cottage labs

Looking up from the Weeds

Knowing what's next for OA by learning from the past

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Who am I and what is this?

An OLD MAN of Open Access Software Development

...

Responsible for implementing the visions of the Great and the Good of Open Access

2001 - University of Edinburgh, Repo developer

2004 - University of Bergen, Repo developer

2006 - Imperial College London, Repo developer, CRIS integrations

2007 - Hewlett-Packard

2008 - Symplectic, CRIS Integrations

2011 - Cottage Labs Founder, Repos and OA Infrastructure

Observation (without proof)

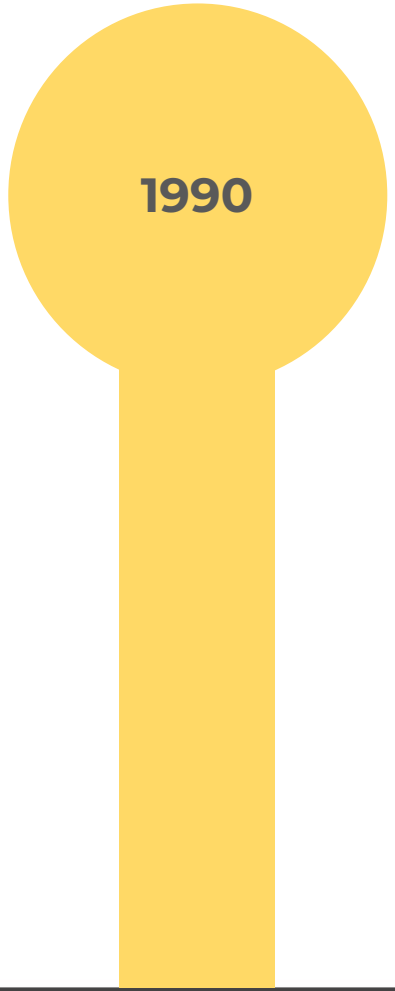
Approximately once a year someone announces that Open Access:

- Is dead
- Has failed
- Isn’t worth it

This is a journey into time to see if this is true, or if there is something for us in the future.

