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In the beginning were  
computers and the Internet.

# Open access in research



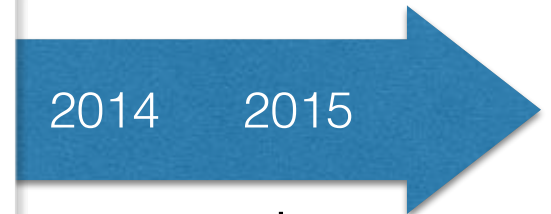
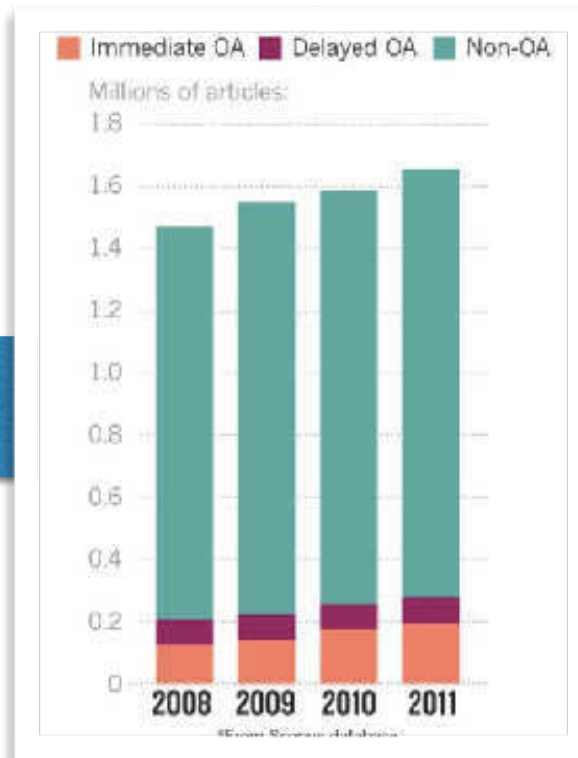
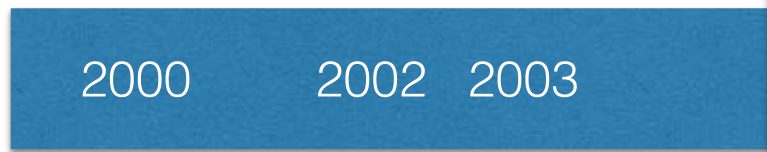
Open means  
Transparent

unlocked

Open means  
Accessible

# Open access publications

## Budapest open access initiative



## Berlin declaration on open access

The Internet has fundamentally changed the practical and economic realities of distributing scientific knowledge (...)

Mandatory open access for H2020-funded research



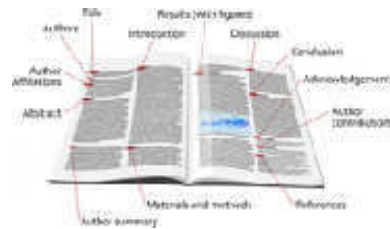
# The business model



↓ ↓ \$ The author pays



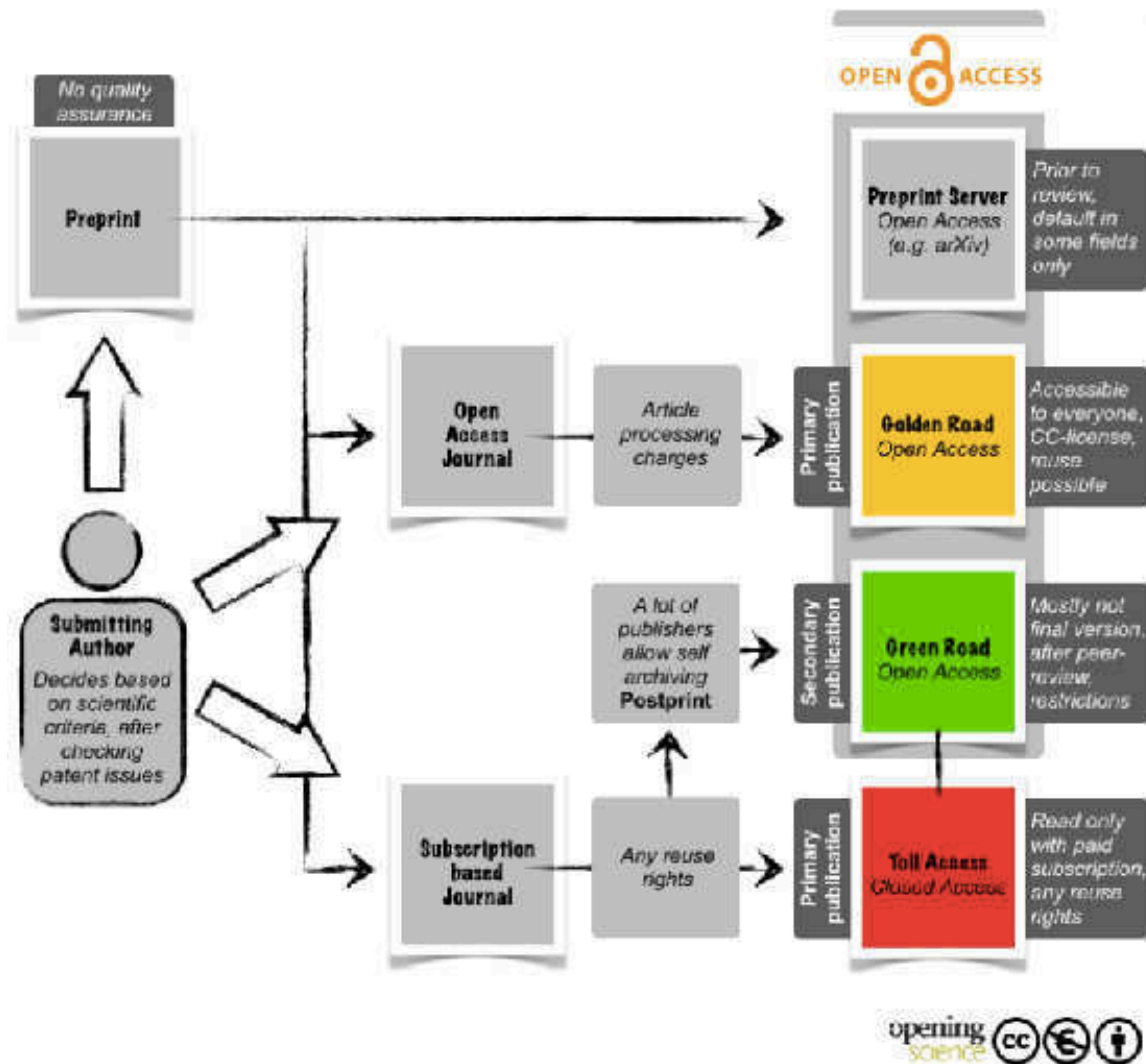
**Articles**  
(Journals)



