

A SUSTAINABLE SCHOLAR-LED MODEL FOR OPEN ACCESS WITHOUT PUBLICATION FEES

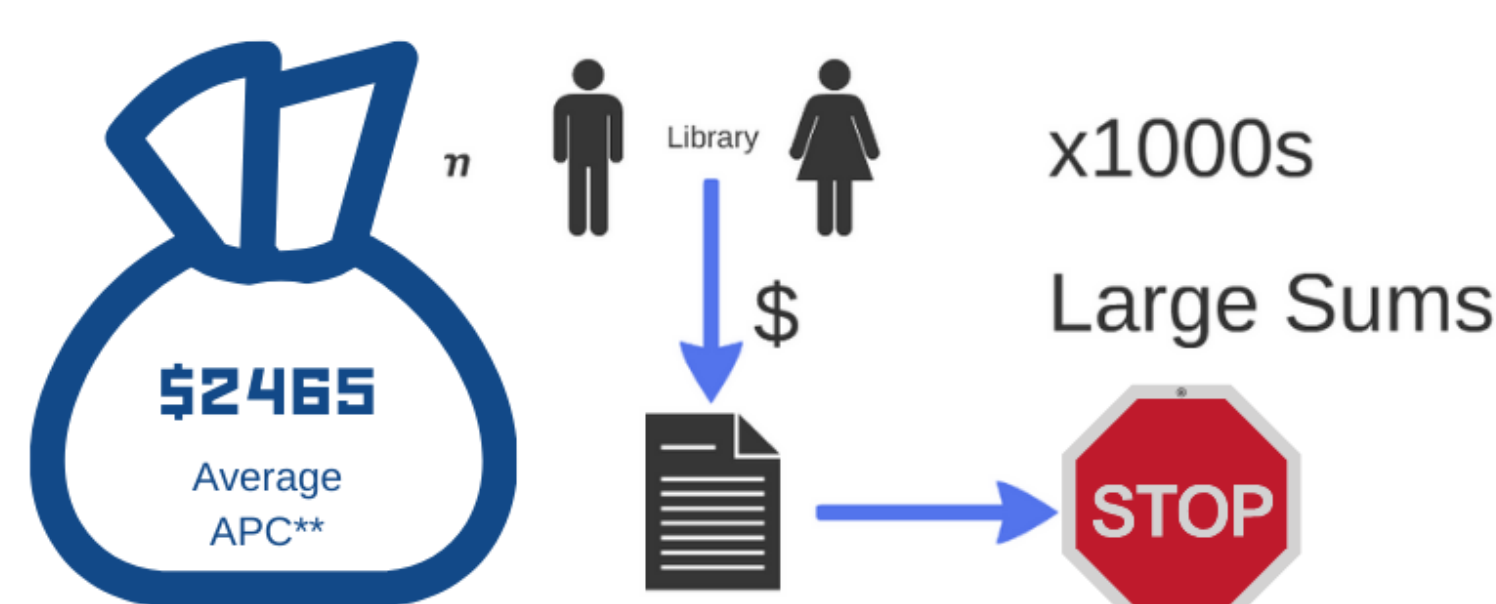
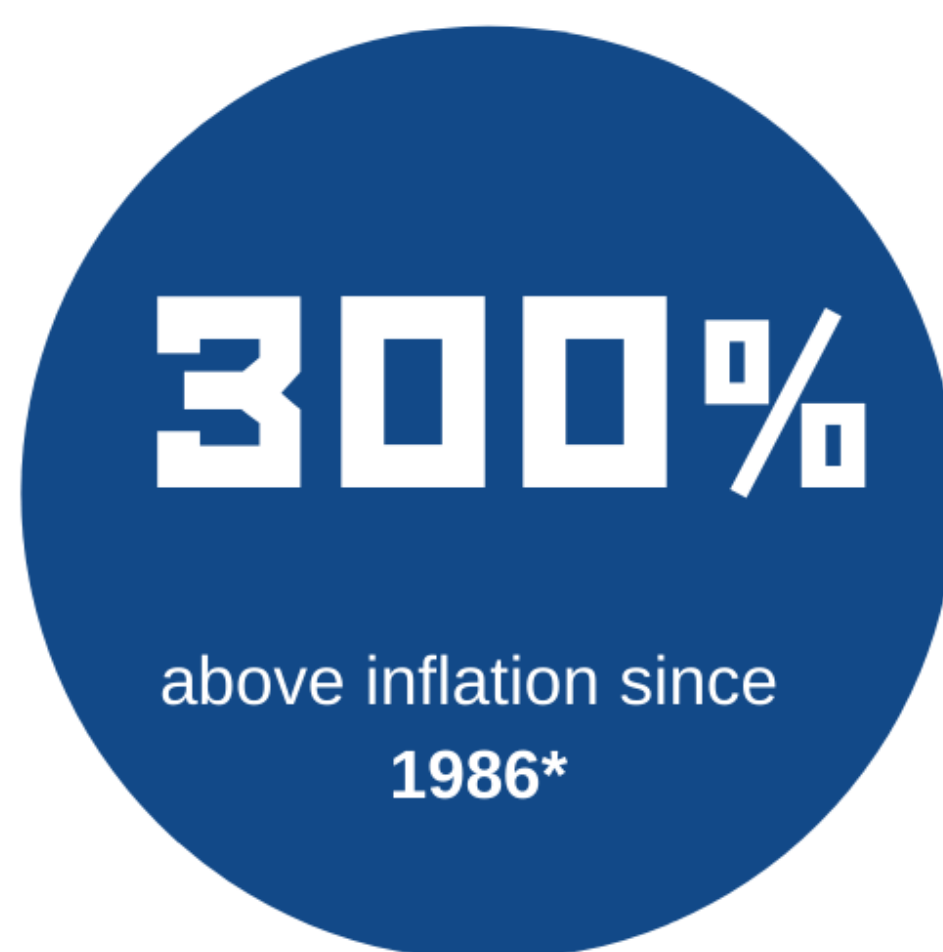
1) THE CURRENT MODEL IS IN TROUBLE

