CEUR-WS.org
Open-Access as a Community Effort

Manfred Jeusfeld, University of Skövde
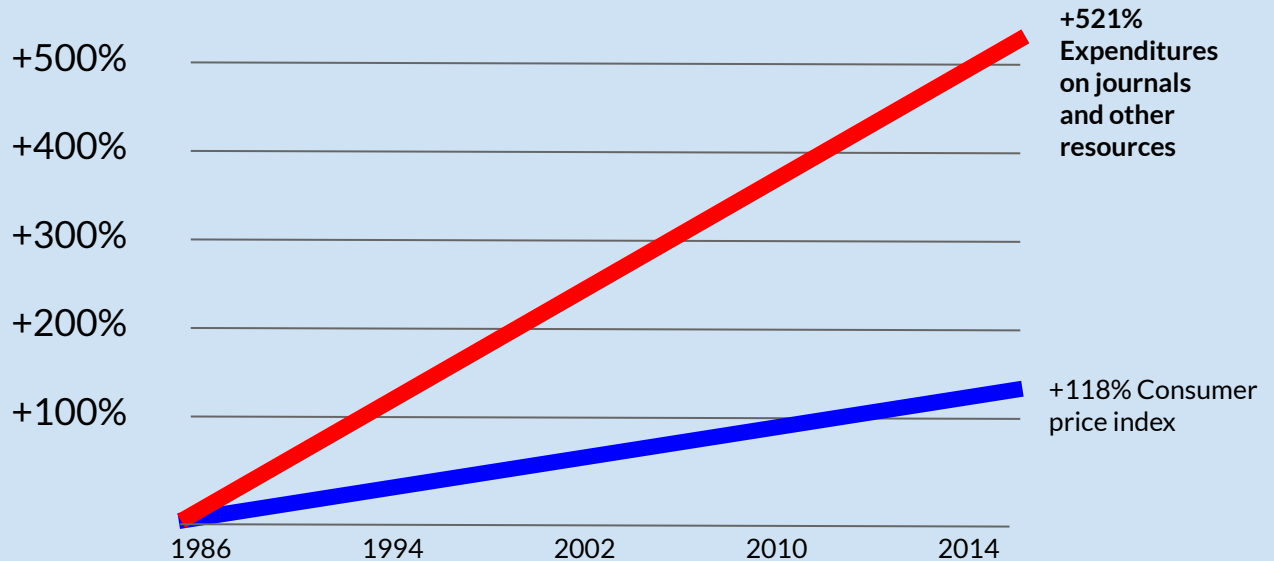**Christoph Lange,**
Fraunhofer Institute for Applied Information Technology FIT
& RWTH Aachen University

CEUR-WS.org/CEURWS-TEAM.html

Spending on journals by research libraries

+521% Expenditures on journals and other resources

+118% Consumer price index

Source: Association of Research Libraries; Vox.com, July 2019

What is CEUR-WS.org?

- CEUR-WS="<u>C</u>entral <u>E</u>urope <u>W</u>ork<u>s</u>hop Proceedings"
- Online publication service for **computer-science related** workshop proceedings
- Started in **1995** as part of the Sun SITE RWTH Aachen project ("Sun SITE Central Europe")
- Run **by academics for academics**
- **No fee** for editors, authors, and readers
- Authors retain copyright
- Loose alliances with DBLP (indexing), DNB (URN) and TIB (archiving)

The niche of CEUR-WS.org

- Computer science is a fast-changing disciplines and thus creates an enormous number of new conferences and workshops specialized on novel topics such as semantic web
- Commercial science publishers focus on journals and well-established conferences and neglect workshops
- Price-tag of commercial publishers hardly affordable for small workshop organizers and/or the readers
- Need for FREE (of cost) OPEN ACCESS

