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Sprouts, Open Access Publishing and the Future of Information Systems Research

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Sprouts, Open Access Publishing and the Future of Information Systems Research

Michel Avital
University of Amsterdam, Netherlands

Abstract

In this presentation, I explore the potential role of Sprouts in the ecosystem of IS research publishing. This presentation was made in Twenty Ninth International Conference on Information Systems, Paris 2008, as part of a panel on "Open Access Publishing and the Future of Information Systems Research." The panel description is available in ICIS 2008 Proceedings at: <http://aisel.aisnet.org/icis2008/126/> and the other presentations are available through the following: Bo-Christer Björk: <http://sprouts.aisnet.org/8-33/> ; Kevin Crowston: <http://sprouts.aisnet.org/8-32/> ; and Ann Majchrzak: <http://sprouts.aisnet.org/8-34/>

Keywords: Sprouts, Scholarly Publishing, Open Access, Working Papers, Online Repositories

Permanent URL: <http://sprouts.aisnet.org/8-35>

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Sprouts, Open Access Publishing and the Future of Information Systems Research

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Open Access Publishing and the Future of IS Research

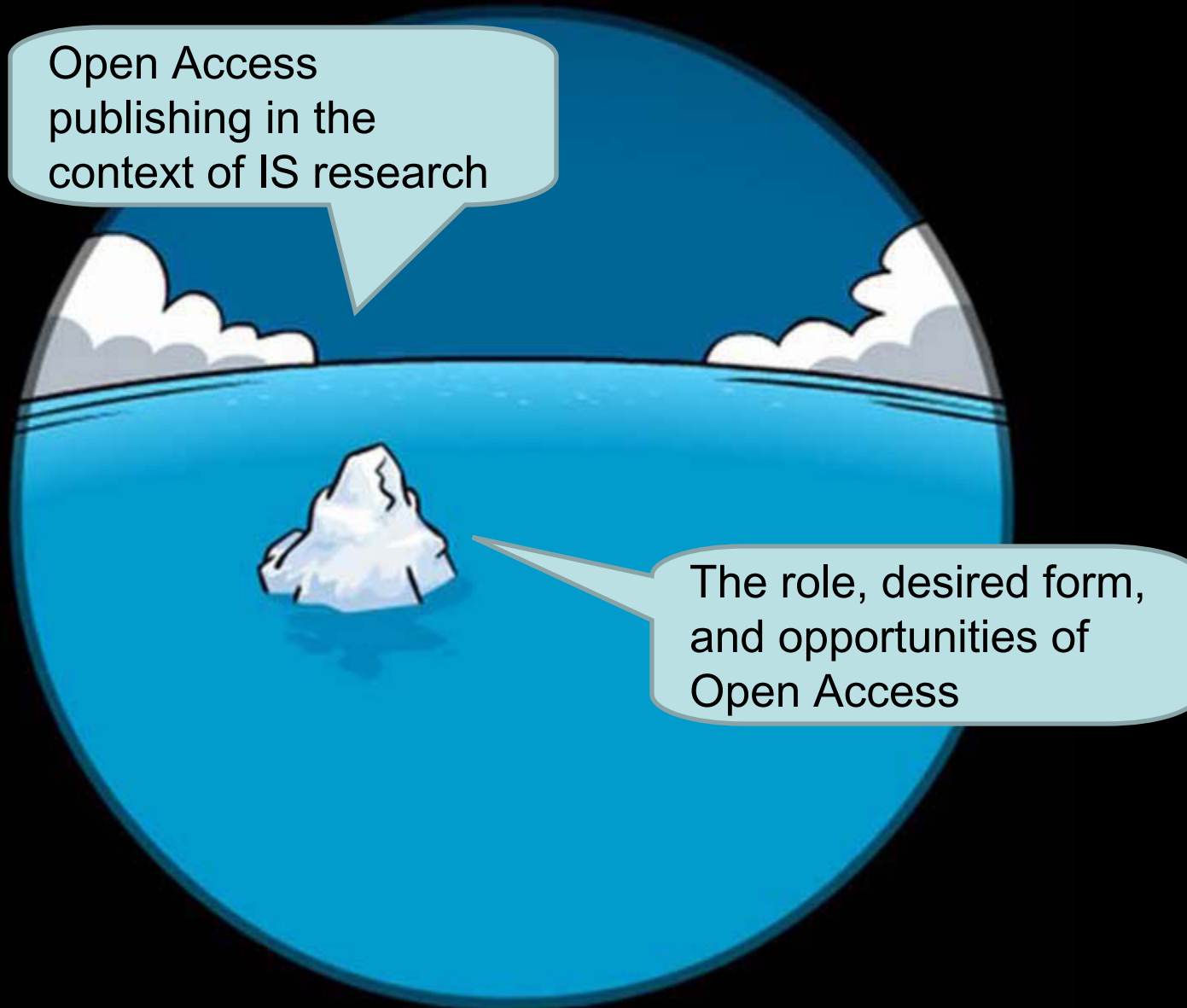
Abstract

The advent of the Internet and the subsequent adoption of open access schemas are changing the nature of the scholarly discourse. In response, we will stimulate a debate about the role and desired form of open access publishing in the context of the IS discipline. In particular, we explore the potential contribution of establishing an open access disciplinary repository of working papers and work in progress. Furthermore, we propose its design principle and illustrate our thesis with a working prototype of such disciplinary repository entitled *Sprouts* (<http://sprouts.aisnet.org>). Finally, we call for participation and further action in realizing a global repository of IS research in progress.

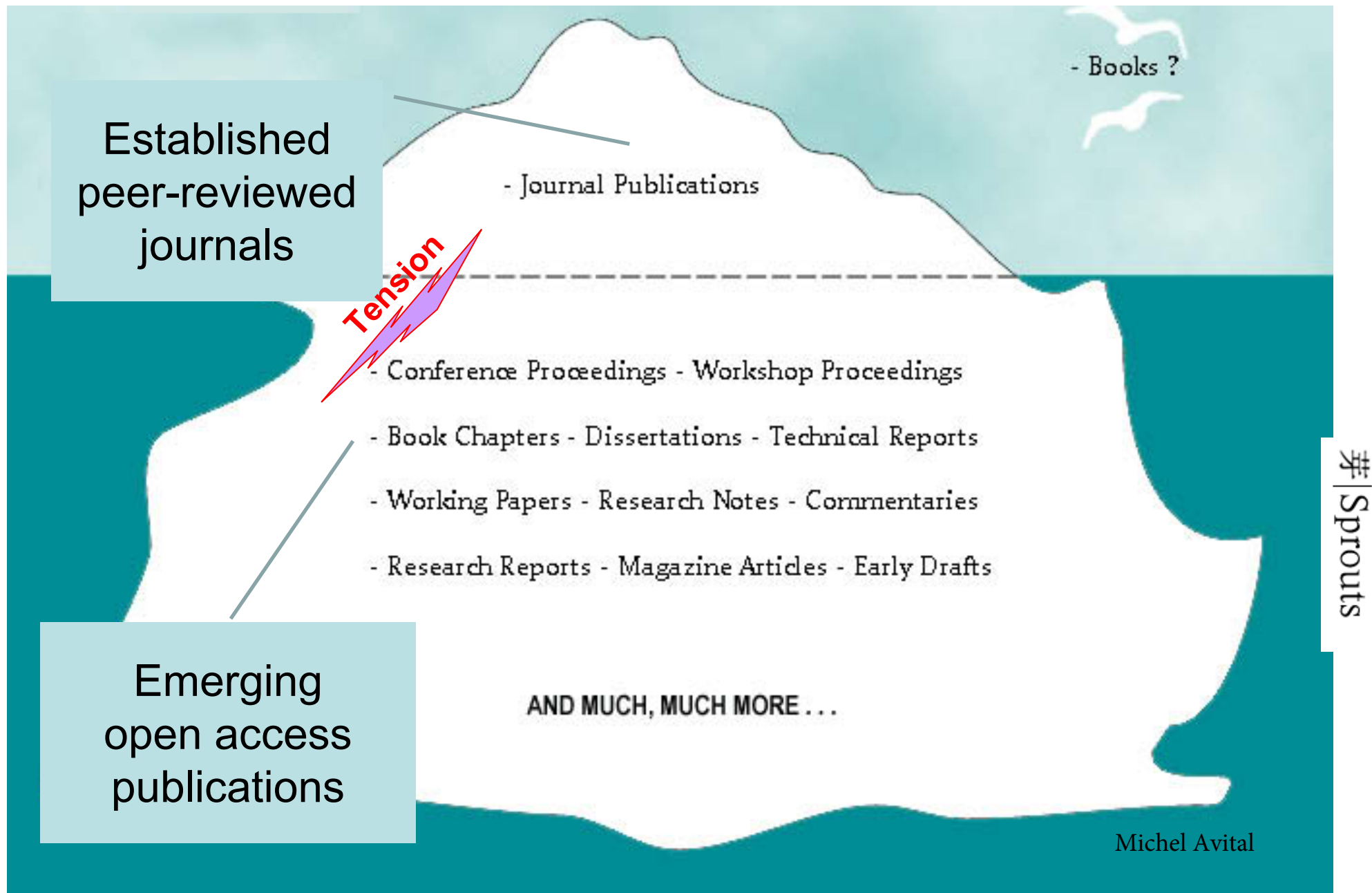
Keywords: Open Access, Working Papers, ePrints, Online Repositories, Sprouts, Scholarly Publishing

