

Open Access in Japan: Idealism and Secularization

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Here in San Diego again after thirteen years, since
NCC Year 2000 Conference: Next Decade Planning Meeting was held
and now everything has changed

That which there was not then, but which there is now

- Google. The old Google was, but not the current Google
- Google Maps, which was the symbol of the transition to Ajax
- Google Books
- Mobile. There was cell phone, but no iPhones, nor apps
- Big Deal, which is virtually the same as open access if you are rich
- Web-scale. There were catalogs, for sure.
- Open access. Budapest Declaration was in 2002. SPARC was “publishing,” not “advocating”
- PLoS. Much less PLoS ONE
- Institutional repositories.
- PDA.
- MOOCs.
- And a lot more ...

The year 2012 was

- Ten years after BOAI, so the new BOAI10
 - Budapest Open Access Initiative, February 14, 2002
 - First definitions of the basic notions, including green and gold roads to open access
 - OA was an ideal then, hence “idealism”
- How far have we come since then?
 - No prints any more, at least in STM
 - Open access is only possible on line, in the Internet environment
 - Success of big deals and apprehension about future sustainability of big deals
 - Increased reality of open access
 - Institutional repositories mushrooming all over the world
 - “Realistic,” i.e. commercial viability of open access publishing
 - Talk of open data, altmetrics, “article of the future,” open review, *etc.*
 - I.e. a completely new phase of scholarly communication, but no discussion of that today
 - Now it is just a financially viable way of publishing, hence “secularization”

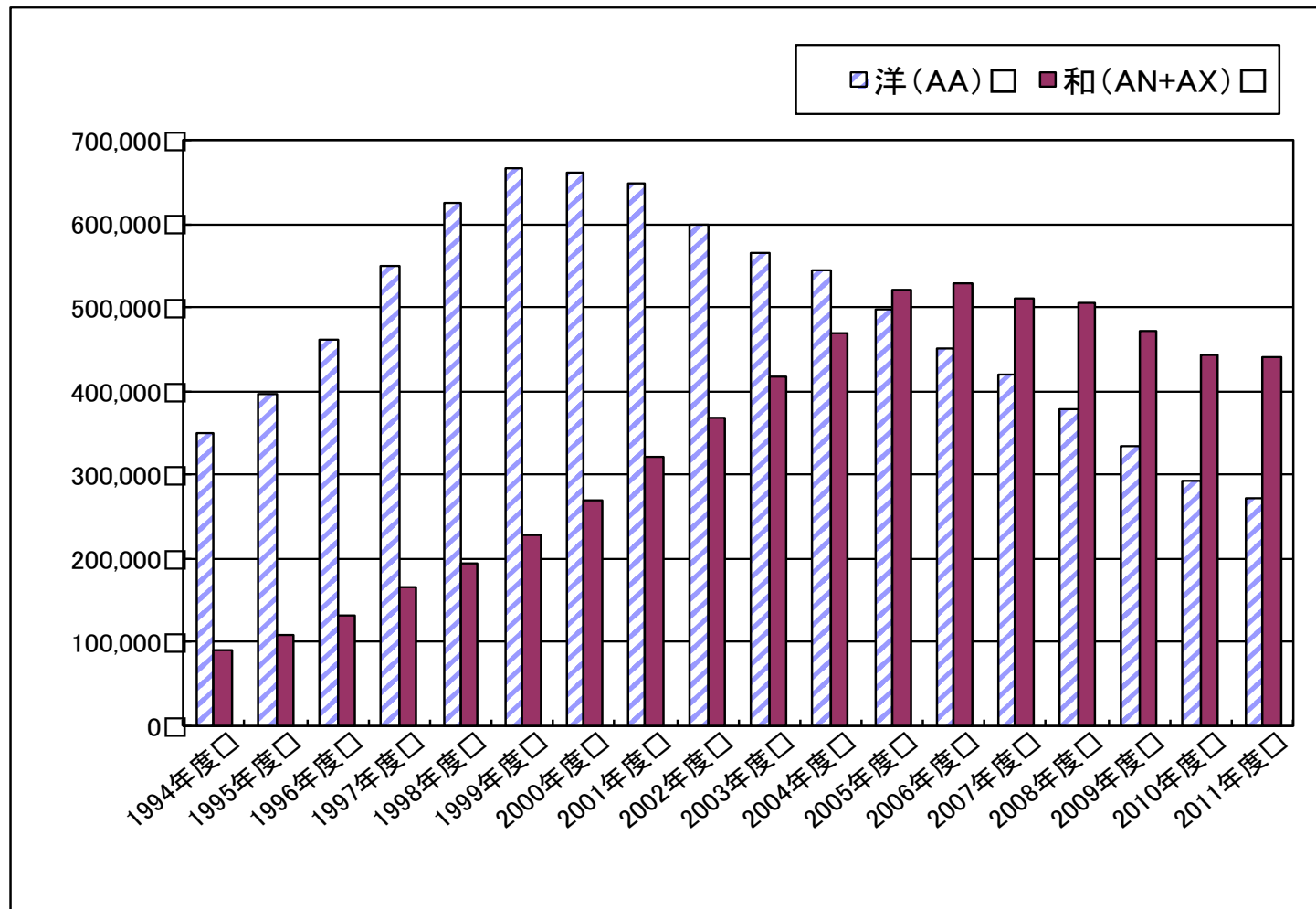
So what happened in between?

