

Knowledge Access

Projects and Reports

Open for Business: How Open Data Can Help Achieve the G20 Growth Target (2014)

A Lateral Economics report prepared for the Omidyar Network that seeks quantify and illustrate the potential value of open data to the Australian economy, exploring international examples to shed light on the wider opportunities and impacts. The aim was to provide an information base for the Australian Government (in the first instance) and beyond that other G20 governments, highlighting the importance of open data as a contributor to the G20 growth agenda.

Report:

Gruen, N., Houghton, J.W. and Tooth, R. (2014) *Open for Business: How Open Data Can Help Achieve the G20 Growth Target*, A Lateral Economics Report commissioned by the Omidyar Network (June 2014).

http://www.omidyar.com/sites/default/files/file_archive/insights/ON%20Report_061114_FNL.pdf

The Value and Impact of Data Sharing and Curation (2014)

Substantial resources are being invested in the development and provision of services for the curation and long-term preservation of research data, and there is strong interest in establishing the value and sustainability of these investments. This synthesis report aims to summarise and reflect on the combined findings from a recent series of independent investigations, conducted jointly by Charles Beagrie Ltd. and John Houghton of the Centre for Strategic Economic Studies at Victoria University, into the value and impact of three well established UK research data centres.

Report:

Beagrie, N. and Houghton, J.W. (2014) *The Value and Impact of Data Sharing and Curation: A Synthesis of Three Recent Studies of UK Research Data Centres*, Joint Information Systems Committee (Jisc), Bristol and London.

<http://repository.jisc.ac.uk/5568/>

Financial Implications of a Tri-Agency Harmonized Open Access Policy for Canada (2013)

A collaboration project involving Leslie Chan of the University of Toronto, Alma Swan of Key Perspectives Ltd. and John Houghton of Victoria University, which sought to provide information for the Canadian research councils on the financial implications of changing scholarly communication practices in Canada.

Report:

Chan, L., Houghton, J.W. and Swan, A. (2013) *Financial Implications of a Tri-Agency Harmonized Open Access Policy*, Report to the Canadian Funding Agencies, by the University of Toronto. (October 2013).

An Open Access Policy for Australia (2013)

A study conducted by John Houghton of the Centre for Strategic Economic Studies at Victoria University for the Australian Commonwealth Department of Industry, looking at the economic implications of a harmonized national open access policy for Australia's publicly-funded research publications.

Report:

Houghton, J.W. (2013) *An Open Access Policy for Australia: An Economic Analysis*, Report to the Department of Industry, Canberra.

Exceptional Industries and Excepting the Future (2012)

Two Lateral Economics reports prepared by John Houghton and Nicholas Gruen for the Australian Digital Alliance on the economic contribution to Australia of industries relying on limitations and exceptions to copyright, and internet intermediary activities and the case for flexible copyright exceptions and extended safe harbour provisions

Reports:

Houghton, J.W. and Gruen, N. (2012) *Exceptional Industries: The economic contribution to Australia of industries relying on limitations and exceptions to copyright*, A Lateral Economics Report for The Australian Digital Alliance (ADA).

Houghton, J.W. and Gruen, N. (2012) *Excepting the Future: Internet intermediary activities and the case for flexible copyright exceptions and extended safe harbour provisions*, A Lateral Economics Report for The Australian Digital Alliance (ADA).

<http://www.digital.org.au/content/LateralEconomicsReports>

Understanding the value of public sector information (2012)

In *Understanding the value of public sector information in Australia* the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) outlined a phased approach, initially conducting a survey to provide a snapshot of the public sector information (PSI) landscape in Australia, before moving on to the issue of measuring the value of PSI. Ultimately, the aim is to develop a survey-based methodology that will enable agencies to collect the information necessary to address the Government 2.0 Taskforce recommendation that agencies and the OAIC report annually on the value generated by the publication of PSI.

Report:

Houghton J.W. and Gruen, N. (2012) *Understanding the value of public sector information in Australia*, A Lateral Economics submission to The Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC), Canberra.

http://www.lateraleconomics.com.au/outputs/Response_to_OAIC_Issues_Paper_2%28Houghton&Gruen%29.pdf

The Value and Impact of the British Atmospheric Data Centre (2013)

A study for the UK Joint Information Systems Committee (Jisc) and the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), conducted jointly by Charles Beagrie Ltd. and John Houghton of the Centre for Strategic Economic Studies at Victoria University, looking at the value and impact of the British Atmospheric Data Centre. This study provided the opportunity to further develop and test approaches for measuring the value and impact of research data curation and sharing across a wider disciplinary spectrum.

