Scholarly Publishing & Communications
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Overview

- Select developments in scholarly publishing
- Current state of MSU contracts
- Open access & open education
- Issues for the faculty
Developments in Scholarly Publishing

University of California cancels deal with Elsevier after months of negotiations

Submitted by Lindsay McKenzie on March 1, 2019 - 3:00am

The University of California System has canceled its multimillion-dollar subscription contract with Elsevier, an academic publisher.

Other institutions have canceled their "big deal" journal subscription contracts with major publishers before. But none in the U.S. have the financial and scholarly clout of the UC system -- which accounts for nearly 10 percent of the nation's publishing output.

The cancellation, announced Thursday, is a blow to Elsevier, which is facing increasing pressure to change its largely subscription-based business model. Last year, hundreds of institutions in Germany and Sweden refused to sign a deal with Elsevier unless it agreed to fundamentally change the way it charges institutions to access and publish research.

UC has been pushing for a so-called read-and-publish deal with the company, which would offset the cost of open access publishing against the cost of access to subscription content. Lead negotiators for the system argue that this kind of deal will help publishers accelerate open-access publishing and eventually eliminate paywalls. Under such a deal, all UC research published in Elsevier journals would be immediately available to the public.

After more than six months of negotiations, it became clear that Elsevier was not willing to meet the UC's demands, said Jeff Mackie-Mason and Ivy Anderson, the system's lead negotiators.

Elsevier made an offer that would combine the costs of accessing paywalled content and publishing open access articles. But the offer came with a hefty price tag, the negotiators said, which the system was not willing to pay.
UC / Elsevier

- “Big deal” cancellations
- Open access / subscription hybrid journals
- Rising costs for both components
- Publish and read model or offset model
Economics of Scholarly Publishing

• *Library Journal*
  • 7% increase in journal prices from 2016 – 2017
  • 6% increase forecast for 2019
• Due to bundling, increases per title have been more modest
• Increase in journal titles / scholarly output (3.5% - 4% annually since 1990*)

*Source: [https://scholarlykitchen.sspnet.org/2016/03/10/revisiting-have-journal-prices-really-increased-much-in-the-digital-age/](https://scholarlykitchen.sspnet.org/2016/03/10/revisiting-have-journal-prices-really-increased-much-in-the-digital-age/)
Journals @ MSU

• Serials subscriptions make up approximately 68% of the Libraries Materials budget
• Serial subscription inflation has held at 4.5% - 5% over the last decade
  • Leveraging various negotiating strategies / partners
  • “Big deal” packages applicable due to our size
Selected Negotiating Partners

- Elsevier
  - 1 major package negotiated directly
  - 1 package through MCLS
  - 2 packages through BTAA

- Springer
  - 3 packages through BTAA

- Wiley
  - 2 packages through BTAA
Open Access / Open Education

- **Open Access**
  - Plan S in Europe
  - Federal funding requirements
  - At MSU
    - Toward an Open Monograph Ecosystem (TOME)
    - MSU Commons

- **Open Education**
  - Federal funding
  - At MSU
    - Course Resource Choices Project
    - Course Materials Program in MSU Libraries
    - Open Textbook Network
    - OER Librarian
Issues for the Faculty

- Open Access resolution / policy
- Negotiating rights when publishing
- Documenting impact of open access / open education for tenure and promotion
Let’s Talk!

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