# How can universities promote Accurate, Complete and Transparent reporting of health research?

Amanda Burls, University of Oxford

# Blissful ignorance

# What can universities do?

Adopt strategies and processes to ensure

a. That research is of high quality

b. That all research **is** published

c. All research reports are complete, transparent and accurate

d. Research publications are open access

e. Research findings are further disseminated

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# Probiotic yoghurt trial 2005

Sent: 19 January 2010 15:45
To: Dr Amanda Burls
Subject: RE: Yoghurt trial

Dear Amanda,

The trial is not yet in press - this is in part due to the much longer than anticipated further analysis of the data at the funders request.  In summary this was a negative trial - although both groups demonstrated benefit, those in the active product group did not show greater benefit and at times the difference actually favoured the control product….

# Ensure all research is published

- Don't enter into agreements that restrict freedom to publish

- Register protocols of all research whether funded or unfunded

- Include publication and dissemination strategy in protocols

- Audit research conduct

- Audit publication timing and quality

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# Ensuring all research reports are complete, transparent and accurate

- Protocols should state the appropriate reporting guideline that will be adhered to
- Internal peer review (even when unfunded)
- Audit of adherence to protocols
- Encourage and facilitate the making available of supplementary online materials, including data sets, where possible

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# Budapest Open Access Initiative (2002)

*"… free availability on the public internet, permitting any users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of these articles, crawl them for indexing, pass them as data to software, or use them for any other lawful purpose, without financial, legal, or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the internet itself. The only constraint on reproduction and distribution, and the only role for copyright in this domain, should be to give authors control over the integrity of their work and the right to be properly acknowledged and cited."*
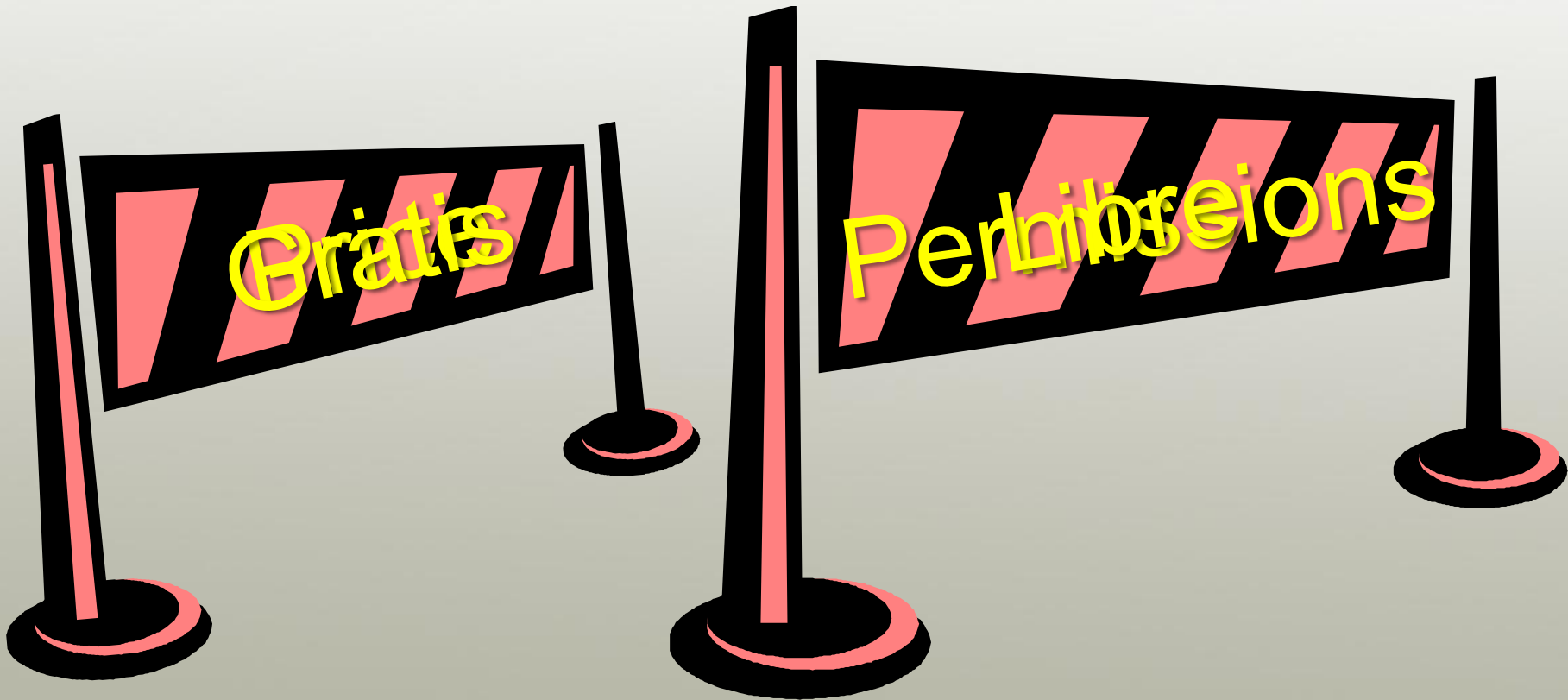
# Bethesda (2003), Berlin (2003)

