



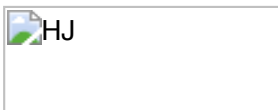
# January 2015 Member Update

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As the new year kicks into high gear, SPARC is pleased to present our full [2015 Program Plan](#), outlining our key priorities, and the activities that we will be undertaking on behalf of our members.

As a catalyst for action, the vast majority of our time will be spent on high-impact strategies to advance policies and practices that ensure Open Access to scholarly outputs – including journal articles, digital data and educational resources. Our highest priority will continue to be to build on the gains we've collectively made in the policy arena, and to ensure that our members' interests are represented in the development of policies from the local to international level.

Additionally, this year SPARC is committed to raising our game in ensuring that you - our members - receive clear and regular information about SPARC's activities, along with new and updated resources to support your work at your home institution. Look for more action - and enhanced communication - from SPARC in 2015!



- Heather Joseph, Executive Director, SPARC



## OPEN ACCESS

### **New Open Access Citation Advantage Resource**

SPARC Europe has created the "Open Access Citation Advantage," a new service to provide information on studies that examine the question of whether or not there is a citation advantage for Open Access articles. Building on the excellent groundwork provided by the JISC-supported "OpCit" project, SPARC EU has created an updated list of the 70 studies published to date that examines the possible citation advantages to publishing in Open Access venues. This new resource can be found on the [SPARC EU website](#).

### **More Consolidation in the Journal Market**

Earlier this month, a major planned merger was announced in the STM journal marketplace: Macmillan Science and Education, publisher of the Nature group of journals, will be merged with Springer Science+Business Media, which also owns the BioMed Central journal suite. The effects of this merger will be closely watched by the library community, where the long-time trend of consolidation has tended to signal less choice

and higher prices for journal packages. A good analysis of the planned merger can be found [here](#).

### **India, South Africa Announce new Open Access Policies**

The global trend of funders implementing Open Access policies for articles and data resulting from their funded research continued this month, with key new policies announced on two continents. In India, the [Ministry of Science and Technology](#) announced new Open Access requirements for research generated from its Department of Biotechnology and Department of Science and Technology. The policy calls for articles to be made available no later than 6 months after publication for STM papers, and 12 months for papers in the Humanities and Social Sciences. In South Africa, the [National Research Foundation](#) announced a similar policy applying to articles - and research data - resulting from the research it funds.



## **OPEN EDUCATION**

### **OER takes Center Stage at ALA Midwinter Conference**

This year at the ALA Midwinter winter meeting in Chicago, OER will be highlighted in two exciting events. First, SPARC will lead an exciting pre-conference institute on OER titled: "[Tackling Textbook Costs Through Open Educational Resources: A Primer](#)." Held in collaboration with the ARL/ACRL Institute for Scholarly Communication, the program features leaders from both the library and OER communities. During the main conference, the topic of this year's SPARC-ACRL Forum is "[The Integration of Open Education Resources into your Library](#)." The panel will discuss how the OER movement has blossomed on campuses over the past few years, and the critical role the library can and do play to promote the creation and adoption of OER.

### **New "Open" Policy Leaders Convene**

Earlier this month, SPARC's Nicole Allen and Nick Shockey helped lead the first Institute of Open Leadership (IOL), a project of the Open Policy Network, that is designed to train, connect, and guide new open policy leaders in education, science and public policy fields. IOL brought together 14 Fellows from institutions around the world for a five-day immersive training on how to advance effective policy in Open Access, Open Education and other areas of openness. IOL Fellows will spend the next year implementing an open policy project at their home institution.

### **Get Ready for Open Education Week**

March 9-13th is Open Education Week, a global event to celebrate the benefits of free and open sharing in education. This event is a great opportunity to raise awareness about OER on campus by organizing events, distributing resources and spreading the word. Check out SPARC's webcast about organizing Open Education Week on your campus and other event ideas [here](#). Also make sure to register your events at [www.openeducationweek.org](http://www.openeducationweek.org).

