Lib4RI – UPDATE #06 English

DECEMBER 2012

Lib4RI
Library for the Research Institutes within the ETH Domain: Eawag, Empa, PSI & WSL

Lib4RI Services

Content

Link resolver reloaded

INTEGRATION WITH GOOGLE SCHOLAR AND NEW SERVICE FUNCTIONS

From Google Scholar to the link resolver

The Lib4RI link resolver will lead you from a bibliographic database directly to the full text of an article. It also offers a convenient way to order copies of an article. Most recently, we have activated the link resolver in *Google Scholar*. When using Google Scholar within the network of Eawag, Empa, PSI or WSL, the search results appear with the link «Get it at Lib4RI» (Fig. 1). The link opens a window with the service menu of the link resolver and directs you to the licenced full texts.

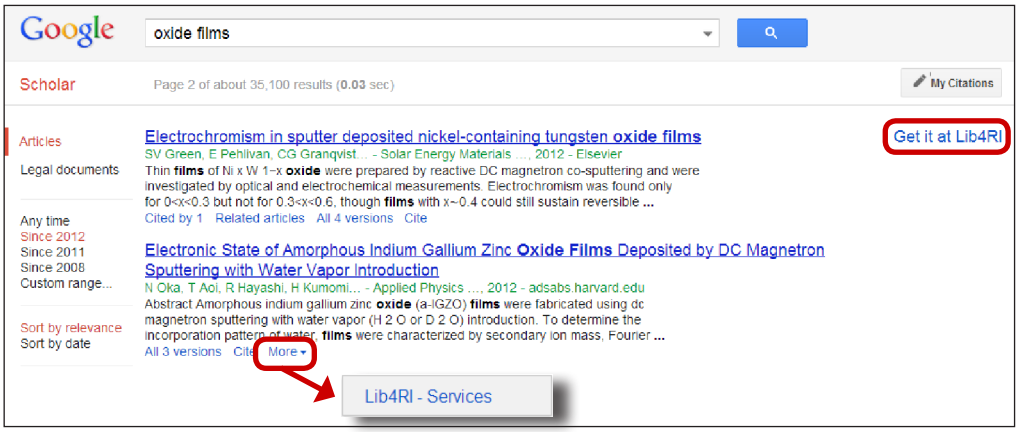
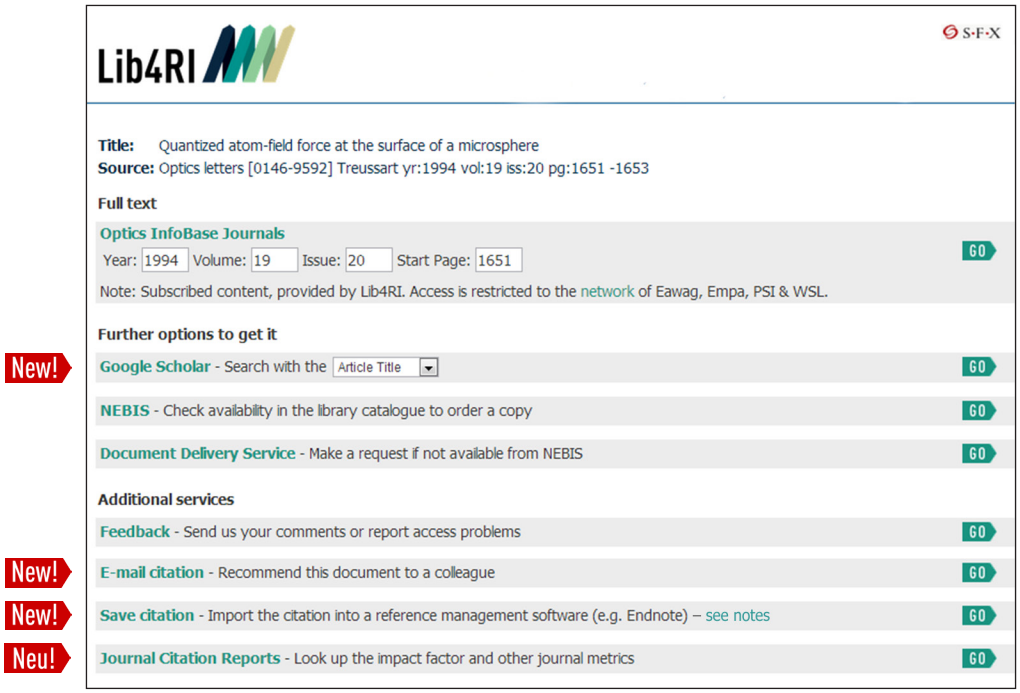


Figure 1: The link resolver «Get it at Lib4RI» is now integrated in Google Scholar. The links appear to the right side of the search results or under «More».

From the link resolver to Google Scholar

This also works the other way round: In the service menu of the link resolver you can start a search in Google Scholar (Fig. 2). As Google Scholar also finds archived full-text versions of an article in repositories or on private homepages, this function is especially helpful when the library Lib4RI is unable to provide access via the publisher's website.

Figure 2: The link resolver menu with four new functions.



New service functions

E-mail citation: With this function you can send the bibliographic data of an article or book by e-mail in order to, e.g., recommend an article to a colleague.

Save citation: stores the bibliographic data of the article on your computer or – depending on the settings – also directly in your reference management program (Endnote, Zotero etc.). Our tests of this function have shown that when importing, the list of authors is frequently not completely transferred. Therefore, double-check the list of authors after importing a reference.