Subscription publishing is in crisis. In addition to exponentially increased research output over the period since 1986, a rise in fees has triggered what is known as "the serials crisis".

As a result, library budgets are unable to keep pace with the prices set by publishers.

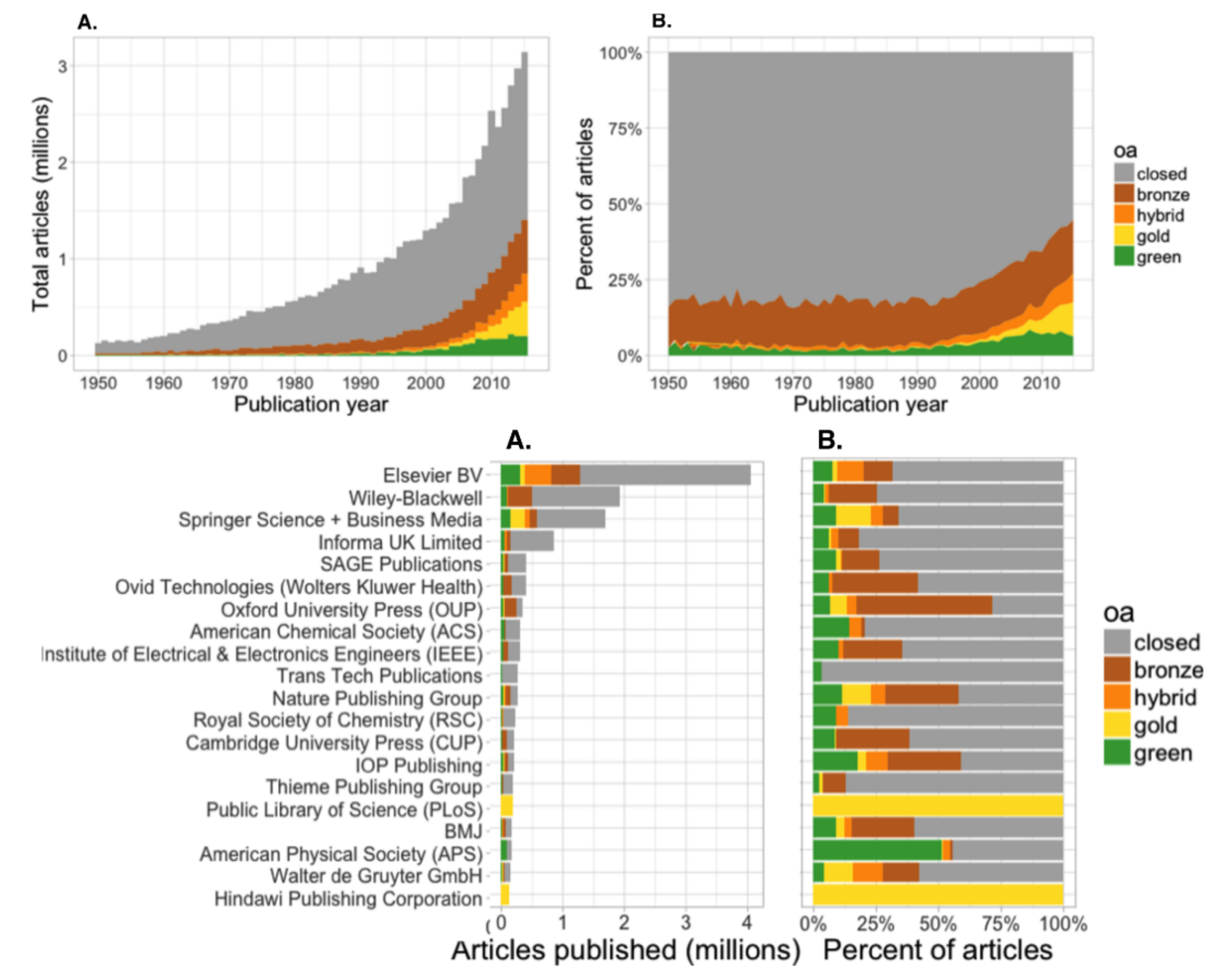
* <http://www.arl.org/storage/documents/expenditure-trends.pdf>

The problems are even more pressing for the humanities and social sciences. Replacing subscription with open access is problematic with Article Processing Charges (APCs). Poorly funded by comparison to scientific disciplines, APCs will have the effect of shutting down scholarly communication.



