

# An Open, Safe Harbor

<1> The Idea

<2> Discussion and Reaction



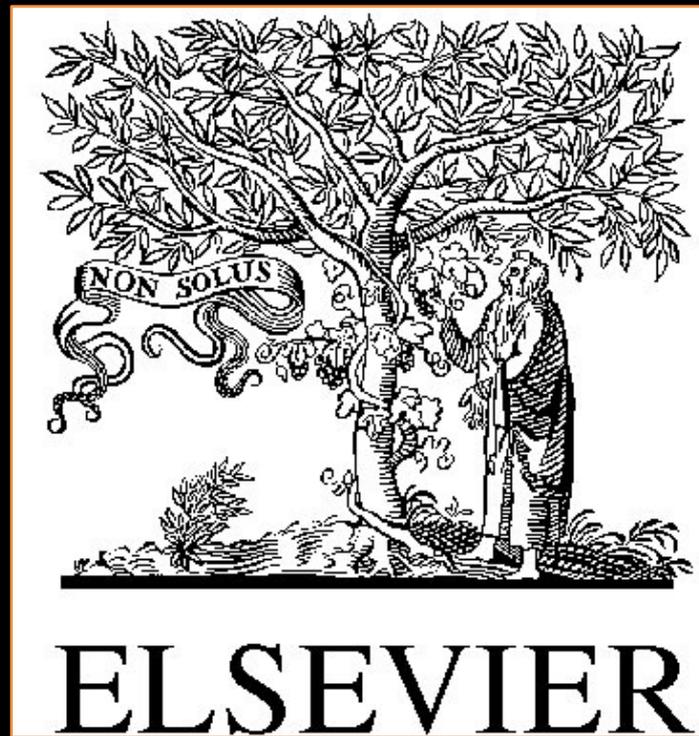
Recent progress in OA suggests we are  
at a tipping point



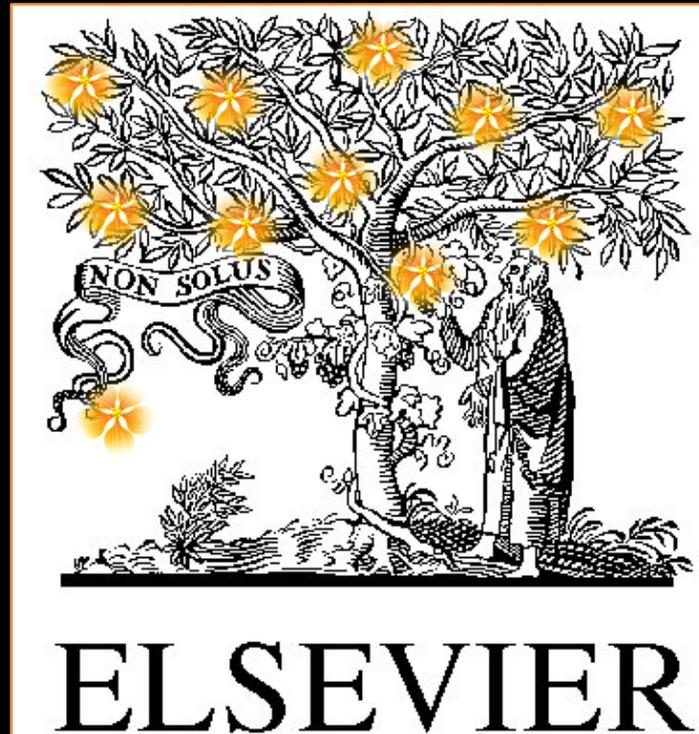
Libraries need an OA strategy that  
will persuade and compel  
widespread Open Access adoption



# Commercial Publishers Oppose OA



# The Goal: Widespread OA Adoption



# The Idea:

Establish an Open, Safe Harbor  
for Publishers who Participate  
in OA



# The Concept

*An initiative for deans/directors of academic/research libraries to make a public commitment: that for any publisher which agrees to put their journals in an open access platform no more than one year after the original date of publication, the library will “safe harbor” all journals from that publisher to which the library is subscribed at the time of the commitment for a specific period of time (five years).*

# Why It Could Work

- Safe harboring by libraries of serials is a known practice
- Saving is easier than cancelling
- Scalable and not discipline-specific
- No dollar costs to the Library
- Non-cancellation is valuable to publishers (especially now)
- Enables leveraging

# Why It Could Fail

- Requires some organization and critical mass
- Publishers may just ignore it
- A forever commitment for a five-year pledge
- Five years is too long; five years is too short
- A one-year embargo is too long; a one-year embargo is too short
- Does not address pricing issues
- Is it legal?
- Pricing during the safe harbor period

# Over To You: Some Initial Questions

- Vulnerabilities I have missed?
- Is it practical – would your library sign on?
- What would improve the proposal?
- What's the likelihood of success?

