

Cost Monitoring in Finland

Dr Timo Vilén

Project Open Cost Workshop 6.10.2022

“All costs associated with scholarly publishing”?



Costs can be broken down along various dimensions:

Nature	Identifiability	Function	Behavior	Policy
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Material, labour, other expenses (A balancing category containing all the expenses other than material and labour)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Direct (can be traced to a particular publication or staff role); Indirect: cannot be (easily) assigned to a particular publication, must be allocated	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Publishing fees, transformative agreements, administration etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fixed costs, variable costs, mixed costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discretionary, committed

Three ways to approach costs associated with scholarly publishing

Cost Type	Definition	Identifiability	Trackability	Quantifiability	Agency costs	Transparency
Basic Costs	Out-of-pocket (direct) costs such as APCs, BPCs, subscription fees, membership fees etc.	Easy to identify, can be traced to a particular publication	Yes, but not necessarily easy to track	Yes (€)	Not low	Basic transparency
Full Costs	Basic costs plus (mostly indirect) "system costs" including administration, monitoring, coordination, green OA (depositing in and maintaining repositories) etc. = staff time	Not too difficult to identify, cannot be traced to a particular publication	To some extent	Yes (in person years or €)	More than above	Full transparency
Full Costs Plus	Full costs plus " in-kind " contributions such as the value of resources contributed to the running of Diamond OA journals	Difficult to identify, cannot be traced to a particular publication	Hardly	Scarcely	Even more costly	Full transparency plus

