



# The Future of the ASP Conference Series

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# ASPCS Staff Changes



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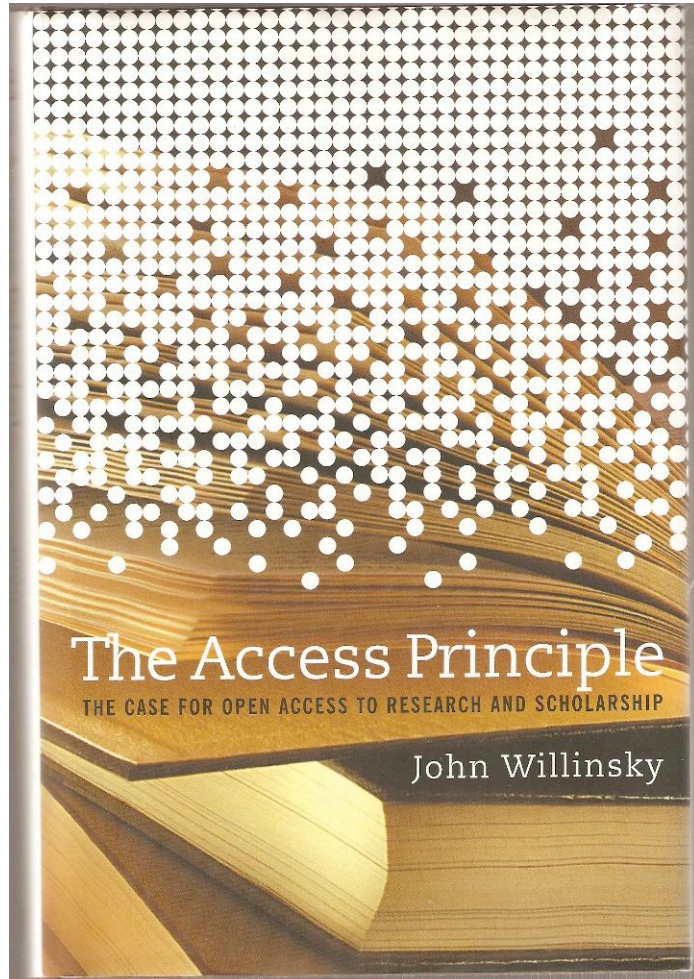


# Open Access Issues for ASPCS

- The value of open access
- U.S. government recommendations
- Open access and the ASP publications
- Initiatives to improve impact



# Advantages of Open Access



The open access principle:

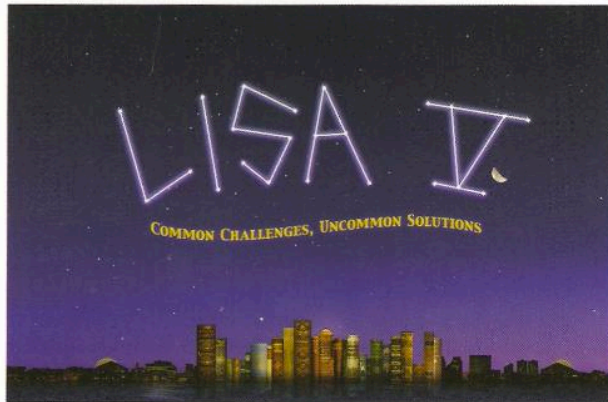
“A commitment to the value and quality of research carries with it a responsibility to extend the circulation of this work as far as possible, and ideally to all who are interested in it and all who might profit by it.”

## The Astronomical Society of the Pacific

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF THE PACIFIC  
CONFERENCE SERIES

VOLUME 377

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES  
IN ASTRONOMY V:  
COMMON CHALLENGES,  
UNCOMMON SOLUTIONS



Edited by  
Sandra Ricketts, Christina Birdie and Eva Isaksson

“Open access to the results of scholarly research has the potential to help individual researchers vastly increase the visibility, usefulness and impact of their work. Perhaps even more importantly, its potential benefits extend far beyond individual researchers to institutions, the scholarly community, and to society as a whole.”