Growth of CEUR-WS.org

new volumes per year
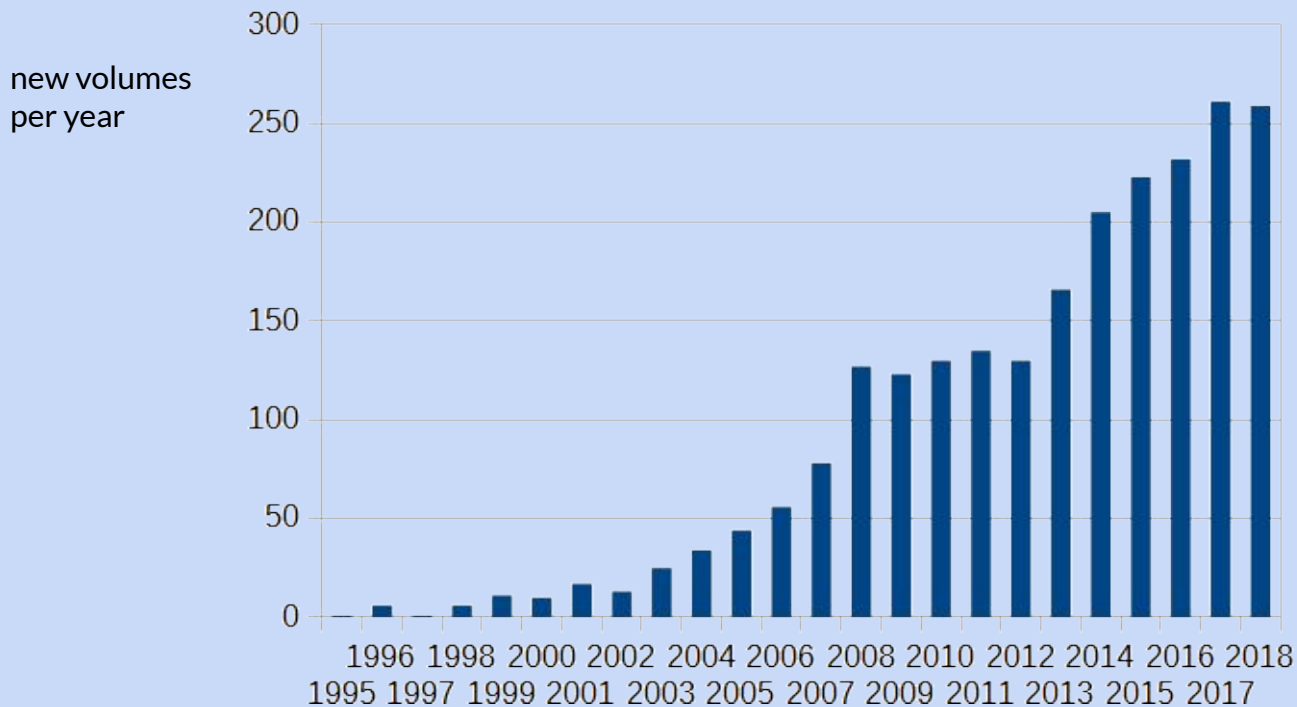
Comparison with some OA series for CS proceedings

Name	#volumes *
EPTCS	299
LIPICS	137
OP	22
EPIC	61
LNI	292
PROCEDIA-CS	154
OASICS	74
CRPIT	168
...	
CEUR-WS	**2428**

*) data taken from DBLP or publisher site, August 2019

Timeline

1995-04:
CEUR-WS started

2004-02:
ISSN assigned

2010-02:
Start URN; CEUR tags

2015-08:
Start sub-series

2019-08:
Start CC-BY license

2001-08:
Domain
CEUR-WS.org

2008-09:
CEUR-WS Team
founded

2014-10:
CEUR-WS
Advisory Team;
CC0 metadata

2018-03:
Archiving via TIB

Editor (= workshop chair) view

1. Collect paper PDFs from authors
    ○ PDF is the low-threshold common denominator for now.
2. Collect CC-BY-based author agreements
    ○ PDFs must include footnote permitting CC-BY use.
3. Produce CC-BY-based editor agreement
4. Upload submission file to CEUR-WS

The CEUR-WS view

1. Receive submission file and agreements
2. Use various scripts and web services to inform editors, assign a volume number, validate the HTML, watermark the PDFs
3. Usually takes 15–30 minutes to publish an error-free submission (since most work is placed on shoulders of the editors)