From low hanging fruits
to estimates and
awareness raising

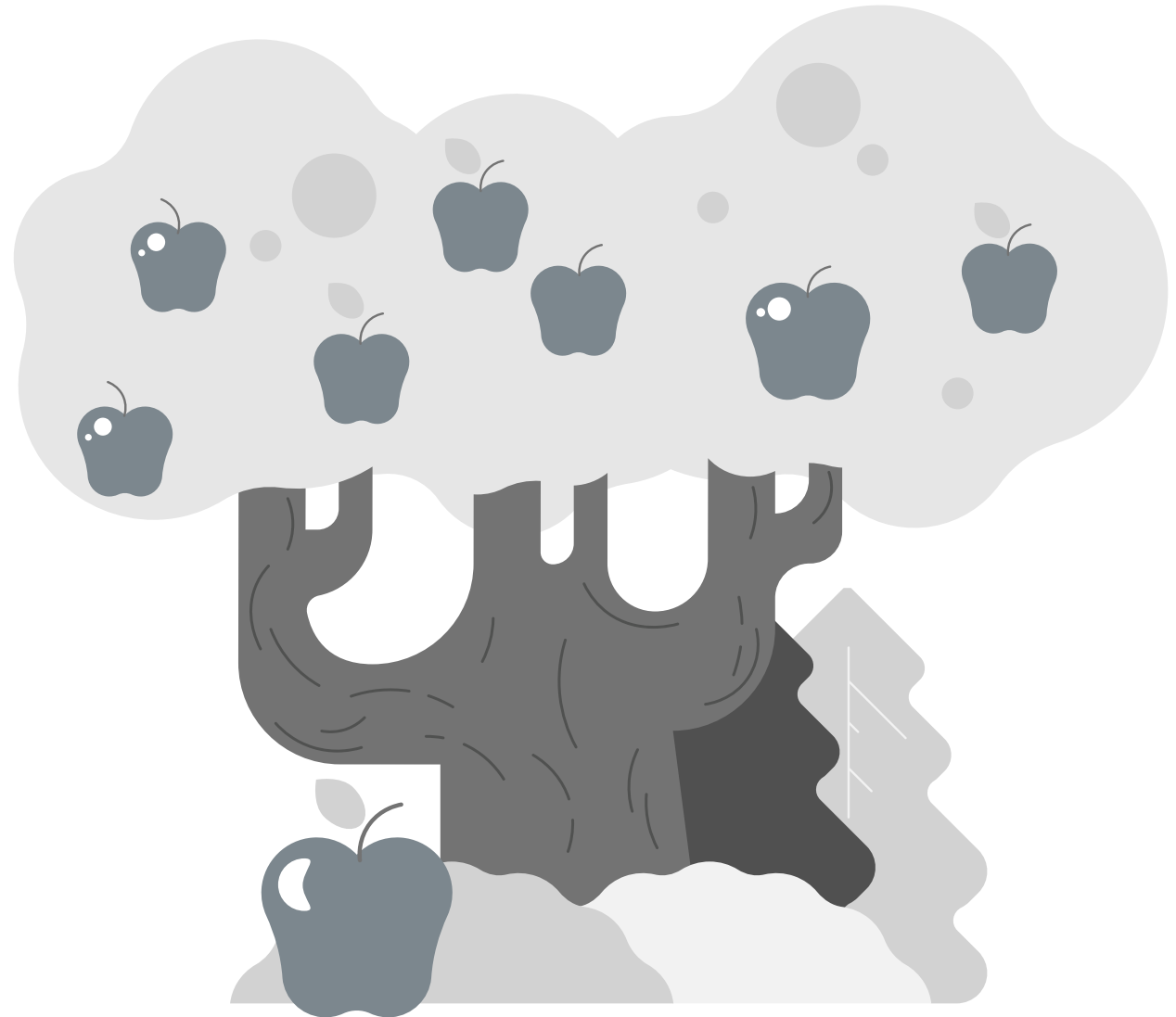
**In-kind
contributions:**

Become aware of,
possibly estimate

Indirect costs:

Estimate, possibly
track

Direct costs: Track



Monitoring and recording of cost data in Finland – an overview

“The Big Picture”

Cost	Data source	By Whom	When	Results published in	Data openly available	Comments
Publication/open access fees (APCs+BPCs)	OpenAPC (VIRTA) & survey	Institutions, CSC	Ongoing	OpenAPC, research.fi	Yes (from 1/2023)	Includes individual APCs as well as lump sums (not validated), no breakdown by gold vs. hybrid APCs
Transformative agreements	FinELib & survey	FinELib, institutions	Ongoing	OpenAPC, research.fi	Yes (from 1/2023)	Breakdown by publisher and institution
Licence and subscription fees	FinELib & survey	FinELib, institutions	Ongoing, annually/biannually on national level	research.fi	Yes (from 1/2023)	Lump sums only, no breakdown by publisher
Printed materials	Survey	Institutions	Annually/biannually on national level	research.fi	Yes (from 1/2023)	Lump sums only, no breakdown by publisher
Membership and support fees for open scholarly publishing infrastructures and platforms	FinELib & survey	FinELib, institutions	Annually/biannually on national level	research.fi	Yes (from 1/2023)	Lump sums only, no breakdown by infrastructure/service
The costs of organizations' own scientific OA publishing activities	Survey	Institutions	Annually/biannually on national level	research.fi	Yes (from 1/2023)	Lumps sums only
Publishing in an open access repository	Survey	Institutions	Annually/biannually on national level	research.fi	Yes (from 1/2023)	Estimates in lump sums only in euros and in person-years, breakdown by maintenance and personnel costs
Support for open scholarly publishing	Survey	Institutions, FinELib	Annually/biannually on national level	research.fi	Yes (from 1/2023)	Estimates in person-years

Steps towards the standardization of cost data in Finland

APCs and BPCs:

- Open APCs data schema and definitions

Other costs of publishing:

- Definitions aligned with the ones used by Bibsam - but with some additional cost types and changes

Examples of definitions used in the assessment of total costs

column	source	description
Licence and subscription fees	FinELib, Institutions (Survey)	Costs of scientific e-journals, e-books and full-text databases to which the organisation has obtained access directly from a distributor or a publisher (not through FinELib). No costs of archive and source materials, statistical databases or reference databases or databases other than those containing scientific full-text publications. The division between "scientific" and "non-scientific" will be made as far as possible based on the publisher or main content. Expressed as lump sums, i.e. not broken down by publisher. Cf. Bibsam's definitions
Publishing in an open access repository	Institutions (Survey)	Costs of publishing in an open access repository (personnel costs for infrastructure maintenance and repository work). The responses are estimates and are reported as lump sums. An estimate of maintenance costs is given in euros and personnel costs are estimated in person-years, accurate to the nearest decimal. More detailed instructions are provided in the questionnaire.
Membership and sponsorship fees for open scholarly publishing infrastructures and platforms	FinELib, Institutions (Survey)	Sponsorship and membership fees for open scholarly publishing infrastructures and platforms (e.g. arXiv.org, DOAJ). Reported as a lump sum.

