The Cost of Knowledge

and the future of open access

Tyler Neylon
The Present
“...it might help if there were a website somewhere, where mathematicians [boycotting Elsevier] could sign their names electronically.”

– Timothy Gowers
The Cost of Knowledge

Researchers taking a stand against Elsevier.

This site was built as a reaction in support of Tim Gowers's post on Elsevier.

Pamela K Carmines  University of Nebraska Medical Center
won't publish, won't referee, won't do editorial work

Tim Gowers  Cambridge
won't publish, won't referee, won't do editorial work

Chris Miller  Ohio State
won't publish, won't referee, won't do editorial work

Jeff Strom  Western Michigan University
won't publish, won't referee, won't do editorial work

(more names belong here!)

Add your name to the list.

Name

Affiliation

Comments  optional

Link  optional

such as a link to a blog post of yours explaining your position

I plan to refrain from:

☐ publishing  ☑ refereeing  ☑ editorial work

Please email me if you have any questions about this page.

Jan 22, 2012
Profit in $m, 2011
Profit in $m, 2011

Reed Elsevier $2.6b
2010 Profits as % Revenue

Top 50 companies from 2011 Fortune 500
2010 Profits as % Revenue

Top 50 companies from 2011 Fortune 500

Reed Elsevier 37.3% (2011)
Monograph & Serial Expenditures in ARL Libraries

Serial Expenditures  
+374%

Monograph Unit Cost (+89%)

Monograph Expenditures (+86%)

Monographs Purchased (0%)

1986  2008
The Cost of Knowledge

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The Cost of Knowledge

12,823 Researchers Taking a Stand. See the list

Academics have protested against Elsevier’s business practices for years with little effect. These are some of their objections:

1. They charge exorbitantly high prices for subscriptions to individual journals.

2. In the light of these high prices, the only realistic option for many libraries is to agree to buy very large “bundles”, which will include many journals that those libraries do not actually want. Elsevier thus makes huge profits by exploiting the fact that some of their journals are essential.

3. They support measures such as SOPA, PIPA and the Research Works Act, that aim to restrict the free exchange of information.

The key to all these issues is the right of authors to achieve easily-accessible distribution of their work. If you would like to declare publicly that you will not support any Elsevier journal unless they radically change how they operate, then you can do so by filling in your details on this page.

More information:

- Statement of Purpose
- PolyMath journal publishing reform page

Read our blog, and follow the boycott on Twitter here.

Oct 19, 2012

12,823 people
12,823 Researchers Taking a Stand. See the list

Academics have protested against Elsevier's business practices for years with little effect. These are some of their objections:

1. They charge exorbitantly high prices for subscriptions to individual journals.

2. In the light of these high prices, the only realistic option for authors is to publish in journals they can afford. This has a chilling effect on the academic community.

More information:

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Oct 19, 2012

12,823 people
The Future?
The Future?
The Past → The Future?
The Past
“Our imagination is stretched to the utmost, not ... to imagine things which are not really there, but just to comprehend those things which are there.”

– Richard Feynman
Technology

1440
Technology

1440
Technology

1440

1605
Technology

1440

1605
Awareness

1440

1605
Awareness

1440  1605  1964

(not to scale, by the way)
Awareness

(Not to scale, by the way)
Awareness

1440  |  1605  |  1964  |  2011

(not to scale, by the way)
The Future
“Prediction is very difficult,

– attributed to Niels Bohr
“Prediction is very difficult, especially about the future.”

– attributed to Niels Bohr
Technology

precise, distributed editing

reputation; micro peer review

open publishing

timely, active discussion topics
Technology

precise, distributed editing

Open Science!

timely, active discussion topics
Awareness
Closed Publishers

Respected Journal Names

Tenure

Researchers
Universities can explicitly respect open access attitudes in hiring decisions.
Tell readers how much it would cost all universities to subscribe to every journal they read from.
What is the global library cost of working for closed vs open access?
Inform contributors of the global library cost of their journals.
Inform contributors how many interested readers can’t afford their journals.
Awareness
Folks who built the current site

- Adam Luikart
- Jean Hsu
- Tuhin Kumar
- Scott Cameron
Folks who built the current site

- Adam Luikart
- Jean Hsu
- Tuhin Kumar
- Scott Cameron
- ...and over 12,000 open access supporters
References

• http://gowers.wordpress.com/2012/01/21/elsevier-my-part-in-its-downfall/
• http://reporting.reedelsevier.com/staticreports/Reed_AR_2011.pdf
• http://www.arl.org/bm~doc/arlstat08.pdf

These slides are available at http://bit.ly/RJWxPF

Thank you