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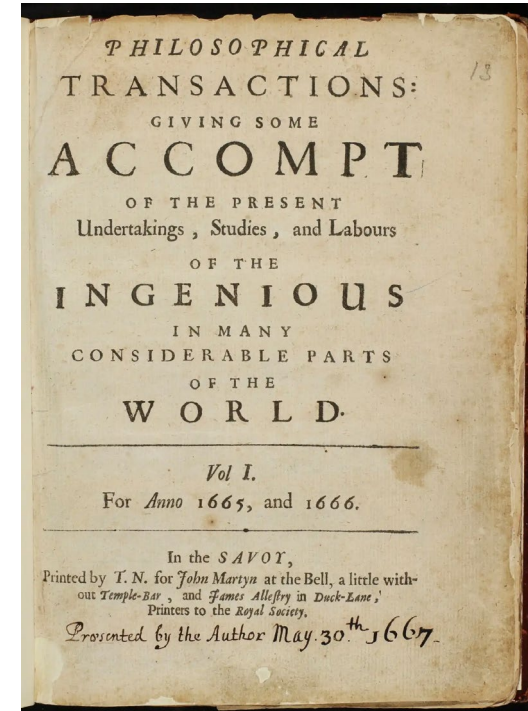
# Diamond Open Access

Jochen Bihn

[jochen.bihn@lib4ri.ch](mailto:jochen.bihn@lib4ri.ch)

# A very short history of academic publishing

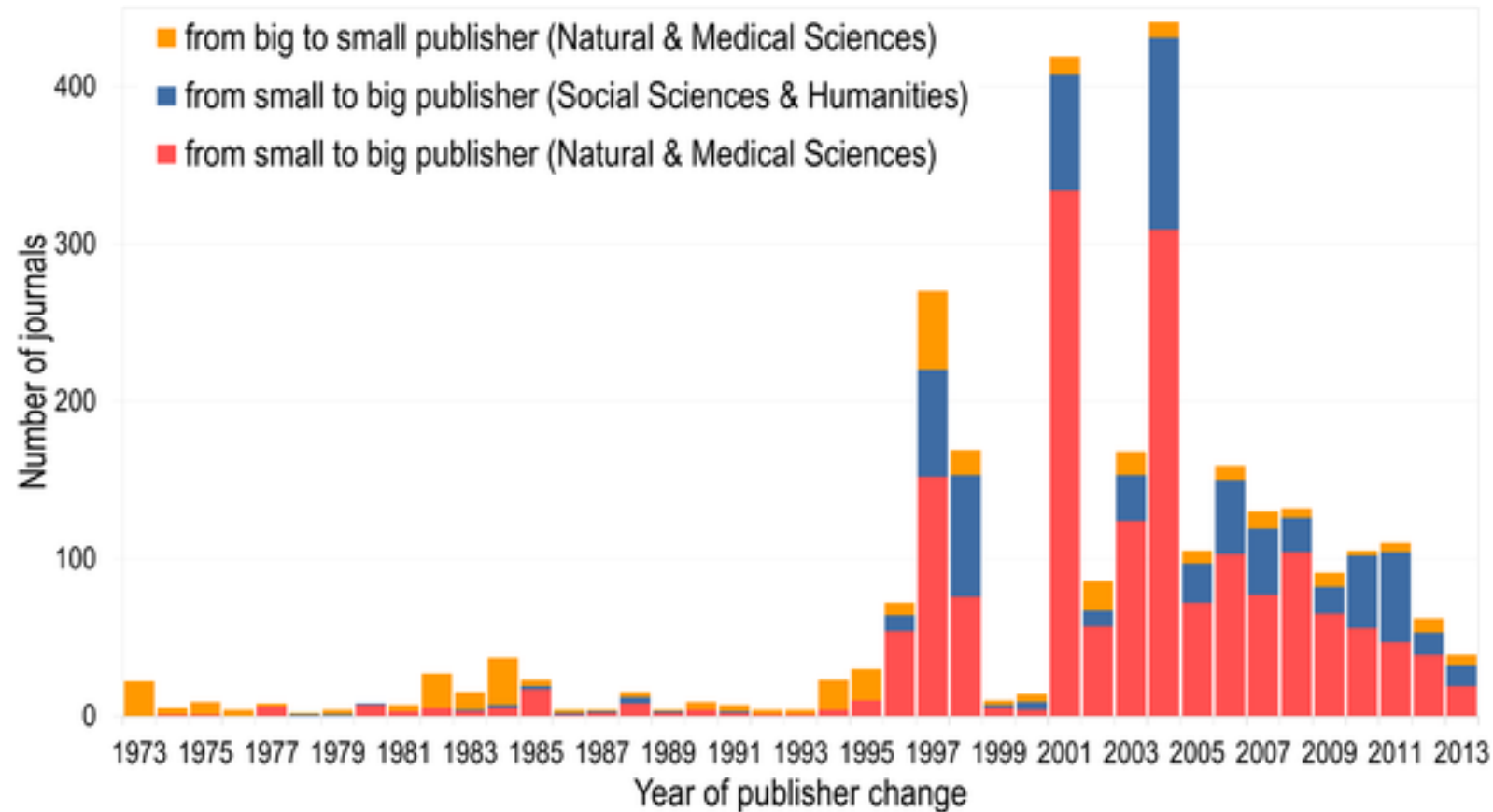
- **1665**: Academic societies publish the first journals and were the dominant publishers of scientific journals for the next 300 years.
- **The original role of commercial publishers was to act as service providers** for the dissemination of scientific publications: printing the journals and sending them all over the world.
- **Post World War II**: The **budget** dedicated to science increased enormously.
- Scholarly publishing had to adapt to a much increased demand.
- Commercial publishers perceive the potential huge profitability of academic publishing. **Many new journals** for specific fields of research are created **by commercial publishers**.