THE BEFORE TIME

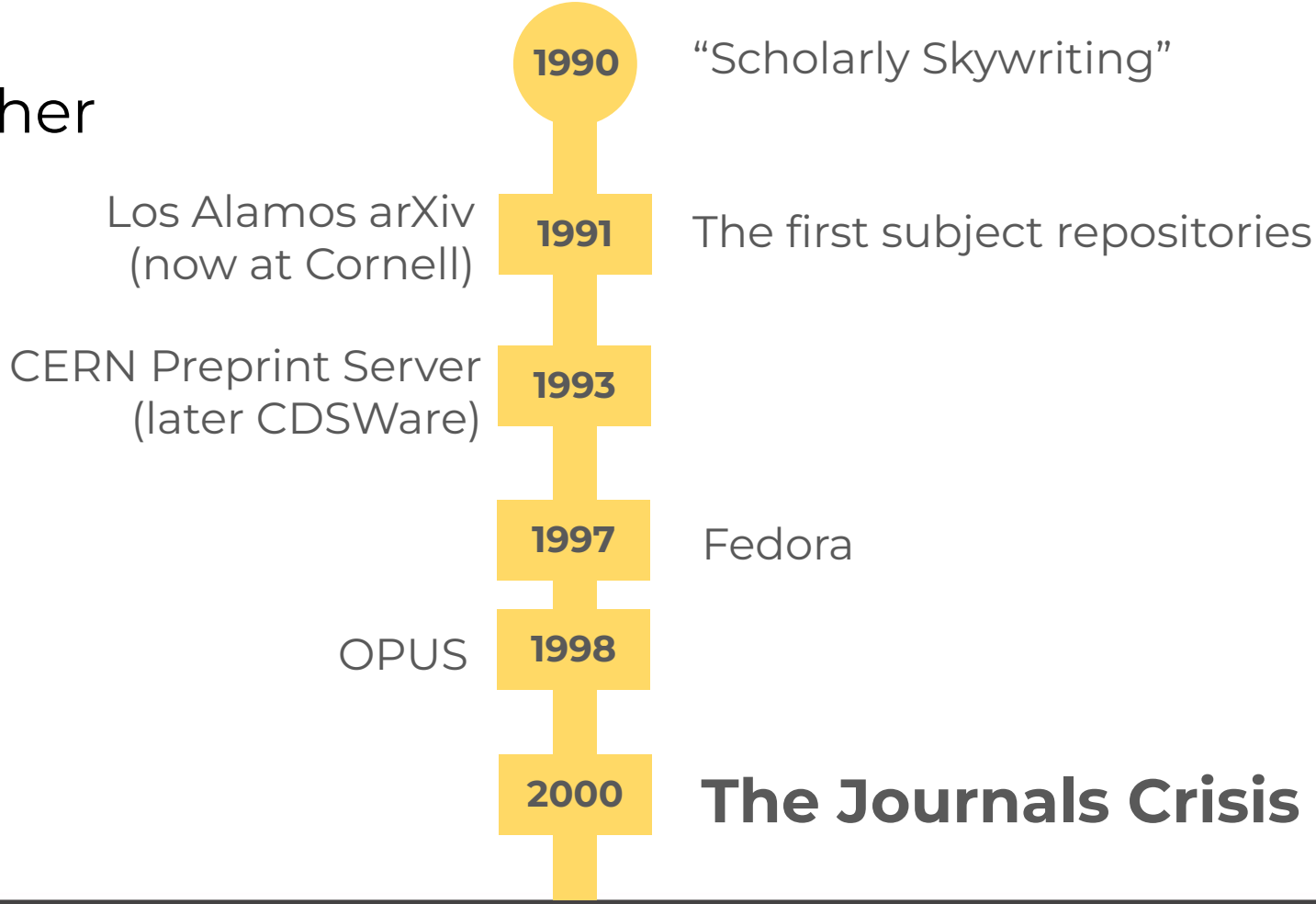
In the beginning there was light



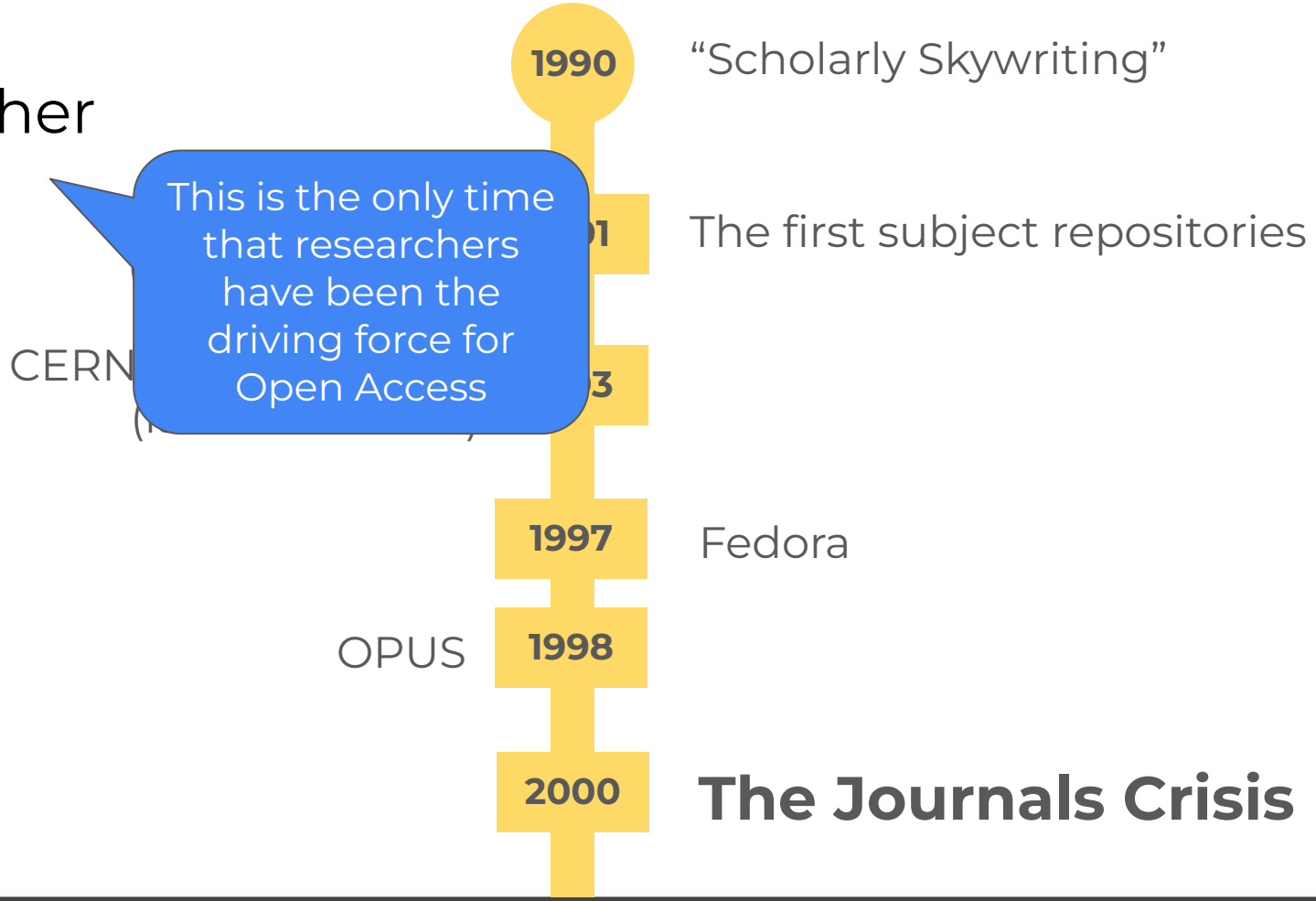
Gardner and Harnad

“Scholarly Skywriting and the Prepublication Continuum of Scientific Inquiry”

Researcher driven growth



Researcher driven growth



Researcher driven gro

Los Alamos arXiv

1990 “Scholarly Skywriting”

1991 The first subject repositories

993

997 Fedora

2000

In reality, the journals crisis had been unfolding for years.

