Open Access Electronic Publishing
A View from the Frontier: eLanguage

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Structure

The issue

The grievance

What came out of it?

Where do we go from here?

Why not jump?

Attentism

Success

Whither "publication"?

- eLanguage: A Linguistic Agora2
- Stephen R. Anderson,
- Yale University
- Dieter Stein,
- Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf, Germany

- Current web-based technology offers the possibility of addressing some of the problems of standard print journals while serving the broad range of interests represented by the members of the LSA and offering them a product of value. To satisfy these goals, however, an electronic journal has to go beyond simply reproducing the structure of standard journals in a new medium, the conception underlying at least some of the e-journals that have been introduced in recent years.

- Traditional journals must achieve their goals within a fixed number of pages, with a single structure and a uniform set of policies for content and editorial review. The more diverse the community such a journal attempts to serve, however, the more difficult it is to fit all of its heterogeneous parts into such a single framework and the pages available. As a result, journals aspiring to general coverage (such as Language, Journal of Linguistics, etc.) are forced to make compromises and impose limitations for the sake of overall breadth, with the result that many scholars lose the sense that these publications are adequately responsive to their specific interests. Apart from fast publication and truly global reach, electronic media are not subject to the same limitations imposed by scope and cost, however, and it is possible to envision a single "journal" that in fact responds in individually appropriate ways to different segments of its potential readership.

- Freedom from the printed page can mean more than this, of course. An electronic journal can incorporate sound and video files as well as additional multi-media content into published work. It can also offer the possibility of direct links to extensive files of background material that would be quite impossible to publish in the format of a traditional print journal (an extensive collection of comparison sets in support of a single assertion of relatedness in a historical article, for example).

- For the LSA's electronic journal eLanguage, we envision an organization providing some central content of a general nature, and a common overall organization, while allowing individual "co-journals" within this framework a maximum of flexibility in addressing issues of intellectual content. The central structure will be based on a unitary main page presented to the reader, from which a variety of content can be accessed. Some of this will be material of general interest to members of the Society (and others), and as such would be under the control of the journal's core editorial administration. The more specialized material constituting the intellectual core, however, would be provided by separate editorial groups each handling in a largely autonomous fashion submissions and publication for a co-journal under their supervision.

- The availability of the central support structure will make it quite easy for a group of scholars to organize their own co-journal within this overall framework. As a primary benefit of this, if a diverse enough collection of such co-journals can be encouraged, the overall product will come closer to serving the various sub-communities of our field in ways that all will find congenial.

- The need for Language to serve the entire membership of the LSA has had the unfortunate result, over time, that some parts of the field have developed a sense that the journal (and by extension, the Society) is insufficiently responsive (perhaps even hostile) to their interests and concerns. The more flexible structure proposed here should allow any of these groups to feel fully enfranchised, without requiring trade-offs that would make others feel less so.

Sections / cojournals

- Constructions
- Discourse and Dialogue
- Journal of Historical syntax
- Journal of Mesoamerican Languages
- Linguistic Issues in Language Technology
- Semantics and Pragmatics
- Research in Corpus Linguistics
- Teaching Linguistics
- Language and Public Policy
- Phonological Analysis
- Perspectives

Table 2. Savings with automated e-journal management systems, compared with traditional print journals

Stage	Agent	Automated and Assisted Journal Management	Savings
Submission	Author	a) Online upload in variety of formats, including "camera-ready" tables and figures, as well as room for appendices, data, instruments, etc. b) Templates to assist authors indexing their papers by asking them to provide appropriate metadata	Clerical time, copying, postage, courier
Submission	Editor	a) Author notified of receipt of submission b) Queuing for review	stationery, editor time
Peer Review	Editor	a) Maintain list of reviewers, interests, record	
		b) Contact selected reviewers with abstracts d) Provide access to paper, and reminders e) Tracking review progress (viewable by author)	
Peer Review	Reviewer	Management of review comments and marked copy	
Editor Review	Editor	Author notification, with reviews (complete or excerpts) and judgement	
Revisions	Editor	a) Ready back and forth with manuscript b) Re-circulate paper to reviewers, if needed	
Editing	Copyeditor Proofreader	a) Editor and author ready access to manuscript, re. queries b) Preparation of manuscript for publishing	
Layout	Editor	Revert to commercial software, such as MS Word, to convert word processed document to HTML. Including text, footnotes, references, appendices	Printing services, time
Publishing	Editor	a) Ability to include and order articles b) Volume and number assignment	
Distribution	Editor	Automated, email notification of contents for readers	Postage, packaging, time
Indexing	Author / Reader	a) Automated harvesting of author-supplied metadata for each article by Open Archives Initiative engine creating a distributed global index. b) Citation indexes and tracking with hyperlinking of citations to sources and of article to materials in related databases, using metadata.*	Indexing services (purchased separately by library), time
Interchange	Readers Authors	Posting of comments (with editor as moderator) for continuing open peer review, as well as online forum for continuing exchange on range of themes	Not otherwise available
Archiving	Host library and/or PKP	Server maintenance and backup, software upgrading/migration	Cataloguing storage

