



Open Library of Humanities

**The APC logic against consortial funding mechanisms,
and a scholar-led solution**

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What is research and why do we write it?



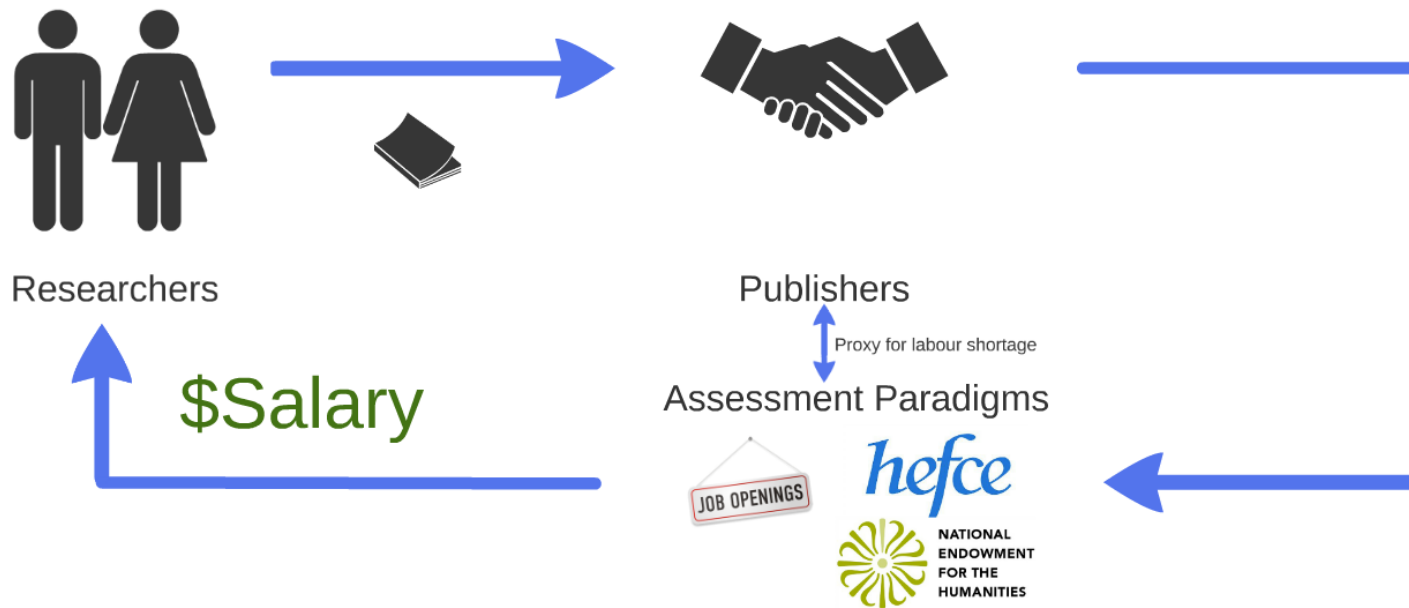
To be read. To be assessed.