(Heather Joseph, ASPCS 377, 121)



# U.S. Government Policy and Open Access



## NIH: A Case Study in Government Policy on Publication

- Research papers funded by National Institute of Health are now required to be made public within 1 year
- Voluntary e-print archiving at NIH did not result in high compliance
- Publisher resistance

Will this policy be applied to NSF or NASA in the near future?



## U.S. Office of Science and Technology Policy



### Recommendations:

- Stakeholders should work together to develop policies
- Embargo periods of one year or less
- Free access to the Version of Record
- Foster innovation
- Digital preservation

# AAS Newsletter

A Publication for the members of the American Astronomical Society

January/February 2010, Issue 150

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News



## President's Column

John Huchra, president@aas.org

As I write this we are gearing up for the January AAS meeting by preparing the Council meeting agenda and preparing for a strategic planning retreat before the Council meeting. Strategic planning has become a fixture of recent Council activities. We are examining our priorities, evaluating our resources and the match between resources and priorities, and thinking of the ways the Society can be of service to its members. I hope you will help in these activities by contacting your elected AAS Council representatives with thoughts on what we are doing right or wrong and also on what the AAS might do in the future. Don't wait for the next AAS meeting, either.

Open access to the results of scientific research is one of the cornerstones of science. In astronomy, particularly in America, we have an enviable system of journals that allows us to publish our results and ideas in an efficient and cost effective way. By all objective measures the quality of our journals is extremely high. Time to publication is short. The cost of publication, now split between institutional subscriptions and page charges, remains relatively low. Our journals even "archive" moderately large tabular datasets as part of publication.

The Society and our publishers have worked hard to keep costs down and at the same time improve service. We have a mixed business model that works, as noted above, split between subscription and page charge revenue. This model does a reasonably good job of allocating costs across the users of the journals. Sometimes librarians and authors complain that their costs are too high, but most think we're still a pretty good deal.

There is a curious threat to this model, though, that has been percolating in the government for the last few years and that may finally need to be addressed. For what we believe are the best of reasons, the administration is now pushing forward a policy to enhance public access to archived publications that result from Federally funded research.

One version of this requirement has been in place for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) funded research for a few years now, with a legal requirement (in the 2008 Consolidated Appropriations Act) that papers resulting from NIH funded research be placed in a publicly accessible repository (Pub Med Central). Fortunately for scholarly publishers (and that includes us!) that requirement was amended to allow a one year "proprietary" period such that journals would still have a basis for charging for subscriptions.

So here's the deal. It costs money to publish—and preserve and archive—quality journals. Most individuals have access rights to the journals through their library subscriptions (not as one might think through the ADS). The Society's current model spreads the cost between readers and writers in a closer approximation to fairness than just institutional subscriptions would. Bigger users publish more papers and thus cover more of the costs. Ultimately, for Americans, this is close to a single-payer system as library costs are part of your institutions' overhead pool. In effect the Federal government in one way or another covers our publication costs. And a reasonable fraction of the journals' costs are borne by foreign subscriptions and page charges from foreign authors. This system has been shown to work extremely well and the results of our research are distributed and cited world wide. But it may need to change. The AAS through the Publications Board, our Director of Publishing and the Council will keep an eye on the situation and act in the best interests of science and the Society.

continued on page 3

## AAS journals:

“A government mandate will disrupt our publishing model and require significant changes to how we manage our journals.”

**The same is true  
for the *PASP***



So where does the ASP stand?



# Advantages of Open Access Conference Series

- Increase the impact of a meeting
- Allow greater participation in meetings
- Increased readership will increase support for other ASP missions
  - Education, public outreach, etc.