## **OPEN DATA**



### **First Joint SPARC/COAR Meeting Keynote Speakers Announced**

SPARC is pleased to be joining with the Confederation of Open Access Repositories (COAR) in co-hosting a conference titled "*Connecting Research Results, Bridging Communities, and Opening Scholarship*" in Porto, Portugal, from April 15-16, 2015. Keynoting this conference will be John Wilbanks, Chief Commons Officer with Sage Bionetworks, and Dominique Babini, Open Access Program Coordinator with CLACSO-Latin American Council of Social Sciences and University of Buenos Aires-IIGG. Please visit the [meeting website](#) to learn more about registration, accommodation and travel.

### **New NISO Best Practice Approved**

Earlier this month, the National Information Standards Organization (NISO) approved 'Access and License Indicators (ALI)' as a recommended practice. In their report, NISO defines metadata indicators to be used to indicate free-to-read content and a link to license terms for the use/re-use of that content. Humans and machines will be able to assess the status of the content based on these indicators and in many cases the combination of the free-to-read and license-reference metadata will indicate Open Access content. More information is [available here](#). Greg Tananbaum co-chaired this project on behalf of SPARC.

### **Force 15 Convened in Oxford**

[FORCE 2015](#), a conference sponsored by [Force11](#), took place in Oxford, England earlier this month. This conference provides a forum for bringing together librarians, computer scientists, researchers, funders, publishers, and many others, to discuss the future of scholarly communications. This conference has exploded in popularity in recent years and features dynamic presenters and timely topics. The closing remarks, presented by Phil Bourne, Associate Director for Data Science at the National Institutes of Health were particularly pertinent, and can be found [here](#) along with links to the full set of program presentations.



## **STUDENT ACTION**

### **SPARC Appoints Student-Early Career Representative to its Governing Body**

Juan Pablo Alperin, an early career instructor at Simon Fraser University, will be the first to serve in SPARC's newly-created Steering Committee seat for a student or early career researcher. Alperin is in the process of completing his Ph.D. from Stanford's Graduate School of Education, where he led his fellow graduate students in a referendum vote to expand their institutional open access policy to include Ph.D. candidates - an effort that passed by a 90% margin. Alperin brings a depth of experience in scholarly communication issues, having been involved in the Public Knowledge Project for eight years. He has been active on a range of student-led Open Access initiatives and served on the Organizing Committee for OpenCon 2014.

### **Students grade UK Universities on commitment to Open Access**

Last week, two Right to Research Coalition members (Universities Allied for Essential

Medicines UK and Medsin-UK) released the “University Global Health Research League Table” during a meeting at the UK Parliament. The League Table seeks to measure the commitment of UK universities to research that meets the health needs of people worldwide. Notably, a component of each university’s score is based upon their commitment to Open Access - determined by the existence of campus open access policies and funds - and an estimate of what percentage of the university’s research output is freely accessible online. The R2RC provided support for the inclusion of Open Access in the league table metrics, and will continue to advise the lead organizations as they refine the instrument. You can find the full rankings and methodology [here](#).

**Satellite events on every continent advance, localize the OpenCon discussion**

As part of OpenCon 2014, SPARC worked with partners around the world to host more than ten events across (almost!) every continent. Stories and data from these events have been streaming in, and in total, more than 250 people attended the events. The events were wide-ranging, and included advocacy visits with policymakers, livestreaming of sessions, and hackathons. These inaugural satellite events provided local context and the ability for institutions to catalyze action locally. In 2015, these satellite events will play a central role in bringing the OpenCon experience to as many students and early career researchers as possible -- perhaps even to Antarctica, the one continent we missed this year!

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Thoughts on ways to improve this communication? Please send them to Shawn Daugherty, Assistant Director for Operations & Programs at [shawn@sparcopen.org](mailto:shawn@sparcopen.org)