Dissemination: Quality Control, Validation and Space-Time Compression

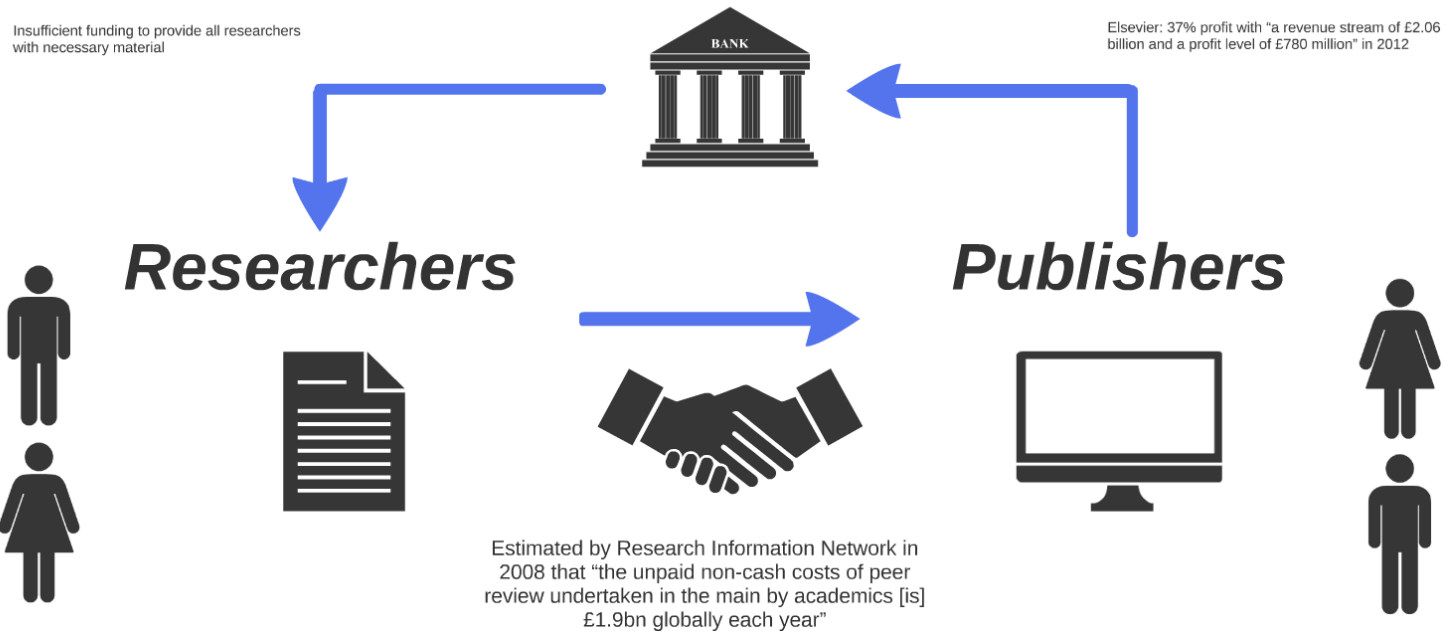
- Dissemination of work
- Preservation of record
- Footnotes and scholarly genealogy (vs. science?)
- Labour of reading: reading-avoidance techniques



