

About SPARC

SPARC, the SCHOLARLY PUBLISHING AND ACADEMIC RESOURCES COALITION, is an international alliance of nearly 800 academic and research libraries working to create a more open system of scholarly communication. SPARC believes that faster, broader, and more open sharing of the outputs of the scholarly research process increases the impact of research, fuels the advancement of knowledge, and increases the return on research investments. SPARC is a catalyst for change and takes action in collaboration with stakeholders – including authors, publishers, students, educators, and libraries – to build on the unprecedented opportunities created by the networked digital environment to advance the conduct of scholarship.

SPARC's activities advance the acceptance and long-term sustainability of an open system for scholarly communication. SPARC promotes changes to both the infrastructure and culture needed to make open access the norm in scholarly communication, and its activities center on the following broad issue areas:



Open Access to Scholarly and Scientific Research Articles

SPARC supports the immediate, barrier-free online availability of scholarly and scientific research articles, coupled with the rights to reuse these articles fully in the digital environment, and advocates for practices and policies that enable this.



Open Education

SPARC believes that Open Education makes the link between teaching, learning, and the collaborative culture of the Internet. SPARC supports policies and practices that advance the creation and use of Open Educational Resources (OER) that everyone can use, adapt, and share freely.



Open Data

SPARC recognizes that the conduct of scientific and scholarly research is increasingly digital, and that its advancement is predicated on being able to access, comment on, build upon and reuse data. SPARC supports practices and policies that promote broad, open accessibility and utility of scholarly and scientific research data.

SPARC and its partner organizations, SPARC Europe and SPARC Japan, represent a growing collaborative working to advance global progress towards a more open system for sharing scholarly research.

SPARC's strategy for creating change in these issue areas relies on three core activities:

Advocating for policy changes that leverage technology to advance scholarly communication and explicitly recognize that dissemination is an essential, inseparable component of the research process.

Educating stakeholders about challenges in the scholarly communication system and the opportunities for change.

Incubating demonstrations of business and publishing models that advance changes benefiting scholarship and academe.

Why join SPARC?

Collective action gets results.

Joining SPARC means being part of a community that drives meaningful change, improving our members' ability to achieve their missions as academic and research libraries. SPARC's efforts help libraries deliver access to more resources and do so more sustainably. Results from programs that SPARC has actively supported on behalf of our members include:

Policies From the establishment of the landmark NIH Public Access policy to the recent White House Public Access Directive, SPARC plays a leading role in advocating for effective national, state and international policies that support the core mission of our library members.

Infrastructure Through educational campaigns, partnerships and incubation programs, SPARC has helped establish and support a robust infrastructure of thousands of open access journals and repositories that ensure that open access is not just a theory, but a practical operating reality.

Join the leading edge.

Be the first to know about and act on important developments, promising resources, and emerging controversies that affect your users, your library, and your campus. SPARC distills the latest inside information on trends in scholarly communication to keep members up to date, and connects members with a global community of forward-thinking libraries, experts, advocates, and policymakers.

Be the recognized expert on campus.

From directors' briefings to guides to in-person visits, SPARC provides its members with the resources and access to thought leaders that empower libraries to become the recognized expert on campus. SPARC actively assists member libraries to engage faculty, administrators, and students successfully on scholarly communication issues. SPARC also guides members through the establishment of institutional open access policies and authors' funds, programs that keep the library at the heart of the scholarly communication process on campus.

Drive the evolution of scholarly communication.

Being a SPARC member means having your voice heard. SPARC provides the tools, the resources and the opportunities for you to more effectively reach out to communities that matter to you, to help drive positive change in scholarly communication. Whether your priority is reaching campus administrators, faculty, and students, or weighing in with your State Legislatures, Capital Hill or Parliament Hill, our members set SPARC's agenda to expand access to and improve the utility of the outputs of scholarly research in a way that helps libraries thrive in an environment that often requires them to do more with less.

*To join now, go to
sparcopen.org/join*

SPARC's efforts have directly contributed to the growing number of open-access policies being adopted on college and university campuses.