Report:

Beagrie, N. and Houghton, J.W. (2013) *The Value and Impact of the British Atmospheric Data*

Centre, Joint Information Systems Committee and the Natural Environment Research Council, UK (September 2013).

http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/di_directions/strategicdirections/badc.aspx

The Value and Impact of the Archaeology Data Service (2013)

A study for the UK Joint Information Systems Committee (Jisc), conducted jointly by Charles Beagrie Ltd. and John Houghton of the Centre for Strategic Economic Studies at Victoria University, looking at the value and impact of the UK's Archaeology Data Services. This study provided the opportunity to further develop and test approaches for measuring the value and impact of research data curation and sharing.

Report:

Beagrie, N. and Houghton, J.W. (2013) *The Value and Impact of the Archaeology Data Services: A Study and Methods for Enhancing Sustainability*, Joint Information Systems Committee, London and Bristol (October 2013).

<http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/preservation/ADSImpact.aspx>

Economic Evaluation of Research Data Infrastructure (2012)

A study for the Economic and Social Research Council in the UK, conducted jointly by Charles Beagrie Ltd. and John Houghton of the Centre for Strategic Economic Studies at Victoria University, looking at the economic impact of the UK's Economic and Social Data Service (ESDS). Such studies on the impact of research data services are rare and we had the opportunity to test some rather experimental approaches.

Report:

Beagrie, N., Houghton, J.W., Palaiologk, A. and Williams, P. (2012) *Economic Evaluation of Research Data Infrastructure (ESDS)*, Economic and Social Research Council, London.

http://www.esrc.ac.uk/images/ESDS_Economic_Impact_Evaluation_tcm8-22229.pdf

Going for Gold: The Costs and Benefits of Gold Open Access for UK Research Institutions (2012)

A detailed modelling of the costs and benefits of Gold Open Access for UK Universities, undertaken in collaboration with Alma Swan of Key Perspectives Ltd., for the UK Open Access Implementation Group. This work provided an input to the UK open access policy debate.

Report:

Swan, A. and Houghton, J.W. (2012) *Going for Gold? The costs and Benefits of Gold Open Access for UK Research Institutions: Further Economic Modelling*. Report to the UK Open Access Implementation Group (July 2012).

<http://ie-repository.jisc.ac.uk/610/>

Paper:

Houghton, J.W. and Swan, A. (2013) 'Planting the Green Seeds for a Golden Harvest: Comments and Clarifications on "Going for Gold"' *D-Lib Magazine* 19(1/2).

<http://www.dlib.org/dlib/january13/houghton/01houghton.html>

Transparency and Productivity (2012)

Report for the Australian and New Zealand School of Government (ANZSOG), undertaken in collaboration with Nicholas Gruen of Lateral Economics, exploring the evidence of links between transparency of government/open government and more open access to Public Sector

Information on productivity at the agency, governmental and national levels.

Report:

Houghton, J.W. and Gruen, N. (2012) *Transparency and Productivity*, Transparency Occasional Paper No 2, Australian and New Zealand School of Government.

<http://www.anzsog.edu.au/research/publications/other-publications>

Costs and Benefits of Data Provision (2011)

A project funded by the Australian National Data Services (ANDS) presenting case studies exploring the costs and benefits that Public Sector Information (PSI) producing agencies and their users experience in making information freely available, and preliminary estimates of the wider economic impacts of open access to PSI. The report outlines a possibly method for cost-benefit analysis at the agency level and explores the data requirements for such an analysis.

What the study demonstrates is that the direct and measurable benefits of making PSI available freely and without restrictions on use typically outweigh the costs. When one adds the longer-term benefits that we cannot fully measure, and may not even foresee, the case for open access appears to be strong.

Report:

Houghton, J.W. (2011) *Costs and Benefits of Data Provision*, Australian National Data Service, Canberra.

<http://ands.org.au/resource/houghton-cost-benefit-study.pdf>

Economic Implications of New Models for Information Supply for Science and Research in Germany (2009-11)

A project funded by the German Research Council (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft) and led by the Goethe Universität in Frankfurt am Main. This project brings the German National Licensing Program (NLP) into the mix of alternative publishing and dissemination models and explores its impacts on the acceptance of Open Access Strategies in Germany.

Report:

Houghton, J.W., Dugall, B., Bernius, S. Kronung, J. and König, W. (2012) *General cost analysis for scholarly communication in Germany*, A report to the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DfG) by the Goethe Universität, Frankfurt.

<http://publikationen.ub.uni-frankfurt.de/frontdoor/index/index/docId/27530>

Symposium:

Economy and Acceptance of Open Access Strategies.

http://www.book-fair.com/en/fbf/book_fair_live/topics/libraries/symposium/

Access to Research and Technical Information in Denmark (2010-11)

A project funded by The Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation (FI) and Denmark's Electronic Research Library (DEFF), exploring levels of, and barriers to, access to research for small high-technology firms in Denmark and estimating the costs and impacts of access. The research was conducted by John Houghton, Centre for Strategic Economic Studies, Victoria University, and Alma Swan and Sheridan Brown of Key Perspectives Ltd. in the UK.