Researchers are within a symbolic economy



Libraries





Peer-reviewed research

Free to read online

Permission to re-use

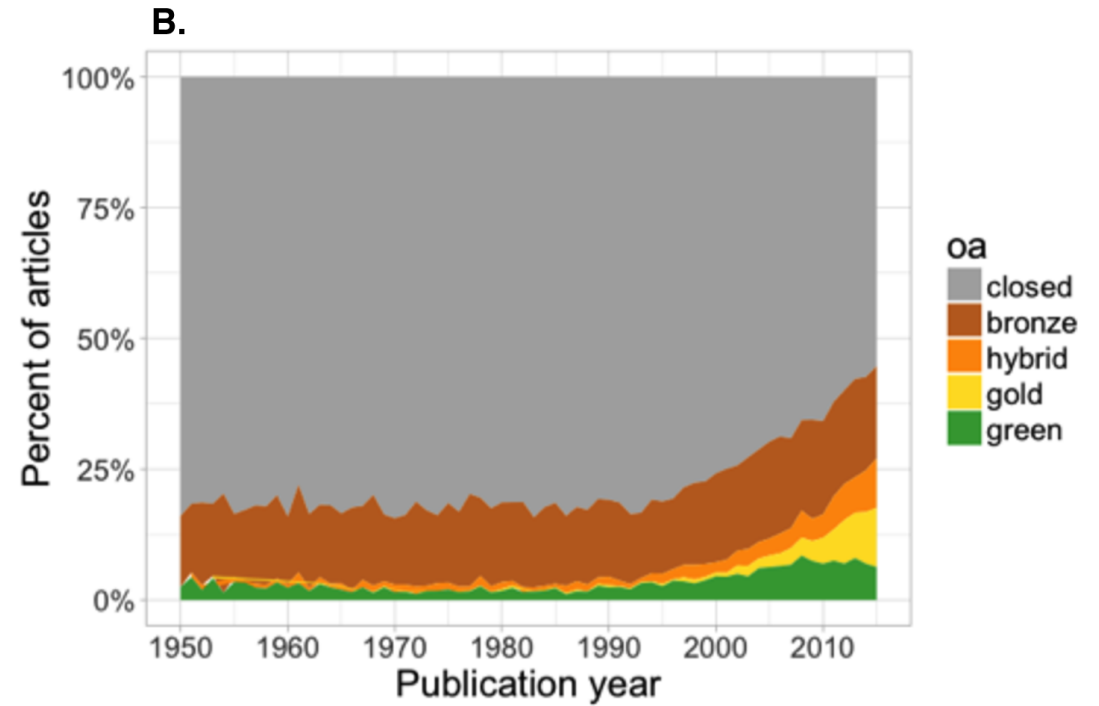
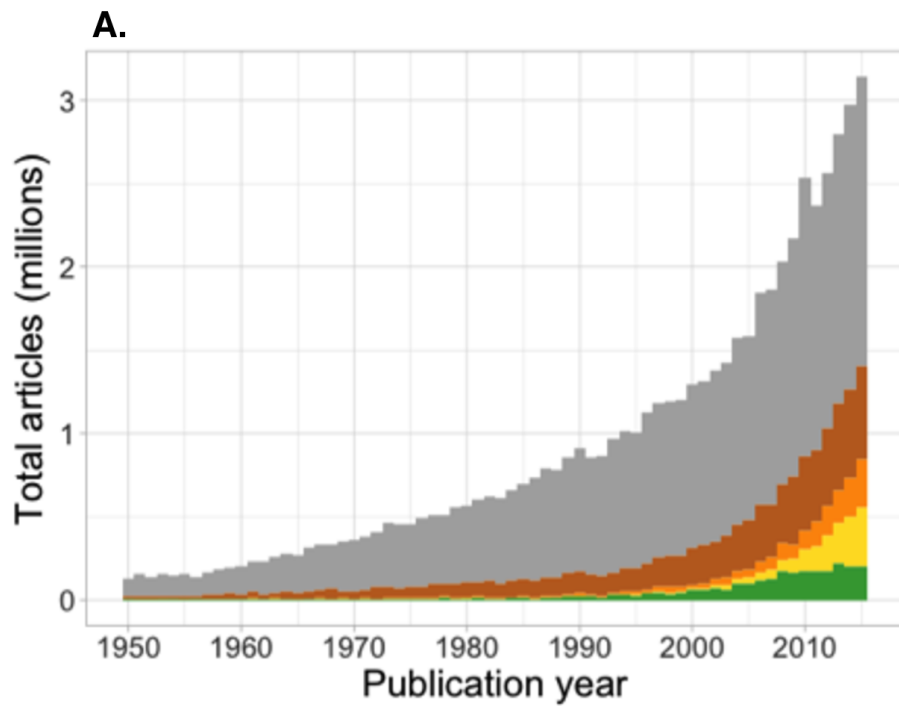
Gold: at publisher/source

