

# Open Access To Academic Scholarship:

## A Case Study of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Kansas

### Open Access Introduction

(from Peter Suber)

- **Open-access (OA) literature is digital, online, free of charge, and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions.**
- OA is possible thanks to the internet and consent of the copyright-holder.
- Scholarly journals do not generally pay authors, who can therefore consent to OA without losing revenue.
- **OA is compatible with peer review;** all major OA initiatives for scientific and scholarly literature insist on its importance.
- **OA literature is not free to produce;** the goal is to make scholarly literature costless ... are there are better ways to pay the bills than by charging readers and creating access barriers.

### Reality Check

- Academic institutions spend mountains of money on access permissions each year
- Costs of this access have increased over 180% in the past two decades
- NOT A SUSTAINABLE SITUATION!
- Academics do not have access to their own scholarship
- The problem is particularly bad in developing countries and smaller institutions even in the US

### The Solution: KU OA Policy

- Faculty-driven initiative granting a license to KU to serve copies of KU faculty journal publications
- Approved in 2009-2010
- KU Libraries designated by Provost to lead implementation efforts
- Open access provided via KU ScholarWorks

### KEY WEBSITES:

KU OA Policy <http://openaccess.ku.edu/>  
 KU ScholarWorks <http://kuscholarworks.ku.edu/>  
 Sherpa/Romeo <http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/>  
 DOAJ <http://www.doaj.org/>

### KU OA Contacts:

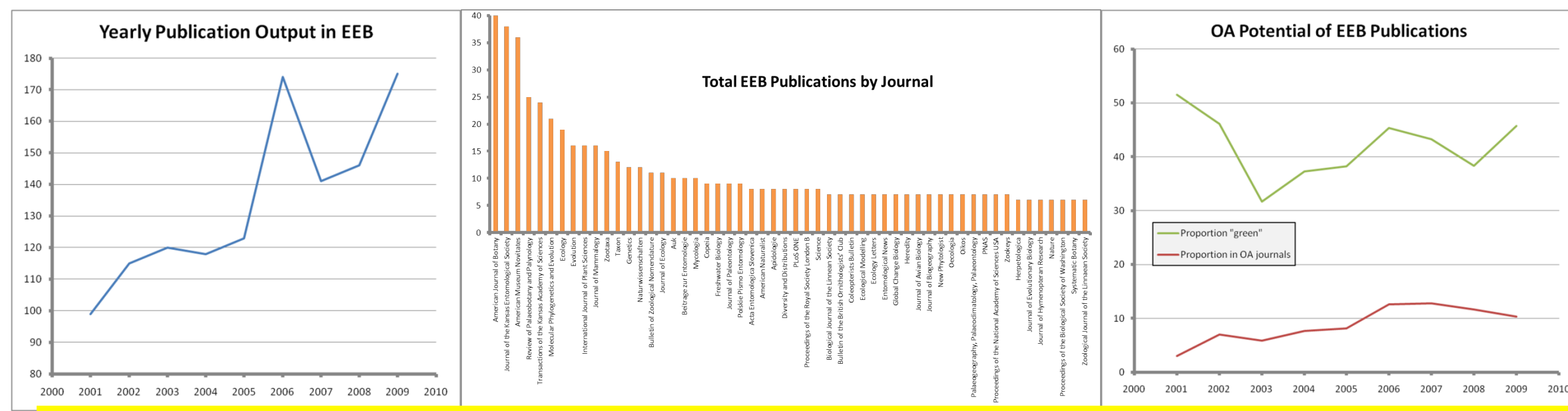
Ada Emmett – Scholarly Communications  
 Program Head

[aemmett@ku.edu](mailto:aemmett@ku.edu)

Town Peterson – Professor/Curator

[town@ku.edu](mailto:town@ku.edu)

### University of Kansas Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Case Study: Do We Have A Problem???



Conclusion: Lots of publications, more each year, rising proportion of open access journals, but still small proportion