- More information and a link to the survey (with definitions):

<https://avointiede.fi/en/news/open-science-monitoring-begins>

OPEN SCIENCE MONITORING BEGINS!

18.5.2022



How well have we achieved the objectives set for the open science and research? Open Science and Research monitoring will provide answers. Data collection is open 19.5.-30.6.2022.

What tools do we use?

Institutional CRIS systems (Pure, Converis)

- Recording APCs/BPCs

JUSTUS Publication Information Reporting Service designed by the Finnish IT Centre for Science (CSC)

- Recording APCs/BPCs

VIRTA Publication Information Service

- Aggregates publication information from institutional CRIS systems or databases as well as from JUSTUS
- Support for reporting cost data (APCs/APCs) since 2021

OpenAPC

- APC/BPC data from VIRTA or directly from individual institutions (manually)

Research.fi

- A service/portal provided by the Ministry of Education and Culture and designed by CSC, part of the National Research Information Hub
- Information on Finnish publications, research projects, infrastructures, organizations, research data, statistics, **from 11-12/2022 visualizations on cost data (total costs of scholarly publishing)**

The Journey of APCs/BPCs to Research.fi

Pure

Converis

JUSTUS



What about transformative agreements?



Agreements shared in ESAC's register



Costs and article output monitored internally (using Excel spreadsheets), key figures and indicators reported to FinELib's steering group, institutions etc.



Key figures (OA uptake and output) presented on FinELib's homepage since 2021. **Plans to add cost data to increase transparency.**



Data for FinELib's transformative agreements available on **Open APC** (since 2021)



Total value and breakdown by institution provided in research.fi as part of total costs of scholarly publishing (from 11/2022)

FinELib's OA monitoring page 1/2

Results & Impacts

Tweet

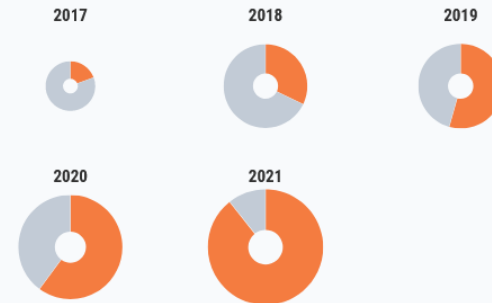
Monitoring the impacts of read & publish agreements

Most of the [FinELib's agreements](#) with major scholarly publishers have since 2017 allowed authors to publish their research OA at no additional cost to them or with discounted APC (*article processing charge*).

The number of FinELib's transformative agreements allowing OA publishing as well as the number of articles published OA through our agreements have increased every year. On this page, you can explore some of the outcomes of FinELib's agreements.