The first volume of Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society published in 1665.

[Philosophical Transactions Volume 1 frontispiece](#), [CC BY 4.0](#)

# Academic publishing: Big fish eats little fish



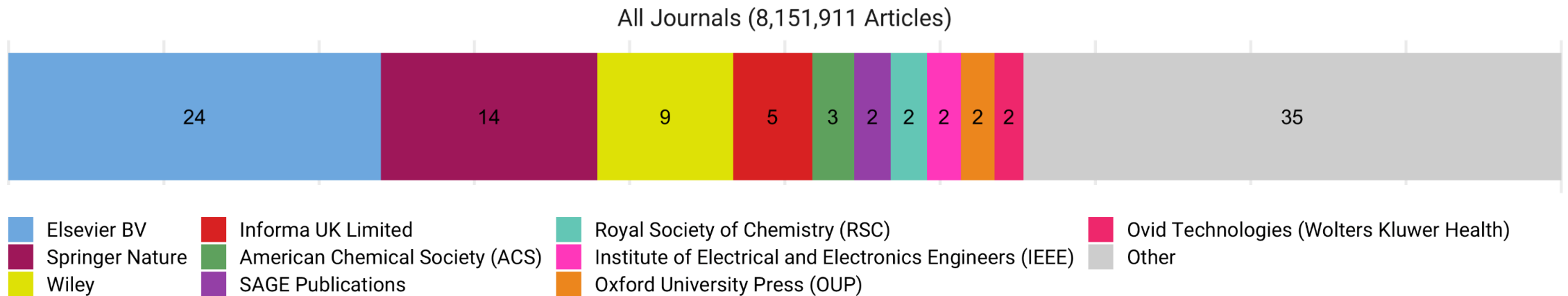
Number of journals changing from small to big publishers, and big to small publishers per year of change.

Adapted from: Larivière V, Haustein S, Mongeon P (2015) The Oligopoly of Academic Publishers in the Digital Era. PLOS ONE 10(6): e0127502. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0127502>; licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).