Green: institutional/subject repository

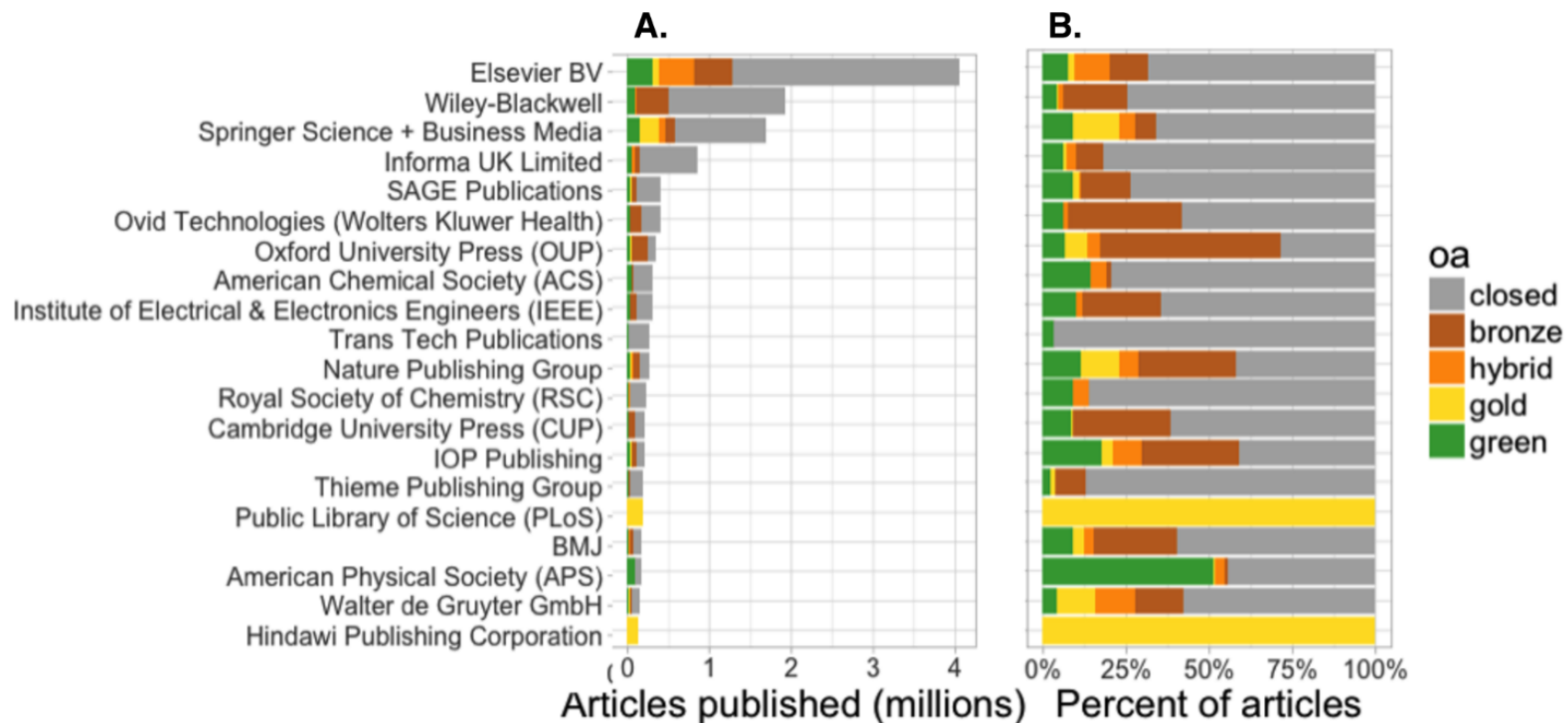
Bronze: Available on a publisher website,
but not licensed

Gratis: free to read

Libre: free to re-use



Number of articles (A) and proportion of articles (B) with OA copies, estimated based on a random sample of 100,000 articles with Crossref DOIs. Fig. 2, From Piwowar, H. et al. (2018), The state of OA: a large-scale analysis of the prevalence and impact of Open Access articles, <https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.4375>



Number (A) and proportion (B) of articles with OA copies, by publisher, for the 20 most prolific publishers. Based on sample of 27,894 Crossref DOI-assigned articles published between 2009–2015. Fig. 3, From Piwowar, H. et al. (2018), The state of OA: a large-scale analysis of the prevalence and impact of Open Access articles, <https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.4375>

A matter of distribution: there are 100 people in a room for a talk

- They have \$10 each
- The speaker speaks for free
- The venue needs \$50 to cover its staff costs
- There are 40 talks per year



Subscription logic

- Each person pays \$0.50 and hears the talk
- No payment, no entry
- Each person can only afford half of the talks
- The general public cannot attend



OA with an Article Processing Charge logic

- The speaker pays the full fee (\$50)
- The problem is that the speaker only has \$10
- The general public and all others can attend



OA with consortial logic

- 5 people attend each talk and pay \$10 each
- They let anyone else attend for free
- Everyone can hear 50% of the talks, including the public



This is how OA looks in a dry funding climate

- Is the “venue” overcharging?
- The distribution of the economics is the most important thing
- APCs do not work well in the humanities and elsewhere





Open Library of Humanities

Megajournal / Multijournal / Not-for-profit / Collectively Funded

Support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation



- \$90,000 planning grant
- University of Lincoln, UK, 2014-2015
- \$741,000 sustainability grant
- Birkbeck, University of London, UK, 2015-2018

