

The Experience in Economics

Christian Zimmermann
University of Connecticut

Main grievances about scholarly publishing for Economists:

- cost of library subscriptions
- publication delays

Cost of library subscriptions

- Ted Bergstrom (UC Santa Barbara)
- boycott of volunteer services
- JEEA

Publication delays

First article:

submission 1: 3/25/92; rejection: 4/28/93

⇒ **399 days**

submission 2: 4/30/94; revision request: 3/6/95;
sent: 5/23/95; accepted 10/10/95; published
2/1/1997

⇒ **1008 days**

Last article:

submission 1: 6/26/2000; rejection: 10/8/2001

⇒ **408 days**

submission 2: 12/22/2001: revision request:
5/6/2003; sent: 5/19/2003; accepted: 5/28/2003;
forthcoming 12/1/2004

⇒ **1074 days**

Hence...

Emergence of preprints (“discussion papers”, “working papers”, “technical reports”)

Undemocratic diffusion of leading edge research

Thomas Krichel and Féthy Mili start NetEc in 1993.

Thomas Krichel and several consortia start RePEc in 1997.

RePEc (Research Papers in Economics)

<http://repec.org>

Set of rules:

- organization of metadata about research
- decentralized input
- volunteer based
- public domain
- founding member, Open Archives Initiative

RePEc today

- 305 archives, including several commercial publishers
- 116'000 working papers in 1107 series
- 80'000 articles in 202 journals
- 950 software components
- 3000 registered authors
- 7000 links to institutions
- 60 email awareness reports
- 7 web based search and browse sites
- over 200'000 downloads and 1'200'000 abstract views a month
- new: 270 books, 270 chapters, citation analysis

What you can do:

- Integrate RePEc services in your list of online databases
- Encourage similar initiatives in other fields
- Have institutional repositories contribute to OAI and/or RePEc

The future?

- rclis (research in computing, library and information science)
<http://rclis.org>
- AMF (Academic Metadata Format)
- OAI (Open Archives Initiative)
<http://openarchives.org>