*"…copy, use, distribute, transmit and display the work publicly and to make and distribute derivative works, in any digital medium for any responsible purpose, subject to proper attribution of authorship...."*

# Open access removes two important barriers



Gratis

Libre

Permissions

Price

# Two levels of OA

1. Gold – open access peer-reviewed journals

2. Green – deposition in open access repositories

   a. external repositories

   b. institutional repositories

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# Problem?: cost of publishing with OA

Solutions:

1. Include OA publication costs in grant application

2. Set up funds for publication costs
   – About 40 Universities worldwide have done so
     • http://oad.simmons.edu/oadwiki/OA_journal_funds

3. No-fee OA journals
   – Most OA journals are no fee
     • Suber and Sutton 2007 83%
     • Hooker 2007 67% (full OA journals in DOAJ)
     • Morrison 2009 90% (psychology journals in DOAJ
     • Sheiber 2009 70.3% (full OA journals in DOAJ)

# The majority of OA journals are no-fee

*"… the discussion of OA journals has been harmed by a family of false assumptions: that all OA journals are fee-based; that all good OA journals must be fee-based; that author-side fees are "author fees" to be paid by authors out of pocket."*

Peter Suber

*http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/newsletter/11-02-06.htm#nofee*

# Harvard Open Access Project

*"The Harvard Open Access Project (HOAP) fosters the growth of open access to research, within Harvard and beyond, using a combination of consultation, collaboration, community-building, and direct assistance. Open access makes knowledge accessible and reusable, accelerates the pace of discovery and discussion, maximizes the return on our investment in research, and speeds the development of all the benefits that depend on research, from new medicines and useful technologies to informed decisions, solved problems, and improved public policies. HOAP was launched in the fall of 2011."*

# June 2012 Finch Report

Accessibility, sustainability, excellence: how to expand access to research publications.

*"i.  a clear policy direction should be set towards support for publication in open access or hybrid journals, funded by APCs [article publication charges], as the main vehicle for the publication of research, especially when it is publicly funded;*

*ii.  the Research Councils and other public sector bodies funding research in the UK should – following the Wellcome Trust's initiative in this area but recognizing the specific natures of different funding streams - establish more effective and flexible arrangements to meet the costs of publishing in open access and hybrid journals;*

*iii.  support for open access publication should be accompanied by policies to minimise restrictions on the rights of use and re-use, especially for non-commercial purposes, and on the ability to use the latest tools and services to organise and manipulate text and other content;"*

# Government response:

**BIS** | **Department for Business Innovation & Skills**

**Letter to Dame Janet Finch on the Government Response to the Finch Group Report: "Accessibility, sustainability, excellence: how to expand access to research publications"**

Dear Janet,

Please find enclosed the Government's response to your excellent report on open access to published research.

fppt.com

# Two levels of OA

1. Gold – open access peer-reviewed journals

2. Green – deposition in open access repositories

   a. external repositories

   b. institutional repositories

*"Authors of papers published in any Elsevier journal can now post the final text of their articles, as accepted by the journal, i.e. with all of the changes made during the peer-review and editing process, on the authors' personal or their institutions' web sites."*