Facilitating submission, quality control and metadata reuse

- The **ceur-make** command-line tool automates the production of a submission file conforming to CEUR-WS standards, in particular a semantically enriched index.html file
    - First, small contribution to TIB's Open Research Knowledge Graph thanks to explicit RDFa semantics of metadata
- User-friendly web frontend for the average, non-technical user is work in progress (MSc theses at RWTH Aachen) *[Asmat, Lange @ ADBIS 2017]*

Web frontend for submissions

Lower threshold for editors – less work for CEUR-WS team – higher data quality

Functionality:
- saving intermediate work
- value auto-completion and data
- reuse from previous proceedings validation

Vishnu N. Menon, 2019

Towards FAIR metadata

- Best practices for publishing data
  - FAIR = findable, accessible, interoperable, reusable
  - W3C 5-star data, and the related Linked (Open) Data principles:
    - Give globally identifiable names to things so that others can refer to them,
    - make structured, non-proprietary, machine-comprehensible representations available under these identifiers, and
    - provide context and links to related things.
- Preparations towards publishing CEUR-WS as LOD:
  - I.e. more formats than just HTML, plus links to related datasets
  - Semantic Publishing Challenge *[Dimou et al. @ PeerJ CS 105, 2017]*

Using event metadata to assess event quality

- Today, quality of scientific publication venues is assessed mainly by counting citations (e.g., impact factor).

- The DFG-funded ConfIDent project of TIB and RWTH takes a broader perspective, e.g.:
  - What people are involved into an event in what role?
  - In what locations does an event take place?
  - How sustainable is an event series?
  - How has the acceptance rate of an event evolved over time?

- Data sources: OpenResearch.org (another community-driven data collection), CEUR-WS and others

Integration with EasyChair

- EasyChair is a submission and review management system used by many conference and workshop chairs in computer science
- **ceur-make** and its web frontend can use the output of EasyChair (ToC, final PDFs) and produce a CEUR-WS conforming submission

Integration with DBLP

- DBLP by University of Trier/Schloss Dagstuhl is the leading bibliography server for computer science
- DBLP indexes most workshop proceedings published at CEUR-WS.org
- CEUR-WS.org provides special tags in the index files to allow automatic extraction of bibliographic metadata from CEUR-WS volumes
- CC0 license for metadata

Collaboration with DNB

- Deutsche National-Bibliothek (DNB) issues URNs for volumes published at CEUR-WS (since Vol-560)
- URNs are comparable to DOIs and uniquely identify volumes published at CEUR-WS

Long-term Archiving at TIB

- CEUR-WS started to collaborate with TIB to ensure long-term archiving of CEUR-WS volumes
- Transition from a proprietary OA licence to the CC-BY license (starting August 1, 2019)

Success factors of CEUR-WS

- **No fees**, thus no money collection overhead
- **Enthusiastic** academic team provides the service in their free time
- Long-term support by **RWTH** Aachen Sun SITE Team (Informatik 5); provides the server and maintenance
- Simple & limited service: we only put the volumes online and rely on EasyChair/**DBLP**/DNB/TIB for the other parts of the publication chain
- Use of **scripts** to automate parts of the process
- We publish usually within **2-3 days**

CEUR-WS Team

Editorial team

Matteo Baldoni, Maria Gäde, Friederike Klan, Dmitry S. Kulyabov, Oliver Kutz, Christoph Lange, Ruzica Piskac (editor-in-chief), Ilaria Tiddi, José A. Ruipérez Valiente

Advisory team

Diego Calvanese, Laura Hollink, Ralf Klamma, Manfred Jeusfeld (chair), Jolita Ralyté, Jelena Zdravkovic

Technical Support

Reinhard Linde

Summary

- CEUR-WS is now one of the largest OA publishers for computer-science workshop proceedings (250+ new volumes per year)
- Promotes self-publication *by academics for academics*
- No financial interests
- Open for innovation (semantically enriched index files, complex paper model, …) and collaboration (DBLP, RWTH, TIB, DNB, …)