Preprint publication and knowledge organization in Economics

Sune Karlsson

Stockholm School of Economics

Outline

- Why Preprints?
- A Swedish (Scandinavian) initiative
- A global perspective
- How it all ties together

Scholarly Communication

- Traditional, journal-based process very slow
- Preprints play an important role
- Limited circulation and hard to find
- S-WoPEc/S-WoBA and RePEc one attempt to solve this problem

A publication lag of two years

- Trivedi, P.K. (1993), "An analysis of publication lags in Econometrics," *Journal of Applied Econometrics*, **8**, 93-100.
  - Median time to publication 16 – 30 months
  - Median time from acceptance to publication 6 – 11 months
  - Of the time to acceptance 70% is spent on review and 30% on revisions

Grey literature

- Working papers, technical reports, manuscripts with limited distribution
- A majority of researchers are marginalized
- To be published is not sufficient
- Distribution and exposure prior to publication is necessary in order to influence current research

but…

- Peer-review as provided by journals indispensable

S-WoPEc & S-WoBA

- Scandinavian Working Papers in Economics
- Scandinavian Working Papers in Business Administration

Initially

- A Swedish project

- Run by the SSE library

- Funded by the Swedish Royal Library (BIBSAM)

Now

- Scandinavian (Nordic) coverage

- Supported by EFI
  (SSE research institute)

- European off-shoots
  (European Business School Librarians group)

Why?

- Grey literature important

- Access to the most recent research

- Increased exposure for Swedish research

How?

- One-stop access to Swedish research
- Support to Swedish research organizations
- Complements and enhances other resources
  - LIBRIS (www.libris.kb.se)
  - SAFARI (safari.hsv.se)
- International distribution through RePEc

Exposure for Swedish research

- One-stop access to Swedish research in Economics and Business Administration
  - 28 working paper series
  - 1500 papers, 1200 in full text
  - 27 000 abstracts accesses/month
  - 15 000 full text files downloaded/month

- Support for making working papers available on the Internet
  - Form based and simple input of data
- Feedback to authors
  - Access statistics

The big picture

- Locating the state of the art and gaining exposure difficult
- Internet
  - Distribution of preprints through the researchers home page or institutional servers
  - Disorganized
  - Internet search engines not good enough

Solutions

- arXiv.org, also known as "XXX"
  Physics, Mathematics

- NCSTRL "ancestral" (www.ncstrl.org)
  Computer Science

- RePEc (repec.org)
  Economics/Finance/Business Administration

- OAI, Open Archives Initiative
  (www.openarchives.org)

RePEc
Research Papers in Economics

- A protocol for making research information available on the Internet

- Started in 1997 by the English WoPEc, Dutch Degree and Swedish S-WoPEc projects

- 230 archives, 1 100 series, 97 500 working papers, 55 700 journal articles, 62 600 downloadable items

RePEc model

- Decentralized
  - 230 RePEc archives – information providers
  - Data about preprints often provided directly by authors
  - Varying data quality
- User services
  - Harvests data from archives
  - Displays and filters data or provides search services

RePEc services

- Search engines (subject portals)
  - EconPapers (econpapers.hhs.se)
  - IDEAS (ideas.uqam.ca)
  - WoPEc (netec.mcc.ac.uk/WoPEc)
- Current Awareness
  - NEP: New Economics Papers subject based e-mail lists (nep.repec.org)
- Access statistics
  - LogEc (logec.hhs.se)

Impact

- Over 1 000 000 abstract accesses/month
- Over 100 000 full text downloads/month
- Data primarily from US and European sources
- Usage much more evenly distributed

Organizing knowledge

- HoPEc (hopec.repec.org)
  - Authority data base
  - Self organized, based on input from authors
  - 3 000 registered authors
- Citation based linking
  - Citations extracted from full texts
  - Matched with RePEc holdings
  - Links reflecting cited and citing relations

- Sune.Karlsson@hhs.se
- *S-WoPEc*
  - http://swopec.hhs.se
- *S-WoBA*
  - http://swoba.hhs.se
- *EconPapers*
  - http://econpapers.hhs.se
- *LogEc*
  - http://logec.hhs.se