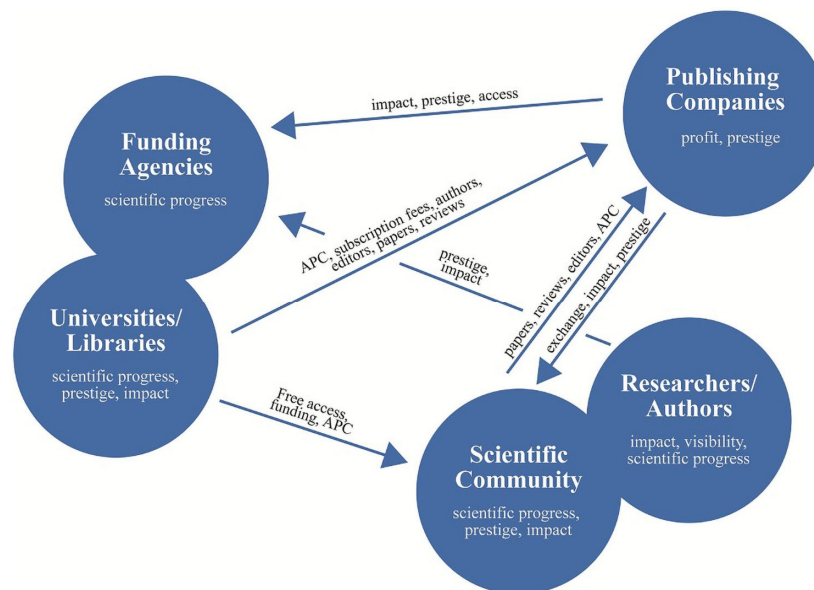


ON THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF ACADEMIC PUBLISHING

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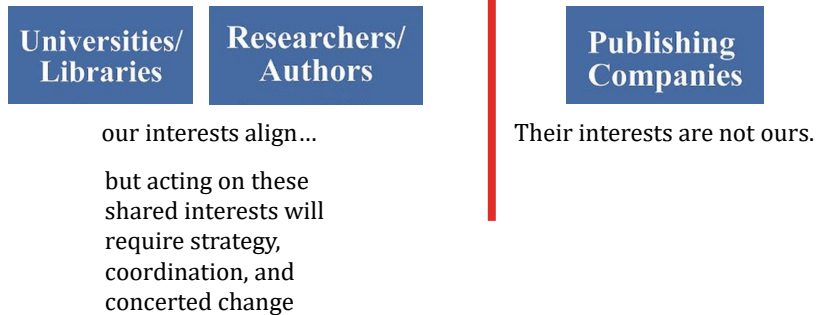
1



Stylized constellation of main actors in the field of academic publishing. From S Puehringer, J Rath, and T Griesebner (2021) "The political economy of academic publishing" *PLOS one*

2

My argument, in short



3

Access through your institution

Purchase PDF

THE ACADEMIC PUBLISHING MODEL IS BROKEN

- Scholars contribute their research papers and labor time to journals freely, yet their universities must pay (via libraries) for access to the same work
- Result **A**: for-profit publishing firms make incredible profits ('monopoly rent' on intellectual property)
 - = the commercialization of **public** assets for **private** benefit
- Result **B**: public resources are used to advance research/knowledge, but the results are not generally accessible to the public
 - ← this [**B**] is the problem that Open Access (OA) aims to solve
- Result **C**: the largest for-profit publishing firms — motivated by their need to extract future profits — compete to expand their monopoly share of journals & publishing platforms
 - ← By 2016, half of all academic papers were published in journals owned by the 5 largest publishing companies (Lariviere et al. 2015)
 - ← these companies are competing over new rent-seeking opportunities involving algorithm-driven prediction (surveillance)

4



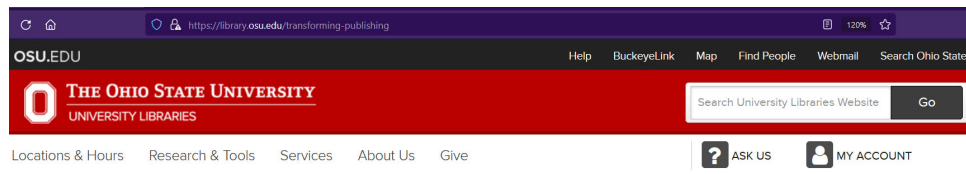
Editorial

Leveraging monopoly power up the value chain: Academic publishing in an era of surveillance capitalism

