

A central circular image showing a complex network of particle tracks, likely from a detector, with many lines radiating from a central point. The tracks are colored in shades of purple, blue, and red. The background of the slide is a dark green with a large, lighter green circular area containing the particle tracks. In the bottom right corner, there is a stylized logo consisting of a circle and a triangle.

SCOAP³:

A sponsoring consortium for
Open Access Publishing in Particle Physics

History

- Successful “Colloquium on Open Access Publishing in Particle Physics” held at CERN on 7-8 December 2005 (www.cern.ch/open-access)
- Set up Task Force to “study and develop sustainable business models for OA publishing for existing and new journals and publishers in particle physics, focused mainly on a sponsoring model”
- Report published in June

Membership

Tripartite group: authors, publishers funding agencies:

- Members:
 - Daniele Amati (SISSA)
 - Martin Blume (APS)
 - Enzo De Sanctis (INFN)
 - Gregor Herten (IUPAP C11)
 - Leif Jonsson (Lund)
 - François Le Diberder (IN2P3)
 - Claus Montonen (EPS)
 - Jan Velterop (Springer)
 - Rüdiger Voss (CERN/Chair)
- Expert:
 - Frederick Friend (JISC)
- Observer:
 - Yves Dumont (EU)
- Secretariat:
 - Jens Vigen
 - Joanne Yeomans
 - Anne Gentil-Beccot
 - Tullio Basaglia
 - (all CERN Library)

The Task Force vision of OA

- The long-term goals:
 - Access on the Internet for all readers at any time and with no restrictions
 - Access for authors with no financial barriers
 - Authors retain copyright
 - Affordable for the community
- This cannot be achieved overnight: transition period and transition scenario needed

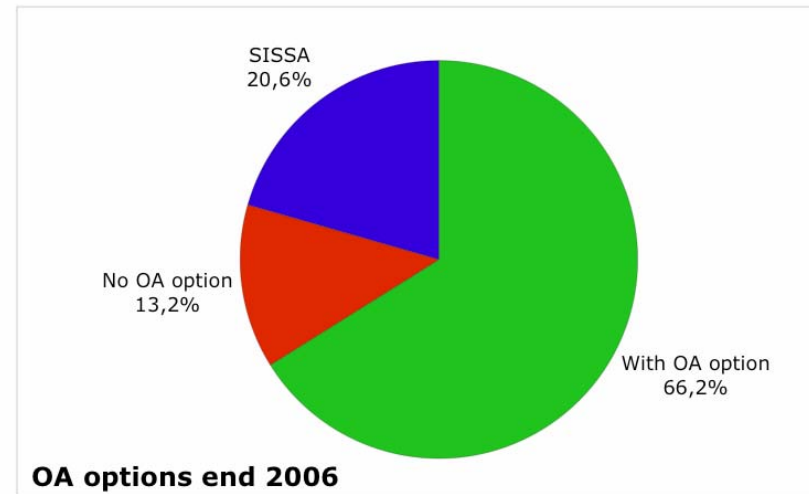
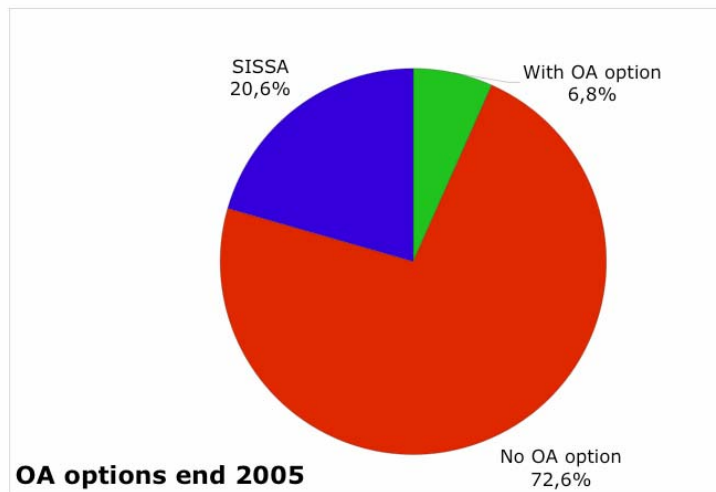
Key working hypotheses

