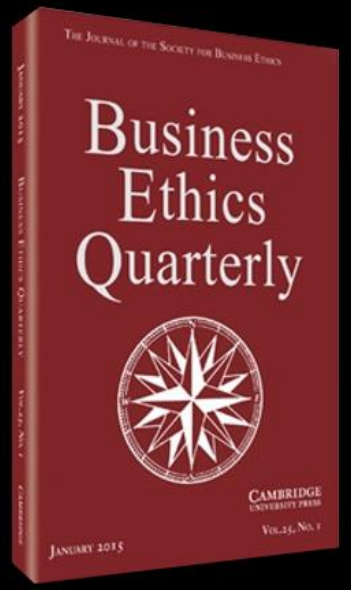
Does the business model for academic publishing promote scholarly progress?



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What's Hot and Cooking In Scholarly Publishing

Focusing on Value — 102 Things Journal Publishers Do (2018 Update)

By KENT ANDERSON | FEB 6, 2018 | 14 COMMENTS

Five Arguments

- Staggeringly
- Peer Review Practices
- Publication Practices
- Effects on Societies
- Effects on Scholars

Five Arguments

- Staggeringly
  - LARGE
  - CONCENTRATED
  - PROFITABLE
- Peer Review Practices
- Publication Practices
- Effects on Societies
- Effects on Scholars

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

The Oligopoly of Academic Publishers in the Digital Era

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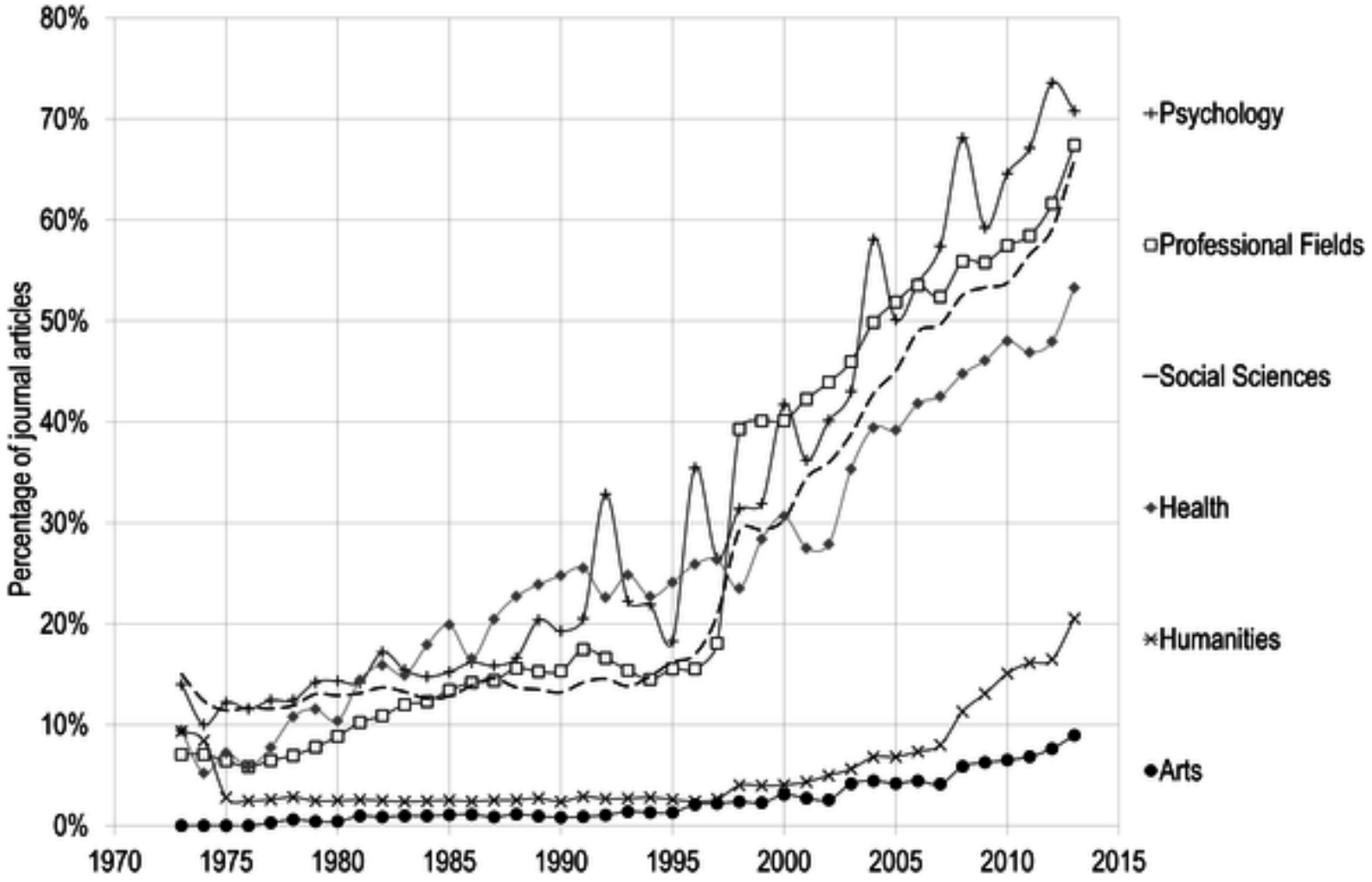
Abstract

