



UiT The Arctic University of Norway

Running a diamond open access journal (and surviving it)

How can we avoid (self-)exploitation and ensure professional publishing without recurring to APCs and similar evils?

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MUNIN Conference on Scholarly Publishing


UiT The Arctic University of Norway

November 26-28, 2024

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DOI <https://doi.org/10.7557/5.7566>

Eludamos: Journal for Computer Game Culture

1. Background
 2. Transition to UiT/Septentrio
 3. Support structures
 4. Key challenges
 5. Possible solutions
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About the Journal

Eludamos: Journal for Computer Game Culture (ISSN: 1866-6124) is an international, interdisciplinary, diamond open access, peer-reviewed journal dedicated to the academic study of videogames, game culture, and play published at [Septentrio Academic Publishing](#) at UiT The Arctic University of Norway. The journal is owned by the Dept. of Language & Culture at UiT The Arctic University of Norway.

Current Issue

Vol. 14 No. 1 (2023): Futures of Games and Game Studies



This issue of *Eludamos* is aimed at reflecting upon both the present state and possible futures of games, game studies, and the world. The papers collected here contribute to an engaged and open-ended social critique not only attempting to achieve improved understanding (negative critical mode) but also trying to actively question and change conditions identified as problematic (positive reconstructive mode). For this purpose, we have gathered seven scholarly articles, one book review, and one commentary that all address potential futures of games, play, game development, and game studies from critical and (re)constructive vantage points.

Published: 2023-12-14

Information

[For Readers](#)

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Indexing

Eludamos is indexed in the [Directory of Open Access Journals](#), [Scopus](#) and [ERIH PLUS](#).

Background

- Published from 2007 with 1-2 issues per year
- Until 2021 hosted by Simon Fraser University
- From January 2022:
 - Changes in editorial board
 - Transition to UiT/Septentrio
 - Doctoral consortia in cooperation with CEEGS
 - Inclusion into Septentrio/UiT 'ecosystem'

Septentrio support infrastructure

- Technical issues with transition
- Hosting of journal & technical support (website, online submission system, metadata requirements, ...)
- ‘Professionalization’ of journal
 - Open access policies & licenses
 - Research integrity and ethics statements, etc.
 - DOI numbers
 - Indexing
 - Publication scores & numbers
 - Manuscript checks: Crossref – Turn-it-in

Challenges:

- Academic work (evaluation of incoming submission, peer-review process, assessment of revisions, etc) → part of research time
- Technical and logistical work → support from Septentrio/UB
- But what about type-setting, copy-editing & layout editing?
- Time-consuming tasks demanding relatively little expertise
- Ideal for good MA-students, PhD-candidates, or colleagues temporarily between jobs
- But how can we then avoid (self-)exploitation? → Need for funding
- How to deal with AI-generated content?

Attempted solutions (Eludamos)

- Relatively large editorial board with clear distribution of responsibilities
 - 2 co-editors-in-chief
 - 1 book review editor
 - 3 copy-editors
 - 1 layout-editor
 - 3 supporting MA students
- How to avoid exploitation of editorial board members?
- Funding for typesetting & copy-editing (MA students):
 - 2022-23 via ENCODE research network UiT
 - 2024-2025 via local funds at UiB & FU Berlin
- Clear rules and procedures for AI-use

Jefferson Pooley
University of Pennsylvania

In his late-2023 announcement that the open access (OA) movement has ‘failed’, journalist Richard Poynder cited a number of reasons for giving up on OA. One sign of failure, he wrote, is ‘unrealistic expectations about diamond open access and the possibility of the research community “taking back ownership” of scholarly communication’. Good luck with that, he implied. At the same time, Poynder criticized the radical open access community for, in effect, going its own way: its ‘scaling small’ alternative is doomed for niche irrelevance and, as a result, ‘offers little hope of the kind of systemic change that OA would need to succeed’ (Poynder, 2023: 1–2). Poynder, a leading observer of the OA scene for two decades, has a point. There is little short-run prospect for the restoration of academic custody over scholarly publishing, on the large scale he has in mind. It’s true, too, that the ‘scaling small’ radical-OA alternative (Adema & Moore, 2021) is, by its own admission, operating on the margins of the commercial system.

Still, I think Poynder is wrong in an important sense, or at least that he is unwise. His defeatism is self-crippling, since his claims may help *bring about* the conditions they purport to merely describe. This essay is a counterpoint—a brief for utopian thinking in scholarly publishing. I argue against a species of resigned realism that concedes too much to present conditions. It is important, contra Poynder (2023: 2), to maintain ‘unrealistic expectations’. Whether or not another (scholarly publishing) world is possible, it is important to act *as if* it is. In both the short and medium runs, the way we talk about scholarly communication helps dictate the aperture of imaginative possibility.

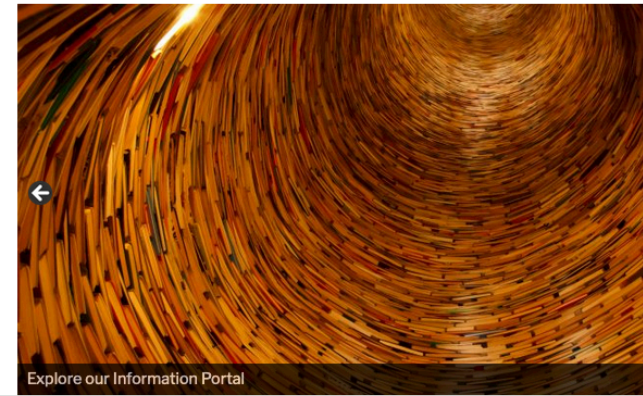
culture machine journal of culture and theory vol. 23 • 2024

Experimental Publishing as Collective Struggle. Providing Imaginaries for Posthumanist Knowledge Production

Janneke Adema

Centre for Postdigital Cultures, Coventry University

Experimental publishing in an academic setting entails, among other things, a critical re-examination of how our systems and structures of knowledge production are currently constructed and reproduced in ways that are both exclusionary and legitimise the structural violence of our neoliberal publishing institutions. Reimaging and, crucially, reperforming the way we publish and make research public by experimenting with alternative more critical and relational ways to share our research, forms part of a wider attempt to create more ethical and equitable scholarly forms, institutions, and practices.




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| Identities (JPGC) | Open Knowledge Foundation | Zapr |
| Imbricate! Press | Photomediations Machine | |

Your experiences?

- External funding sources for support of diamond OA journals?
 - Other support infrastructures?
 - AI?
 - Other challenges?
 - Other solutions?
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Working groups

- 1) Funding opportunities and other support for OA publishing
- 2) Technological challenges and opportunities of online publishing
- 3) Cooperation between journals and other actors (academic institutions, research organizations, publishers, ...)



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THANK YOU!

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