Elsevier does not allow authors to deposit their postprints in OA repositories outside their own institutions, such as arXiv and PubMed Central
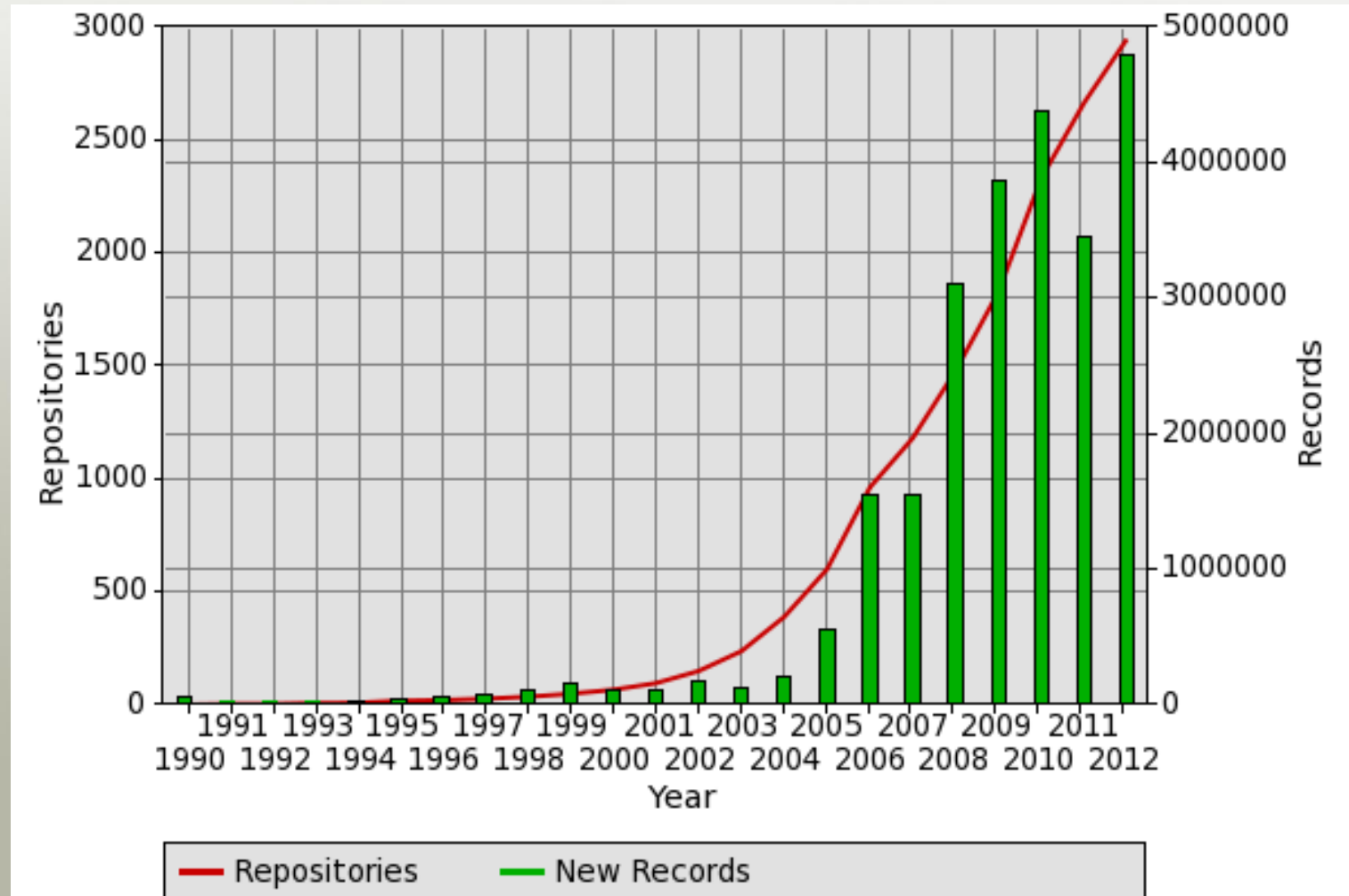
# A quick survey

