

# **European Psychology Publication Platform: Issues and Perspectives**

Erich Weichselgartner  
Institute for Psychology Information  
(ZPID)  
Trier, Germany

## Issues (summary)

1. Language
2. Review process
  - Acceptance/rejection
3. Handling
  - Time lag between submission and publication
4. Impact, visibility
5. Permission barriers (accessibility)
6. Price barriers (cost)

## Action plan

1. Allot duties and responsibilities
2. Devise business model

## 1. Language

- Authors generally prefer to (read and) publish in their own language
- Non-native English speakers:
  - Problems of using language correctly (syntax, grammar)
  - Problems expressing one's thoughts, creativity suffers
  - Problems using expected editorial style
- Issue stressed by speakers from Bulgaria, France, Italy, Lithuania, Portugal, Romania and Russia

## 2. Review process: Acceptance/rejection

- 53.9% of “gatekeepers” are US researchers (Carbon)
- Dissatisfaction with criteria used for acceptance or rejection
- Dissatisfaction with repeated revision requests
- Ignorance of European aspects; bias against southern European countries
- 6 – 9 month lag between submission and notification

## 3. Handling

- Time for reviewing, decision and publication too long (6 -18 month reported)

## 4. Impact/Visibility : Why publish?

Authors want to achieve kudos and credibility (not income).

Two main factors:

- Career & money
  - Evaluation as well as funding of researchers and programs
  - Hiring and tenure decisions, salaries, promotion
- Scholarly communication
  - Become widely read, used, and cited
  - Enlargement of your audience
    - “Mental health professionals are roughly twice as likely to read a relevant article if it is freely available”  
(Hardisty, 2008)
  - The widespread sharing of knowledge
  - The acceleration of research

## 4. Impact/Visibility: Issues raised

- “Impact“ requires indexing in proprietary database (ISI)
- Indexing in other international databases also important
- European journals under-represented in ISI (e.g., only one Czech journal)
- American domination may tend to handicap the dissemination of European research work
- Problem: Local context (e.g., some aspects of French research in social psychology are specific to a French context)
- Impact Factor (IF) higher for German Journals that publish in English (Carbon)
- Impact Factor questionable, but used for assessment; other measures wanted

