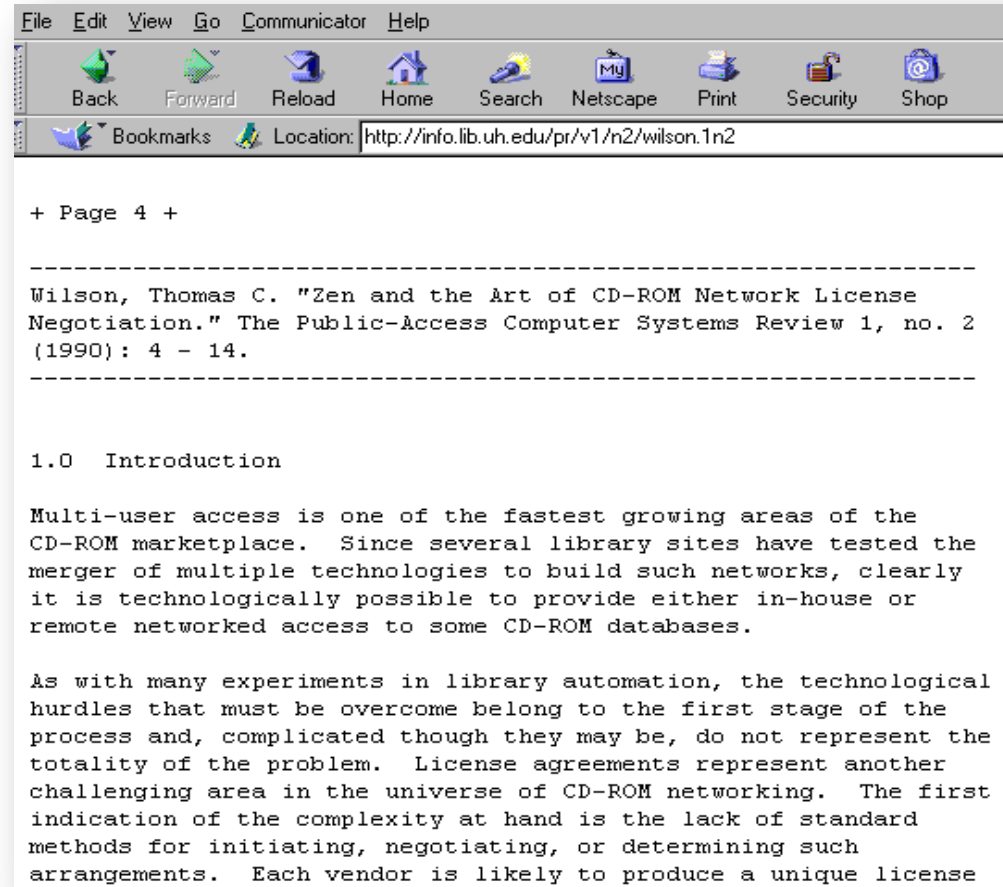
The Journal that ate the Library



Space problems as driver for e, ... but not necessarily what users want



The Public-Access Computer Systems Review



Early journals were OA because there was no way to charge for them.

<http://epress.lib.uh.edu/pr/v1/n2/wilson.1n2>, still accessible in the Internet Archive, wayback machine

Focus of (University) Libraries in the early 2000s

- Find a solution to the serials crisis
 - Switch from print to electronic
 - Bundle marketing power in consortia (joint responsibilities)

 - Drive forward Open Access projects (not just journals); Green OA, repositories

 - Make OA (journals) findable and accessible
 - Improve reputation of e-journals (acceptance within academia was poor, due to many second class journals)

 - E and OA (Journals) were seen as real alternatives to commercial journals.
 - Initiated and supported mainly as grassroots initiatives by individual academics and libraries (not enough consideration of sustainability)
-

Developments since the 2010s: unexpected or ‘could be expected’?

- Funders’ mandates for Open Access as bittersweet development
 - solves the acceptance issue (or does it?),
 - accelerates transition,
 - brings new monies into the system,
 - Green + Diamond OA are sidelined compared to Gold OA.
 - Libraries are sidelined as funders increasingly take charge
 - this puts the topic on the agenda,
 - final decision for big deals / no deal with DeLOS,
 - some libraries fear that funders will drop the topic as soon as they find a new field of impact.
 - Large commercial publishers adopt OA and learn how to adapt/exploit the system
 - this brings in key journals, increases acceptance amongst scientists
 - gives rise to transformational agreements,
 - alienates many researchers and librarians.
 - Number of OA journals and publishers skyrocket
 - some very innovative, many predatory publishers.
-