1. Please stand
2. Sit down if you are note associated with a university or academic institution
3. Sit down if you **all** your research is in open access journals or placed in an open access repository
4. Sit down if you have placed some of your research in an institutional repository
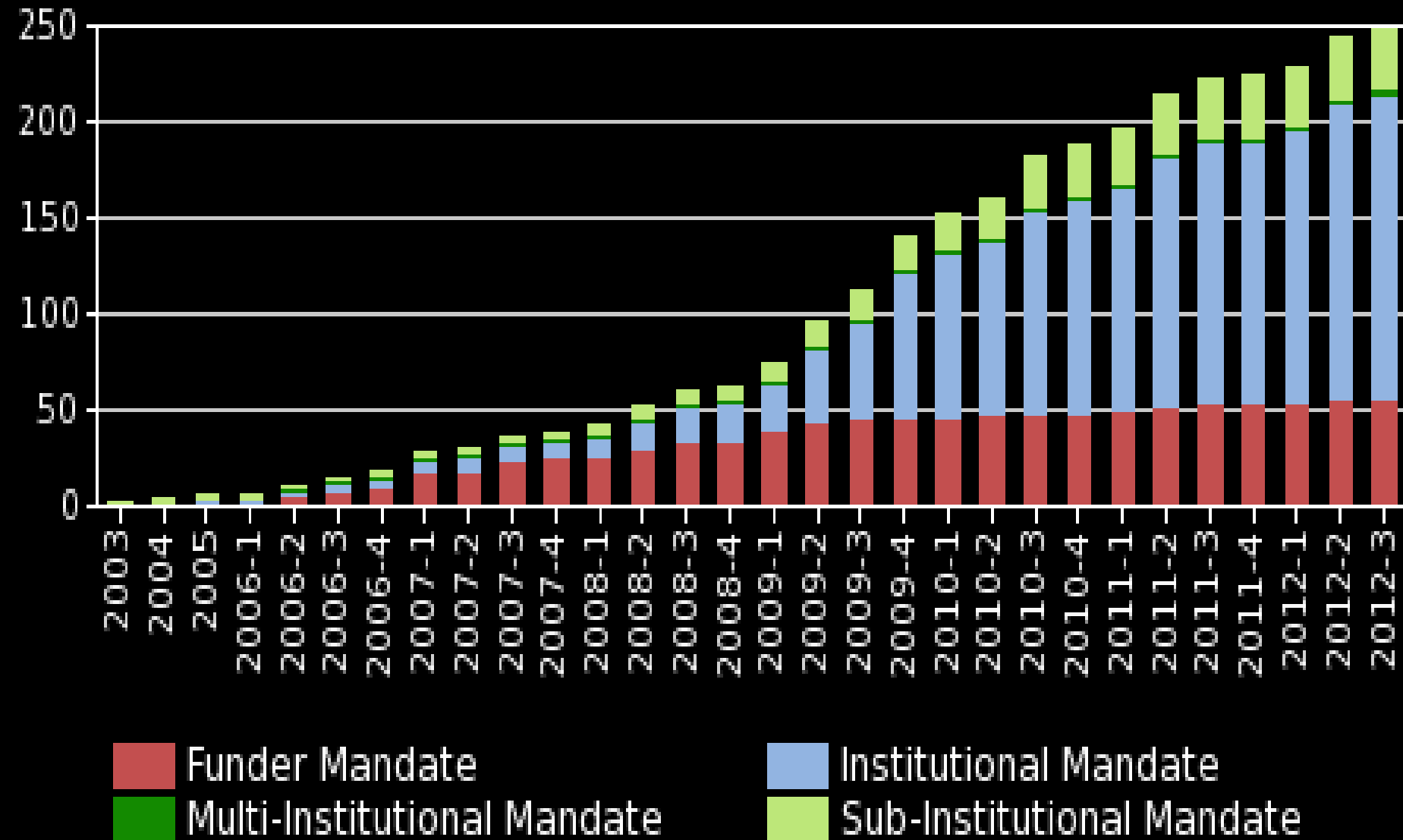
# Growth in repositories

*"Repositories … provide access to some version of papers either before they are submitted for publication in a journal or at some point after they have been published, usually subject to an embargo period. Most universities in the UK, and in many other countries, have established repositories, but the rates at which published papers have been deposited in them so far has been disappointing."*

