

# Libraries and Open Access: new alliances and new strategies

Jean-Claude Guédon

CC-by

Let us start with a difficult question:

Is the library profession imploding?

# Libraries and Open Access: new alliances and new strategies

Jean-Claude Guédon

**ALAS,**

**MANY SIGNS INDICATE  
THAT IT MAY WELL BE ...**

**IMPLODING**

# Libraries and Open Access: new alliances and new strategies

Jean-Claude Guédon



# Libraries and Open Access: new alliances and new strategies

Jean-Claude Guédon

What are the implosion symptoms?

- 
- Coffee shops within library (lack of patrons?)
- Computers (don't students and profs have computers?)
- Compact storage off campus (Do we still use this "old" stuff?)
- Identity crisis in library literature (The "future of the profession syndrome)
- Etc. (Imagine a lot of hand wringing...)

# Libraries and Open Access: new alliances and new strategies

Jean-Claude Guédon



# Libraries and Open Access: new alliances and new strategies

Jean-Claude Guédon

The possible causes for this dismal state are many:

Let me select some crucial ones:<

- The loss of contact with researchers
  - Researchers are like information snipers
  - Librarians are like information carpet bombers
- The procurement imperative
- Digitization: from ownership to access and consequences...

# Libraries and Open Access: new alliances and new strategies

Jean-Claude Guédon

## ONE EXAMPLE: MY OWN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

- Instructed by the administration to reduce budget
- Tries to break “Big Deal” with Wiley
- Consequences?
  - Some savings (ca. \$250 000 over 3 years)
  - Only 370 titles out of the 1500 Wiley titles
  - 70% only of local needs satisfied

# Libraries and Open Access: new alliances and new strategies

Jean-Claude Guédon

## WHAT DO PUBLISHERS EXPECT?

- Fierce reaction from faculty and researchers
- Unbearable pressure on “bad” librarian
- Humiliation of the institution
- Return to the “normal” state of affairs

# Libraries and Open Access: new alliances and new strategies

Jean-Claude Guédon

## WHAT DOES THE ADMINISTRATION EXPECT?

- No waves! The boat must not be rocked!
- Be careful about our rankings in the world
- Yet we want you (librarians) to save money (but do not expect support in negotiations)
- Yet we want to evaluate our researchers by where they publish rather than what they publish; i.e. we contribute to reinforcing the false notion of “core” journals

# Libraries and Open Access: new alliances and new strategies

Jean-Claude Guédon

**AND WHAT DO RESEARCHERS EXPECT?**

Leave us alone

We do not want to know

We do not have the time

Give us all we want

# Libraries and Open Access: new alliances and new strategies

Jean-Claude Guédon

It is high time for librarians  
to rebuild a close alliance  
with  
researchers, faculty and students

# Libraries and Open Access: new alliances and new strategies

Jean-Claude Guédon

# HOW?

# Libraries and Open Access: new alliances and new strategies

Jean-Claude Guédon

THE KNOWLEDGE SNIPERS  
MUST UNDERSTAND  
HOW CARPET BOMBING  
WORKS

# **Libraries and Open Access: new alliances and new strategies**

Jean-Claude Guédon

**Librarians used to use  
Bradford's law of information  
scattering;**

**It was based on  
local usage conditions**

# Libraries and Open Access: new alliances and new strategies

Jean-Claude Guéron

Garfield introduced  
an inverse Bradford law,  
or Garfield “concentration “law””  
and told librarians:  
you all want the same “core” journals  
because science is the same everywhere

# Libraries and Open Access: new alliances and new strategies

Jean-Claude Guédon

**BUT SCIENCE IS NOT THE SAME EVERYWHERE**

Science results are valid everywhere

But science questions vary  
with place, institutions, regions

# Libraries and Open Access: new alliances and new strategies

Jean-Claude Guédon

If librarians want  
to reconnect with researchers

**they must**

**Involve them** in library **processes**

(e.g. negotiating teams)

Keep a close watch

on **which questions** are privileged locally

# Libraries and Open Access: new alliances and new strategies

Jean-Claude Guédon

Involving faculty in negotiations with publishers would:

- Show them the realities of “carpet bombing”
- Help librarians resist confidentiality clauses

# Libraries and Open Access: new alliances and new strategies

Jean-Claude Guédon

To keep a close watch on scientific questions of local (i.e. institutional, national, even European) interest

Open Access repositories (with a strong mandate) are ideal!

# Libraries and Open Access: new alliances and new strategies

Jean-Claude Guédon

For example,  
The University of Liège in Belgium  
has found  
that it published almost **twice as many papers**  
as was thought  
**before the repository was set up**

# Libraries and Open Access: new alliances and new strategies

Jean-Claude Guédon

**IN OTHER WORDS,  
OPEN ACCESS  
IS A GOOD WAY  
TO BUILD STRONG ALLIANCES  
WITH FACULTY, RESEARCHERS, STUDENTS**

# Libraries and Open Access: new alliances and new strategies

Jean-Claude Guédon

Libraries, **with open access,**  
can help **improve**  
the **evaluation** of research  
by helping to move  
to **article content**  
and away from **journal titles**

# Libraries and Open Access: new alliances and new strategies

Jean-Claude Guédon

THIS IS A BATTLE

LIBRARIANS

AND RESEARCHERS

CAN WAGE TOGETHER

# Libraries and Open Access: new alliances and new strategies

Jean-Claude Guédon

**FINALLY**

libraries can help  
researchers  
publish

# Libraries and Open Access: new alliances and new strategies

Jean-Claude Guédon

They can help publish

- **By creating new forms of intellectual value on top of repositories**
- **By getting involved in the publishing business themselves**

# Libraries and Open Access: new alliances and new strategies

Jean-Claude Guédon

MOLTO

GRAZIE

(I hate slides!)