The consolidation of the scientific publishing industry has been the topic of much debate within and outside the scientific community, especially in relation to major publishers' high profit margins. However, the share of scientific output published in the journals of these major publishers, as well as its evolution over time and across various disciplines, has not yet been analyzed. This paper provides such analysis, based on 45 million documents indexed in the Web of Science over the period 1973-2013. It shows that in both natural and medical sciences (NMS) and social sciences and humanities (SSH), Reed-Elsevier, Wiley-Blackwell, Springer, and Taylor & Francis increased their share of the published output, especially since the advent of the digital era (mid-1990s). Combined, the top five most prolific publishers account for more than 50% of all papers published in 2013. Disciplines of the social sciences have the highest level of concentration (70% of papers from the top five publishers), while the humanities have remained relatively independent (20% from top five publishers). NMS disciplines are in between, mainly because of the strength of their scientific societies, such as the ACS in chemistry or APS in physics. The paper also examines the migration of journals between small and big publishing houses and explores the effect of publisher change on citation impact. It concludes with a discussion on the economics of scholarly publishing.

Percentage of papers published by the five major publishers, by discipline of Social Sciences and Humanities, 1973–2013.



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A List of Academic Publishers and their Scholarly Journals: A Webscraping Approach

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Abstract. Meta-scientific surveys at the publisher- and journal-level cannot attain comprehensiveness if they omit large and middle-sized publishers. To hedge against this risk of biased omissions, one would need an exhaustive list of major scientific presses and their journals. Such an inclusive catalogue, however, does not exist yet. This paper explores whether webscraping multiple heterogeneous research-related platforms could fill this gap. In a first step, the project draws from the content coverages of Scopus, Publons, DOAJ and SherpaRomeo to extract a preliminary list of publishers that supposedly possess at least 30 journals. In a second step, the project scrapes each of the publisher's website to fetch their respective journal portfolios. The outcome is a list of 137 publishers comprising 25.816 journals. Many of the publishers, especially those that operate outside the U.S. and Western Europe, would have been overlooked if one had drawn from merely one or two sources. The catalogue can thus be deemed comprehensive, inclusive and diverse. Despite a few limitations (e.g., the non-uniform distribution of the data, or the difficulty of disambiguating publisher names and their imprints), the dataset can serve as a useful basis for large-scale scientometrics analyses investigating the landscape of academic publishers and scholarly journals.

Keywords: Scientometrics, bibliometrics, webscraping, publishers, journals.

Pacher, Andreas. 2021. "A List of Academic Publishers and Their Scholarly Journals: A Webscraping Approach." SocArXiv. February 14. doi:10.31235/osf.io/56b28.

Rank	Publisher	Journal Count
1	Springer	3692
2	Taylor & Francis	2909
3	Elsevier	2467
4	Wiley	1646
5	SAGE	1310
6	De Gruyter	1100
7	OMICS	742
8	Oxford University Press	483
9	Inderscience	470
10	Cambridge University Press	414
11	Medknow	399
12	Emerald	375
13	Wolters Kluwer	351
14	BioMedCentral	316
15	MDPI	309
16	Brill	250
17	SCIRP	247
18	Philosophy Documentation Center	238
19	IGI Global Publishing	231
20	Thieme	230

theguardian

Tue 27 Jun 2017 01.00 EDT

Is the staggeringly profitable business of scientific publishing bad for

- RELX, the parent company of Elsevier, had revenues of US $9.8 billion in 2019. (Elsevier's profits account for about 34% of RELX's total profits.)