The readers pay \$ ↑ ↓ ↓



# Publishing today



# Costs of open access (1)



**Every day** on PubMed  
2600 new articles.  
This is ~13 million € fees.

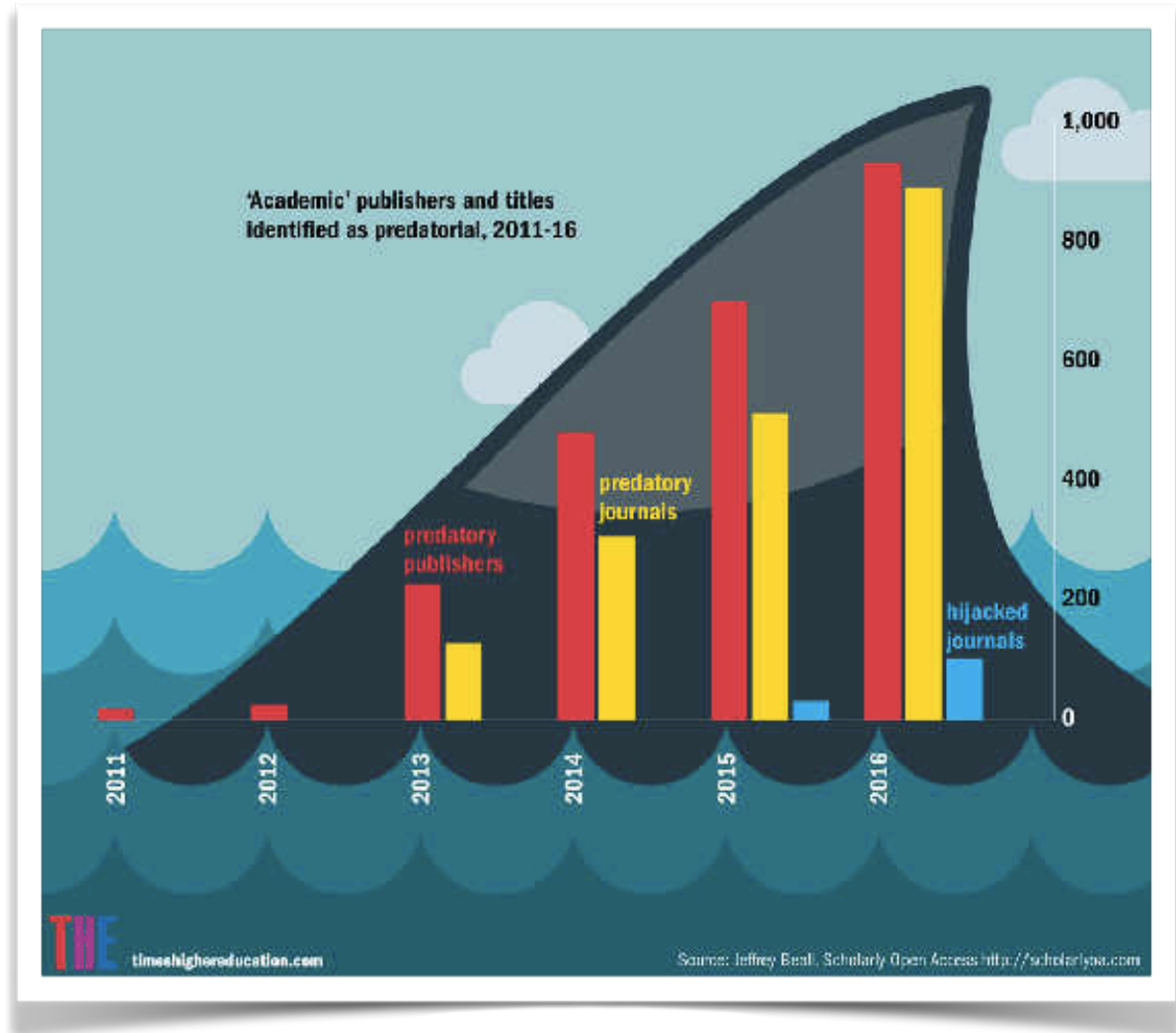
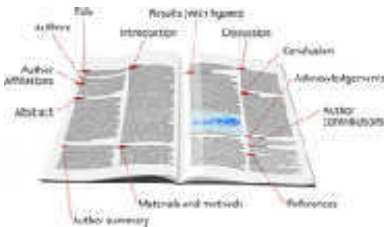
Who pays?