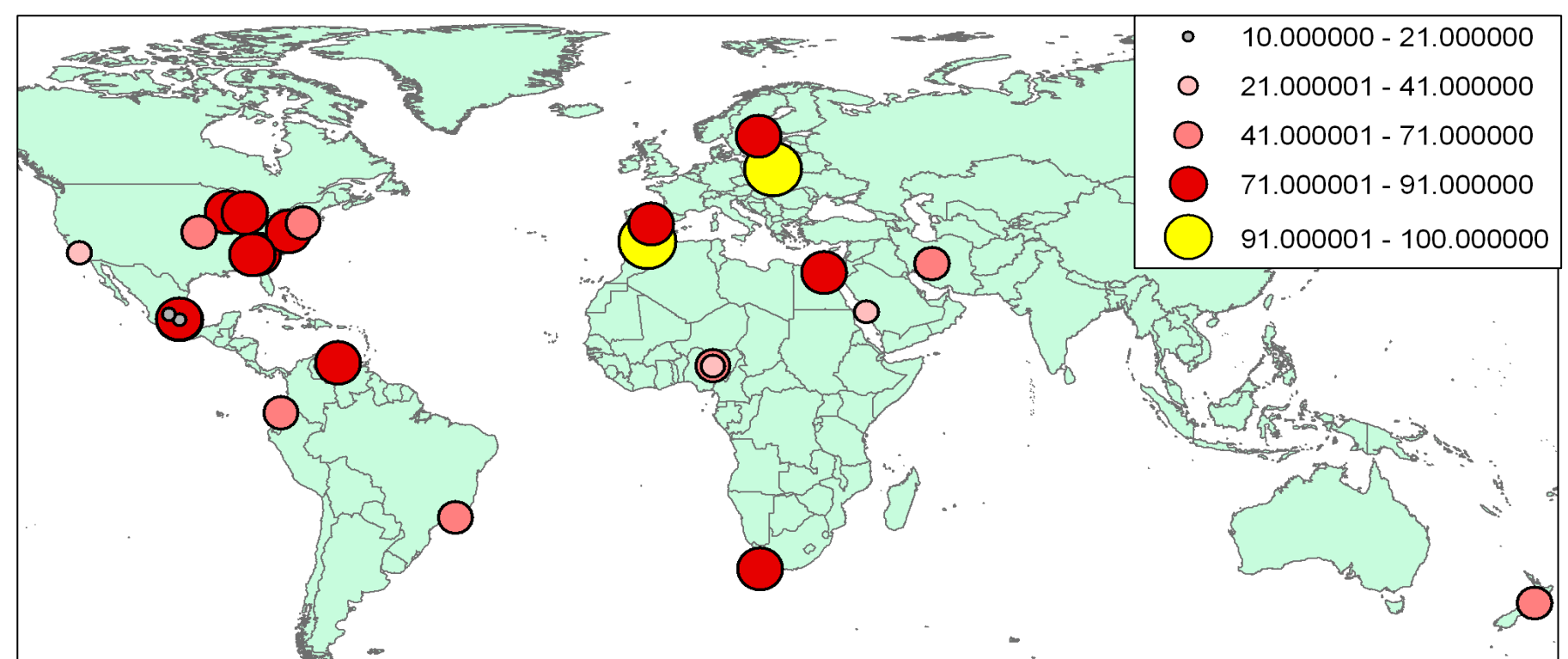
### Are They Accessible?

Send a List of 10 papers to 50 Colleagues Worldwide

Ask Them to Access These Publications (Full Text)

