

CRISIS

A small group of powerful publishers is taking more and more control of the publication and distribution of scholarly publishing.

THREAT

Commercial publishers with allegiance only to their stockholders threaten core academic values by:

- taking over copyrights,
- using restrictive licensing, and
- charging high prices to the consumers

ISSUES

- Cost of published scholarship exceeds library budgets
- Large bundles of journals force libraries to subscribe to unwanted titles at inflated prices
- Consolidation and mergers among publishers make for less competitive pricing
- Culture of the academy forces scientists to publish in key journals for tenure
- Copyright restrictions inhibit use of electronic materials in new ways

COSTS

1929--Welch Library budget is \$18,889

2005--Elsevier's *Brain Research* costs
\$22,386/yr (up 30% from 2000)

Average cost of STM journal from society
publisher-- \$229

Average cost of STM journal from commercial
publisher-- \$487

MARKET

1998-- 13 major STM publishers

2002-- 7 major STM publishers

STM publishing accounts for 37% of
Reed Elsevier's profits

Scholarly Communications at Hopkins

<http://openaccess.jhmi.edu>

Current Environment

Open Access Movement

Public Library of Science (PLOS)

Science Commons

NIH Public Access Policy:

<http://www.nih.gov/about/publicaccess/index.htm>

Policy FAQ:

http://openaccess.jhmi.edu/nih_policy_faq.cfm

ACTION

Keep rights to your own work:

Include electronic publications in promotion and tenure decisions.
Work with professional associations to support reasonable pricing and open access

Authors, Editors, Reviewers :

Look at journal's licensing practices, pricing practices, copyright philosophy. Ask editors to move expensive journals to non-profit publishers or create competitors to expensive journals

At your library:

Support cancellations of high cost, low use materials.
Include librarians in departmental discussions of scholarly communication

Questions?

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Liaison

Title

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