The Berlin Declaration

The Internet has fundamentally changed the practical and economic realities of distributing scientific knowledge and cultural heritage. For the first time ever, the Internet now offers the chance to constitute a global and interactive representation of human knowledge, including cultural heritage and the guarantee of worldwide access.

Our mission of disseminating knowledge is only half complete if the information is not made widely and readily available to society. New possibilities of knowledge dissemination not only through the classical form but also and increasingly through the open access paradigm via the Internet have to be supported. We define open access as a comprehensive source of human knowledge and cultural heritage that has been approved by the scientific community.

In order to realize the vision of a global and accessible representation of knowledge, the future Web has to be sustainable, interactive, and transparent. Content and software tools must be openly accessible and compatible.

LANGUAGE

Sections
(former and
new co-journal

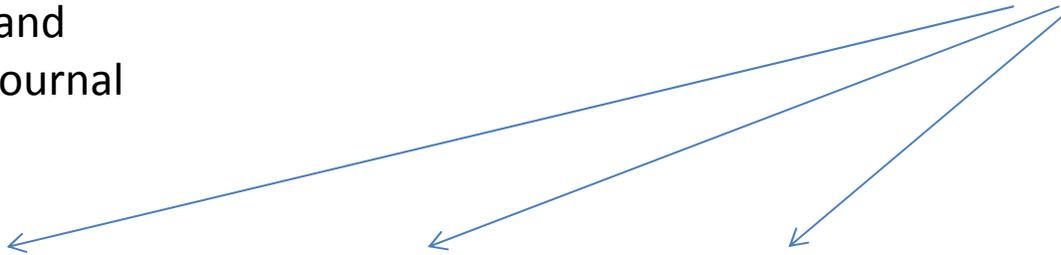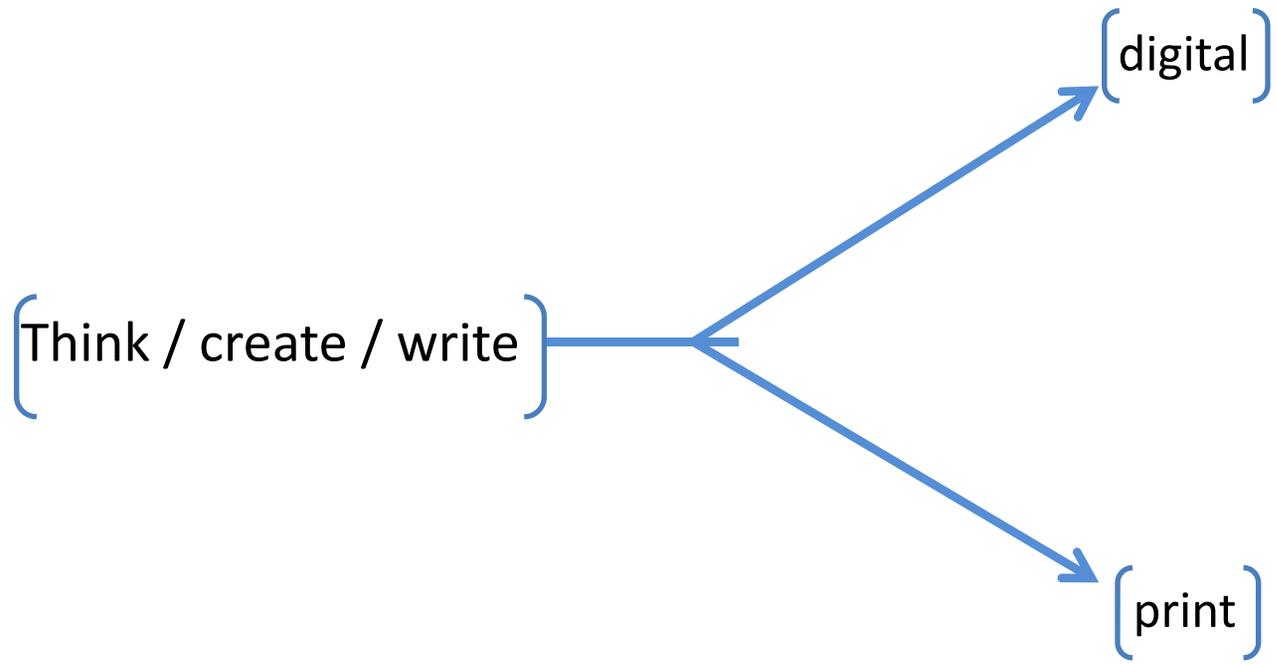eJournals   Language   Other content