Libraries hoped Institutional Repositories would put pressure on the publishers.

They were, unfortunately, wrong.

The Journals Crisis

Libraries get interested

EPrints

2000

The first institutional repositories

OAI-PMH

2001

I join the University of Edinburgh

Early CRIS systems

DSpace

2002

ETheses

BOAI

DOAJ

2003

EThoS at British Library

Berlin Declaration of Open Access

THE AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT

Getting serious about repositories

DSpace Foundation

2004

SHERPA

APCs

SWORD

2007

OAI-ORE

2008

CRIS/Repo integrations

We form Cottage Labs

2011

Hydra (later Samvera)

2012

The Great Shift to the Right

Getting serious

DSpace Foundation

2004

SHERPA

APCs

Publishers are adapting their business models to OA

2007

2008

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The Great Shift to the Right

Getting serious about repositories

DSpace Foundation

2004

SWORD

2007

Became a role model for good community engagement

2008

CRIS/Repo integrations

Found success with the same kind of expansive community building as DSpace

Labs

2011

Hydra
(later Samvera)

2012

The Great Shift to the Right

Getting serious about repositories

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2004 SHERPA

SWORD

Simple Fire and Forget deposit, still the most popular use-case today.

OAI-ORE

2008

We form Cottage Labs

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2012

The Great Shift to the Right

THE INFRASTRUCTURE EXPLOSION

Research funders get involved

2012 — Research Data

2013 — ResourceSync

We become DOAJ's technical partner

2014 — OA Button (later OA.Works)

2015 — Invenio 3

2018 — cOAlition S and Plan S

2019 — Journal Checker Tool

2021 — Journal Comparison Service

Research funders get involved

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2015

Despite modern architecture, it has not been able to unseat OAI-PMH as the go-to harvesting protocol

2018 cOAlition S and Plan S

2019 Journal Checker Tool

2021 Journal Comparison Service

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This needs a whole presentation of its own, there's a lot to say.

Historically overlooked by publishers, it's a fertile ground for repositories

2015 Invenio 3

2018

2019 Journal Checker Tool

Journal Comparison Service

2021

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OA
(later OA

Both from Plan S, they pave the way to the new publishing paradigms

cOAlition S and

2019

Journal Checker Tool

Journal Comparison Service

2021

INTROSPECTION

The Publisher Trade-off

Before		Now
Virtually zero free-to-read articles	→	Lots of OA options
Cost for access is on the reader	→	Cost for access is primarily on the writer
What's this self-archiving thing?	→	Self-archiving is a commonly available option for authors
The publishing sector extracts a lot of money from institutions	→	The publishing sector extracts a lot of money from institutions
Theoretical publishing equity	→	Reduced publishing equity
Poor readership equity	→	Good readership equity

We traded publishing equity for readership equity

What I learned

1. We can’t cut the publishers out
2. Researchers won’t drive OA
3. Good community and governance is critical
4. We need big infrastructure and small experiments
5. Simple is better, and for standards especially
6. Whoever has the money will have the most say

Is Open Access Dead?

Hopefully it’s obvious that Open Access is not an “all or nothing” thing.

AHEAD

what?

Open Peer Review and Overlay Journals (PRC)

needs?

Academic buy-in
Infrastructure and standards
Repositories

has?

The repo community
COAR Notify
Services like Peer Community In and Episciences

challenges?

Will be no doubt be opposed by publishers
Will require academics to accept these journals

what?

Diamond Open Access

needs?

Funder and Institution buy-in
Service infrastructure to scale

has?

Existing base of support
Representation in DOAJ
Funder interest

challenges?

Unlikely to overturn publisher business models
Publishers may co-opt

what?

More and better data repositories

needs?

Better software support
More understanding of user needs

has?

Existing repository software
Established institutional practice

challenges?

Only technical ones, a very good opportunity!

what?

Content reusability

needs?

A change of mindset - repositories cannot be the end state for the data, must be an enabler instead

has?

Some prior art in Machine Learning and AI content reuse

challenges?

Existing software may be a barrier to innovation

Did I not mention your thing?

I’m sorry, there’s so much, and I only had 15 - 20 minutes. I focused on those that I was involved in directly, or which impacted on my day-to-day work.

There’s lots more out there, and the thing that’s missing is just as important as the others.

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The End

?

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