# Costs of open access (2)

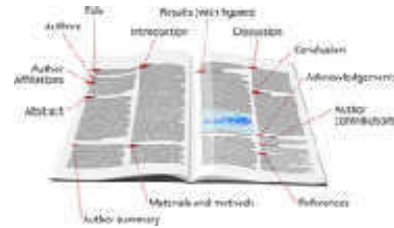


**Predatory journal**

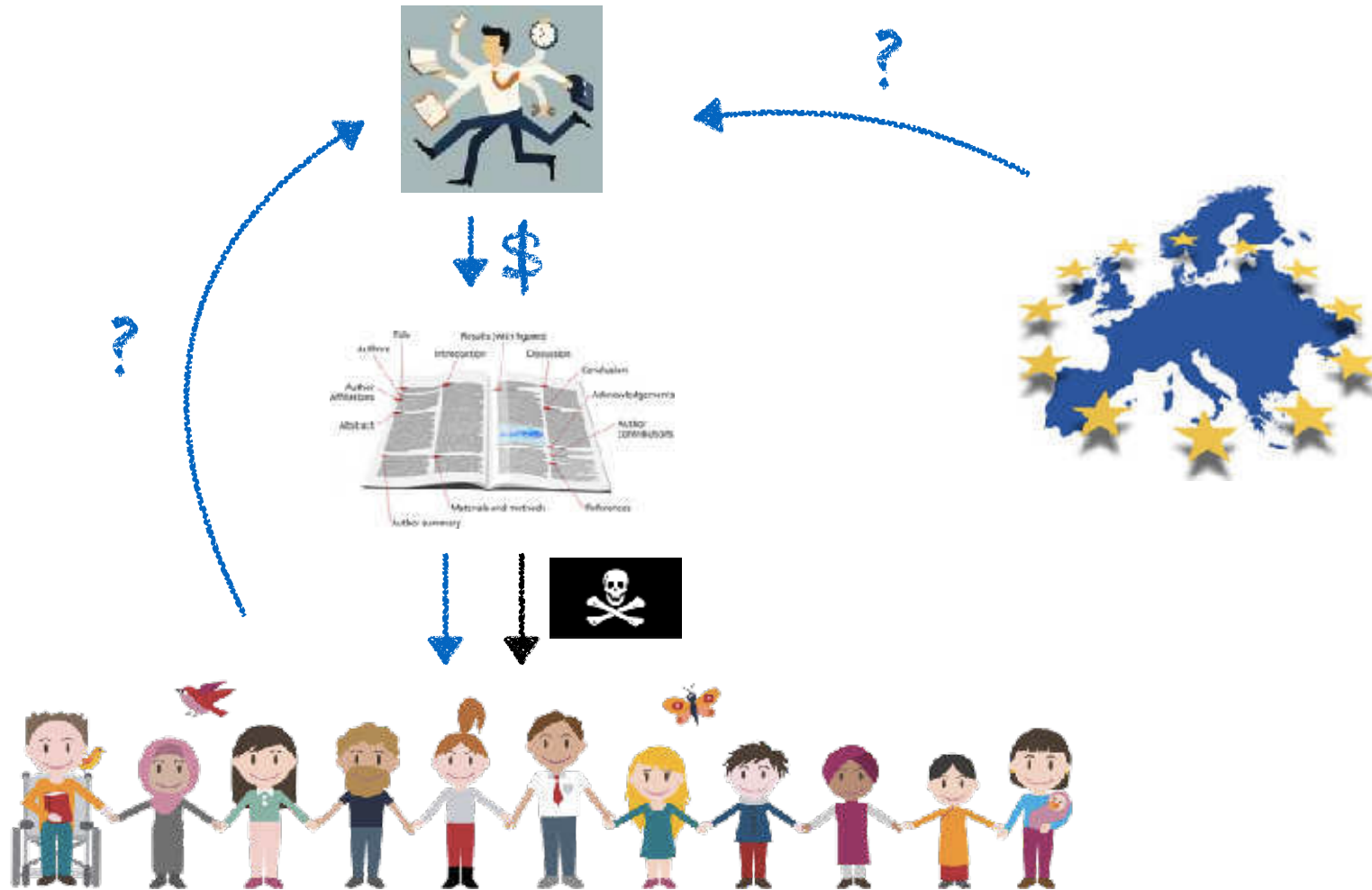




# Benefits of open access (1)



# Benefits of open access (2)



Why publish open  
access?