Sales & Subscriptions

Open Access

Quality Books

Service to  
astronomy

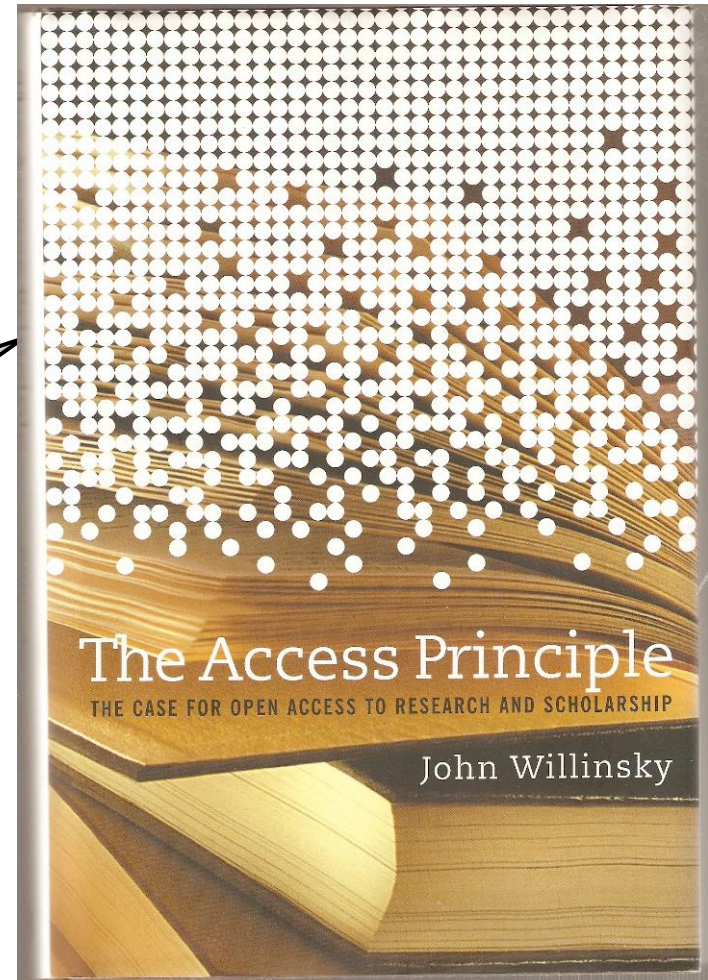
Support ASP

Increased  
Impact

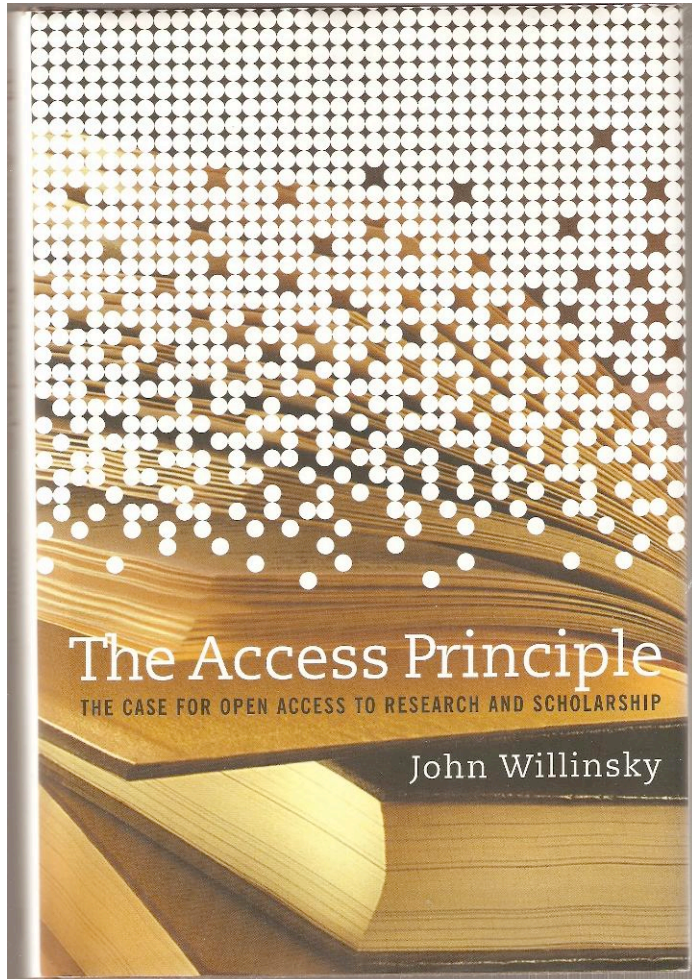
Service to  
world



“From a researcher-as-author perspective, increased readership (and citation) will always trump journal revenues.”