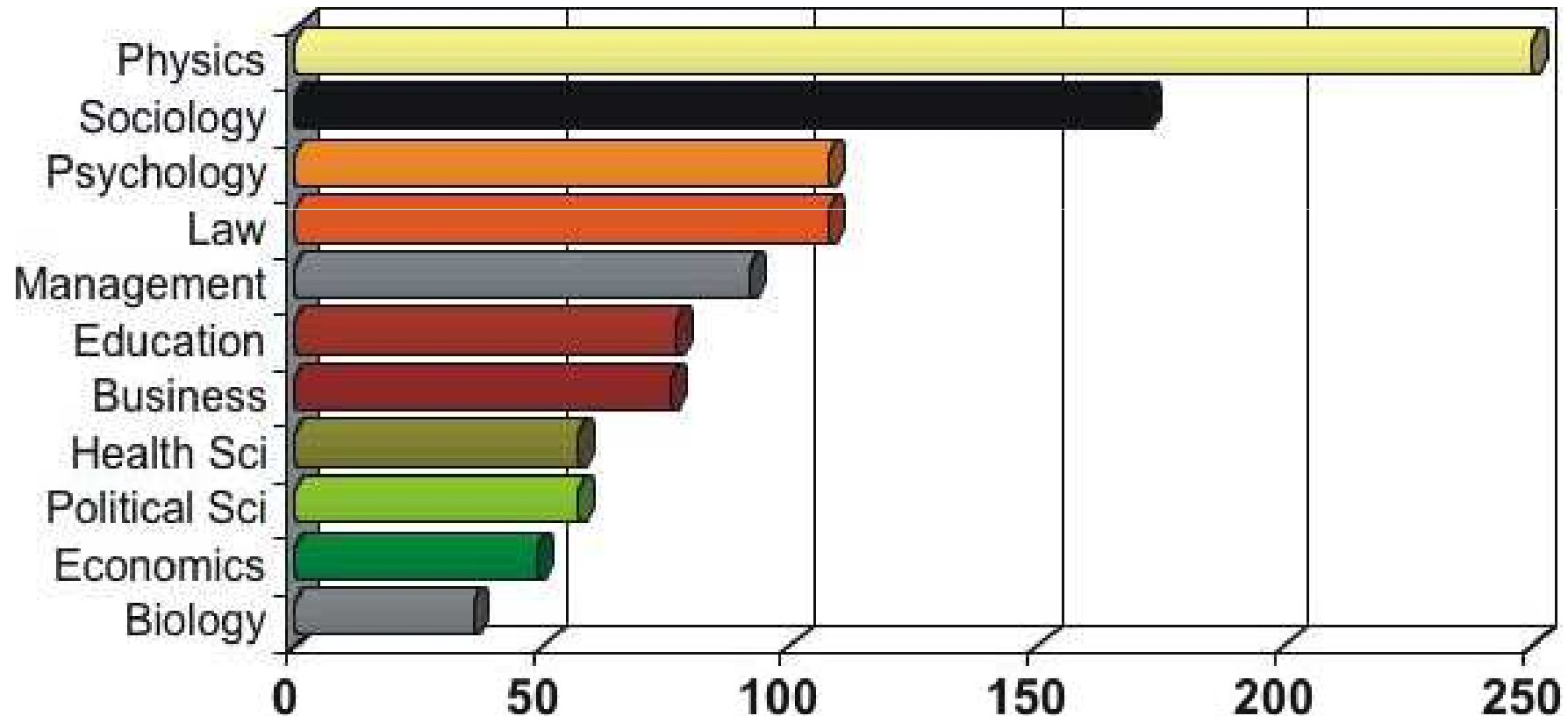


Figure 1. Percentage gain in citations for Open Access articles (self-archiving by their authors) compared to Closed Access counterparts in the same issue of the same journal (from Harnad & Brody, 2004; Hajjem, et al., 2005).

## 5. Barriers: Permissions

Problem: You can't get the literature or you can't get it fast enough!

How readily available is required scholarly work? Options: Subscribe at own cost, get from library or via inter-library loan, buy in bookstore or online, open access, postal mail (reprint request), ...

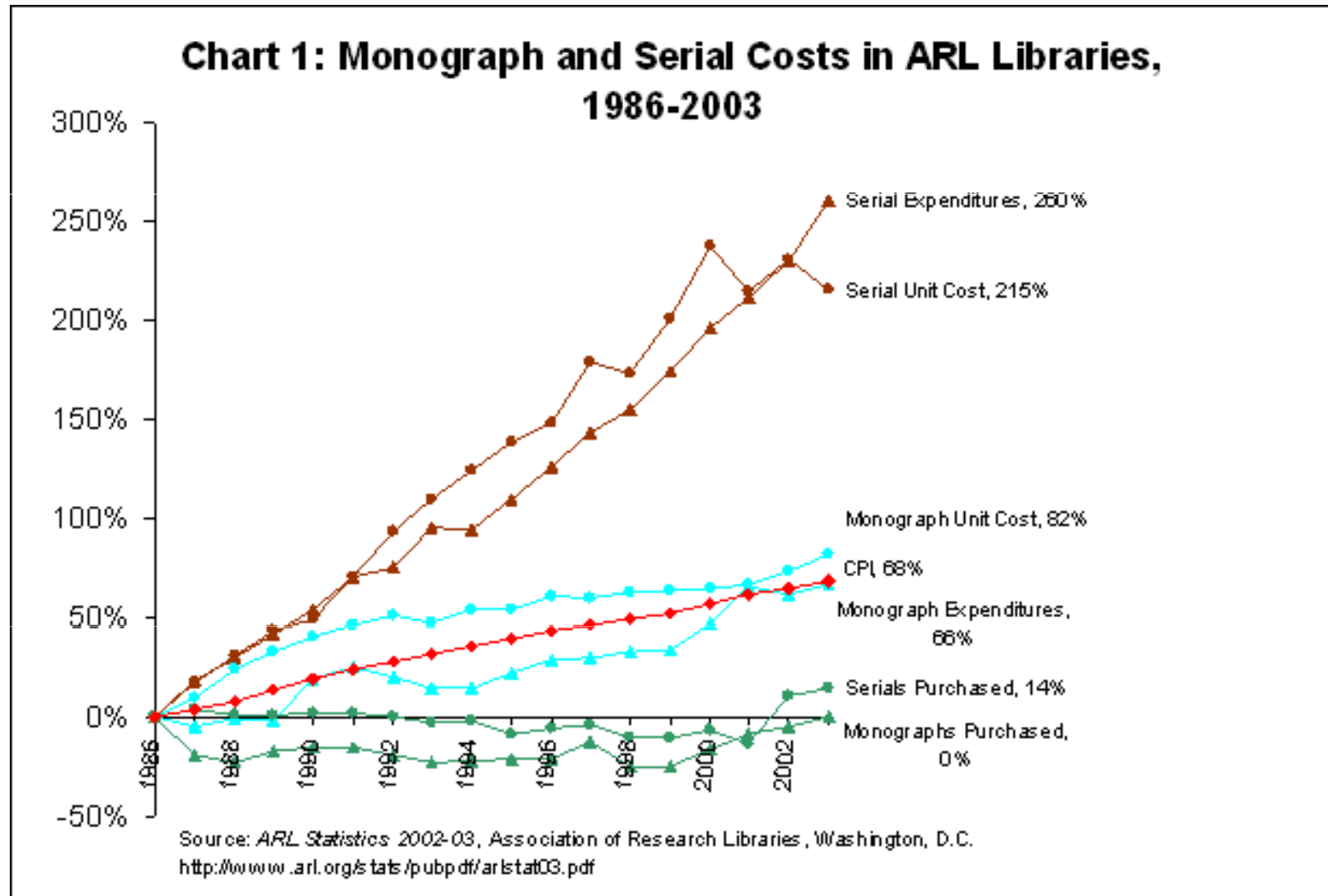
Issues reported:

