Support Open Access
Artists: Justin Pritchard and Devaki Ajit Joshi, Support Open Access, October 2013, University of Alberta's Rutherford Library Galleria, Edmonton. Photo credit: Hanne Pearce.
Open Access in Canada

Gerald Beasley
Vice-Provost and Chief Librarian, University of Alberta

Geneva & Zürich, June 2017
“Library Science Talks”
Swiss universities recently published a national open access strategy. What are the chances for a similar nationwide strategy being adopted in Canada?
Swiss Open Access strategy approved

01/02/2017

Switzerland is forging ahead with Open Access: the plenary meeting of swissuniversities has approved the national Open Access strategy.
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Greedy Publishers Push Up Prices

Greedy publishers are sending the price of scientific journals skyrocketing, and shamelessly gouging their customers, according to Merrill Distad, Library collections coordinator.

"Publishers have found a gold mine," Distad says. "They realize they have a captive market in university libraries. Academics must publish and university libraries must buy journals they're published in. It's a market that seems elastic and the publishers have pushed it to the limit."

The price of a major botany and plant science journal has increased 252 percent in three years and an important computing journal has gone up 208 percent, points out David Jones, collections coordinator, Science and Technology Library, taking only two examples from the Library's "pending" list of 250 scientific journals whose prices have been raised 100 percent or more in the last two years.

"Our decisions on whether or not to renew any of these subscriptions are somewhat biased," adds librarian Randy Reichardt. "Price is an important criterion. In fact, we've ordered the 50 cheapest. Most of the rest of the titles will be taken permanently off the list, and they won't come up for consideration again."

More money isn't the answer, according to David Jones.

"Over the last two years, the University increased the Science and Technology Library's serials and journals budget by 14 percent. But in that period the cost—the price, plus foreign exchange—of serials and journals went up by more than 100 percent."

"The more money we are prepared to pay, the more money the publishers are prepared to demand," says Jones. Distad agrees.

"Price gouging, greed and rapacity are the words that come to mind when we talk about what publishers are doing," he says.

The most profitable branches of publishing are scientific and medical journals. A recent report from Pergamon Journals showed estimated pre-tax profits of 40 percent in 1985. (Harper and Row's estimated pre-tax profits in 1986 were around 6 percent.)

For researchers it is important to be published in a major journal, and it is the frequently cited journals whose prices keep going up. But thousands of scientific journals are on the market today, and more and more appear annually.

In 1650, there were no scientific journals. For the past 200 years, the number of periodicals has doubled every 15 years, and by 1990 there were about 100,000.

In March 1971, the Science and Technology Library had subscriptions to 4,317 periodicals. By March 1986—taking into account the increase in the number of journals available—subscriptions should have doubled to 8,600, and been added to over the next two years. In fact, by February 1988 periodical subscriptions stood at only 5,472. That's down 400 from last year.

"If you take as a working premise that we ought to be collecting the same percentage of what's out there," says Jones, "then we have slipped back significantly."

While the greed of publishers appears boundless, he wonders whether the problem is compounded by the pressures of an academic reward system based on the "publish or perish" syndrome that seems to put researchers and libraries at the mercy of those publishers.

"Perhaps the time has come to consider new means of disseminating and exchanging information, maybe through societies that publish their own journals," he suggests.

The Library Committee of General Faculties Council is currently considering recommendations of action that could be taken to counteract publishers' present practices.
Rising Costs

Monograph & Serial Costs in ARL Libraries, 1986-2011*

Serial Expenditures (+402%)

Monograph Unit Cost (+99%)

Monograph Expenditures (+71)

Monographs Purchased (+10%)

% Change Since 1986

NOTE: Data for monograph and serial expenditure was not collected in 2011-12.

*includes electronic resources from 1998-2011.
Reed-Elsevier Profits

Fig 7. Operating profits (million USD) and profit margin of Reed-Elsevier as a whole (A) and of its Scientific, Technical & Medical division (B), 1991–2013.
Compilation by the authors based on the annual reports of Reed-Elsevier. (http://www.reedelsevier.com/investorcentre/pages/home.aspx) Numbers for the Scientific, Technical & Medical division were only available in GBP; conversion to USD was performed using historical conversion rates from http://www.oanda.com.
doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0127502.g007

Article Source: The Oligopoly of Academic Publishers in the Digital Era
Graduate Students Across Canada Celebrate OA Week

By Kimalee Phillip
Chair, National Graduate Caucus of the Canadian Federation of Students
Published Oct 26, 2011, 3:28pm

Graduate students at Canadian universities joined their international counterparts in celebrating the 5th Open Access Week. The graduate members of the National Graduate Caucus (NGC) of the Canadian Federation of Students support principles of Open Access as they are aligned with values of access to high quality, peer-reviewed scholarly publications regardless of wealth or location. Graduate student unions of the NGC will be working with their on-campus librarians to support Open Access repositories as well as grants to support students and faculty to publish in Open Access journals.
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Participating Institutions: 31