## The Astronomical Society of the Pacific

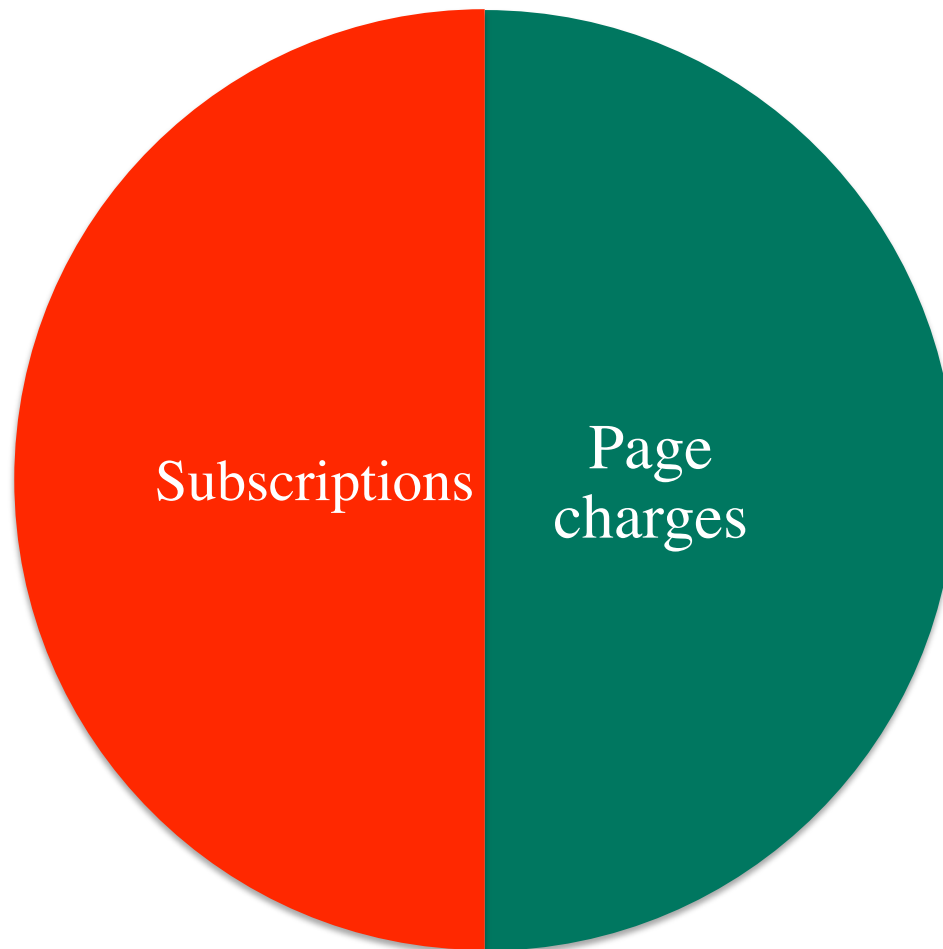


“Publishers are there...to support the **authority, quality, accessibility, longevity, and recognition** of scholarship.”