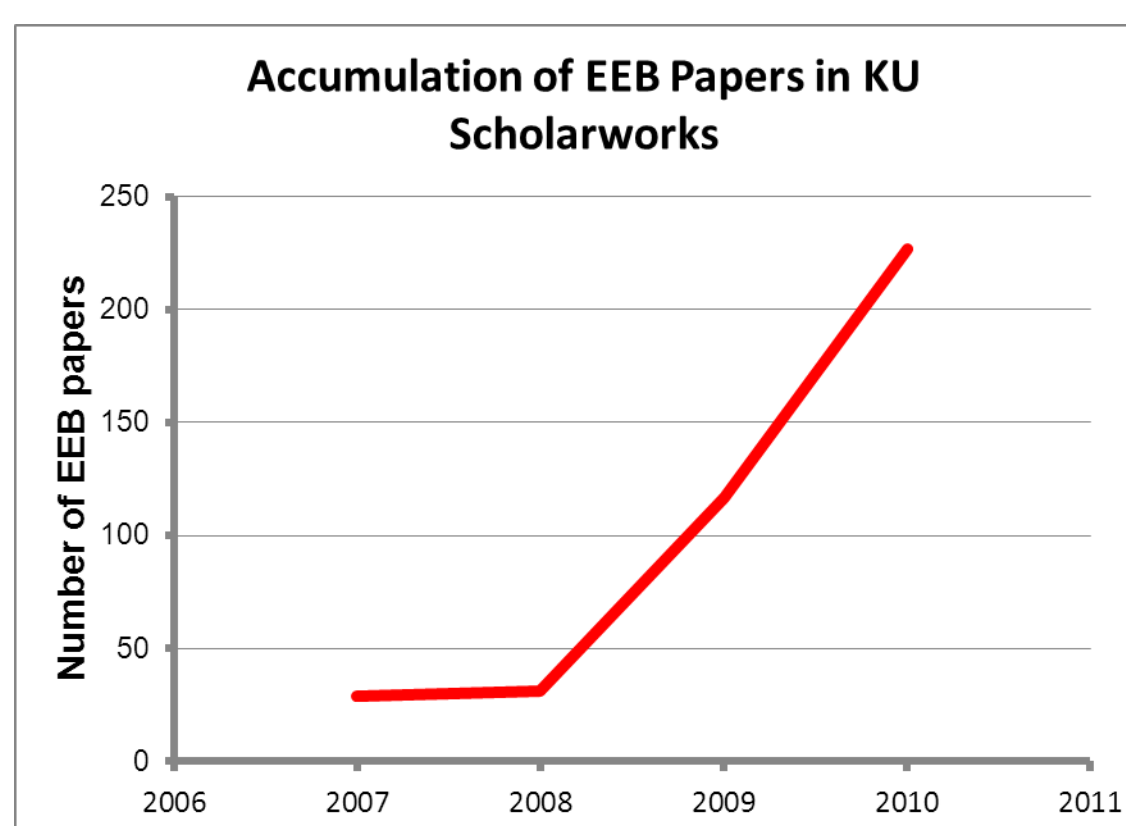
- Farabee et al. 1990. *Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology*
- Horner-Devine et al. 2003. *Ecology Letters*
- Brown et al. 2000. *Herpetologica*
- Billings 2008. *Nature*
- Schneider et al. 2004. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution*
- Woodman et al. 1996. *Journal of Mammalogy*
- Krishtalka and Humphrey. 2000. *BioScience*
- Foster and Dickson. 2004. *Ecology*
- Lewis et al. 2005. *Systematic Biology*
- Hileman et al. 2006. *Molecular Biology and Evolution*

Journal	Success rate
Systematic Biology	91.18
Molecular Biology and Evolution	91.18
Ecology	73.53
Nature	70.59
Ecology Letters	64.71
BioScience	64.71
Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution	55.88
Journal of Mammalogy	44.12
Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology	41.18
Herpetologica	41.18