Conf. Volumes   Expanded Abstracts   Book Notices

Think / create / write → digital

Think / create / write → print

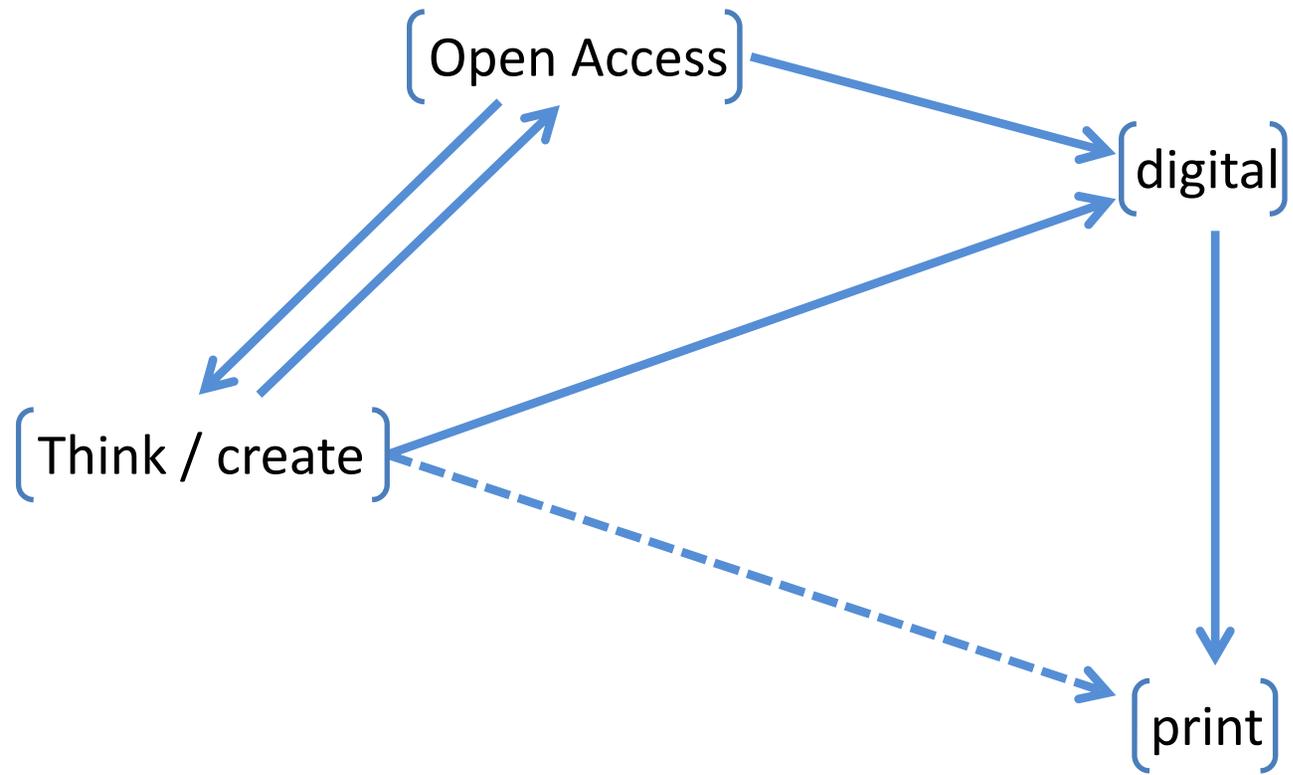- www.elanguage.net

In the face of the ludicrous status quo, it's no wonder that researchers are starting to turn to "Gold Open Access" publishing. Under this model, authors pay a publication fee, and the publisher makes the resulting article freely available to anyone and everyone. There are no subscriptions, and open-access publishers don't demand copyright. The taxpayers who fund research have full access, and anyone can do whatever they like with the published papers, including text-mining. The benefits to research, commerce and society are enormous.