# Open access data

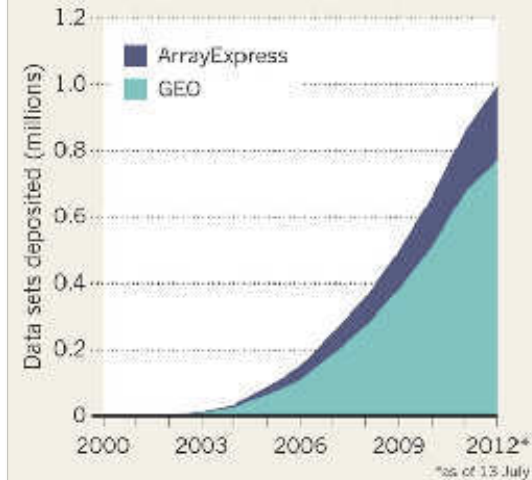


2002 2003

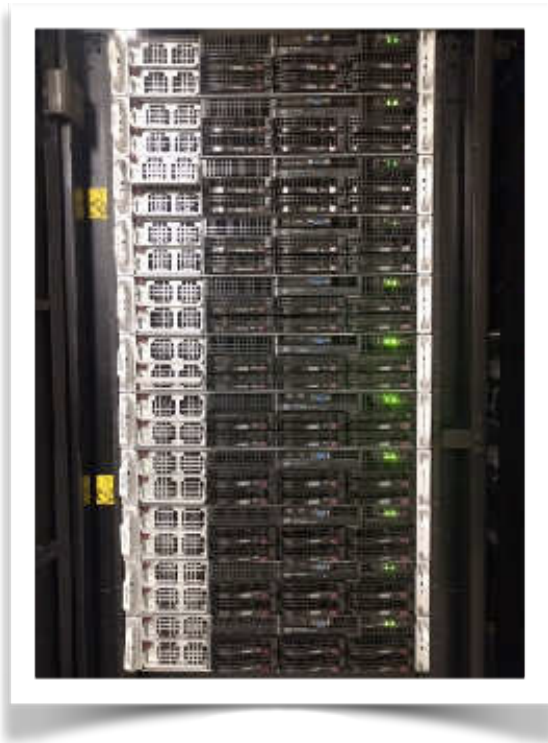


## DATA DUMP

The number of gene-expression data sets in publicly available databases has climbed to nearly one million over the past decade.



# Costs of open data (1)



**ENA** is > 5000 TB  
Cost much smaller  
than publications

Who pays?