Avital, M., Björk, B.C., Boland, R.J., Crowston, K. and Majchrzak, A. (2008), "Open Access Publishing and the Future of IS Research," *Proceedings of the International Conference on Information Systems (ICIS)*, Paris, France.

The Underlying Context



The discourse so far focuses on the economics of knowledge production and stimulates a tension between the traditional journals and open access publications



Some argue that
the journals
are not sustainable

Michel Avital



http://i.dailymail.co.uk/i/pix/2008/06/22/article-1028425-020F069F000004B0-428_468x435.jpg

Will the established journals survive?



芽|Sprouts

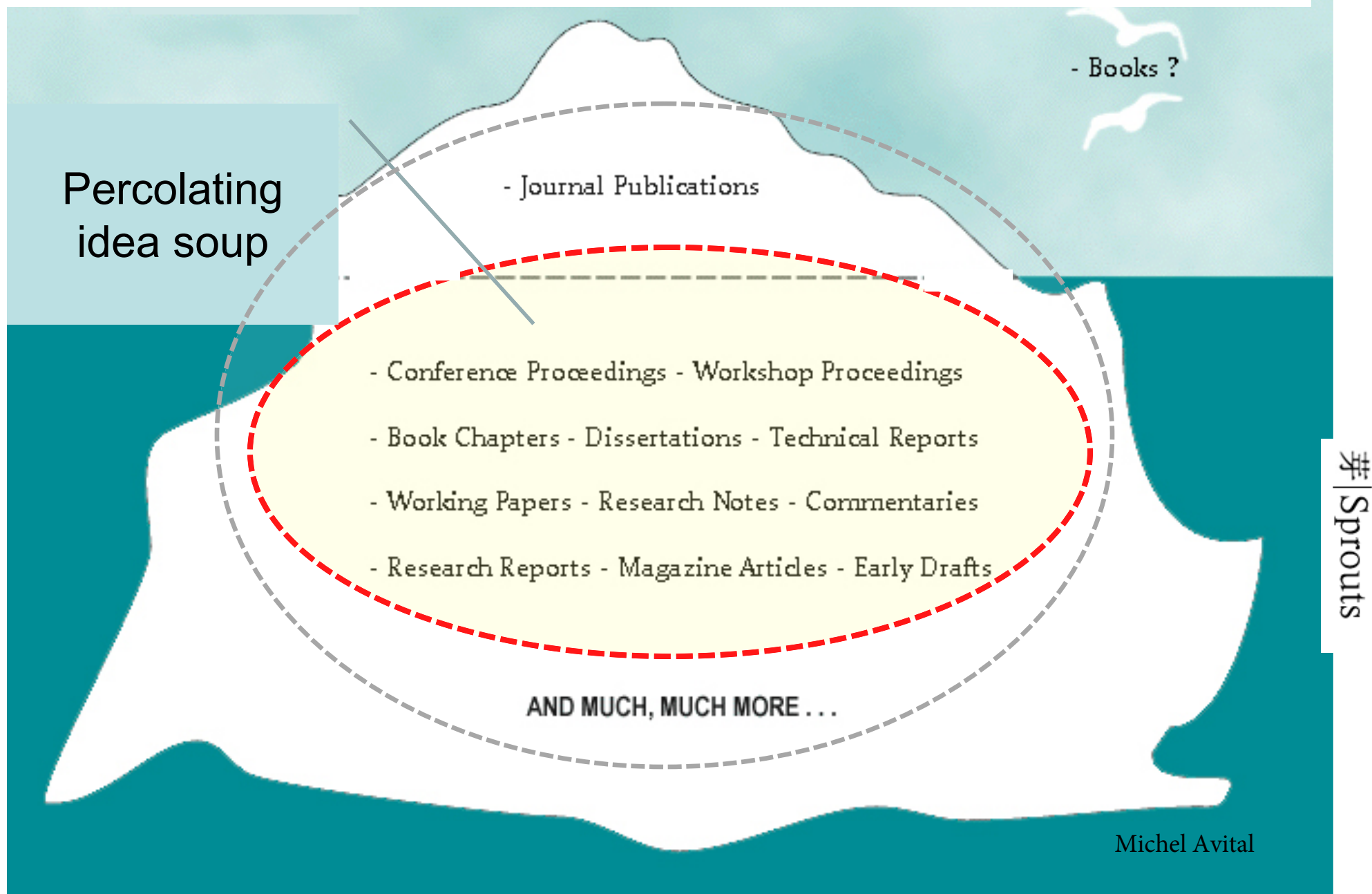
Maybe, and maybe not

<http://picayune.uclink.com/comics/bbs/2008/bbs080809.jpg>

"I've adapted, Reginald... now I'm a solar bear."

Irrespectively, we'd like to stir the discussion to a different direction

We take a systemic view on the entire ecosystem of publishing and focus on the unorganized subset of pre-publications...



...and ask: should we care for these emergent forms of publishing?

**Should we
care for...?**

- Journal Publications

- Books ?

- Conference Proceedings - Workshop Proceedings
- Book Chapters - Dissertations - Technical Reports
- Working Papers - Research Notes - Commentaries
- Research Reports - Magazine Articles - Early Drafts

AND MUCH, MUCH MORE . . .

芽 | Sprouts

Michel Avital

**Should we
care for...**

- Books ?

**new,
nascent
ideas?**

- Journal Publications

**identifying off
social network
collaborators?**

- Proceedings - Workshop Proceedings

- Chapters - Dissertations - Technical Reports

- Working Papers - Research Notes - Commentaries

**details-rich
Materials?**

- Research Reports - Magazine Articles - Early Drafts

**getting feedback
for work-in-
progress?**

AND MUCH, MUCH MORE

**exposure to non-
Anglo-Saxon's
perspectives?**

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If the answer is...



YES (go to the next page...)



NO (exit here)

The next question is...