Finch Report June 2012

# Registry of Open Access Repositories Mandatory Archiving Policies - Worldwide 2012

# Total Mandates to Date

**Institutional Mandates (156)**                Proposed Institutional Mandates (4)

**Sub-Institutional Mandates (34)**             Proposed Sub-Institutional Mandates (3)

**Multi-Institutional Mandates (3)**            Proposed Multi-Institutional Mandates (5)

**Funder Mandates (53)**                        Proposed Funder Mandates (7)
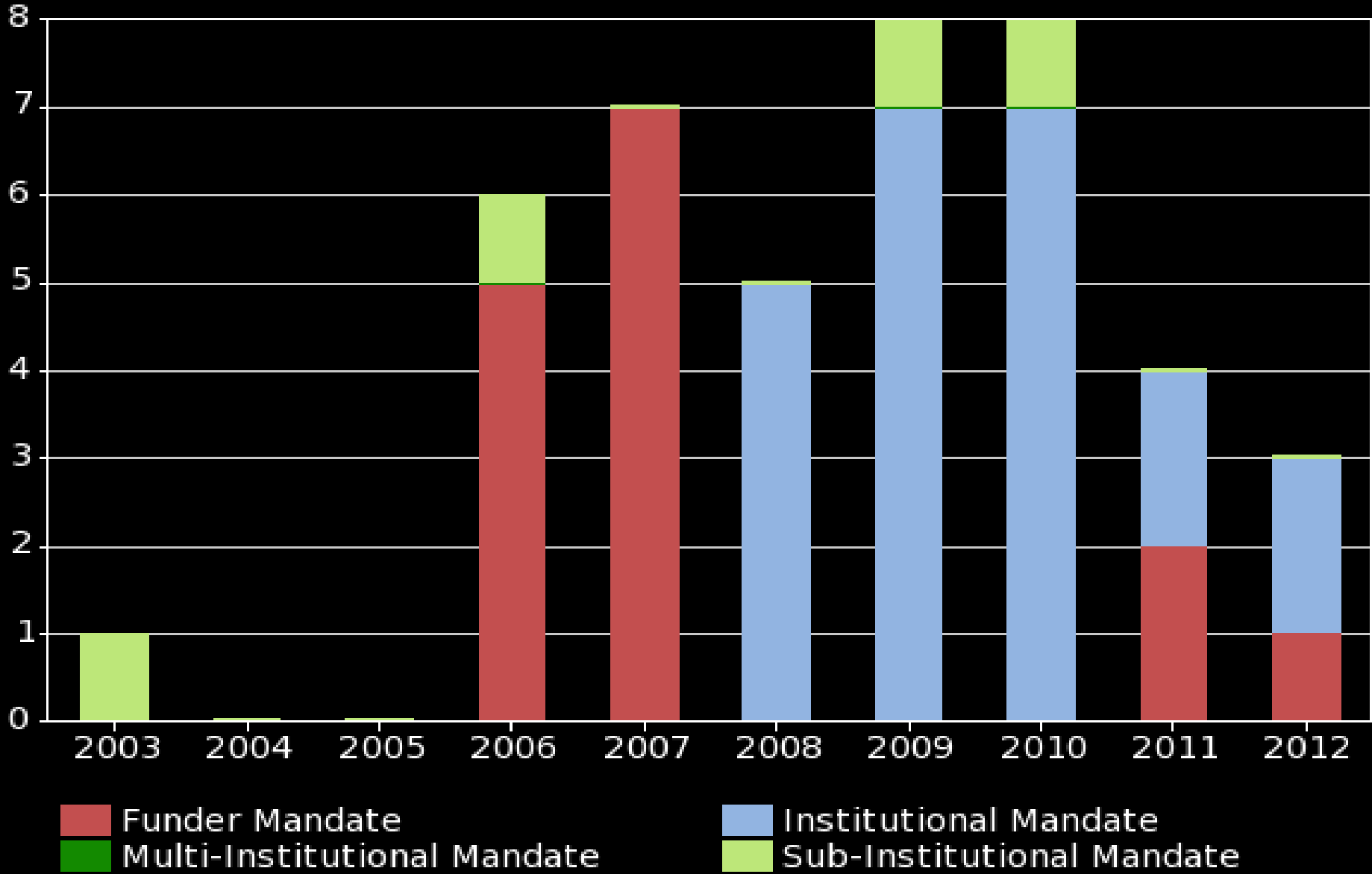
**Thesis Mandates (93)**