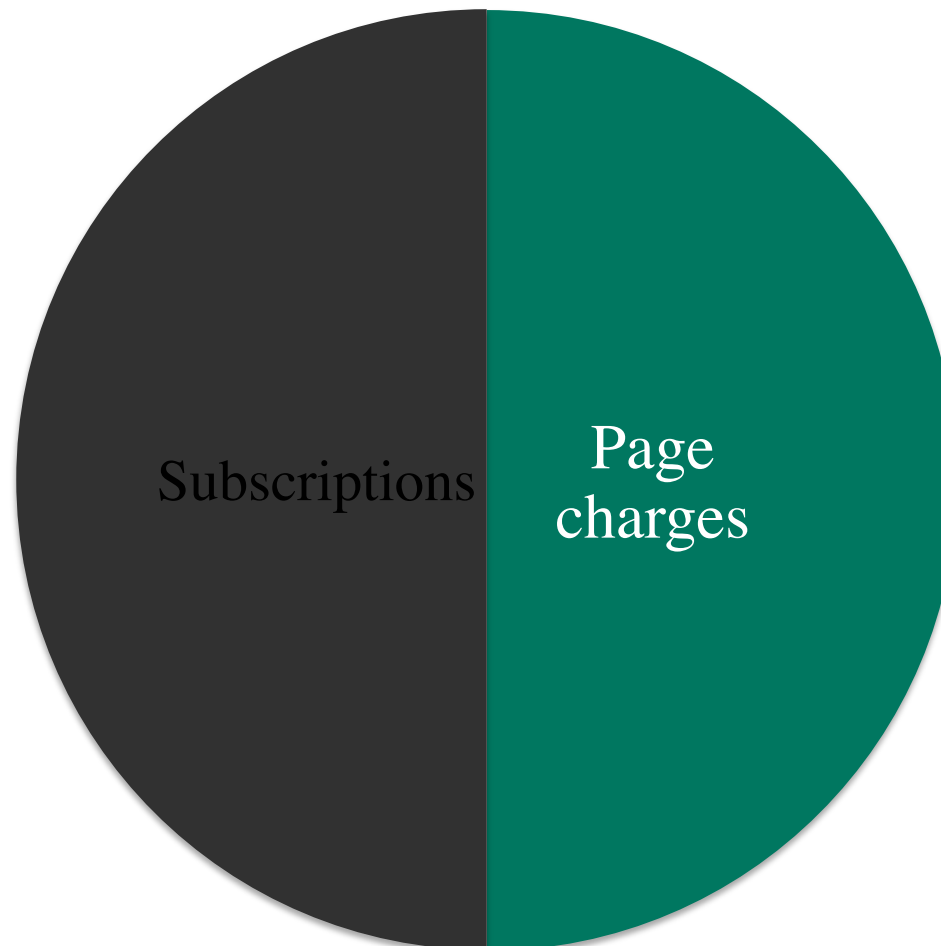
(this doesn't come for free)



## PASP (and AAS) Journal Sources of Income



## PASP (and AAS) Journal Sources of Income



Loss of subscriptions = 50% loss of income!

## ASP Conference Series Sources of Income



## ASP Conference Series Sources of Income



Loss of subscriptions and sales > 50% loss of income!



## ASP Conference Series Sources of Income



Should authors and conference organizers have to pay for everyone else to use their work for free?

# Open Access Issues

Should we...

- Pass on all expenses to authors, conference attendees, and conference sponsors?
- Stop printing books?
- Look for completely new ways to fund the series (i.e., sponsors)?



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Who will our new  
sponsors be?  
Governmental  
agencies?

## Open Access Issues

- Going to electronic-only publication does not save enough to pay for open access
- Demand for our printed volumes is still high
- We can increase our impact by printing volumes more quickly and reducing the “proprietary” time
- Open access is already available in part through arXiv.org and ADS



Where do we go from here?

(and where are we now, anyway?)



## We are used!

- The top 10 sources cited by CfA scientists in 2008 were:

– 11801	ApJ	560	Nature
– 3733	A & A	449	PASP
– 3524	MNRAS	381	ASPCS
– 1992	AJ	311	ARA&A
– 1120	ApJS	303	PhRvD

From Michael Kurtz. 639 refereed articles.