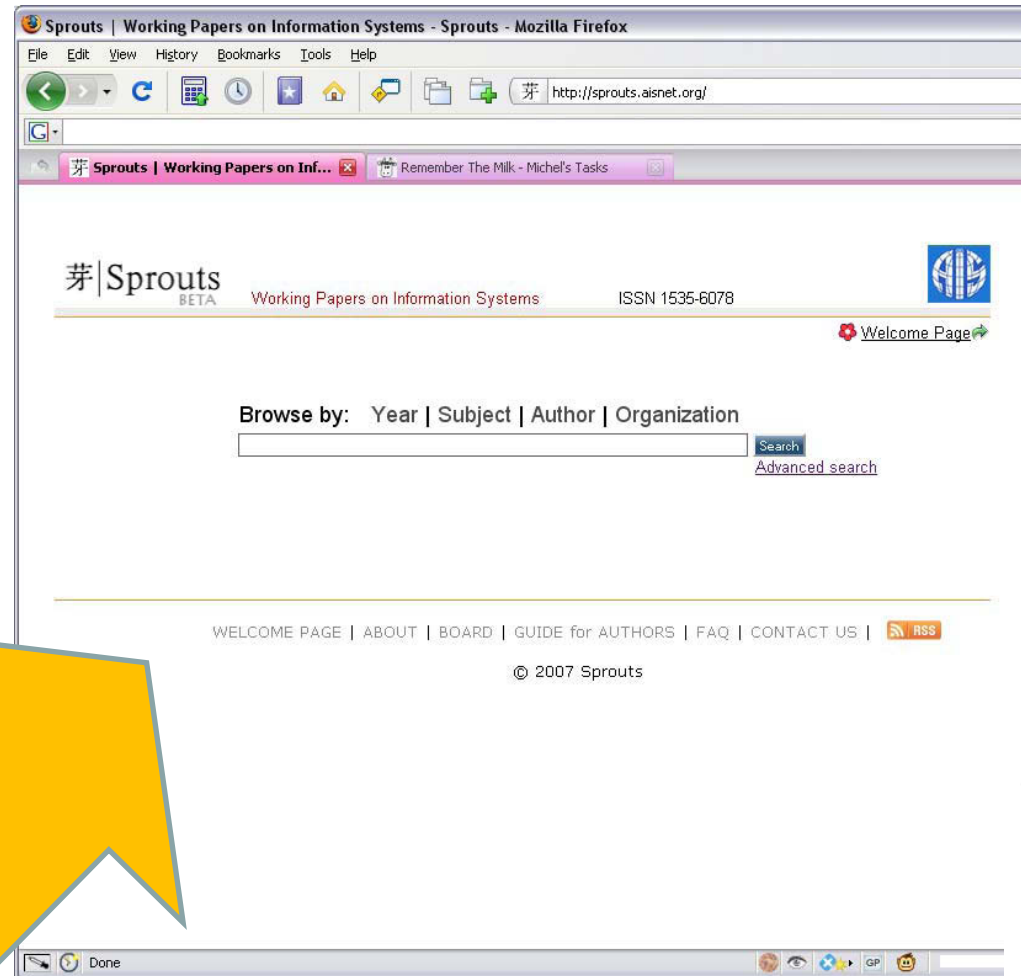
**How do we turn
the “idea soup”
into “idea culture”?**

And the answer is...

Centralized open-access
disciplinary repository
of anything that is not a
journal article

Michel Avital

In other words, by depositing all the loose material in one accessible place



Michel Avital

How do we improve the current status quo?

Community-Wide Benefits

1. Access and Availability

- One stop community portal for working papers, proceedings and research in progress
- Allowing quantitative and qualitative data sets to be available for access by all
- Multi-language support to enable global participation
- Stable permanent address for each article
- Uniform and clean user interface with multiple viewpoints
- Standardized metadata to enable enhanced search and indexing
- Customized auto notification of particular new articles available
- A periodical digest email with all new additions community wide