- So what happened?
 - US NIH Public Access Policy enforced
 - UK RCs mandating green deposit with institutional repositories, and then Finch Report
 - Increased important of (public) funding agencies
 - MPG, which actually is not a funder per se, acted aggressively toward open access
 - No effective moves in Asia, but why?
 - Scholarly information as imported goods
 - Lack of “internationally acclaimed” Asian journals
 - Unintended increase of unintended types of content

The case of Japan

- Approached by SPARC in 2001 to collaborate in improving scholarly communication
- Shift of SPARC after BOAI toward open access
- But, in Japan, there was perceived need for the promotion of subscription based society journals, which was not successful after all. The idea of “institutional repositories” were liked
- Japanese funders did not care so much about the accessibility of the results of funded research then
- Now so many institutional repository at universities, but as is the case everywhere it is not very efficient
- Awareness of the recent “progress” of open access journals, including PLoS ONE, Scientific Reports/NPG etc
- A reconsideration at the Cabinet level, resulting in a proposal published in July, 2012, which recommends, backed up by Science and Technology Basic Plan for years 2011 thru 2016,
 - open access to fruits from research
 - journals published with open access arrangement
 - enhancement of institutional repositories as essential part of the infrastructure for knowledge society
 - collaboration among interested stakeholders, including funding agencies
- Funders, *viz* JSPS and JST, are being looked at!
- Unsuccessful retrospectives digitization of PhD theses at NDL, and the revision of the MEXT’s decree on Academic Degrees, **Time to forget retrospective digitization in the name of Open Access**
- Report from MEXT oo scholarly communication, with English translation, which suggests (1) institutional repositories as THE infrastructure for research dissemination and (2) promotion of open access publishing

