Corporate Power, Surveillance, and the Future of Open Access

A Library and Information Services Perspective

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OA Challenges and Responses

- Serial price rises above general inflation
- Switch from print to electronic/hybrid publishing
- Publisher bundles, Big Deals, and multi-year subscriptions
- Gold/hybrid OA journals and article processing charges
- Publisher consolidation
- Journal cancellations, shift from ownership to access
- Consortia licensing and push for open access
- Self-archiving and institutional repositories
- Funder OA mandates
- Libraries move into content hosting and publishing

How Can We Make Content Open to All?
Corporate Power

- Mergers and acquisitions have transformed the landscape
- Massive horizontal integration resulting in five publishers controlling more than 50 percent of articles published
- Additional vertical integration resulting in more control over other parts of the scholarly communications workflow
  - tracking use of digital services, keeping us under surveillance
16,849 Researchers Taking a Stand. See the list

Academics have protested against Elsevier's business practices for years with little effect. These are some of their objections:

1. They charge exorbitantly high prices for subscriptions to individual journals.

2. In the light of these high prices, the only realistic option for many libraries is to agree to buy very large "bundles", which will include many journals that those libraries do not actually want. Elsevier thus makes huge profits by exploiting the fact that some of their journals are essential.

3. They support measures such as SOPA, PIPA and the Research Works Act, that aim to restrict the free exchange of information.

The key to all these issues is the right of authors to achieve easily-accessible distribution of their work. If you would like to declare publicly that you will not support any Elsevier journal unless they radically change how they operate, then you can do so by filling in your details on this page.

More information:
Major German Universities Cancel Elsevier Contracts

These institutions join around 60 others that hope to put increasing pressure on the publishing giant in ongoing negotiations for a new nationwide licensing agreement.

By Diana Kwon | July 17, 2017
German Scientists Resign from Elsevier Journals’ Editorial Boards

These researchers join around 200 research institutions that have cut ties with the publishing giant to support the ongoing push for open access and favorable pricing.

By Diana Kwon | October 18, 2017
Paying for Publication

Article Processing Charges

Author Publishing Fees

- Color charges
- Page charges
- Submission fees
- Peer review fees

& “Double-Dipping”
The Office of Scholarly Communication and Publishing at Pitt University Libraries (ULS) publishes 44 journals and hosts another 55 journals. Most titles are open access, six have multilingual content, and editorial teams are located around the world.
What Libraries Can Do

Strategic Roles for Librarians and Information Specialists in the Open Access Movement

- Educate
- Advocate
- Facilitate
- Mediate
- Collaborate
- Coordinate
- Integrate
Libraries as Open Access Activists

• Put scholarly communication upfront and center in information literacy education
  – work across library sectors to reach wider audiences

• Step up open access advocacy
  – advise authors on low or no cost journal options
  – encourage editors to move their journals from commercial to non-profit publishers (including libraries)

• Make it easier to deposit work in OA repositories
  – help authors to share their papers, data and other media

• Act as role models in their own scholarly pursuits

• Embed open approaches in all institutional activities