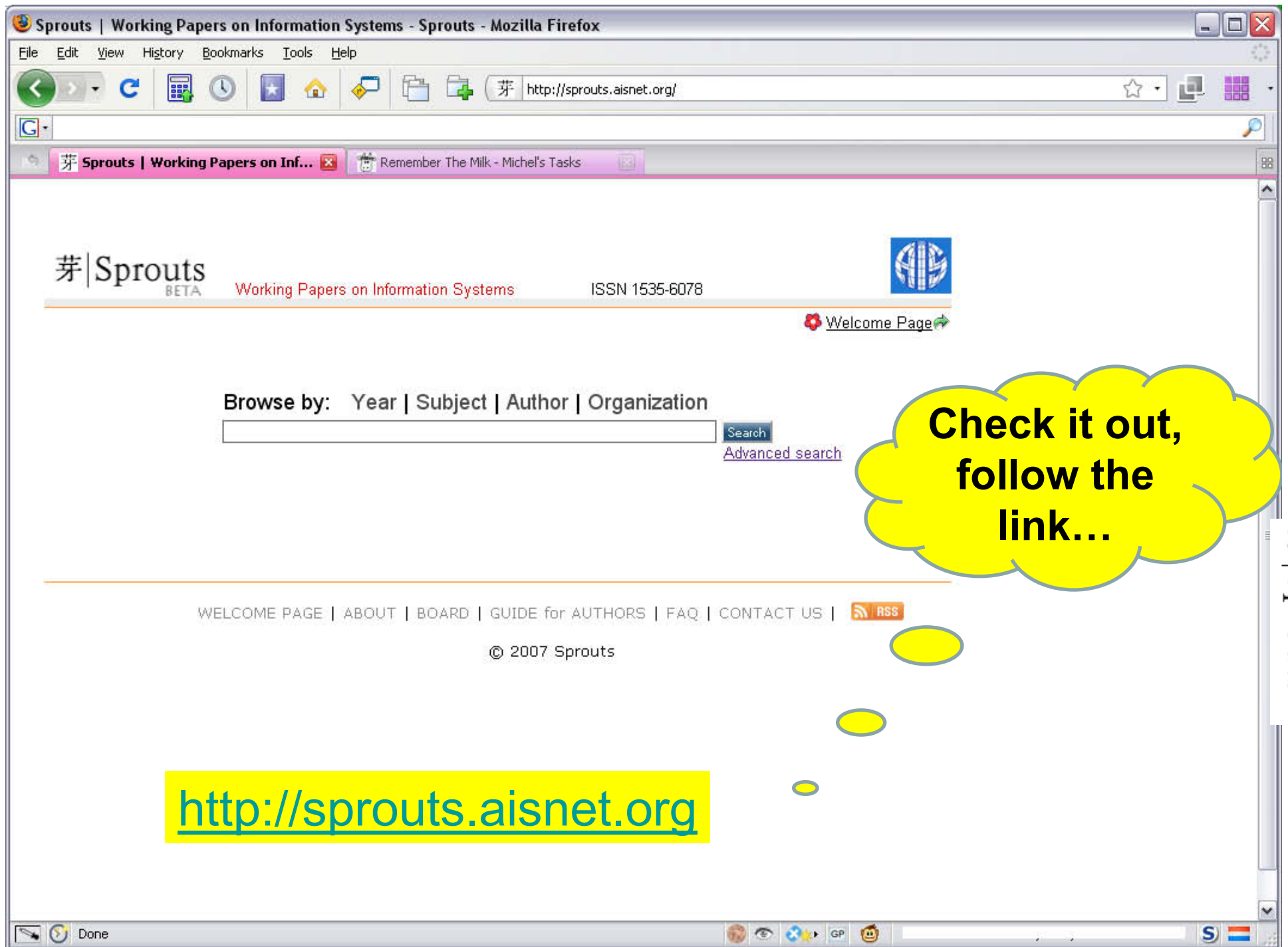
2. Quality Assurance

- Branding opportunities—e.g., university affiliation, workshop proceeding
- Statistics of views and downloads per article, organization, country and the like
- Readers comments

3. New Forms of Collaboration

- Visual representation of semantic links to identify implicit relationships among articles
- Facilitate growth of networks around shared interests
- Mass collaboration

**The future is here; now available
a beta version of a repository for
IS research**



All tags for this repository (cloud) - Sprouts - Mozilla Firefox

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http://sprouts.aisnet.org/cgi/tag_view

Google

All tags for this repository (cloud... Remember The Milk - Michel's Tasks

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Underlying Questions

1. What should be the role of Open Access in IS research publishing?
2. Where does the IS discipline stand?
3. What are the possibilities/opportunities?
4. What do we aspire for the long term?
5. What actions should we take today?

Further Discussion

- ICIS 2008 Panel Description: Open Access Publishing and the Future of Information Systems Research
- Michel Avital: Setting the scene for Sprouts
- Bo-Christer Björk: Context of Open Access publishing
- Kevin Crowston: Wither journals?
- Ann Majchrzak: Mass collaboration
- Commentators:
 - Kalle Lyytinen
 - Joey George
 - Sirkka Jarvenpaa
 - Detmar Straub
 - Vladimir Zwass
- Richard Boland: Consolidation and summary

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