# Costs of open data (2)



Confidential data  
cannot be open

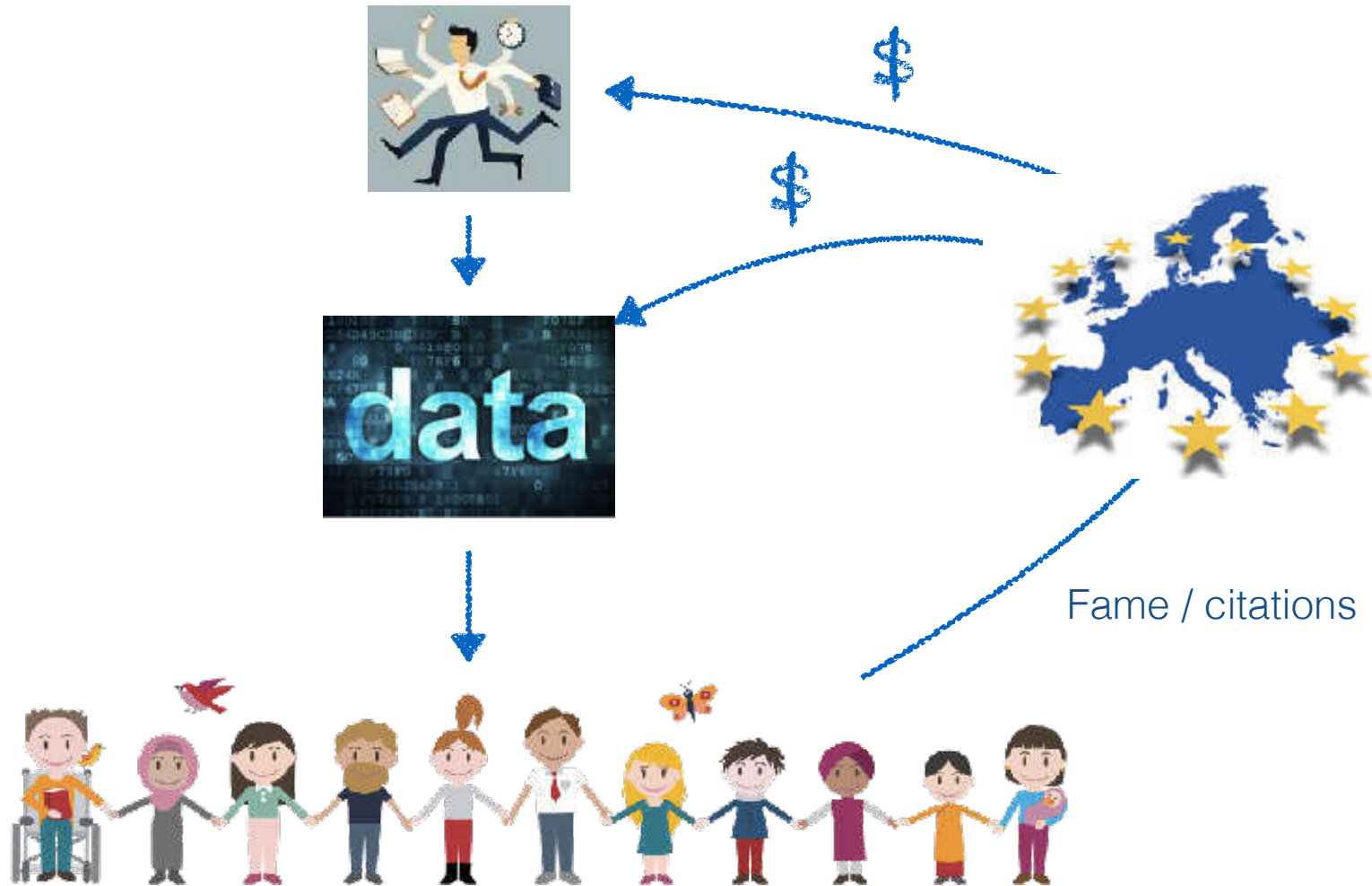


Opening personal  
data may backfire

# Benefits of open data (1)

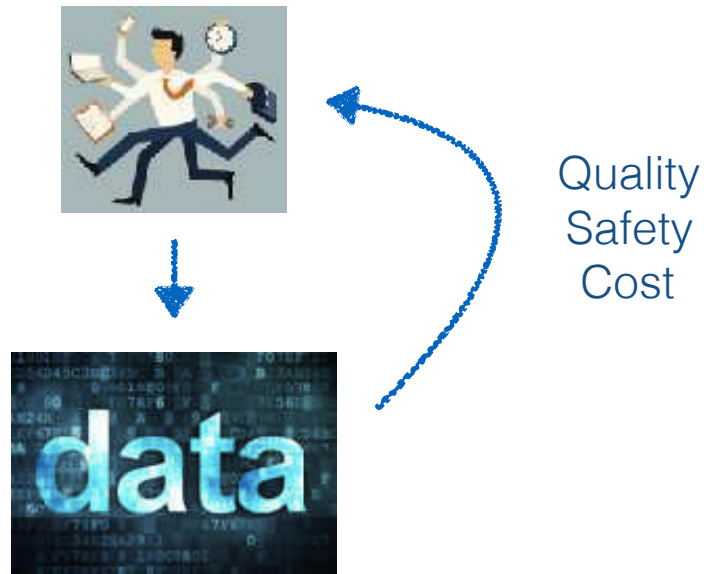


# Benefits of open data (2)





# Benefits of open data (3)



# Open access code

**FSF**

FREE SOFTWARE  
FOUNDATION

1985