Since open access is a manifestly superior model, we would expect it to have become ubiquitous. But depending on our definition of open access, it seems that only between 5 and 8 percent of scholarly articles are published under this model. Why is this?

It's certainly not due to cost. To publish in the reputable open-access journal PLoS ONE costs a publication fee of $1,350. Other open-access journals average a bit less, around $906. To publish in an Elsevier journal, on the other hand, appears to cost some $10,500. In 2011, 78 percent of Elsevier's total revenue, or £1,605 million, was contributed by journal subscriptions. In the same year, Elsevier published 240,000 articles, making the average cost per article some £6,689, or about $10,500 US. So to publish behind a paywall with Elsevier—and make your work available to only some other researchers and no members of the public—costs nearly eight times more than publishing openly with PLoS. It's apparent that we are not getting value for money from the traditional academic publishers.

And so, the $10,500 question: why do we keep publishing with subscription-based journals?

M. P. Taylor in "The Scientist", March 19, 2012
Opinion: Academic Publishing is Broken.

Open Access

digital

Think / create

print

E-BOOK LAYERS

Core text	Concise account of the subject, available perhaps in paperback
Elaboration of specific aspects	Expanded versions of different aspects of the argument, not arranged sequentially as in a narrative, but rather as self-contained units that feed into the core text
Documentation	Possibly of different kinds, each set off by interpretative essays
Theoretical or historiographical layer	With selections from previous scholarship and discussions of them
Teaching modules	Pedagogic layer consisting of suggestions for classroom discussion and a model syllabus
Debate	Readers' reports, exchanges between the author and the editor, and letters from readers, who could provide a growing corpus of commentary as the book made its way through different groups of readers

Overview 6-5: History E-book layers according to Darnton 1999

Science Paradigms

-Thousand years ago: science was empirical describing natural phenomena

- Last few hundred years: theoretical branch using models, generalizations

- Last few decades: a computational branch simulating complex phenomena

- Today: data exploration (eScience), unify theory, experiment, and simulation
– Data captured by instruments or generated by simulator
– Processed by software
– Information/knowledge stored in computer
– Scientist analyzes database / files using data management and statistics

From: Jim Gray on eScience: A Transformed Scientific Method
In: Tony Hey, Stewart Tansley, and Kristin Tolle, "The Fourth Paradigm. Data-intensive
Scientific discovery",Redmond, Washington, Microsoft Research, 2009 ,p. xxvi

Certain contributions to academic newsgroups and discussion lists may be counted as a new type of publication, too. This may be the case if two conditions are met: first, if the posting is more than an announcement or question, e.g. an elaborate answer or comment; and second, if the postings are archived. Steven Harnad coined the label "scholarly skywriting" (1990) for this, meaning

> "all the [E-mail] interactions at the 'pilot' stage of inquiry – from informal brainstorming to participating in research symposia to circulating preprints for peer criticism before formally submitting them to an archival journal for peer review".

> There are many practical examples of this already. For instance, some active researchers participating in the newsgroup communication on cold fusion admittedly intended to do "E-mail science", i.e. shaping and forming thoughts in an open discourse and eventually publish this as "co-authored by the newsgroup" (Lewenstein 1995, 136ff.). According to Lewenstein, contributors to the net discussion observed by him have indicated **"that they consider their use of CMC not just as an adjunct to traditional scientific communication but as a first step to recasting the entire structure of science"**. Lewenstein interprets this as "an intellectual commitment to changing the process by which information is exchanged and validated as knowledge" (ibid.).

> Skywriting may eventually lead to a traditional publication. One example of this is the book edited by Okerson/O'Donnell (1995): most of the text was written in the course of an extended (nine months long) discussion in an E-list. The book exists as both a free E-book and a printed version under the auspices of ARL

(Nentwich. *Cyberscience*. 332-333)