

High Time For Change

It is a “bizarre triple-pay system, in which the state funds most research, pays the salaries of most of those checking the quality of research, and then buys most of the published product”.

Deutsche Bank Report, 2005

“You have no idea how profitable these journals are once you stop doing anything ... then the cash just pours out and you wouldn’t believe how wonderful it is.”

Pierre Vinken, former CEO of Elsevier

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2017/jun/27/profitable-business-scientific-publishing-bad-for-science>



Would it be reasonable to continue with this unworthy game?

What is needed? Joint Action!

■ Scientists

- develop and test new approaches to reviewing
- improve quality of publications & communication
- overcome bizarre assessment schemes
- go for true open access

■ Librarians

- develop new services/platforms in collaboration with scientists
- develop incentives for researchers to join in
- aim at international collaboration among libraries

■ University Management

- develop incentive schemes, support transition of libraries
- put pressure on politicians -> legislation

Finally: A Question for Publishers



Why should editors and reviewers work for free to contribute to a profit margin of more than 40% - and to the multi-million EUR salary of a CEO (22 million in the case of Elsevier)?

Do we want to work with these people?

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Not, if they do not change their attitude fundamentally!