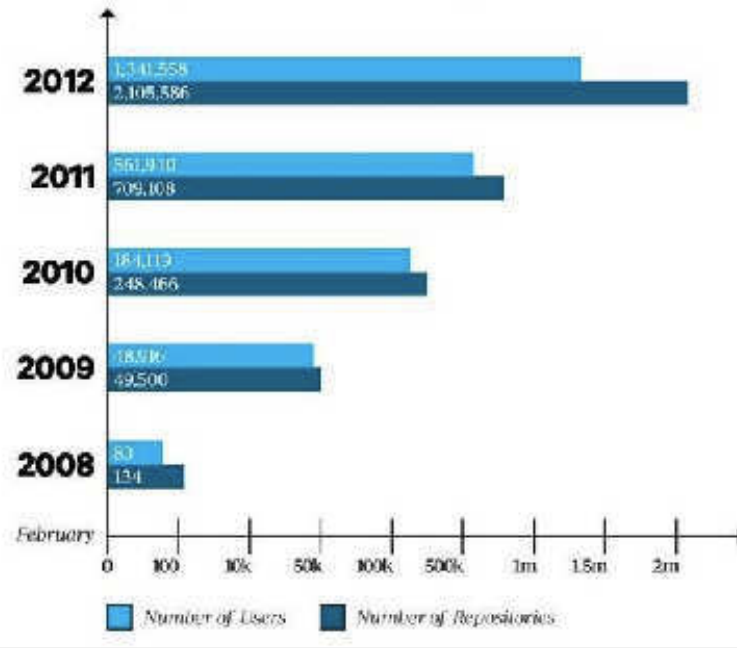
1991



Linux

## GETTING INTO GITHUB

*GitHub has been growing fast since it was founded 4 years ago*



# Costs of open code



User support /  
new features



Write portable  
code



Non profit

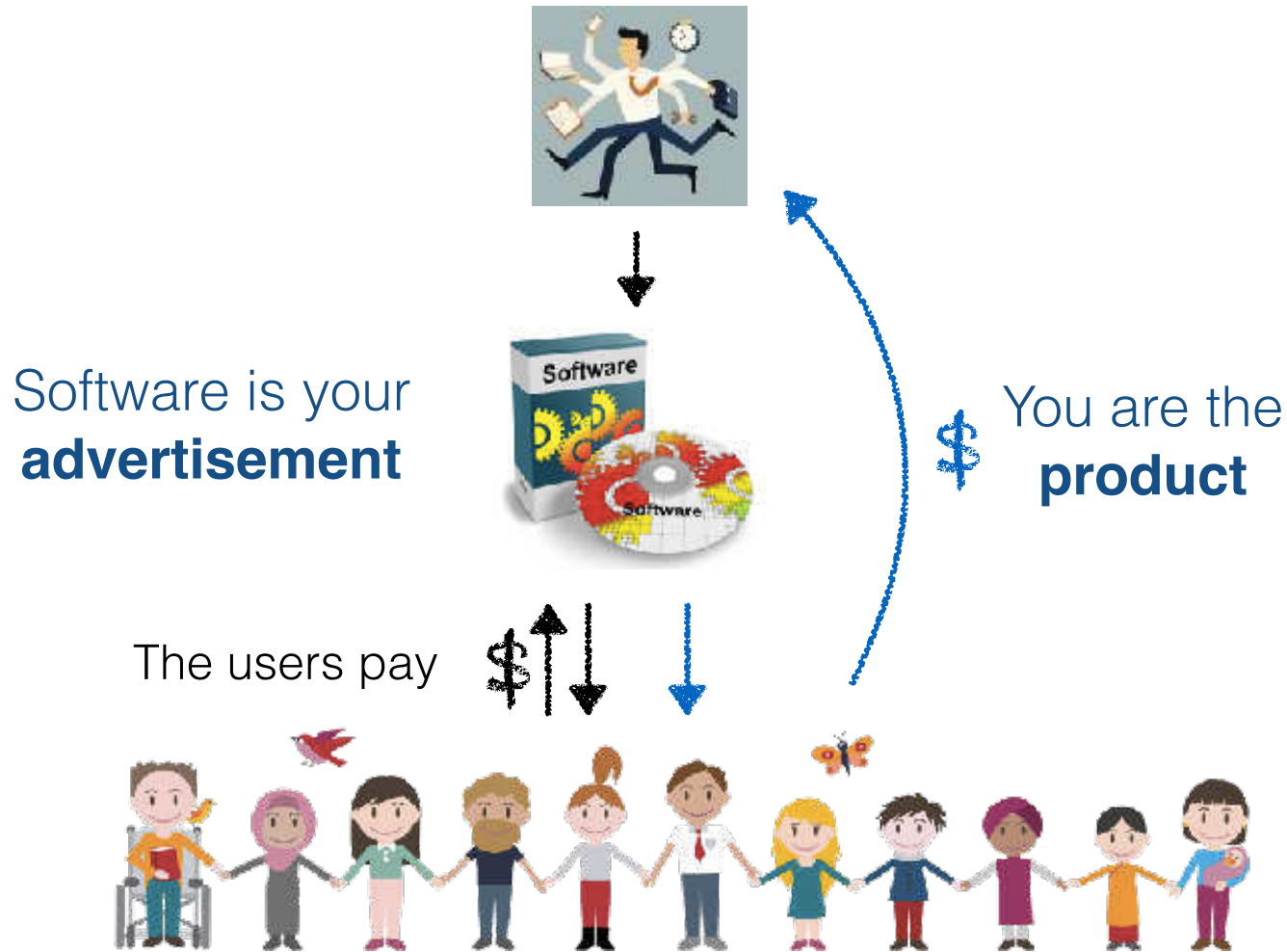
Who pays?



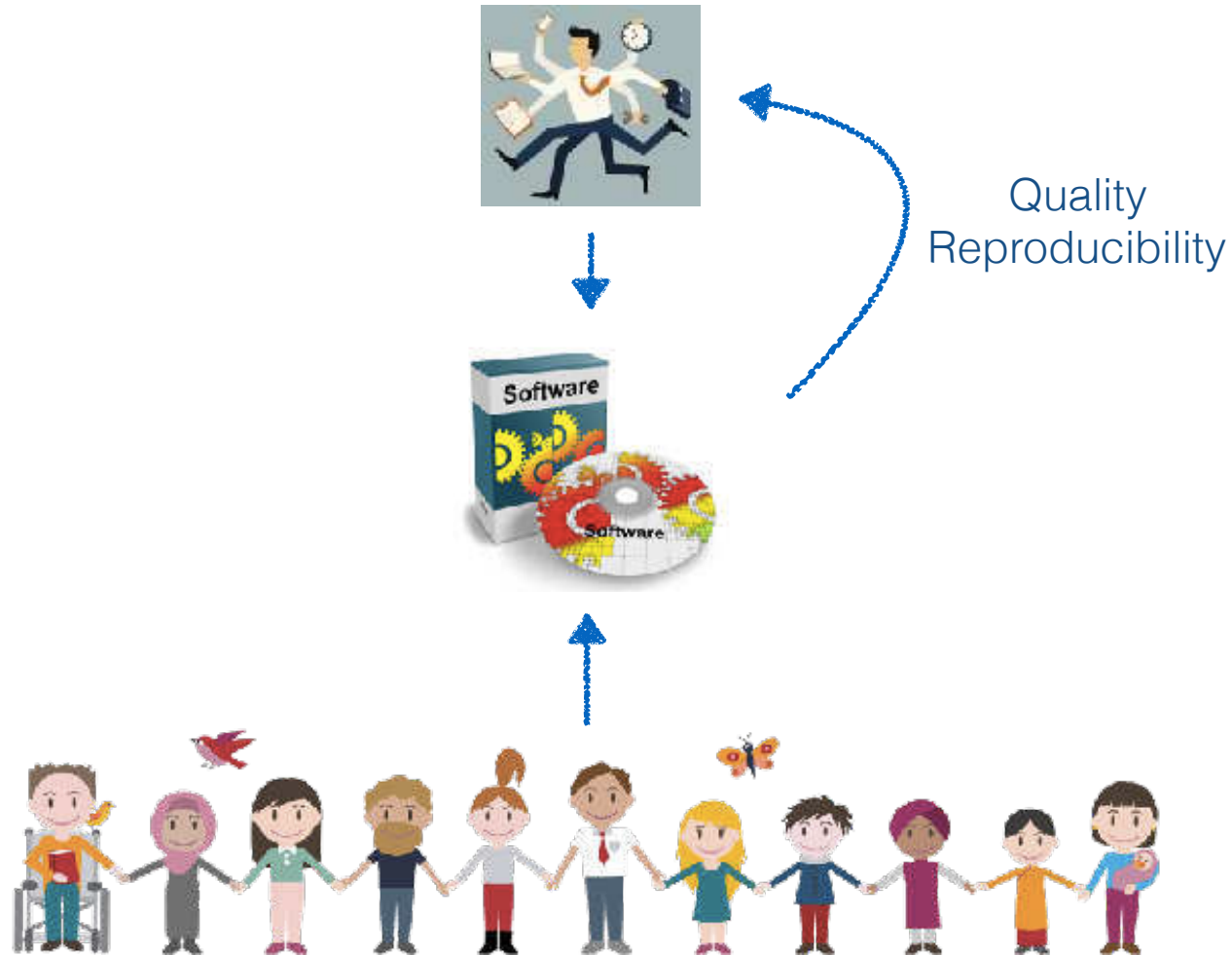
# Benefits of open code (1)