- RELX reports its profit margins at 31.3% for 2018.

2020 financial performance

ELSEVIER

	2020 £m	2019 £m
Revenue	**2,692**	2,637
Adjusted operating profit	**1,021**	982

Five Arguments

- Staggeringly
- **Peer Review Practices**
  - LABOR EXPLOITATION
  - SUBMISSION VOLUME
  - STIFLE INNOVATION
- Publication Practices
- Effects on Societies
- Effects on Scholars

Speaking Out

Organization
1–11

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Publishing more than reviewing? Some ethical musings on the sustainability of the peer review process

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Abstract

Based on our editorial experience, and acknowledging the regular editor grievances about reviewer disengagement at professional meeting and conferences, in this article we argue that the review system is in need of significant repair. We argue that this has emerged because an audit culture in academia and individual incentives (like reduced teaching loads or publication bonuses) have eroded the willingness of individuals to engage in the collective enterprise of peer-reviewing each others' work on a *quid pro quo* basis. In response to this, we emphasise why it is unethical for potential reviewers to disengage from the review process, and outline the implications for our profession if colleagues publish more than they review. Designed as a political intervention in response to reviewer *dis*engagement, we aim to 'politicise' the review process and its consequences for the sustainability of the scholarly community. We propose three pathways towards greater reviewer engagement: (i) senior scholars setting the right kind of 'reviewer' example; (ii) journals introducing recognition awards to foster a healthy reviewer progression path and (iii) universities and accreditation bodies moving to explicitly recognise reviewing in workload models and evaluations. While all three proposals have merit, the latter point is especially powerful in fostering reviewer engagement as it aligns individual and institutional goals in 'measurable' ways. In this way, ironically, the audit culture can be subverted to address the imbalance between individual and collective goals.

Five Arguments

- Staggeringly
- Peer Review Practices
- **Publication Practices**
  - LAG TO PUBLICATION
  - ENFORCED CONFORMITY
  - PRESTIGE MARKETS
- Effects on Societies
- Effects on Scholars

Five Arguments

- Staggeringly
- Peer Review Practices
- Publication Practices
- **Effects on Societies**
  - LOSS OF CONTROL
  - FISCAL UNCERTAINTY
- Effects on Scholars

Five Arguments

- Staggeringly
- Peer Review Practices
- Publication Practices
- Effects on Societies
- **Effects on Scholars**
  - PUBLISH-PERISH
  - EPISTEM. TYRANNY
  - HYPERSPECIALIZE

Sword swallowing and its side effects

Brian Witcombe, Dan Meyer

Sword swallowers know their occupation is dangerous. The Sword Swallowers' Association International (SSAI, www.swordswallow.org) recognises those who can swallow a non-retractable, solid steel blade at least two centimetres wide and 38 centimetres long. As we found only two English language case reports of injury resulting from sword swallowing,[1 2] we explored the technique and side effects of this unusual practice.

Methods

We sent a letter to members and contacts of the association asking if they were willing for data held in its archives to be published and asking how they learnt the technique and how many swords they had swallowed in the previous three months. We did not send out a medical questionnaire but invited swallowers to describe any medical problems associated with sword swallowing. One medical adviser was approached after one swallower, injured during the course of the study, gave her consent, and a few close associates of one of the authors (DM) answered direct medical questions. We obtained written consent from everyone whose history is mentioned. We excluded cases in which injury was related to swallowing items other than swords, such as glass, neon tubes, spear guns, or jack hammers.

Results

We sent letters to 110 members or contacts of the association in 16 countries; 48 responded and 46 (41.8%) consented to information being published (40 were men). The average age was 31 (range 16-64). Most were self taught and described how they learnt the technique. The average age when they learnt sword swallowing was 25 (range 13-46); nine learnt as teenagers. The average height was 176 cm (range 58-191 cm), average weight 79 kg (range 46-127 kg), and the longest sword swallowed was on average 60 cm (range 43-79 cm). There was no apparent correlation between the length of the longest sword each person could swallow and their height (correlation coefficient 0.20) or weight (−0.08). Twenty five had swallowed more than one sword at a time, five had swallowed more than 10 at a time, and one had swallowed 16 swords together (fig 1). Over the previous three months, the average number of swords swallowed was 43 (range of 0-300).