- Not enough literature in Psychology freely available
- Accessibility problematic for non-mainstream journals and non-traditional national journals.
- Problem locating articles not listed in databases or when databases not available
- Access to international publications problematic in Eastern European countries

## 6. Barriers: Price

- “Prices of many journals have spiraled out of control and libraries have had no choice but to cancel subscriptions, defer new subscriptions, and cut into their book budgets.”
- Journal pricing crisis/Serials crisis  
227 percent increase in journal prices (serial unit cost) /  
64 percent inflation rate (consumer price index) from  
1986 to 2002, according to ARL statistics.
- The 2008 average list price increase across all STM  
publishers was 8.7 percent in Europe and 10.1 percent in  
the U.S.

## Barriers: Price



## 6. Barriers: Price

- Eastern Europe: No money for non-national journals
- High cost of international journals; usually paid for by the taxpayers
- Scientific journals are an unendurable weight for the budget of Universities and of the Research Institutes
- Scholars have to use personal funds

## EPPP

- ... because of (language) discrimination
- ... because of demand for OA publishing
  - Articles, monographs, dissertations
- ... because of new features, e.g.
  - Preprints, pre-refereeing commentary
  - Articles will be linked to data
  - Articles will be multilingual
  - Living articles
  - Metadata & full-text harvesting
  - Open refereeing
  - Commentaries, annotations & tagging
    - Classification and/or evaluation
  - Citation interlinking
  - Download counts
  - Disambiguation of author names

