

I T H A K A



Infrastructure for Scholarship in a Time of Transition

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CDL – Ithaca Forum
June 9, 2009

What is Happening?

- The dissemination of knowledge is shifting from a paper-based transaction to a digital and networked transaction.
- Every aspect of our infrastructure – both capital and services – has been tuned to supporting the paper-based exchange.
- The environment in which this digital transaction takes place – the network – is not segregated from commercial activity.
- The entire enterprise – libraries, publishers, societies, universities – is realigning itself to these new realities.



Realignment is hard.

- Existing important players have to move their ships, a process which is challenging and difficult. Everyone wants to think what they do will persist indefinitely and is essential.
- New entrants have an advantage. They can innovate without the burden of legacy and history. They don't have existing cost structures.
- The academic enterprise is facing a new level and form of external and disruptive competition. "I want things to stay the same!"
- Transformative change will require a substantial/massive reallocation of resources



Scale matters

- Technology and networks favor larger scale
- Tension between centralized activity and decentralized activity
- Decentralized activity usually requires a coordinating enterprise or catalyst (e.g. Google, eBay, Facebook, YouTube, Wikipedia, etc.)



What are people looking for?

- A flexible infrastructure that facilitates the easy access to and preservation of the valuable inputs to knowledge creation.
- The tools necessary to turn those inputs into useful knowledge.
- In other words, an environment that is specifically suited to the new and evolving process of digital scholarship – “cyberinfrastructure” that supports the work of both the knowledge user and the knowledge producer.



More Specifically, our community wants...

- Coordinated repositories that hold all kinds of content at all stages of the process of knowledge production (data, drafts, pre-prints, published articles)
- Guarantees of long-term preservation of the important content
- Tools that make it easy to:
 - Contribute content
 - Discover content
 - Integrate and organize content
 - Share and Collaborate around the content
 - Evaluate and rate (peer review) content for the purposes of quality screening, validation and certification
 - Ascertain how content has been used and evaluated by others



We are in the messy phase

- Lots of initiatives, lots of players.
- Centralized players. Decentralized efforts.
- Proprietary approaches. Open approaches.
- Commercial products. Not-for-profit initiatives.
- All trying to build a piece, they hope a significant piece.

...of the scholarly infrastructure



At a Slight Angle to the Universe: The University in a Digitized, Commercialized Age

"...one of my greatest concerns is that, either inadvertently or by design, universities ... will lose sight of, or downplay, their most essential purposes. These include educating students broadly so that they will lead productive lives in a civilized society; serving as engines of opportunity and social mobility; creating new knowledge of every kind, including work that has either no immediate market value or that may even threaten some commercial end; encouraging and protecting the thoughtful critic and the dissenting voice; and defending cultural, moral, and intellectual values that no one can 'price' very well."

William G. Bowen

Romanes lecture, Fall 2000



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Merger of JSTOR and Ithaka



Our Mission

Ithaka is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to helping the academic community take full advantage of rapidly advancing information and networking technologies. We serve scholars, researchers and students by providing the content, tools, and services needed to preserve the scholarly record and to advance research and teaching in sustainable ways. We are committed to working in collaboration with other organizations to maximize benefits to our stakeholders.



Ithaka Services (Some components of this new infrastructure)

- JSTOR – access and delivery platform
 - Helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of academic content. Uses information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship.
- Portico – preservation archive
 - Preserves scholarly literature published in electronic form – more than 14,000 electronic journals and books – and ensures that these materials remain accessible to future scholars, researchers, and students.
- Ithaka Research
 - Conducts research and shares trends and lessons learned to help the higher education community understand, and manage, the transition to an electronic environment.
- Ithaka Strategic Services
 - Helps organizations and initiatives in higher education address pressing strategic issues and develop sustainable models. Analyzes key trends: open source software, university publishing, sustainability of academic resources.



Our broad set of objectives

- Host & aggregate a wide range of content
- Broaden the reach of content owners through JSTOR platform
- Link collections to JSTOR & other hosted collections
- Provide a trusted digital preservation service & archive
- Provide/enable tools to encourage data analysis & collaboration
- Provide research, strategic advice to the scholarly community



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Answers to a few questions



Some Answers

- This is a merger not a takeover. We merged the organizations and decided that Ithaka was the best name for the broad objectives we were pursuing.
- JSTOR remains and will remain the lead brand and service to users. We will build on JSTOR.
- Portico will continue to provide its important preservation services, and all agreements with publishers and libraries will persist.
- We will continue to work closely with ARTstor to serve common interests, but ARTstor remains a separate 501(c)(3) organization with its own Board of Trustees.



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