Stalled

Why is it taking so long to deliver open access?
(and how might it be speeded up)?

Toby Green
Formerly, Head of Publishing, OECD

OASPA Conference, Copenhagen, September 2019
Who’s the evil genius stalling OA?

Source: Consortium’s own analysis of Scopus and Unpaywall databases

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Please take out your pencil and paper.

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Montréal
Why filter bubbles make us feel good.
Anyone?
Is this evidence of our cognitive dissonance?
Why academics are like cats

8 out of 10 cats (who expressed a preference) . . .
Academic cats (who expressed a preference) don’t think OA very important.

Figure 1. Importance of various factors when respondents consider where to submit their academic work for publication. Scale ranges from 1 (not important) to 6 (very important). Factors are ordered in their overall rate of importance (percent indicating a 4, 5 or 6).

Source: https://www.biorxiv.org/content/biorxiv/early/2019/07/21/706622.full.pdf
Academic cats (who expressed a preference) do think publishing lots of stuff is important for their career.

OA ranks lower than media coverage, performances and preprints

Figure 3. Perceived value of factors in the RPT process. Bars show percentage of respondents. Scale ranged from 1 (not valued) to 6 (very valued). Factors are ordered in their overall rate of importance (e.g., percent of respondents indicating a 4, 5 or 6).

Source: https://www.biorxiv.org/content/biorxiv/early/2019/07/21/706622.full.pdf
What else is unethical here?

**Salami publishing**

Don’t slice your research to increase your publication output!

**Why unethical?**
 Readers will not have access to all the relevant information to critically evaluate the study.

**Why unethical?**
You’ve just *quadrupled* the cost of publishing the results of your study.

Source: STM Report 2018
https://www.stm-assoc.org/
2018_10_04_STM_Report_2018.pdf
What else is unethical here?

Figure 8: Articles indexed from academic & scientific journals – 1findr, Dimensions, Core + ESCI WoS and Scopus, 1975-2018 (Courtesy of Eric Archambault)
Articles Published Outpaces Collection Spend in Ivy+ Libraries

Spend vs Number of Articles Published

Trendline Sources:
Library Spend: ARL Collection Expenditures Top 5 Ivy Plus Libraries Average Spend
Number of articles: STM Report 2018
Plan S has 9 pages of principles, guidance and requirements. (And there are many hundred more mandates out there!)

Between 2012 and 2018 the ‘Things Journal Publishers Do’ grew to 102 from 60.

Complexity will grow e.g. neither of these examples mention Artificial Intelligence

Complexity
Introducing: Digital Transformation

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Which costs Scholcom the most?

**Paper A**

Published in a High IF journal

David Marinetti and Eddie Kohler
New York University
University of California, Los Angeles

#OASPA19

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4 Discussion

5 Conclusion

References
Digitally Transforming Article Publishing

Today’s Process

Post Preprint

(Re)Submit to Journal

Revise

“n”

Reject

(Re)Submit to Journal

Review

Acceptance

Capture

Post

AAM

Preprint

VOR

Total cost

±3M x ±2700 = ± $8BN

3 versions of the ‘same’ content

3 versions of the ‘same’ content
Digitally Transforming Article Publishing

Tomorrow’s Process?

Post Preprint

Invitation to Submit

Revise

“n”

Reject

Review

Acceptance

Capture

Post

AAM

Preprint

VOR

Total cost

\[ (\pm 1.5M \times 2700) + (\pm 1.5M \times 10) = \pm 4BN \]

3 versions of the ‘same’ content
I’ll leave you to ponder this question.

What’s the difference between a paper in a full-fat journal and a preprint, and is this difference worth $2490?

Find the answer and we might find the key to un-stalling open access.

Further reading: https://link.growkudos.com/1f43ts8zrwg

Thank-you