

# The Economics of Open Bibliographic Data Provision

Thomas Krichel

*Long Island University*

Christian Zimmermann

*University of Connecticut*

Open Source Movement: sharing and contributing freely

Academic Publishing: for-profit or not-for-profit?

Provision of Bibliographies: for-profit or not-for-profit?

Bibliographies:

- costly to build
- easily replicable
- public good

Making bibliographies cheap:

Yahoo/Econlit model

Google model

RePEc model

How to make it feasible?

Incentives for

- Publishers
- Authors
- Volunteers
- Institutions

Network economies

## Organization of RePEc

- Small central management
- Decentralized data input (archives)
- Data in public domain (services)
- Relay of data to other schemes (OAI)
- Volunteer work

Problem: critical mass

RePEc today:

- 650 archives (LA 24: br 9, co 4, mx 4, ar 3, cl 2, pe 2)
- 530 journals
- 1,600 working paper series
- 440,000 items listed (330,000 online)
- 5,000,000 downloads/year (at least)
- 11,000 authors registered (LA 430)
- 44,000 subscriptions

<http://repec.org/>