Report:

Houghton, J.W., Swan, A. and Brown, S. (2011), *Access to Research and Technical Information in Denmark*, Report to The Danish Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (FI) and Denmark's Electronic Research Library (DEFF), Copenhagen.

<http://www.fi.dk/publikationer/2011/adgang-til-forskningsresultater-og-teknisk-information-i-danmark>

Impacts of the United States' Federal Research Public Access Act (FRPAA) (2010)

A project funded by the Washington-based Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC) and conducted by The Centre for Strategic Economic Studies at Victoria University by John Houghton, Bruce Rasmussen and Peter Sheehan, which seeks to outline one possible approach to estimating the potential return on investment implications of the proposed US Federal Research Public Access Act (FRPAA).

Report:

Houghton, J.W., Rasmussen, B. and Sheehan, P. (2010) *Economic and Social Returns on Investment in Open Archiving Publicly Funded Research Outputs*, The Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC), Washington DC.

<http://www.arl.org/sparc/publications/papers/vuFRPAA/index.shtml>

Costs and Benefits of Research Communication in The Netherlands (2009)

A project funded by the Netherland's SURF foundation and conducted by the Centre for Strategic Economic Studies at Victoria University and EIM Business & Policy Research in the Netherlands. The team included John Houghton of The Centre for Strategic Economic Studies in Melbourne, together with Jos de Jonge and Marcia van Oploo of EIM, Zoetermeer.

Report:

Houghton, J.W., de Jonge, J. and van Oploo, M. (2009) *Costs and Benefits of Research Communication: The Dutch Situation*, SURFfoundation, Utrecht.

<http://www.surffoundation.nl/en/publicaties/Pages/CostsandBenefitsofOpenAccessPublicationTheDutchSituation.aspx>

Launch of the report in Den Haag (June 2009):

<http://www.surffoundation.nl/wiki/display/economicstudyOA/Home>

Costs and Benefits of Alternative Publishing Models in Denmark (2009)

A project funded by the Danish Electronic Research Library (DEFF) and conducted John Houghton of The Centre for Strategic Economic Studies at Victoria University, which examines the implications of alternative scholarly publishing models in Denmark.

Report:

Houghton, J.W. (2009) *Costs and Benefits of Alternative Publishing Models: Denmark*, DEFF, Copenhagen.

http://www.knowledge-exchange.info/Admin/Public/DWSDownload.aspx?File=/Files/Filer/downloads/DK_Costs_and_benefits_of_alternative_publishing_models.pdf

A three country comparison (United Kingdom, Netherlands and Denmark) (2009)

A project funded by the European Knowledge Exchange and conducted by John Houghton of The Centre for Strategic Economic Studies at Victoria University, which examines the cost-

benefit implications of alternative scholarly publishing models in one of the larger, a mid-sized and a smaller European country.

Report:

Houghton, J.W. (2009) *Open Access: What are the economic benefits? A comparison of the United Kingdom, Netherlands and Denmark*, Knowledge Exchange, Brussels (June 2009).
http://knowledge-exchange.info/Admin/Public/DWSDownload.aspx?File=/Files/Filer/downloads/OA_What_are_the_economic_benefits_-_a_comparison_of_UK-NL-DK_FINAL_logos.pdf

Workshop held in Brussels (June 2009):

<http://knowledge-exchange.info/Default.aspx?ID=316>

Identifying benefits arising from the curation and open sharing of research data produced by UK Higher Education and research institutes (2008)

A project funded by the UK Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) and conducted by Loughborough University in collaboration with the Centre for Strategic Economic Studies at Victoria University, which sought to: identify the benefits of curating and sharing research data, identify a methodology by which to estimate the benefits to UK Higher Education and the UK more generally of curating and openly sharing research data produced by researchers in UK HEIs, use the methodology, as far as possible, to derive an estimate for the identified benefits, and document case studies and examples of data re use, where that re use led to tangible benefits.

Report:

Fry, J., Lockyer, S., Oppenheim, C., Houghton, J.W. and Rasmussen, B. (2008) *Identifying Benefits Arising from the Curation and Open Sharing of Research Data Produced by UK Higher Education and Research Institutes*, JISC, Bristol and London.
<http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/digitalrepositories2007/databenefits.aspx>

Economic Implications of Alternative Scholarly Publishing Models in the UK (2008-09)

A project funded by the UK Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) and conducted by The Centre for Strategic Economic Studies at Victoria University and The Departments of Information Science and Economics, and LISU at Loughborough University. The Victoria University team included John Houghton, Bruce Rasmussen and Peter Sheehan of The Centre for Strategic Economic Studies in Melbourne, together with Colin Steele, Emeritus Fellow at The Australian National University in Canberra; and the Loughborough University team included Charles Oppenheim and Anne Morris of the Department of Information Science, Claire Creaser, Helen Greenwood and Mark Summers of LISU, and Adrian Gourlay of the Department of Economics. The team benefited from the very generous contributions of Bo-Christer Björk of the Hanken School of Economics in Helsinki and Donald King of the University of North Carolina.