Joel Wainwright ✉, Guillermo (Guille) Bervejillo ✉

By contributing the products of our labor (as authors and editors) to a journal published by Elsevier, such as *Geoforum*, we are not only enhancing their profits. Article by article, we are deepening our collective dependence upon monopoly while enhancing surveillance of our lives and work. In effect, by freely donating our scholarship to the largest publishers, we are contributing to building a novel “form of ‘surveillance capitalism’ in the higher education sector” (Chan 2019). - Wainwright and Bervejillo (2021)

5

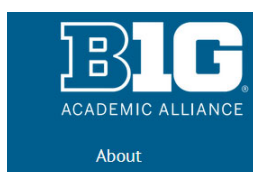


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BTAA Wiley Open Access Agreement

WILEY



CUP Read & Publish Agreement

Participating BTAA libraries have reached an agreement with Wiley for a one-year contract extension with an Open Access option, as a pilot in collective action toward the Big Collection. This agreement begins on February 1, 2022, and runs through December 31, 2022. Over the course of 2022, BTAA will work toward a future agreement with Wiley.

Journal Access

This agreement extends BTAA's Wiley Online Database Model contract for another year. Participating libraries' access to Wiley journals will not change, and they will see a 0% increase over the subscription fees they paid for the 2021 calendar year.

Open Access Publishing Opportunities

A new Open Access (OA) publishing addendum supports Open Access publishing in Wiley hybrid journals. Eligible authors from participating institutions* may publish OA in Wiley hybrid journals at no cost to themselves, up to a capped number of OA article credits per institution. Each participating institution's number of OA credits equals 65% of the number of articles published by its authors in Wiley hybrid journals in 2020. Once an institution has fully used its OA article credits, its authors are eligible for a 10% discount on Article Processing Charges (APCs) in any Wiley hybrid journal. To qualify for these OA options, an article must be accepted in a Wiley hybrid journal between February 1,



DOAJ Collective Action Agreement

7

RECENT ACCESS DEALS: WHAT THEY DO WELL

- Scholars at BIG10 / BTAA universities can now publish their work Open Access in thousands of journals (thank you!)
- Publishing OA in these journals raises the profile of research by BIG10 / BTAA scholars

Journal of Race, Ethnicity and the City >

Volume 3, 2022 - Issue 2

Latest	Open access	Most read	Most cited	Trending
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Browse the most read articles published in the last year

No privacy, no peace: Urban surveillance and the movement for Black lives >

Eyako Heh et al.

Article | Published online: 18 May 2022

1747 Views

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RECENT ACCESS DEALS: WHAT THEY **DON'T** DO

- These deals do not change the fundamental problem: inequality in the ownership and control of (for-profit) journals
- They do not stop the contribution of free labor to privately-owned firms—nor the private accumulation of value produced with public assets
- Needed: a medium-term strategy so that these deals do not entrench the status quo, but rather serve as a bridge to better—OA, publicly-owned, not-for-profit—academic publishing arrangements
























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MAKING THE CASE FOR NEW, PUBLICLY-OWNED, OA, LIBRARY MANAGED JOURNALS
























[I]t would make sense for universities to redirect their resources to publishing research directly. Even if the current business model were maintained, with high-profit rates and free labour in production, taking academic publishing in-house would provide universities with an additional income stream, which should be welcome in the current climate of economic hardship and austerity. If a proportion of university library budgets, which is currently given over to buying in high-price journals, was given over to publishing some of those journals at a reasonable price, this would not only return control over the production, circulation and exchange of academic knowledge to academics, but would recirculate the profits from academic labour back into the universities.

- A Beverungen, S Böhm, C Land (2012) "The poverty of journal publishing." *Organization*

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	Cancers		Foods		
	Polymers		Water		
	Remote Sensing		Animals		
	Nutrients		Diagnostics		
	Mathematics		Agronomy		Sustainability
	Electronics		Pharmaceutics		Applied Sciences
	Plants		Biomedicines		Sensors
	Cells		Processes		Molecules
					Energies
					Materials

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	Cancers		Foods		
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