# Benefits of open code (2)



# Benefits of open code (3)



# Benefits of open code (4)

[Fast and accurate short read alignment with Burrows–Wheeler ...](https://academic.oup.com/bioinformatics/.../Fast-and-accurate-short-read-alignment-with)

<https://academic.oup.com/bioinformatics/.../Fast-and-accurate-short-read-alignment-with>  
by H Li - 2009 - Cited by 11368 - Related articles

May 18, 2009 - Results: We implemented Burrows-Wheeler Alignment tool (BWA), a new read ..... in  
any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

Open access software and data  
can **boost** your research.

But how to do it right?



# Open Science. Good practices in Bioinformatics

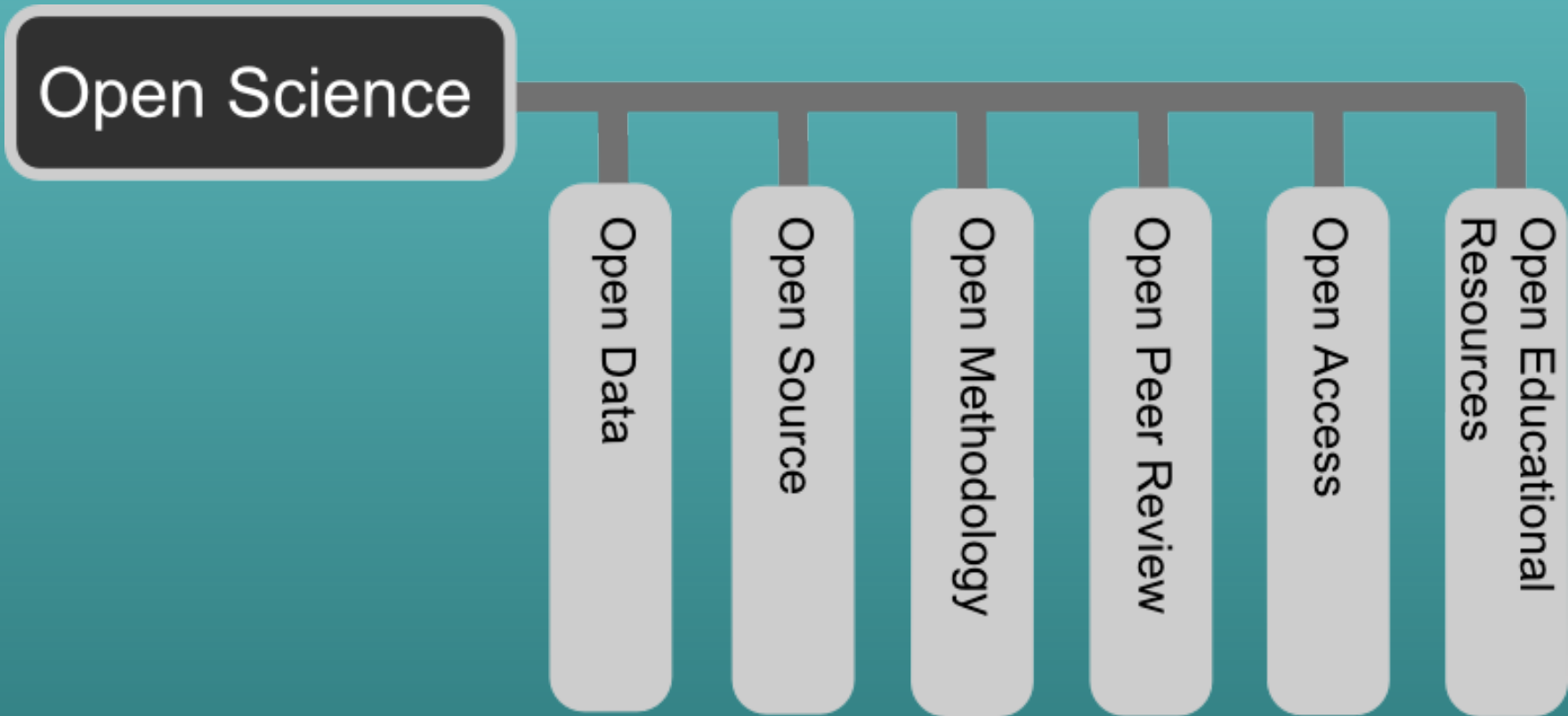
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Centre for Genomic Regulation (BCN)

<https://biocore.crg.eu>

# Open Science



The six principles of Open Science

# Document

*Write it down or ...  
it didn't happen!*

# Document: Why?

- Organise ideas
- Understanding code and steps in the future for you and others
- Fixing errors
- Help in future publication

# Document: Where?

- File System (e.g. README or TODO files)
- Control Version System
  - Git, SVN, etc.
- Content Management System
  - Wiki CMS, Drupal, etc.