Published articles

Open Access articles published through FinELib's agreements Other articles

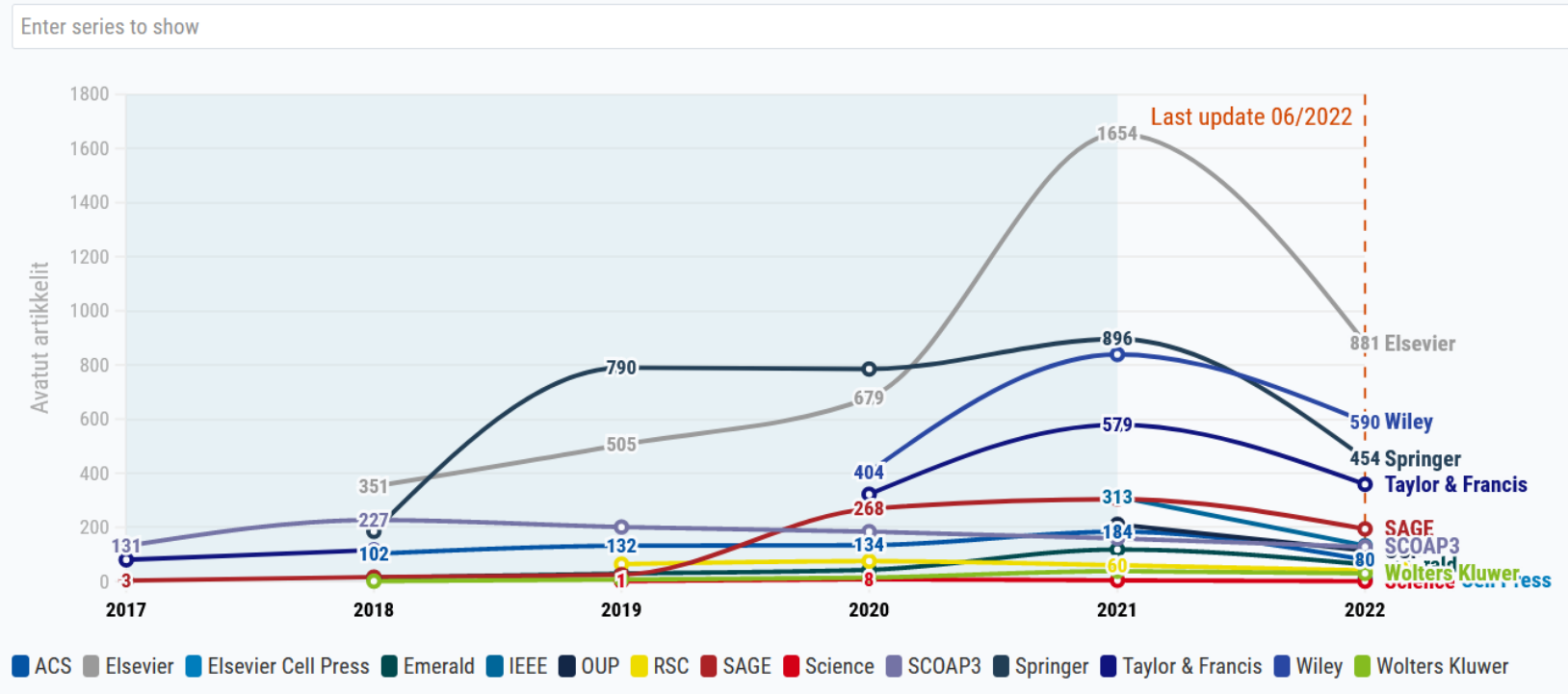


Open Access articles: articles published through FinELib's transformative agreements • Other articles: articles published behind a paywall and OA articles published outside FinELib agreements.

FinELib's OA monitoring page 2/2

OA articles published through FinELib's agreements by publisher

Full year figures updated until 2021. The data for 2022 is from January to June.



OA articles published through FinELib's transformative agreements by publisher

Search for information on research in Finland

Search target

For example, publication, field of science, keyword

SEARCH

Search help



Publications
639 566



People
Coming soon



Projects
9 022



Research data
11 281



Infrastructures
156



Other research activities
Coming soon



Organizations
75

Science and research in Finland



Latest science and research news

3D-tulostamisen seminaari päättyi Kupittaalla – Turku nousemassa lisäävän valmistuksen kärkeen



17.06.2022

Open funding calls

Maaperän tutkimus- ja kunnostusyhdistys Mutku ry:n apurahahaku

Hakuaika päättyy 30.06.2022

GIVE FEEDBACK!

Kustannustyyppi

All

Avoimen julkaisemisen
kustannukset

OA-julkaisumaksut

Transformatiiviset
sopimukset (FinELib)

Avoimen julkaisemisen kustannukset

● Ammattikorkeakoulu ● FinELib ● Tutkimuslaitos ● Yliopisto

20M €

15M €

10M €

5M €

0M €

Transformatiiviset sopim...

Lisenssi- ja tilausmaksut

OA-julkaisumaksut

Rinnakkaistallentaminen

Painetut aineistot

Tieteellisen OA-kustannusto...

Avoimen julkaisemisen infra...

Kotimaiset tieteelliset kausij...

Challenges and stumbling blocks

“A transformative agreement”?

- Defies definition
- A tough nut to crack from a standardization point of view

Indirect costs?

- Negotiating and administering TAs takes time and is costly. How should these costs (mostly staff time) be dealt with?