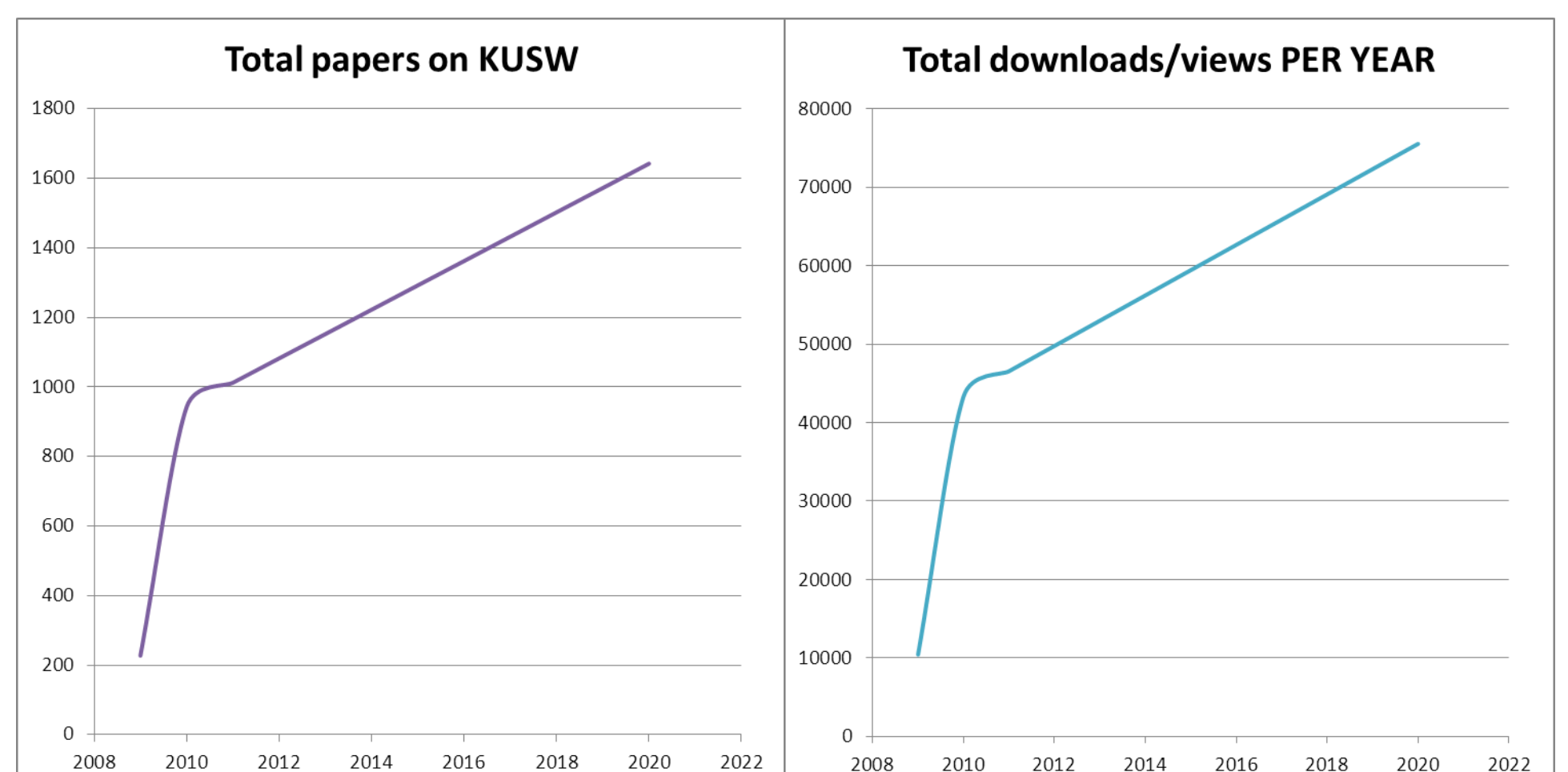


Conclusion: Access IS a problem ... much of EEB scholarship is not readily accessible to the scholarly community

### KU ScholarWorks



- 227 EEB pubs, 46 contacts/paper/year
- Reviewed journals on the Sherpa/Romeo website
- 418 of 1211 2001-2009 EEB pubs could be added NOW based on "green" status"
- Either publisher's PDF file or the author's final draft could be placed in KU ScholarWorks **now**
- Projections based on 150 EEB pubs/year in future:
- 50-60 EEB pubs could be added per year via green OA status per year
- Of remaining 90-100 papers published per year, 20-30% could be added via OA addenda
- Assuming 150 papers per year from EEB, and taking conservative numbers at all opportunities, **we arrive at the following potential:**



Conclusion: Open access solutions offer significant advantages in availability, citation, and attention to academic scholarship; these solutions are accessible right now, and do not have to wait until future steps occur