# The «Big 5» oligopoly of academic publishing

## Global publisher market shares 2014-2018

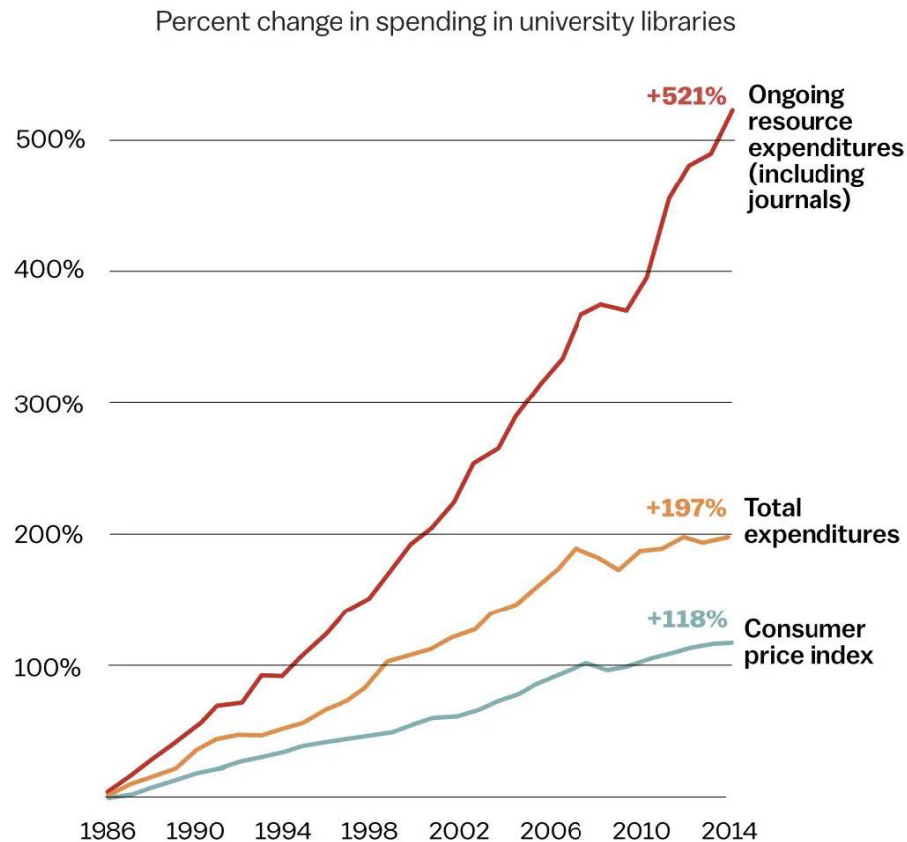
Original articles and reviews indexed in Web of Science



Adapted from Najko Jahn (2019) [Research compendium for a dataset about corresponding author country affiliations indexed in the Web of Science 2014 – 2018](#). Licensed under [CC-BY 4.0](#).