Ongoing Project to “Flip” Subscription Journals



Six additional journals joined in January 2017

Current System



\$



x1000s

Large Sums

Governance Roles



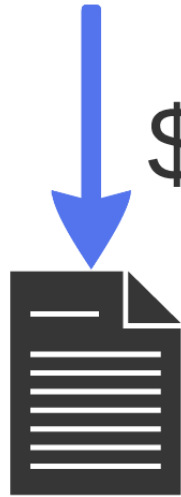
Library

\$

x100s

Small Sums

Library Partnership Subsidy



>240 Libraries Financially Supporting the OLH in First Year

Carnegie Mellon



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

Duke
UNIVERSITY



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

KU THE UNIVERSITY OF
KANSAS

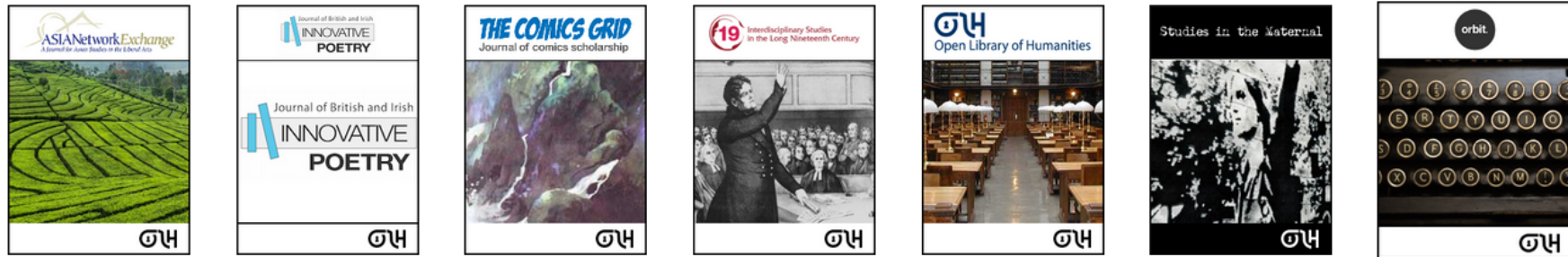
Imperial College
London

Yale University



KING'S
College
LONDON

23 Journals on or Supported by the Platform (909 articles in first year)



Cost per institution per article: around \$1.10 per institution per article. Target of 300+ libraries by end of year three. 118,686 unique readers. Average of 131 readers per article.

\$0.008 per institution per reader.

Key events in the recent history of OLH

February 2018 – OLH begins a new phase of expansion, supported by funding from OpenAIRE for marketing and communications activities

March 2018 – Huddersfield University Press becomes the first institution to host its journals on the Janeway platform

March 2018 – OLH launches the EmpowOA scheme, a new marketing initiative designed to strengthen humanities OA with blog posts, social media conversations, a new referral deal, and open access resources (including this presentation)

April 2018 - Université de Lorraine cancels its Springer OA “Big Deal” and supports a portfolio of scholar-led initiatives instead. One of the beneficiaries is OLH, our first French consortium member

What can I do to support the OLH?

Refer a friend: If your institution is a member of the OLH consortium, you can refer a new member for a mutual 10% discount

<https://www.openlibhums.org/refer/>

Join the OLH: Shift your perspective from subscriptions, APCs and “big deals” to supporting a diverse collection of scholar-led initiatives, including the OLH

<https://www.openlibhums.org/plugins/supporters/signup/>

Stand up for the humanities: Become an OLH advocate today!

<https://goo.gl/forms/b1uc1pU3EX9WvoAW2>

How can the OLH support you?

Resources: See our advocacy page for posters, infographics, FAQs and a growing list of other tools

<https://www.openlibhums.org/site/about/advocacy/>

Learn more about humanities OA: Our Open Insights essay series contains a growing back list of interviews and essays on a wide range of topics

<https://www.openlibhums.org/news/tag/Open%20Insights/>

Join the debate: Follow our Twitter account (@OpenLibHums) and the #EmpowOA tag for information about twitter chats

<https://wakelet.com/@OpenLibHums>

Thank you!

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For OLH queries please contact

<https://www.openlibhums.org/contact/>

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POWER TO
THE LIBRARIAN
POWER TO
THE SCHOLAR
POWER TO
THE HUMANITIES



#EMPOWORA