

Libraries, publishers, intermediaries, we
are all doing the same job?

Tommaso Giordano
European University Institute

Are we still in the phase of digital incunabula?



Early e-publications try to resemble print publications?...

The development of the printed book market (16th century)

- New content (new genres)
- New formats
- New authors
- New readers
- New actors
- Disruption of the traditional circuit

The new digital environment

- Emergence of internet users, as drivers of the innovation processes
- Emerging initiative of new generations (IT-born)
- A new culture based on participation and collaboration
- Free open culture, as driving factor of economy (eg. Linux free open-source sw)
- Old actors looking for a new positioning
- Monopolistic rents and self-referential attitude, prevent innovation

Critical issues

- Slow technological development:
Italy is among the last in Europe to adopt broadband
(coverage less than 50%)
Gap between the most advanced European countries
and the leader countries (Korea, Singapore, Japan...)
- Legal framework: copyright restrictions, embargo, digital
legal deposit undefined, etc.
- Tax: 21% VAT on digital publications
- Italian book market: limited (language factor etc.)
- Skills: high average age of staff, freeze on recruitment
- Poor investment in innovation, research and education
- Cooperative attitude: low

Are we all doing the same job?

Metadata: intermediaries, libraries, publishers, system suppliers, authors...

Systems (ILS): IT companies, intermediaries (eg. Ebsco, Serial Solutions), library consortia...

Content production : publishers, intermediaries, libraries, authors...

Research management and evaluation: research agencies, publishers, intermediaries, libraries

We are doing the same job (maybe), but goals are different

- Need to find right balance between commercialization and public interest
- 42 % of scientific articles controlled by 3 international publishers
- Increase of journal price: 400 % in the last 25 years
- Increase of publishers revenue (in some cases 40 %/year) <> decrease of library budgets - subscriptions cancelled – system breakdown
- OA: embargo for research outputs produced with public funds
- OA gold road: a way to jeopardise the OA model? The article fees higher than the article subscription cost
- OA in Social Science and Humanities, need specific economic models ?

A new cycle? Library as content producer /enabler

“Should not forget that in an age when printing was not yet invented, a library was not only collection, but also the workshop of manuscripts, where the scrolls were not only purchased, but also copied. And the activity of the scholars who managed the library, was not only reproduction of course material, but also critical analysis and reviewing . Reviewing works preserved [...] the library, created the first critical editions... “

Giorgio Pasquali [Italian philologist], *Biblioteca*, “Enciclopedia Italiana”, Milano: Treccani, 1930

Un nuovo ciclo?

La biblioteca come centro di produzione di contenuti

- “Non conviene dimenticare che in un’età nella quale la stampa non era ancora inventata, una biblioteca non era soltanto raccolta, ma anche officina di manoscritti, che colà rotoli venivano non solo acquistati, ma anche copiati. E l’attività dei dotti che la reggevano non si limitava naturalmente a riproduzione materiale, ma assumeva necessariamente carattere critico. Recensendo opere conservate, ma sempre come di necessità in qualche modo difettosi, recensendo ben più che emendando, i dotti del museo, cioè della biblioteca, crearono le prime edizioni in certo modo critiche”.

Giorgio Pasquali, *Biblioteca*, “Enciclopedia Italiana”, Milano: Treccani, 1930

Libraries, publishers, intermediaries, authors, users
We can work together?
YES WE CAN!

- Open Access (OpenAire, Dart, Driver, Scoap3...)
- Peer review (eg. Libre)
- Digital Preservation (eg. Lockss, Clockss)
- Open Publishing
 - *OpenEdition Books*
 - *Knowledge Unlatched (NY Public Lib., JISC, Max Planck, Hati Trust...)*
 - *The Open/Alternative Textbook Initiative (Kansas Univ. and student associations)*
 - *Open Book Publishers*

Come mothers and fathers
Throughout the land
And don't criticize
What you can't understand
Your sons and your daughters
Are beyond your command
Your old road is
Rapidly agin'.
Please get out of the new one
If you can't lend your hand
For the times they are a-changin'.

Bob Dylan, *The Times They Are A Changin'*