- Focus on sponsoring to overcome practical & psychological hurdles of (traditional) publication charges
- Focus on “particle physics only” journals
- Focus on existing, established, high-profile journals to make model attractive to authors
 - ... but leave room for new players!
- Support > 1 , better 3, 4 or more journals:
 - Give authors a choice
 - Stimulate competition
 - Maintain high peer review and editorial standards

OA policies of key HEP journals

- SISSA (JHEP, JCAP, JINST): ready to convert to full OA under sponsoring model
- APS: recently launched “Free to read” scheme for all titles; PRSTAB
- Springer for Eur. Phys. J. C; operates “Open choice” scheme since 2004 (just announced drastic price reduction!)
- Elsevier launched “Sponsored articles” for particle physics journals this year
- ... plus some more
- One candidate for new journal (BioMed Central)

OA offers: from 2005 to 2006



- Distribution of published papers by journal OA policy
 - Statistics based upon 5015 papers submitted to hep-ex, hep-ph, hep-lat and hep-th in 2005, and published subsequently in refereed journals

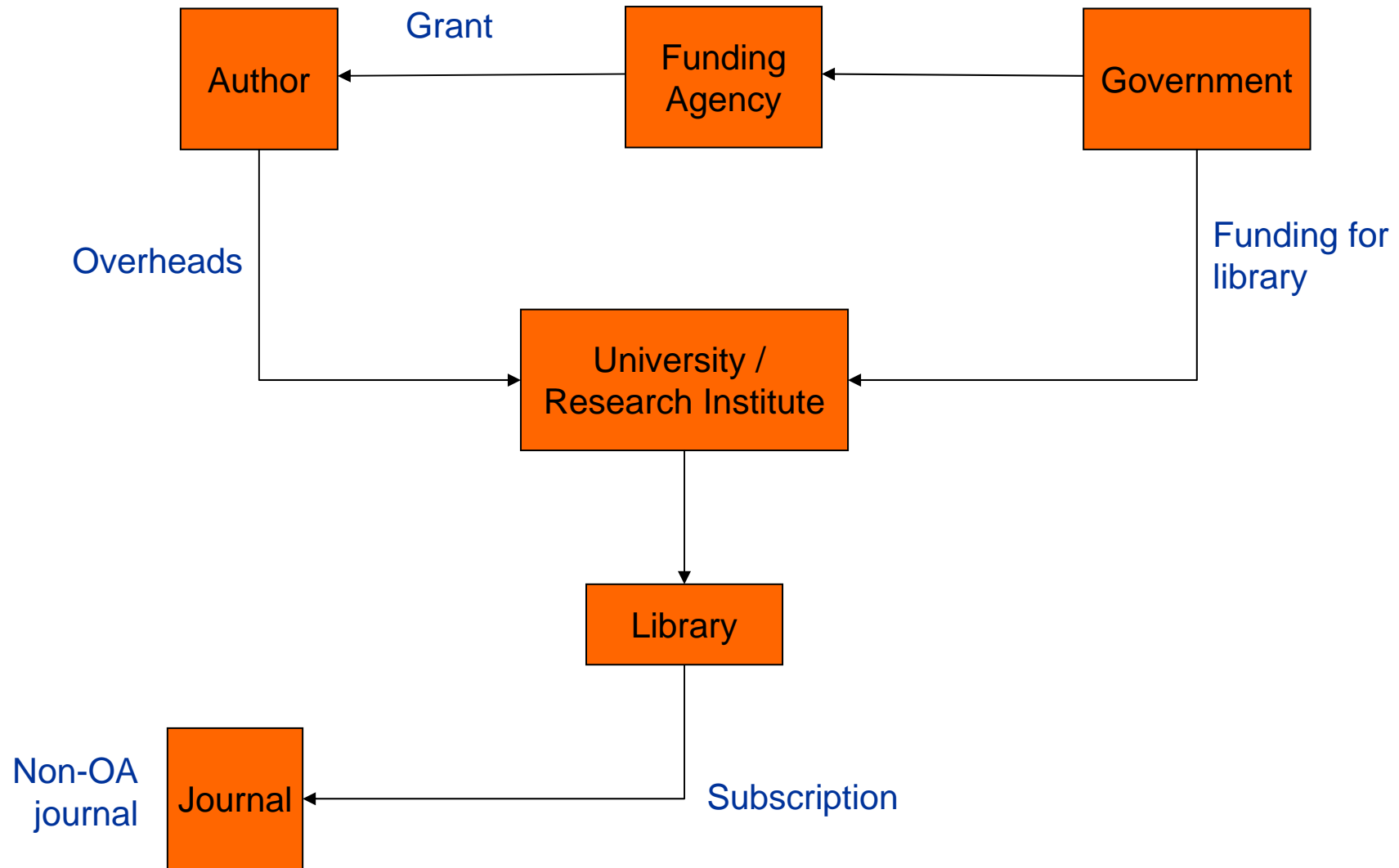
Initial conclusions

- With one exception, all key publishers/journals in particle physics offer OA options at the end of 2006
- Sponsoring all “OA ready” journals would cost 5 – 6 M€/year
- Compare to traditional journal subscriptions integrated over particle physics institutes!
 - Example – NIM A+B: 16'000 €/year x 300 LHC institutes = 4.8 M €/year!

