

# Fourth Nordic Conference on Scholarly Communication

21-23 April 2008, Lund

## Openness: Trade, Tools, and Transparency

Emerging tools for data and text mining session  
**John Wilbanks, Science Commons, USA**

*Title:*

**Data integration, text mining, and the culture of control**

*Abstract:*

This talk will explore the relationship between access and re-use rights and innovation, with a particular focus on the integration of the biomedical knowledge space of databases and papers.

We've learned over the past decades of technological development that open, foundational systems create the conditions for exponential innovation. The Internet and the Web are obvious examples. But it is worth remembering that there was private competition, built on control, and that the systems - the Internet and the WWW above most else - that won were systems that embraced access over control.

These examples are not accidents, but instead the result of the choice by the designers of systems to enable access as a first principle. Good design choices are at the heart of powerful network effects. And when dealing with fundamental information resources, there aren't many more important choices than access versus control.

We are facing that precise choice in the scholarly literature right now. The biomedical journal articles of the past 30 years capture the core knowledge of the biotechnology revolution: the detailed relationships between genes, proteins, and diseases, the experimental protocols - everything. This is the fundamental information resource for new biological discovery, as the other speakers in this session lay out, but it will not happen without a systematic effort to retain the legal rights needed to take advantage of emergent technologies such as the Semantic Web and Web 2.0.

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