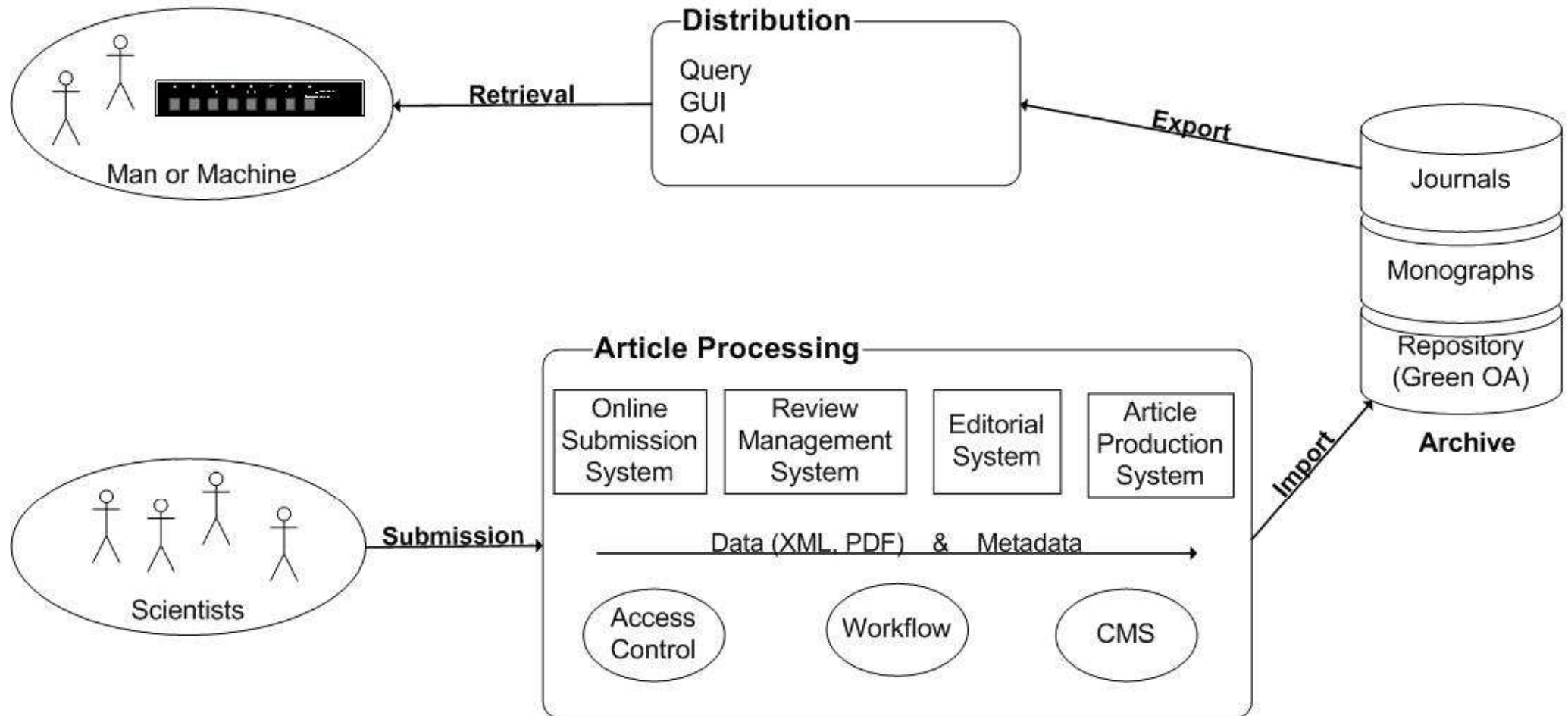
## Action plan

- Define: Scope, type of material, review process, etc.
  - Scholarly & professional, peer-reviewed (refereed), open access, all fields of Psychology, multilingual
- Secure operation
  - Scholarly assistance
  - Administrative assistance
  - Technical assistance/Production
- Secure funding

## OA business models

- Commercial, traditional
  - Author Choice (APS): € 1,500 – € 2,000
  - Open Choice (Springer): € 2,000
  - Sage Open: € 2,000
- Commercial, open access
  - Article-processing charges (BioMed Central): ≈ € 1,000
  - Publication fees (PLoS): ≈ € 1,500
- Not-for-profit, open access
  - Public funding (grants) – *Sustainable?*
  - Direct funding by Learned Society
  - ?

## Platform



## Action plan – Help wanted

- Scholarly assistance
  - Authors, reviewers
  - Editorial group
    - Editor-in-chief, editors
      - Editorial guidelines, selecting reviewers, soliciting manuscript submissions, determining policies concerning the acceptance and rejection of submissions, quality control
- Administrative assistance
  - Copy-editing, proofreading, marketing, contracting
- Technical assistance/production
  - Layout, typesetting, (printing), distributing
- Secure funding

Follow-up meeting in (Trier)?

# Thank you!

## Contact:

Erich Weichselgartner

Institute for Psychology Information

University of Trier

54286 Trier, Germany

E-Mail: [wga@zpid.de](mailto:wga@zpid.de), Phone: +49 651 201-2056

<http://www.zpid.de/index.php?lang=EN>