# The serials crisis

## Spending on journals (and other reoccurring materials) has greatly outpaced inflation



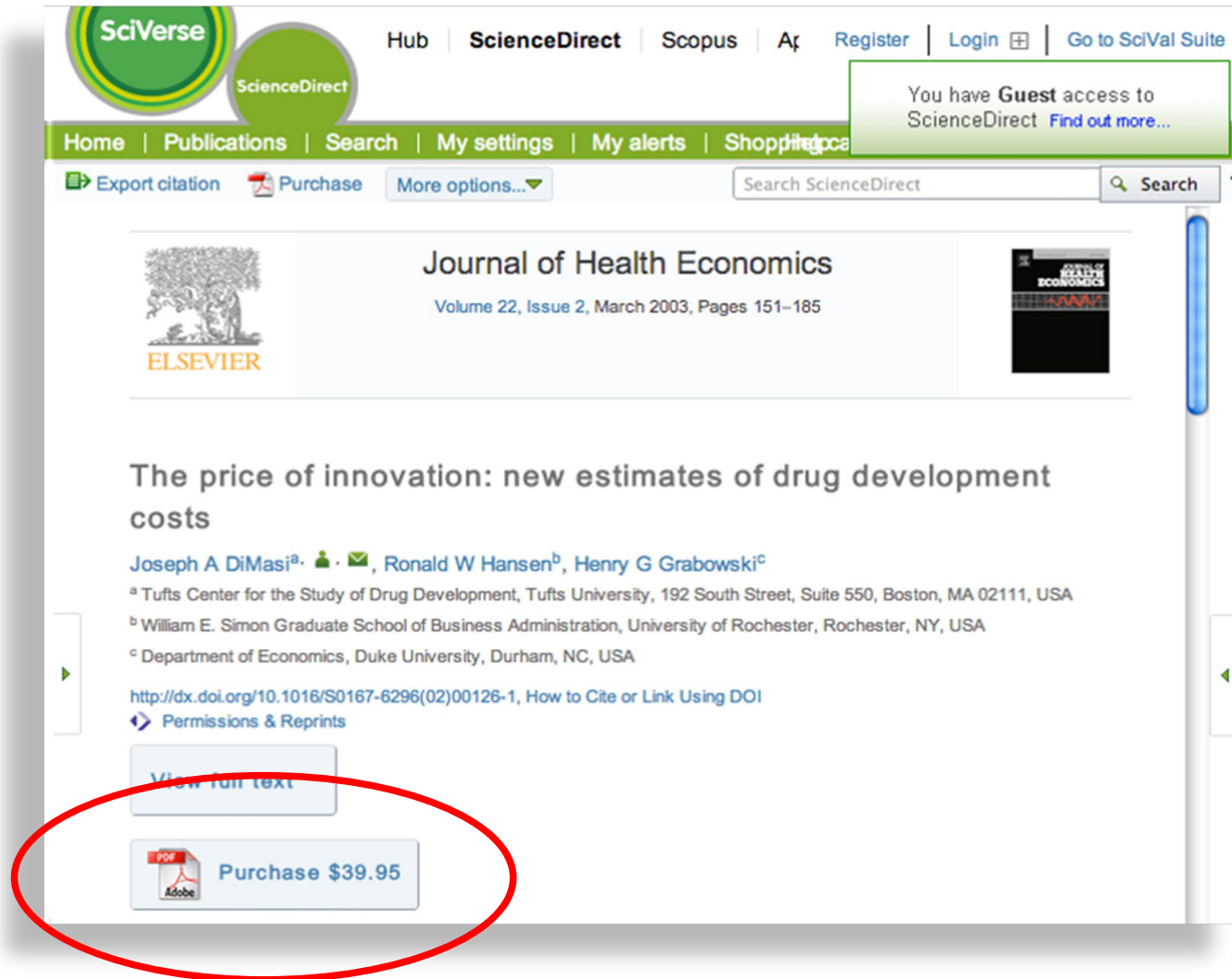
**Ian Sample**, *science correspondent*

[@iansample](#)

Tue 24 Apr 2012 17.45 BST

## Harvard University says it can't afford journal publishers' prices

**University wants scientists to make their research open access and resign from publications that keep articles behind paywalls**




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 **Journal of Health Economics**  
Volume 22, Issue 2, March 2003, Pages 151-185

**The price of innovation: new estimates of drug development costs**


Joseph A DiMasi<sup>a</sup>, Ronald W Hansen<sup>b</sup>, Henry G Grabowski<sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Tufts Center for the Study of Drug Development, Tufts University, 192 South Street, Suite 550, Boston, MA 02111, USA  
<sup>b</sup> William E. Simon Graduate School of Business Administration, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY, USA  
<sup>c</sup> Department of Economics, Duke University, Durham, NC, USA

[http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0167-6296\(02\)00126-1](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0167-6296(02)00126-1), How to Cite or Link Using DOI

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# Advent of Open Access

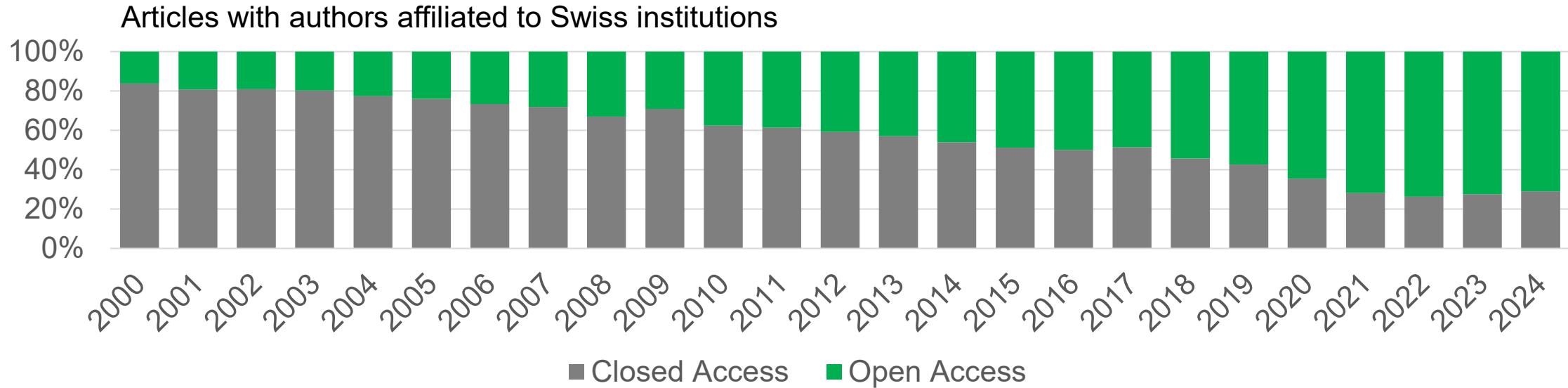
- 2000: 34'000 scientists sign an [open letter](#):  
... *we will publish in, edit or review for, and personally subscribe to only those scholarly and scientific journals that have agreed to grant unrestricted free distribution rights to any and all original research reports that they have published ...*
- **First Open Access publishers** are founded, e.g. BioMed Central (now part of SpringerNature) and PLOS
- 2002/2003: The **Berlin Declaration on OA** and **Budapest OA Initiative** lay the cornerstones of the Open Access movement.
- **Funders** start to oblige researchers to make their scientific publications freely accessible (SNSF 2008, European Union 2014)
- 2017: Switzerland adopts a **National Open Access strategy**.