Tracz V.: The five deadly sins of science publishing. F1000Research 2015, :112

Bodies

Plenary assembly

Board

Chamber of universities ▾

Chamber of universities of applied sciences and arts ▾

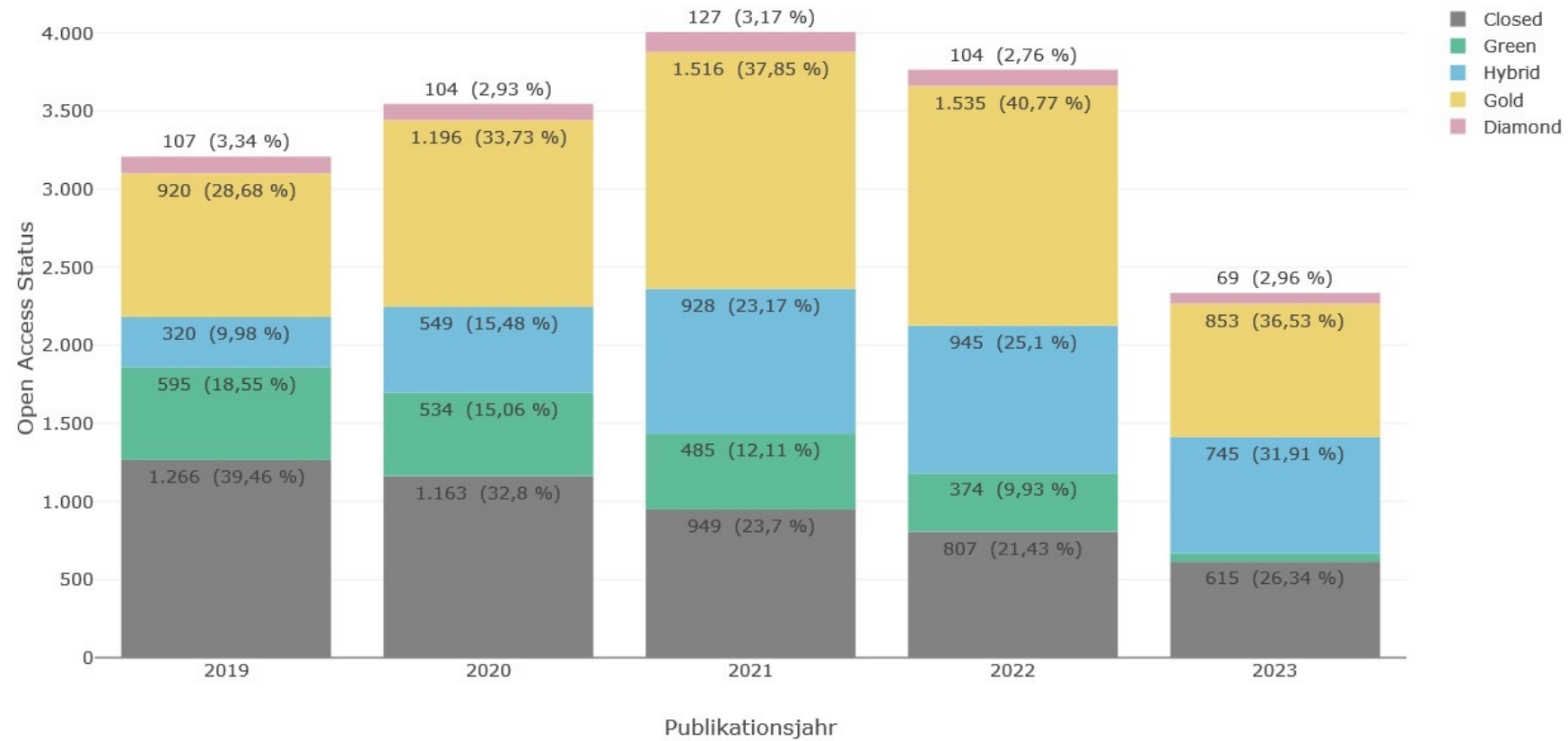
Chamber of universities of teacher education ▾

Delegations ^

Delegation Open Science

The Open Science Delegation (DelOS) observes, anticipates, and coordinates the developments within the domains of Open Science and scientific information. In this capacity, it is responsible for steering the Open Science Programme (2021-2024). Furthermore, it is also responsible on behalf of swissuniversities for the implementation of the Open Access Action Plan, the Open Research Data Strategy and its corresponding action plan.

OA Monitor: Universität Basel



Libraries' challenges today

- Costs
 - Incomplete cost monitoring
 - Gold OA costs not in library budgets, OA publication funds are not sufficient
 - Rise of 'Costs in the wild', not controlled, no central bargaining power (should this bother us, or not?)
- Administrative challenges
 - APC workflows, Green OA and repositories
 - Helpdesk requirements for all sorts of questions, wish for one-stop-shop
 - Promotion of good OA practice and ethical fairness
 - Legal issues: licenses, rights retention
- Visionary
 - Take seriously the requirements of the user community: “after all, aren't we here for our users?”
 - Promote more diamond OA journals



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Vielen Dank
für Ihre Aufmerksamkeit.