

Managing the complexities of the article-based future



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The challenge: Too much of too much

Findings:

- Escalating volume of full text articles
- Proliferation of format (Journals/Repositories/Books/Data sets/Videos/Podcasts/Conferences)
- Conflicting patterns: processing of agreements on an article level vs. an article-based economy still driven by „big deal“ logic
- New players in an inherently stability-orientated, conservative system
- Yet relevant data points not covered (e.g. peer review)
- Lack of direct contact researcher contact, proliferation of publisher-independent platforms

Indicators:

- 6,704,748 articles published in 2021
- +6.5% CAGR since 2012
- R&D CAGR: +4.3% since 2012
- 5+ new formats in a decade
- 560+ Transformative Agreements signed to date
- Less than 300.000 peer review fulltexts published
- OpenAlex, OA.mg, ResearchGate, Researcher, OAPEN, Open Research Library

The consequences: The ecosystem is a puzzle

Findings:

- Disorientation among researchers
- High workload in libraries
- Demand side creates unseen synchronization and high demands for publishers
- Lack of ability to innovate in small publishers and consolidation by big players

Indicators:

- 70% of researchers don't have a clue of their institution's OA requirements & agreements
- 134 minutes administrative workload per OA article
- nearly 57 organizations supporting coalition S
- Wiley Partner Solutions

Potential solutions: Just illusion?

Findings:

- Simplification and standardization of workflows
- Decoupling of content and services
- Global policy alignment
- B2B2C alliances for disintermediated marketing approaches

Indicators:

- Oable, CCC, ChronosHub, OA Switchboard
- Cactus, Enago, Research-Square, Charlesworth
- OSTP, one subscription policy India
- SpringerNature – Research-Gate

Open issues: Nuts uncracked

Findings:

- Platform neutrality and healthy competition
- The power of AI and data protection
- A 21st century approach to quality assurance and research integrity

Indicators:

- Stop Tracking Science
- Unsilo, Unpaywall
- Reviewer Credits, PeerRef