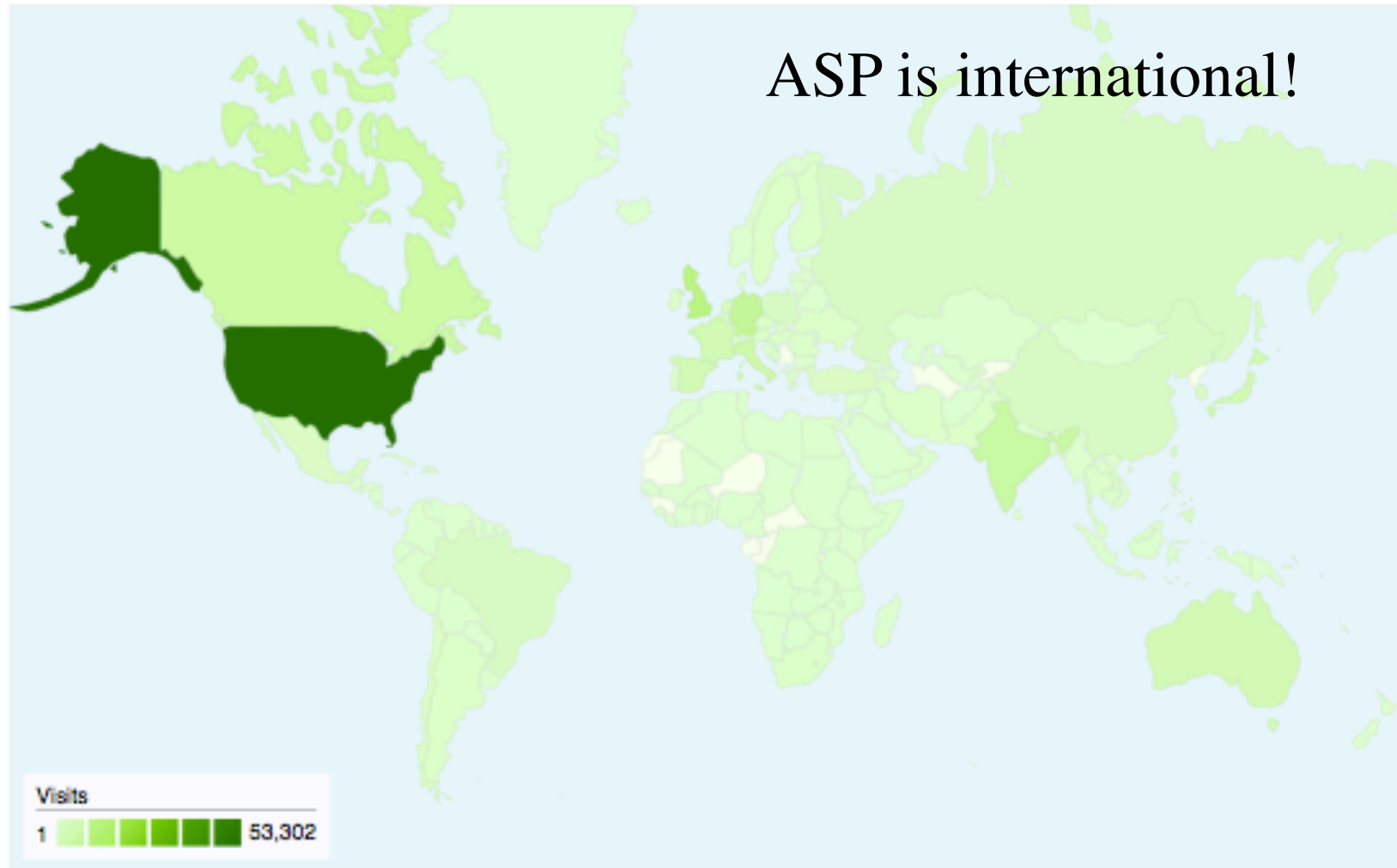
## The Astronomical Society of the Pacific

www.aspbooks.org

**Map Overlay**

Feb 12, 2009 - Feb 12, 2010

Comparing to: Site



148,283 visits came from 195 countries/territories



# Why do people read our books?

- ASP Conference Series volumes are the recognized standard in astronomy.
- ASPCS volumes are a snapshot of the current state of research in many sub-disciplines.
- ASPCS is a primary means of communicating research obtained with specific instruments or satellite missions.
- ASPCS attracts many recurring meetings.
- 420 published volumes, >30,000 papers by >35,000 authors.
- 5 Monograph volumes.