Monitoring the costs is important...

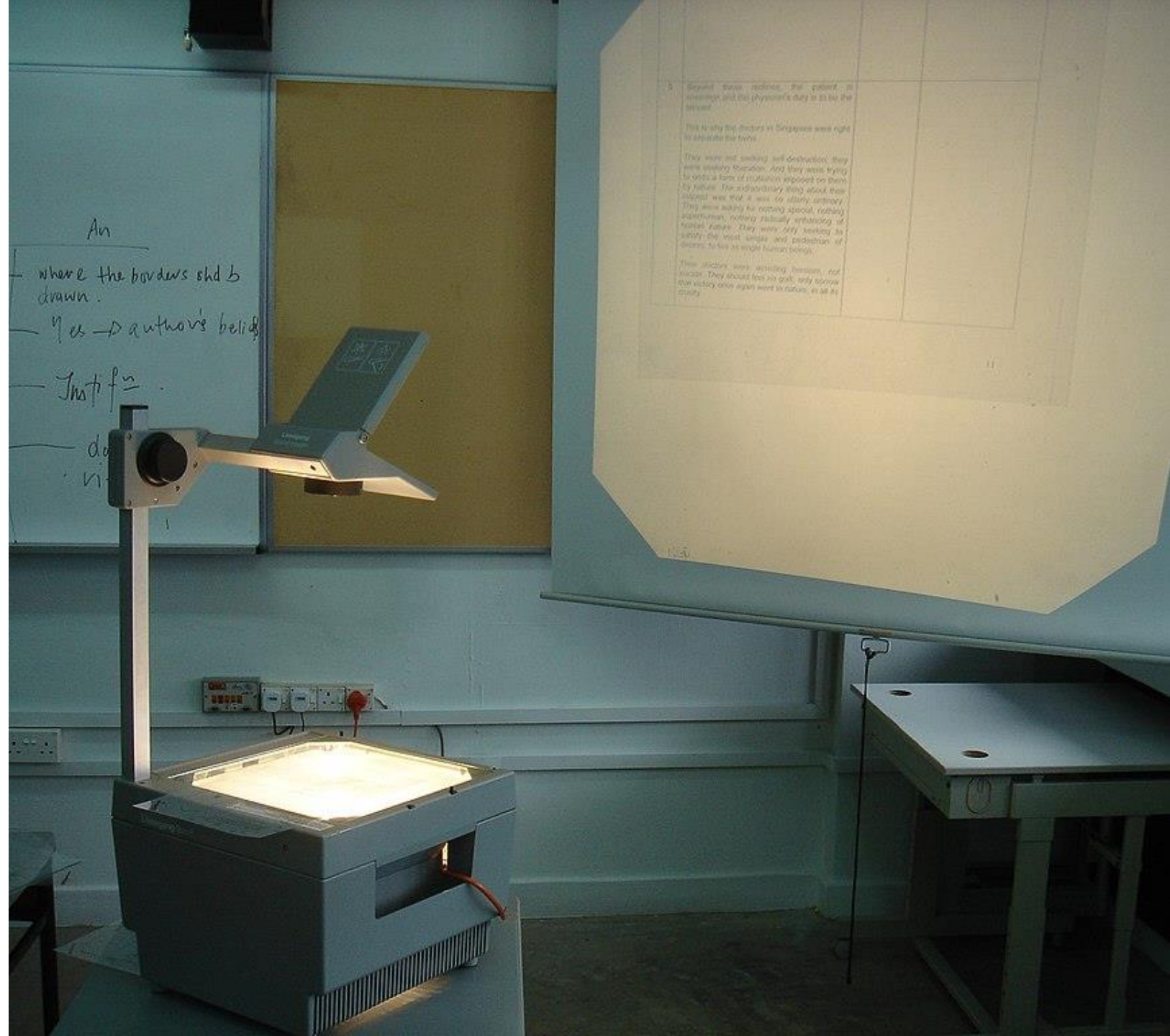


... but what is the point?



Transparency?