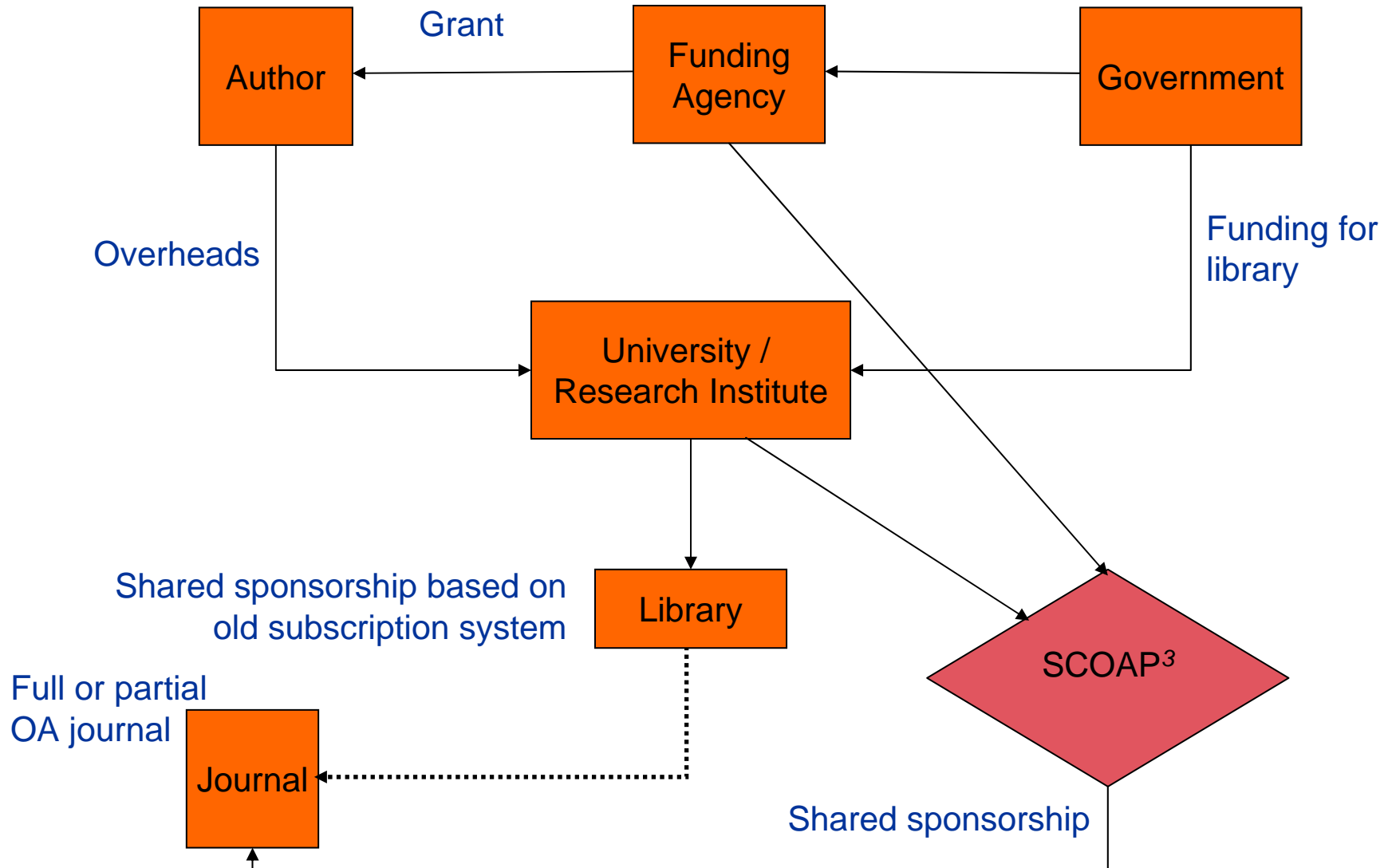
SCOAP³

- The task force considers sponsoring through a consortium the most promising and sustainable business model for particle physics
- Propose a “Sponsoring Consortium for Open Access Publishing in Particle Physics” (SCOAP³)
- Potential partners:
 - Funding agencies supporting particle physics
 - Funding for experimental papers could be channeled through major laboratories (CERN, DESY, LNF Frascati, Fermilab, SLAC, KEK, IHEP Beijing, ...) or collaborations
 - Non-HEP funding agencies providing generic support to OA
 - Libraries

Current situation



Transition model



Transition: funding agencies

- We tentatively foresee a 3-5 y transition period
- After this period, particle physics funding agencies will be solely responsible for the funding of SCOAP³
- Transition scenario:
 - “Big labs” will have to take a lead
 - Agree on a “fair share” scenario
 - Allow time for funding agencies to adapt: convert journal subscription budgets to OA funding

Transition: publishers

- Depending on amount and reliability of funding, not all interested publishers may be willing or able to convert their particle physics journals to full OA on short notice.
- Possible “delayed” transition models:
 - Article-by-article sponsoring
 - Convert to OA parts of journal directly concerned with particle physics
- Conditions to be negotiated journal by journal. Journals adopting a delayed transition should offer a corresponding decrease of subscription price.
- Journals concerned must be taken out of publisher packages
- Full OA must remain the final goal

Transition: authors

- Continue to publish in their preferred journal – provided that all relevant publishers are on board
- Become more aware of publishing costs: increased pricing transparency will stimulate competition and help to contain costs
- Enjoy barrier-free access to the whole of the literature as readers
- Benefit from higher research impact when publishing in Open Access

Goals

- All relevant journals in the field convert to OA – or disappear: “publish OA or perish”
- Provide room for new journals
- Co-fund “large bandwidth” journals
- SCOAP³ is supported by particle physics funding agencies based on a “fair share” principle
- Include non-European funding agencies

Summary

- A significant fraction of key particle physics journals is ready for a rapid transition to Open Access under a consortium-funded sponsoring model
- These journals now cover close to 90% of the original research articles
- We have identified initial budget requirements
- This is a first step: we need to raise the funds, and to agree on a scheme for governance and administration of the consortium
- The LHC start in 2007 is a unique opportunity to reform the publishing model of particle physics forever