Thirteen respondents did not volunteer any medical information, but 19 described sore throats, usually when they were learning to swallow, after performing too frequently, or when they were swallowing multiple or odd shaped swords. Lower chest pain, often lasting days, followed some performances and was usually treated by abstaining from practice. They rarely sought medical advice. Six suffered perforation of the pharynx or oesophagus. Three of these had surgery to the neck, one having a 1.5 cm laceration at the level of D2 and a pneumothorax, one a pinhole laceration at C6 and surgical emphysema, and the other having a pharyngeal tear. The perforations were treated conservatively in three patients, one of whom had a second

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BMJ 2006;333:1285–7

Risking sword throat

JOURNAL OF THE EXPERIMENTAL ANALYSIS OF BEHAVIOR 1995, 63, 165–174 NUMBER 2 (MARCH)

PIGEONS' DISCRIMINATION OF PAINTINGS BY MONET AND PICASSO

SHIGERU WATANABE, JUNKO SAKAMOTO, AND MASUMI WAKITA

KEIO UNIVERSITY

Pigeons successfully learned to discriminate color slides of paintings by Monet and Picasso. Following this training, they discriminated novel paintings by Monet and Picasso that had never been presented during the discrimination training. Furthermore, they showed generalization from Monet's to Cezanne's and Renoir's paintings or from Picasso's to Braque's and Matisse's paintings. These results suggest that pigeons' behavior can be controlled by complex visual stimuli in ways that suggest categorization. Upside-down images of Monet's paintings disrupted the discrimination, whereas inverted images of Picasso's did not. This result may indicate that the pigeons' behavior was controlled by objects depicted in impressionists' paintings but was not controlled by objects in cubists' paintings.

Key words: stimulus control, concept, pattern discrimination, vision, key peck, pigeon

When we see paintings by Picasso and Monet, we can with some accuracy recognize which is Picasso's and which is Monet's, even if we have never seen the particular paintings before. There are many possible cues for this discrimination, such as color, style of brushing, favorite subjects, and so on, but no single feature differentiates each artist. It is also clear that we have acquired such visual concepts of paintings of Picasso and Monet by experience. Can pigeons discriminate paintings of one artist from those of another artist? If they can, do they also show generalization to paintings of other artists belonging to the same group, such as an impressionist or a cubist? Porter and Neuringer (1984) reported successful learning of musical discrimination of Bach and Stravinsky by pigeons. Can pigeons discriminate visual arts also?

Birds have excellent visual ability comparable to that of humans, and there have been many experimental studies showing acquisition of visual concepts in birds. Since Herrnstein and Loveland (1964) successfully trained pigeons to respond to color slides on which a human being appeared and not to respond to those without a human, there have been many studies demonstrating learning to discriminate natural concepts (e.g., Cerella, 1979; Herrnstein & de Villiers, 1980; Herrnstein, Loveland, & Cable, 1976; Roberts & Mazmanian, 1988; Watanabe, Yamasita, & Wakita, 1993), artificial concepts (Bhatt, Wasserman, Reynolds, & Knauss, 1988; Watanabe, 1991), and symmetry of objects (Delius & Habers, 1978).

Most of these natural-concept experiments used a slide projector as the stimulus-presentation device, and pigeons showed transfer of discrimination of photographs to real objects and of real objects to photographs (Watanabe, 1993). Representational paintings have features similar to photographs, but paintings patterned after impressionism are not precise reflections of the real world. They often are considered to be a reflection of the artist's subjective world. We can, however, identify "objects" in the paintings by Monet, Renoir, and Cezanne. In other words, we find a relation between these paintings and real objects. However, such a relation is often weak in the paintings by Picasso, Matisse, and Braque. Realism is relevant only for a perceiver who can see a painting as a representation of a three-dimensional world. If realism makes a difference to a pigeon, we can presume that it can see a painting as a representation of a three-dimensional world.

Five Arguments

- Staggeringly
- Peer Review Practices
- Publication Practices
- Effects on Societies
- **Effects on Scholars**
  - PUBLISH-PERISH
  - EPISTEM. TYRANNY
  - HYPERSPECIALIZE

Does the business model for academic publishing promote scholarly progress?

No, not sufficiently.

Does the business model for academic publishing sustain scholarly incrementalism?

Youbetcha.

THANKS.