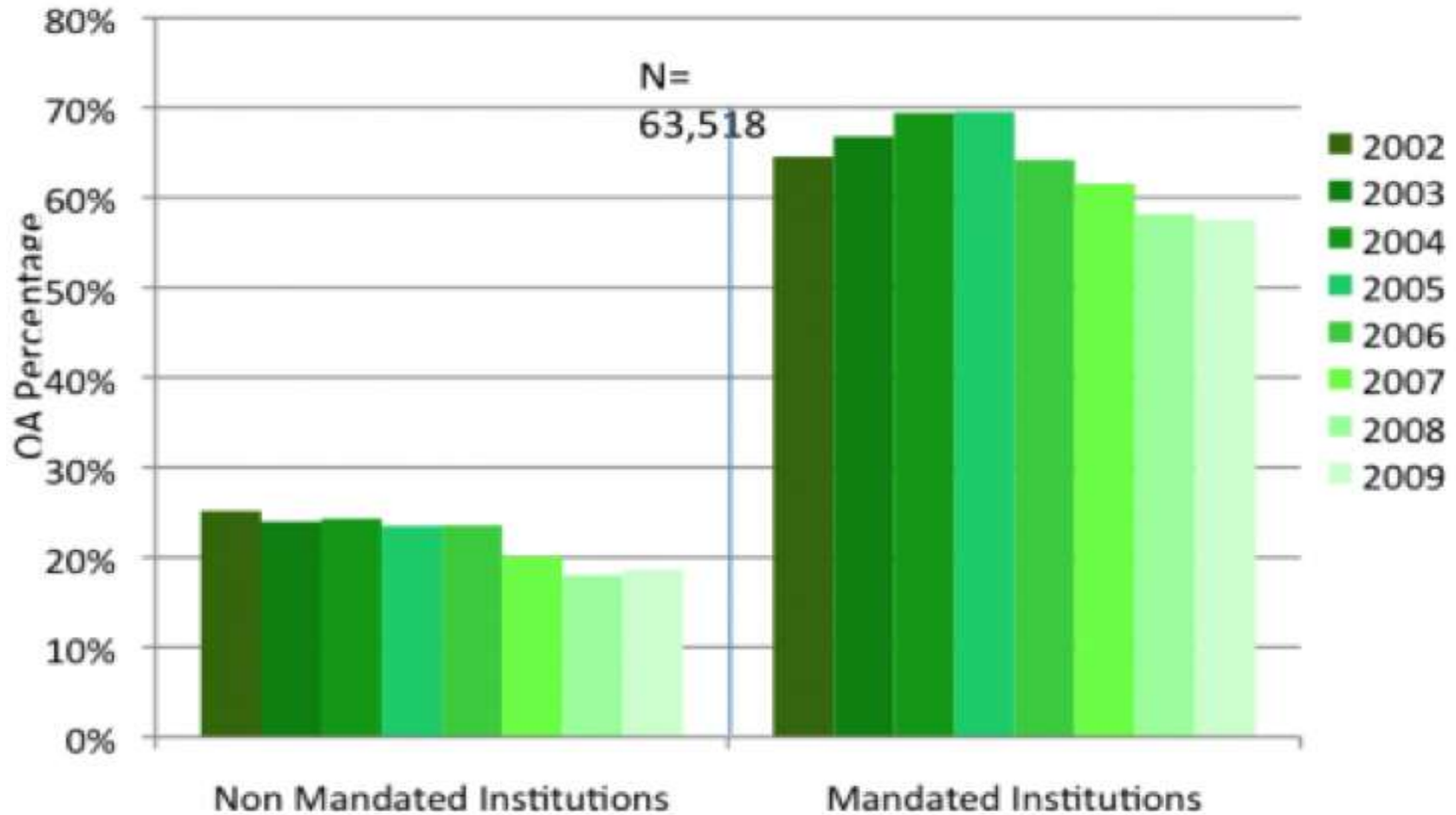
The virtually final stage of digitization of scholarly communication in Japan, as evidenced by the NACSIS-ILL stats



Institutional repository has its own rationale, and does not need to mention “open access”

- We are proud that librarians on campuses all over the country have collected the articles to this extent, without any mandate anywhere, and we know institutional mandate may not work. See the graph.
- But the progress is slow, and the efforts are not reasonably rewarding
- Bulletin articles, which accounts for almost a half, are now virtually “published” there, hence almost golden open access funded by institutions
- Yes, institutions need repositories to prove the accountability of higher education institutions at any rate, so don't bother them to operate them and take advantage of their existence – the gist of the MEXT proposal

Even if mandated, deposits are getting less?



Gold open access is no longer utopian

- Success of *PLoS ONE*, an online megajournal
 - published almost 14,000 articles in 2011
 - still has Journal Impact Factor over 4
 - charges \$1,350 for an article published
 - has saved PLoS ONE from potential bankruptcy
- Other commercial publishers have followed with
 - NPG's *Scientific Reports*, *SpringerOpen*, *Sage Open*,
- The lesson is that now open access publishing is no longer an “ideal” but just a business model, at least for publishers
- 12% of journal articles are open access as of now
- Japan's move. A new category of subsidy from JSPS for open access publishing, with impacts on the way of thinking on the part of society publishers in favor of online, open access publishing

What must not be forgotten?

1. Open access to research results is good for humankind as regards advancement of knowledge and welfare
2. So everybody agrees that it must come true
3. As far as publishing of research results in the form of journal article is concerned, open access to them is made possible either by self-archiving or open access publishing
4. Self-archiving is not very efficient, but repositories have institutional reason for them to be
5. Although nobody knows the future for sure, open access publishing paid by authors seem to work to a larger extent than we once thought
6. So funders' role is very important: their decisions may not only change scholarly communication but the way science is done as well
7. And there are things to consider before you decide

The age of secular open access

- Forget retrospective digitization. It should be taken care of by Digital Humanities, not libraries. It does not have to be open access
- Newly launching journals must be open access not because open access provides wider accessibility but because subscription does not work any more
- Universities and other institutions should publish research results from their institutional repositories
- No roles for libraries to play? I would say, “Is that wrong?”