# 32 UK Academic Institutions (~10%)

1. Aberystwyth University (09 Feb 2009)
2. Aston University (14 Jul 2009)
3. *Birkbeck College (13 Jul 2011)
4. Brunel University (02 Feb 2010)
5. Coventry University: Department of Media and Communication (17 Jul 2009)
6. Cranfield University (11 Jun 2009)
7. Loughborough University (20 Oct 2010)
8. Napier University (09 Dec 2008)
9. Northumbria University (22 Feb 2012)
10. Queen Margaret University (29 Apr 2008)
11. Roehampton University (22 Jun 2009)
12. *Royal Holloway (15 Feb 2010)
13. *St George's (19 Aug 2012)
14. Teesside University (13 Oct 2010)
15. *University College London  (02 Jun 2009)
16. University of Abertay Dundee (16 Dec 2009)
17. University of Bath (14 Jun 2011)

17. University of Birmingham (12 Jun 2009)
18. University of Bradford (12 Jun 2009)
19. University of Edinburgh (07 Mar 2009)
20. University of Glasgow (09 Oct 2008)
21. University of Leicester (27 Jul 2009)
22. University of Lincoln (06 Apr 2010)
23. University of Nottingham (15 Oct 2010)
24. University of Reading (16 Feb 2012)
25. University of Salford (17 Oct 2009)
26. University of Southampton (04 Apr 2008)
27. University of St Andrews (12 Jun 2009)
28. University of Stirling (09 Apr 2008)
29. University of Strathclyde (01 Feb 2010)
30. University of Surrey (26 Aug 2010)
31. University of Westminster (24 Jul 2009)
32. University of Westminster (13 Oct 2010)

- This list was generated on Sat Oct 6 01:07:55 2012 BST.

# Registry of Open Access Repositories
# Mandatory Archiving Policies for UK Oct 2012

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# Universities could

- Require deposition of all research in an Institutional Repository

- Pro-actively identify and deposit copies of all journal articles published by staff, and all approved dissertations by graduate students, in their institutional repository.

- Encourage staff to use IR

- Ensure that the IR is searchable (OAI compliant).

- Links to other databases

# There are many perverse incentives

1. Research Evaluation Framework
2. Depositing full text publications in IRs using Symplectic
   – Symplectic holds bibliographic details of publications. It is now possible to 'attach' full texts of research publications (e.g. Word documents, pdfs) to bibliographic records. The bibliographic information transfers across to Oxford Research Archive together with the full text file, removing the need for manual data entry

# "Better Socrates unhappy than a pig happy"

# The Cost of Knowledge

## 12788 Researchers Taking a Stand. *See the list*

Academics have protested against Elsevier's business practices for years with little effect. These are some of their objections:

1. They charge exorbitantly high prices for subscriptions to individual journals.

2. In the light of these high prices, the only realistic option for many libraries is to agree to buy very large "bundles", which will include many journals that those libraries do not actually want. Elsevier thus makes huge profits by exploiting the fact that some of their journals are essential.

3. They support measures such as SOPA, PIPA and the ~~Research Works Act~~, that aim to restrict the free exchange of information.

The key to all these issues is the right of authors to achieve easily-accessible distribution of their work. If you would like to declare publicly that you will not support any Elsevier journal unless they radically change how they operate, then you can do so by filling in your details on this page.

## Add your name to the list.

First and Last Name

Affiliation

Email

*only used once to verify your identity; never displayed, never shared*

Subject    Medicine

Comments
*(optional)*

Link
*(optional)*

*such as a link to a blog post of yours explaining your position*

I plan to refrain from:

fppt.com

# The cost of ignorance

*"I recently met a physician from southern Africa, engaged in perinatal HIV prevention, whose primary access to information was abstracts posted on the Internet. Based on a single abstract, they had altered their perinatal HIV prevention program from an effective therapy to one with lesser efficacy. Had they read the full text article they would have undoubtedly realized that the study results were based on short-term follow-up, a small pivotal group, incomplete data, and unlikely to be applicable to their country situation. Their decision to alter treatment based solely on the abstract's conclusions may have resulted in increased perinatal HIV transmission."*

Arthur Amman, President of Global Strategies for HIV Prevention cited in *PLoS Medicine* Editors (2006) The Impact of Open Access upon Public Health. PLoS Med 3(5): e252