Report:

Houghton, J.W., Rasmussen, B., Sheehan, P.J., Oppenheim, C., Morris, A., Creaser, C., Greenwood, H., Summers, M. and Gourlay, A. (2009) *Economic Implications of Alternative Scholarly Publishing Models: Exploring the Costs and Benefits*, Report to The Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) by Victoria University & Loughborough University.
http://ie-repository.jisc.ac.uk/278/4/EI-ASPM_Summary.pdf
http://ie-repository.jisc.ac.uk/278/3/EI-ASPM_Report.pdf

Addendum:

Released in response to comments received following the publication of the JISC EI-ASPM Report. Its purpose is to further clarify the results of the modelling undertaken, particularly in respect to the impacts for the UK nationally and for UK higher education of: (i) unilateral national versus worldwide adoption of alternative open access models, and (ii) 'Green OA' self-archiving in parallel with subscription publishing versus the 'deconstructed or overlay journals model' of self-archiving with overlay production and review services.

[http://www.vises.org.au/documents/JISC-EI-ASPM-Report-\(Addendum-April-09\).pdf](http://www.vises.org.au/documents/JISC-EI-ASPM-Report-(Addendum-April-09).pdf)

Reaction to the JISC report:

Professor Ian Diamond, RCUK, "RCUK welcomes this substantial and interesting report. It will be of great use to the Research Councils as we develop our future policies in relation to publishing and in particular Open Access."

Professor Sir Tim O'Shea, "The argument for moving from more traditional subscription or toll-based publishing to a model that allows for greater accessibility and makes full use of the advances in technology cannot be ignored. This report shows there are significant savings to be made and benefits to be had. JISC will work with publishers, authors and the science community to identify and help to remove the barriers to moving to these more cost-effective models."

Sir Mark Walport, *Director of the Wellcome Trust*, "As a research funder that provides additional funds to its grant holders to meet the cost of Open Access publishing, I am delighted that this report vindicates this approach and shows that the benefits of enhanced accessibility outweigh the costs of supplementing research funds with 'author-pays' Open Access publishing fees."

<http://www.jisc.ac.uk/news/stories/2009/01/houghton.aspx>

Podcast from JISC (Aug 2008):

<http://www.jisc.ac.uk/news/stories/2008/08/podcast55johnhoughton.aspx>

JISC Anthology on Open Access:

<http://www.jisc.ac.uk/publications/programmerelated/2010/openaccessmainbrochure.aspx>

Research Communication Costs, Emerging Opportunities and Benefits (2006)

A project funded by the Australian Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) and conducted by John Houghton, Peter Sheehan and Colin Steele. The report explores the costs involved in research communication activities and some of the potential benefits available through emerging, more open models for scholarly communication.

Report:

Houghton, J.W., Steele, C. and Sheehan, P. (2006) *Research Communication Costs in Australia, Emerging Opportunities and Benefits*, Report to Department of Education, Science and Training, Canberra (September 2006).

<https://digitalcollections.anu.edu.au/handle/1885/44485>

Videos (presentations and interviews)

OARC 2013: Presentation at the OAR Conference 2013, Brisbane (October 2013).

<http://vimeo.com/82043019>

NSCF 2013: Interview with Colin Steele on the Economic of Open Access, for the National Scholarly Communications Forum, Australian Academy of Humanities, Canberra (May 2013).
<http://www.humanities.org.au/About/AlliedOrganisations/NationalScholarlyCommunicationsForum.aspx>

LIBER 2012: Presentation at LIBER 2012 Conference, Tartu, Estonia (June 2012).
<http://uttv.ee/naita?id=12564>

Munin Conference 2010: Presentation at The Annual Munin Conference, University of Tromsø, Norway (December 2010).
<http://webtv.uit.no/mediasite/Viewer/?peid=f8e1ed5880824f40804a84759774b2a0>

Berlin Open Access Conference 2010: Interview with Eloy Rodrigues, Alma Swan and Heather Joseph, during Berlin 2010, Beijing, China (October 2010).
<http://vimeo.com/17540515>

Contact

John Houghton

Victoria Institute of Strategic Economic Studies, Victoria University

E-mail: john.houghton@pobox.com

Web: <http://pobox.com/~john.houghton>