# Document: How?

- Plain text
- Format
  - Unstructured
    - Free
    - **Markdown**
    - Wikitext

# Document: How?

- Format
  - Structured
    - Config files
      - XML, JSON, INI, YAML
    - Templates (e.g. in wikis)
    - Database Management Systems (Relation or NoSQL)

# Tag and track

*I never said so!*



# Tag and track: Why?

- Convenient backup
- Error tracking and reversion
- Checking history
- Allowing collaboration on different time points
- Publication of specific snapshots

# Tag and track: Where?

- Code, documentation:
  - Control Version System (Git, SVN, etc.)
    - Interfaces:
      - Github
      - Gitlab (local installation)
    - Wiki CMS (e.g. [Semantic] MediaWiki)
- Data, files
  - Plain Git (small files) or Git with large files
  - Document Management Systems

# Tag and track: Concepts

- Revision, Version, Commit
- Branch
- Tag, Release
- Fork, Pull request

# Tag and track: Publish

- Working and executable code
  - Docker & Singularity hubs
- Identify Content & Code (DOI)
  - Figshare
  - Zenodo (**with Github**)
- Bio specific repositories
  - **Sequence Read Archive** (SRA)
  - **GEO Archive** (Genome Expression Data)
  - ENA, EGA and others. **Detail**

# Reproduce

*Run it again, Sam!*

# Reproduce: Why?

- Nowadays not only textual statements but also code and data
- Peers and collaborators should be able to reproduce by themselves
  - Check errors
  - Improve code, data
  - Test in different conditions

*Standing on the shoulders of giants*

# Reproduce: How?

- Code requirements, recipes
  - Scripts
  - Test frameworks
  - Package managers (e.g. **Conda**)
  - **Jupyter**
- Virtualisation
  - Hypervisor: VirtualBox, VMWare, etc.
  - Containers: **Docker, Singularity**

# Reproduce: Note on python

- `pyenv` & `pyenv-virtualenv`
  - `pyenv install x.y.z`
  - `pyenv virtualenv x.y.x myvenv`
- `pip`
  - `pip freeze > requirements.txt`
  - `pip install -r requirements.txt`



# Reproduce: Other languages

- Perl: `perlbrew`
- PHP: `phpbrew`
- Java: `jenv`
- NodeJS: `nvm`
- etc.

# Reproduce: Conda

- Popular package manager
  - Takes care also of binaries, libraries
- **Bioconda**: specific Bioinformatics recipes

# Reproduce: Jupyter

- Former *IPython Notebook*
- Combines in a single notebook documentation (Markdown), comments and executable code with its output
- Underlying notebook format is a JSON text file
  - Can be exported into PDF, HTML, etc.

# Reproduce: Jupyter

- Apart from Python (2 or 3), now also different languages with *Kernels*:
  - R, Perl5, Perl6, Javascript, **more...**
- Additional widgets (e.g. for charts)
- Convenient for sharing code and training
- **Jupyter gallery in Github**

# Reproduce: Docker

- Allows shareable Linux systems that can be run in any machine where Docker is installed
- Build images with a script file (Dockerfile), very similar to a Linux command-line script
- **Repository of Docker images**
  - You can reuse, adapt, extend
  - Don't reinvent the wheel

# Reproduce: Docker

- Microservices principle
  - 1 Image -> n Containers -> n Services
  - n Services -> 1 full application
- Example: BLAST Web application
  - Web server container
  - Database container
  - BLAST application running container
- Making it work together:
  - system scripts
  - **Docker compose**
  - etc.

# Reproduce: Singularity

- Like Docker but more suitable for HPC environments
- No need of a Docker daemon running / less problematic for security
- Docker images convertible into Singularity ones
  - Conversion script
- Singularity Repository

Recomendations to containerize your bioinformatics software

# Pipelines & Workflows

*Guilty by association*



# Pipelines & Workflows: Why?

## Unix Philosophy

D. McIlroy, P.H.Salus

- Write programs that do one thing and do it well.
- Write programs to work together.
- Write programs to handle text streams, because that is a universal interface.

# Pipelines & Workflows: How?

- Traditionally from Shell script files
- Frameworks or applications
  - Web-based
    - [Galaxy](#)
  - GUI and command-line
    - [Apache Taverna](#)
  - Command-line
    - [Nextflow](#)
- [Common Workflow Language](#)

# Pipelines and Workflows: Nextflow

- Concepts
  - Processes
    - Any pipeline or program (in any language)
    - In local disk or in containers (Singularity, Docker)
  - Channels
    - FIFO queue
    - Normally files in a filesystem

# Pipelines and Workflows: Nextflow

- Concepts
  - Config files
    - Different config files, calling one to another can be created for adapting to different scenarios
  - Executors
    - Local machine
    - HPC cluster: SGE, Univa, SLURM, etc.
    - Cloud systems: Amazon Cloud, Apache Ignite

Questions?  
Comments?

# Diversity

*There's more than  
one way to do it*

# Criteria

- Kind of tasks
- Team profiles
- Infrastructure and privacy
- Previous knowledge and time

# Criteria: Tasks

- Data Analysis
- Interface / Web programming
- Teaching/Training
- Environment (where can be achieved)
  - Interface/Web
  - HPC
  - etc.



# Criteria: Profiles

- Wet lab scientists
- Statisticians, programmers
- Citizens
- Personal and working situations
  - Interns, PhD students, PostDocs
  - Technicians (full-time, temporary)
  - Project funding length

# Criteria: Infrastructure, privacy

- Data transfer
  - Cluster vs Cloud
- Sysadmin or **devops** support
- Human or clinical data involved
- Funding vs time

# Criteria: Knowledge

- Programming language(s)
  - Python, R, JavaScript, Java, Perl
- Availability of libraries / reusing
- Frameworks, platforms
  - Learning curve
  - Bus factor