# Coming Soon...

## Conferences to be published in 2010:

LISA VI

Galaxy Wars: Star Formation and Stellar  
Populations in Interacting Galaxies

SOHO 23: Understanding a Peculiar  
Solar Minimum

SnowPac 2009

Hot & Cool: Bridging Gaps in Massive  
Star Evolution

Accretion and Ejection in AGN: A  
Global View

ADASS XIX

Binaries – Key to Comprehension of the  
Universe

Galaxy Center Workshop

ASTRONUM 2009

New Horizons in Astronomy: Frank N.  
Bash Symposium

Education and Outreach: Forging a Path  
to the Future

Astro-polarimetry: Science from Small  
to Large Telescopes

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Hinode Science Meeting

Spitzer Science Center Pathways  
Towards Habitable Planets

The 6th Intl. Conf. on the Inspiration of  
Astronomical Phenomena

Learning from Inquiry in Practice

The Dynamic Interstellar Medium: the  
Canadian Galactic Plane Celebration

Why Galaxies Care About AGB Stars II



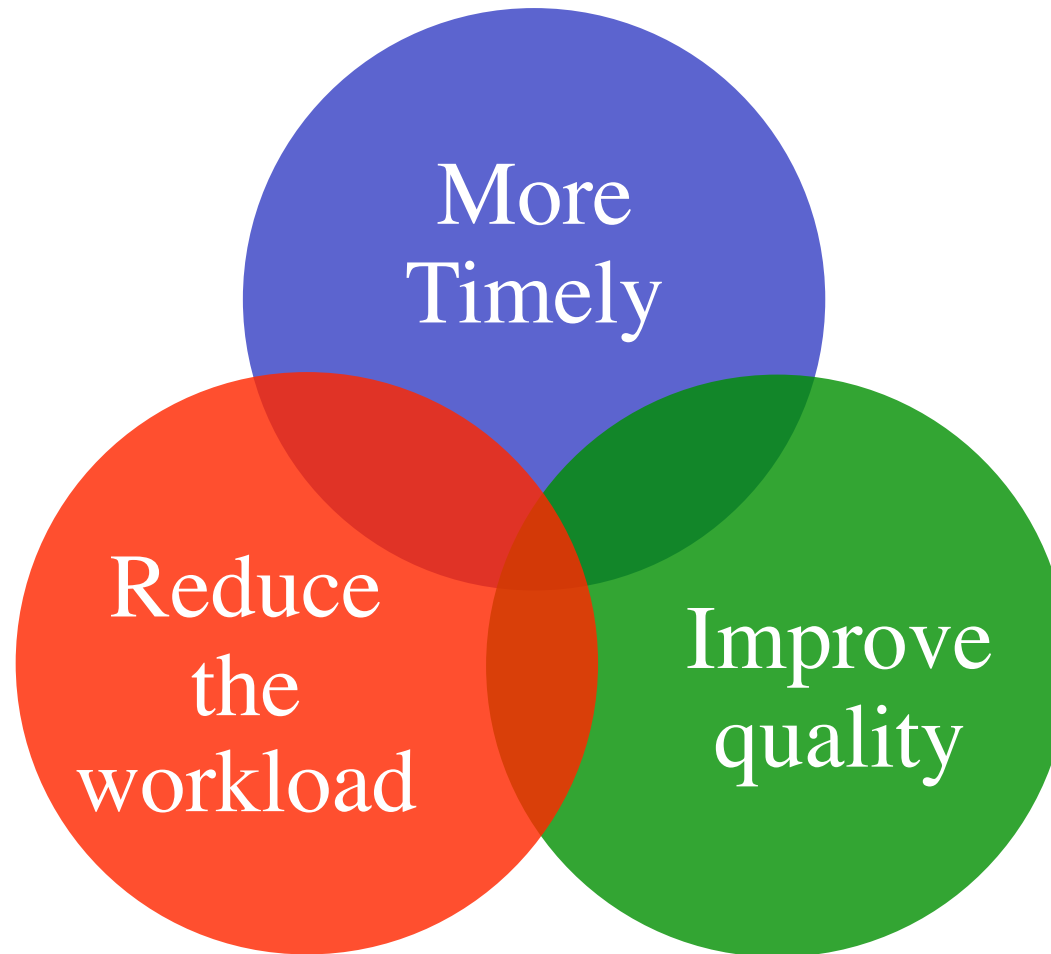
# ASP Publication Survey

ASP survey results:

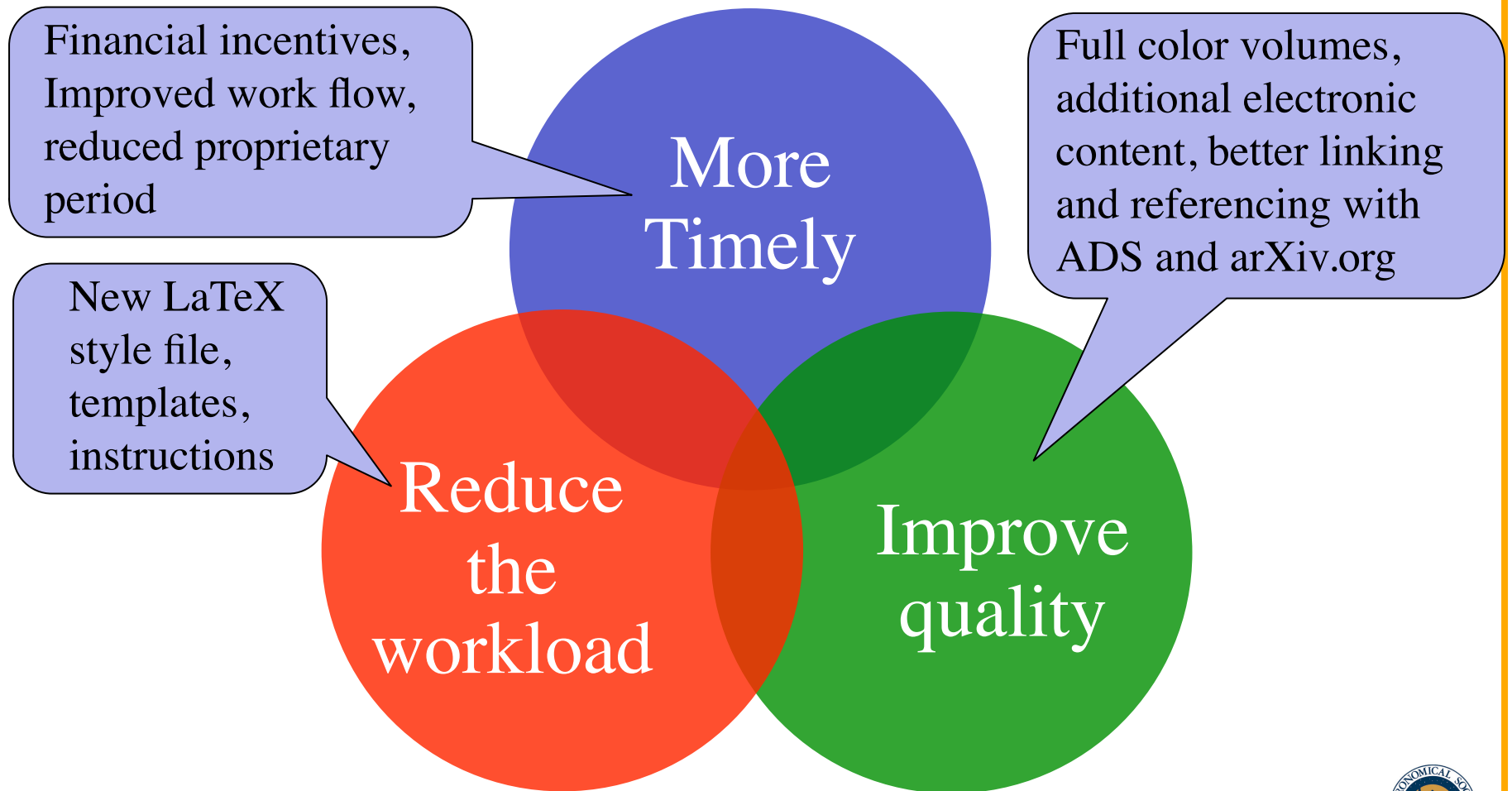
- Printed books and journals are used by as many people as electronic versions
- Top reasons for publishing with ASPCS are low cost and reputation
- Most important issues: timely publication and open access
- Most readers of PASP still print articles to read, or read the print editions



# ASPCS Current Initiatives



# ASPCS Current Initiatives



## Personal Perspectives

- Demand for printed volumes is still high
- Subscribers are increasingly using electronic formats and access
- We can increase our impact by publishing volumes more quickly and reducing the embargo period
- We will continue to publish the high-quality volumes our readers expect (print and electronic)



## Personal Perspectives

*We want to continue publishing  
affordable, high-quality  
conference proceedings!*