Wikipedia: " A **transparency**, also known variously as a **viewfoil**, **foil**, or **viewgraph**, is a thin sheet of [transparent](#) flexible material, typically [polyester](#) (historically [cellulose acetate](#)), onto which figures can be drawn. These are then placed on an [overhead projector](#) for display to an audience. Many companies and small organizations use a system of projectors and transparencies in meetings and other groupings of people, though this system is being largely replaced by [video projectors](#) and [interactive whiteboards](#). "



What is transparency anyway?

- The meaning varies between users and context
- Typically, means something like **openness** or "**not secret**"
- Important to distinguish between transparency:
 - as a **tool**, as a means to an end. Relates to predictability (*ex ante transparency*)
 - as a **principle**, as an end in itself. Relates to accountability or legitimacy, "right to know" (*ex post transparency*)
- Common denominator: not only something we can observe, expect, or deliver (grudgingly or willingly) but something that is **relevant** to the receiver

**Greater transparency
is good and
beneficial...**

Because it allows us to
see (more clearly) and
make better decisions



... but not unconditionally so

- **Transparency, too, comes at a cost** (and has other kinds of implications, too), suggesting that beyond a certain point, extra transparency is no longer desirable
- **Full transparency?**
- **Or optimal transparency?**
 - The (welfare) benefits of greater transparency outweigh the costs associated with achieving it.

While data is key...

WORDS OF WISDOM

*"Without data you're
just another person
with an opinion."*

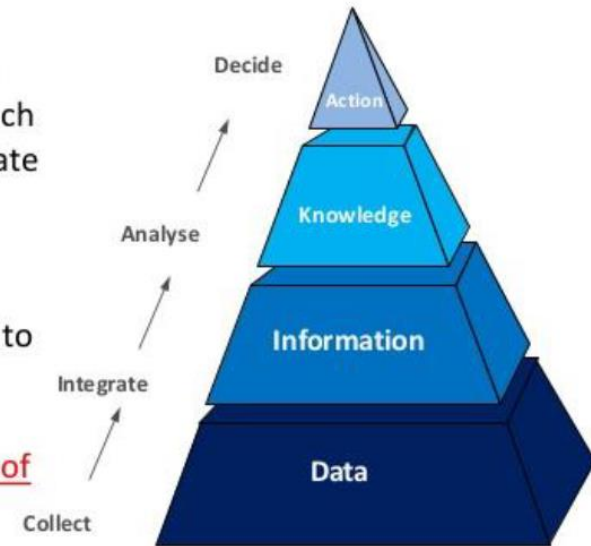
W. EDWARDS DEMING

DOZUKI.COM

Business Intelligence: a definition



Business Intelligence (BI) is the continual process in which organizations collect, integrate and analyse data in a structured way in order to apply the resulting information and knowledge to decision making processes with the intention of improving the performance of the organization



© Decision Support Systems 2014

... let us not become obsessed with it

- "Temptation to turn mysteries into puzzles, with the presumption that all the pieces can be found" (Kevin O'Connell)
- Important not to lose sight of the value delivered **at the end of the process** (the outcome we hope to achieve)



Asking the Wh questions

Why are we collecting this data?

Who needs it and for what?

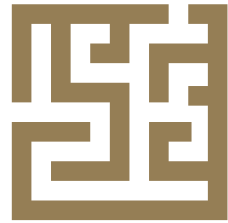
What are the questions we are trying to address with this data?

What is it that we don't know or are not seeing (but should know or see if we had the data)?

Why am I running out of time?



Other critical questions



How much data is enough?

When we've found all or most of the pieces? OR
When it's comprehensive enough to provide us
with the insight necessary to take the right
action



Do we already have enough data?

If yes, should we be placing more focus on
analysis, communicating our results,
formulating new and more precise "intelligence
questions" etc.

Conclusions



The fact that we *could* achieve full transparency doesn't necessarily mean that we *should*



Similarly, the fact that we *can* monitor or record something doesn't necessarily mean that we *should* (because it costs too much or is too time-consuming or because the the data obtained would be of little relevance)



At the same time, the fact that we *cannot* monitor something doesn't necessarily mean that we *shouldn't* give it a go (because even becoming aware of "hidden" costs may be important)



What is it that we don't know?



www.kansalliskirjasto.fi

timo.vilen@helsinki.fi

finelib@helsinki.fi

 FinELib