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  [https://creativecommons.org/](https://creativecommons.org/)
### Table 1 Research impact of paywalled (not OA) versus open access (OA) papers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Paper (n)</th>
<th>Reference (n)</th>
<th>not OA (arc)</th>
<th>OA (arc)</th>
<th>gold (arc)</th>
<th>green (arc)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>3,350,910</td>
<td>34,865,430</td>
<td>0.81</td>
<td>1.23</td>
<td>1.06</td>
<td>1.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture, Fisheries &amp; Forestry</td>
<td>138,025</td>
<td>804,386</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td>1.18</td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td>1.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>151,424</td>
<td>1,882,514</td>
<td>0.74</td>
<td>1.17</td>
<td><strong>1.33</strong></td>
<td>1.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biomedical Research</td>
<td>291,325</td>
<td>5,581,332</td>
<td>0.80</td>
<td>1.14</td>
<td><strong>1.16</strong></td>
<td>1.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Built Environment &amp; Design</td>
<td>16,648</td>
<td>84,825</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td>1.28</td>
<td>0.79</td>
<td>1.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>317,930</td>
<td>2,432,155</td>
<td>0.90</td>
<td>1.24</td>
<td>0.65</td>
<td>1.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Medicine</td>
<td>823,924</td>
<td>9,323,440</td>
<td>0.81</td>
<td><strong>1.28</strong></td>
<td>1.25</td>
<td><strong>1.28</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication &amp; Textual Studies</td>
<td>28,178</td>
<td>37,152</td>
<td>0.78</td>
<td>1.93</td>
<td>0.81</td>
<td><strong>2.16</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth &amp; Environmental Sciences</td>
<td>117,429</td>
<td>1,332,707</td>
<td>0.82</td>
<td>1.16</td>
<td>0.82</td>
<td><strong>1.20</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics &amp; Business</td>
<td>66,037</td>
<td>607,155</td>
<td>0.65</td>
<td>1.25</td>
<td>0.67</td>
<td>1.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enabling &amp; Strategic Technologies</td>
<td>250,651</td>
<td>2,404,079</td>
<td>0.89</td>
<td>1.18</td>
<td>0.79</td>
<td><strong>1.30</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>193,856</td>
<td>1,029,715</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td>1.25</td>
<td>0.86</td>
<td><strong>1.36</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Arts, Humanities &amp; Social Sciences</td>
<td>3,932</td>
<td>11,757</td>
<td>0.65</td>
<td><strong>1.69</strong></td>
<td>0.99</td>
<td>1.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Science &amp; Technology</td>
<td>31,793</td>
<td>1,906,604</td>
<td>0.93</td>
<td>1.10</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td><strong>1.20</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historical Studies</td>
<td>25,468</td>
<td>50,016</td>
<td>0.80</td>
<td>1.58</td>
<td>0.68</td>
<td><strong>1.91</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information &amp; Communication Technologies</td>
<td>97,786</td>
<td>582,010</td>
<td>0.72</td>
<td>1.23</td>
<td>0.98</td>
<td><strong>1.27</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics &amp; Statistics</td>
<td>107,426</td>
<td>558,567</td>
<td>0.78</td>
<td>1.14</td>
<td>1.12</td>
<td><strong>1.22</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy &amp; Theology</td>
<td>17,117</td>
<td>28,107</td>
<td>0.70</td>
<td>1.74</td>
<td>0.76</td>
<td><strong>1.98</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics &amp; Astronomy</td>
<td>424,091</td>
<td>3,954,894</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>1.27</td>
<td>0.92</td>
<td><strong>1.34</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology &amp; Cognitive Sciences</td>
<td>70,022</td>
<td>1,026,674</td>
<td>0.69</td>
<td><strong>1.25</strong></td>
<td>1.15</td>
<td>1.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Health &amp; Health Services</td>
<td>85,703</td>
<td>804,085</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td>1.17</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td><strong>1.23</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Sciences</td>
<td>86,513</td>
<td>421,516</td>
<td>0.69</td>
<td>1.49</td>
<td>0.89</td>
<td><strong>1.63</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual &amp; Performing Arts</td>
<td>5,632</td>
<td>1,440</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td>2.19</td>
<td>1.17</td>
<td><strong>2.69</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


[http://www.1science.com/oanumbr.html](http://www.1science.com/oanumbr.html)
A recent OECD International report based on responses of over 6,000 scientific authors concluded:

- The evidence found is consistent with the hypothesis of citation advantage for OA. Openness is robustly associated with higher citation impact, but the choice of OA vehicle is related to different dissemination/citation impact channels.

- Thus, citations in peer reviewed articles covered by major indices (both as self-reported by the author and as calculated from Scopus) see no boost from journal/publisher-based OA, but are significantly higher in the case of repository-based OA. Journal prestige, as implied by its past citation record, is a key but imperfect determinant of article citation rates.

- Citations in other literature, working papers, or user documents (policy, technical, media, etc.) appear to be significantly boosted by open access, while journal prestige plays a much less important role.

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Joint statement about open access by COAR and UNESCO (May 9, 2016)

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11. Sustainable Cities and Communities
12. Responsible Consumption and Production
13. Climate Action
14. Life Below Water
15. Life on Land
16. Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions
17. Partnerships for the Goals
“As research challenges drive research institutions to become less siloed and more interdisciplinary, I predict that in the future we will see research institutions being reconstituted around the social sharing of knowledge and the hubs of their knowledge generating practices: their repositories.”

Leslie Carr, senior lecturer, University of Southampton

https://www.coar-repositories.org/
Thank You! Questions?