**£1745 for 2014-15. See: <https://www.jisc.ac.uk/reports/apcs-and-subscriptions>

The overall portion of open access articles is growing, with green, gold and hybrid options predominating. Many articles that are currently available through publishers are bronze, lacking any open licensing.



Figs 2 (top) and 4 (bottom) from Piwowar, H. et al. (2018). The state of OA: a large-scale analysis of the prevalence and impact of Open Access articles, <https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.4375>. Licence: CC BY.

2) AND APCs ARE ON THE RISE

The system is currently sustained by APCs, supported by national-level offset agreements and a network of discounts and deals with large publishers.

But ...

Costs are on the rise. In 2018, for example, 40% of the 56 *Frontiers* journals have experienced APC increases of 18–31% from 2017 to 2018. The data that these journals have provided is one example of a wider system of rapid APC inflation.

Frontiers in Psychology has increased from \$2490 USD to \$2950 USD, an increase of \$460 USD or 18%, while *Frontiers in Pediatrics* has increased from \$1900 USD to \$2490 USD, an increase of \$590 or 31%.

Frontiers APC inflation data: <http://bit.ly/2ILC7kl>

4) IF WE POOL OUR RESOURCES

The OLH consortial funding model is extremely cost effective, with a base cost of approximately \$500 per article. This covers ongoing technological costs, staff costs, digital preservation, typesetting and other costs.



This means lots of libraries all paying a small amount to make it work.

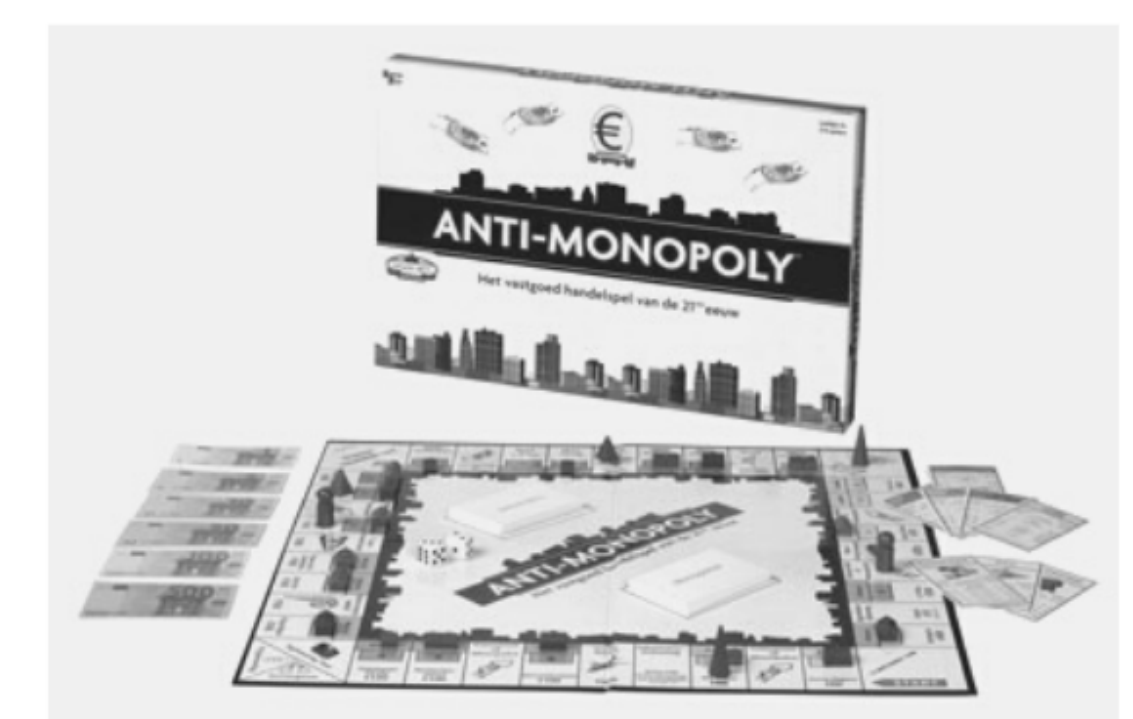
The model proposed by the OLH is one where publication costs do not fall on the institution or researchers but, are instead financed collaboratively through an international library consortium, where each member pays an annual fee. Reducing and distributing the costs of publication across its members, with an economy of scale that improves as more institutions join.

3) BUT WHAT IS TO BE DONE?

What alternative is available when a researcher needs an article to which a publisher has exclusive rights?

NONE

It is a micro-monopoly!



The current level of APCs makes gold OA publishing unaffordable for the majority of unfunded humanities scholars. The OLH aims instead to implement a collaborative, or collective, funding model for gold open access in the humanities.

Ever-increasing APCs?

5) THEN THERE IS AN ALTERNATIVE!

or Scholar-led production?



> 250 libraries financially supporting the OLH



> 28 Journals on or Supported by the platform