Journal Citation Reports: shows the current Journal Impact Factor (JIF) and other metrics of the journal in the *Journal Citation Reports* (Science Edition & Social Sciences Edition). This function is only available for journals which Thomson Reuters has assigned a JIF in the latest edition of the Journal Citation Reports.

Lib4RI Services

With increasing frequency, you will now encounter the link resolver button «Lib4RI – Services» on journal websites, even if there is a link to the full text on the same page. With a click on this button, you can call up the link resolver menu and, e.g., access the new service functions.

We are pleased to receive your feedback via the feedback form in the menu of the link resolver or via an e-mail to *eresources@lib4ri.ch*. ////jb, ln, as, lt/

Societies

THE BETTER PUBLISHERS?

Learned societies publish articles at significantly lower costs than commercial publishers. That is not only the perception of librarians; it has also been confirmed in studies (e.g. [1]). Moreover, societies provide further valuable services for their members: they host conferences and provide further education, award prizes, finance scholarships, and so on.

Libraries finance the societies

The greater part of the revenue of academic societies comes from their publishing activities (e.g. [2]). As a rule, what the societies generate in the form of revenue amounts to expenses for academic libraries. Fundamentally it is, of course, to be welcomed when the expenditures of libraries flow back into the sciences instead of into the dividends of shareholders or into the profits of private equity firms. Unfortunately, some societies exhibit excessive behaviour when it comes to striving for profit. In the last few years various societies have, for example, carried out double-digit annual price increases. Here are several such examples with which we are presently confronted:

ACS

The *American Chemical Society* (ACS) provided a good price/performance ratio for a long time with their journals. For several years now, however, the price increases of ACS have been several times higher than the already abnormally high increases of the commercial publishing houses. And the model of pricing, which is exclusively based on – constantly rising – journal use, guarantees yet still more excessive price increases for the academic society in the coming years ahead. This price policy, as well as the partially questionable use of generated profits, was also repeatedly discussed within the ACS [3, 4]. In terms of Open Access, moreover, ACS also belongs to the especially restrictive publishers. Postprints, for example, may only be archived in institutional repositories if it is prerequisite of the funding organization or the institution.

AGU

Until a few years ago the *American Geophysical Union* (AGU) offered a model for access to less used journals called «per user base» at a reasonable cost. This model is no longer available since 2011. From 2013 all AGU journals will now be published by Wiley – according to the conditions of a commercial publisher, which means significantly higher costs for the libraries.

AIP, APS

The *American Institute of Physics* (AIP) and the *American Physical Society* (APS) are known for a science friendly Open Access policy. On the other hand, however, negotations with AIP and APS were especially difficult during the merging of our libraries. The price calculation, requiring the obligatory holding of duplicate online subscriptions, a separate size categorizing of the individual institutes («tiering») and then, in addition, a surcharge for «multiple sites», was certainly all very unusual. Instead

of realizing cost savings, the merger of 2011 actually resulted in a significant price increase. We are still negotiating the price model and costs for 2013.

IWA

The *International Water Association* (IWA) wanted to increase the prices for their journal package for the coming year by 17.6 %, following an already significantly above-average price increase of 13.5 % for the present year. Only by threatening cancellation of subscriptions we were able to prevent this massive price increase.

SSSA, ASA, CSSA

The *Soil Science Society of America* (SSSA) wants to increase the price of their journals in the coming year by 101 %. In other words: the price will double. A package with six further journals jointly published by the SSSA, the *American Society of Agronomy* (ASA), and the *Crop Science Society of America* (CSSA) is expected to cost 38.8 % more than in the previous year. The renewal of subscriptions for 2013 is not possible under these conditions.

More downloads – no reason for price increases

The societies justify their price increases almost always by arguing that they have increased the publication output or because of increased journal usage. In doing so, they overlook that the number of scientific publications has been growing exponentially for decades, with an estimated annual increase of usually 4 to 5 % [5, 6]. Journal usage itself is generally increasing even more significantly, with an observed annual growth of more than 20 % [7]. This growth is certainly a challenge for everyone involved, including libraries and publishers. However, it should be possible that at least a part of the growth be absorbed via increases in efficiency and not just passed on to the libraries in terms of higher costs.

What should be done?

As a library we welcome it when our expenditures serve to benefit science. The excessive demands of some societies, however, push the boundaries too far. We therefore wish to call on scientists to take a closer look at the publication policy of «their» society. Excessive overpricing of journals is not restricted to the commercial publishers but can also be found among the society publishers. ////ln/

[1] Bergstrom CT, Bergstrom TC. *The costs and benefits of library site licenses to academic journals*. PNAS. 2004; 101: 897-902. [2] The ACS, for example, reports that «The principal sources of funding for the Society's activities include net revenues generated by the Publications Division and the Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) Division.» (in: *ACS – Financial Overview*) [3] Bhattacharjee Y, ed. *Judicious spender*. Science. 2004; 305: 1399. [4] Bielo D. *Open Access to Science Under Attack*. Scientific American. 2007 Jan 26. Available from: http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=open-access-to-science-un [5] de Solla Price DJ. *Little science, big science*. NY: Columbia Univ Press; 1963. 119 p. [6] Larsen PO, von Ins M. *The rate of growth in scientific publication and the decline in coverage provided by science citation index*. Scientometrics. 2010; 84: 575-603. [7] Rowlands I, Nicholas D, Williams P, Brown D. *E-journals: Their Use, Value and Impact: Final Project Report*. Research Information Network; 2009. 51 p.

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