## The academic publishing industry adapts

- Major commercial publishers were resistant to the demands of the Open Access movement but adapted quickly:
  - Big publishers launch **hybrid Open Access model**: pay a fee to make your article OA in a subscription journal (e.g. Springer *Open Choice*, 2004)
  - Big publishers **buy smaller Open Access publishers** (e.g. 2008 Springer buys BioMed Central, 2021 Wiley buys Hindawi)
  - Big publishers **launch their own full Open Access journals** (Elsevier 2010, Wiley 2012)
  - 2019: Big publishers sign first **Read & Publish “Big Deals”**.

## The current situation



- Articles are more accessible than ever!
- APC-based Open Access is the dominant form of Open Access.
- The Big5 publishers have strengthened their market position.
- From a «serials crisis» (subscription costs) to an «APC crisis»?
- From excluding readers (have no access) to excluding authors (cannot pay APC)?

# Diamond Open Access (the solution?)

What are Diamond OA journals?

- **Open Access with open licenses:**  
All outputs of the journal are Open Access and carry an open license.
- **No fees:**  
Publication in the journal is not contingent on the payment of fees of any kind.
- **Community-owned:**  
The journal title must be owned by public or not-for-profit organisations (or parts thereof) whose mission includes performing or promoting research and scholarship.

☰ Mario Angst
🔍

## Criteria for journals that don't suck

Finding places to contribute to in a fucked up system

ACADEMIC PUBLISHING
BIG PUBLISHING

<p><small>AUTHOR</small></p> <p>Mario Angst</p>	<p><small>PUBLISHED</small></p> <p>February 20, 2025</p>
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### Criteria for *journals that don't suck*<sup>TM</sup>

The scientific publication system is fucked up. [I have written up my reasons for why I believe this here.](#)

One of the actions every researcher can take to do something about it, is to stop contributing to journals that suck. Even better, start contributing to *journals that don't suck*<sup>TM</sup><sup>1</sup>.

Think of it as a white list approach to publishing. Formulate some criteria for inclusion and then start gathering the journals that meet them in your field<sup>2</sup>.

These are my own criteria for *journals that don't suck*<sup>TM</sup>.

Source: <https://marioangst.com/en/blog/posts/criteria-journals/>

Adapted from: Armengou, C., Bargheer, M., Gingold, A., Holsinger, S., Laakso, M., Mitchell, D., Mounier, P., Pölönen, J., Rooryck, J., Ševkušić, M., Souyiotzoglou, I., & Varachkina, H. (2024). Operational Diamond OA Criteria for Journals. Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.12721408>, licensed under [CC BY](#).

## Some challenges of Diamond OA journals

### ○ Fragmented landscape of journals

- Many journals (ca. 29000) but the majority of OA diamond journals are small in size, publishing fewer than 25 articles a year. OA diamond journals serve mainly a national authorship.

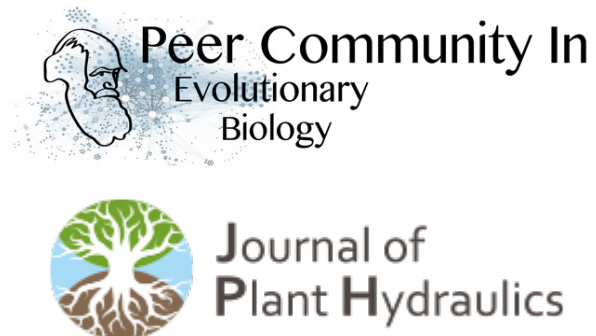
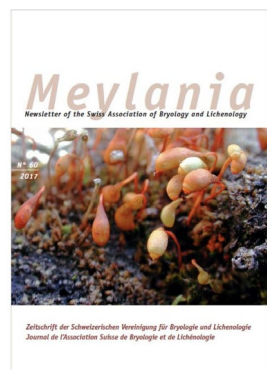
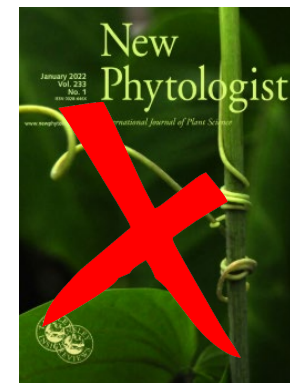
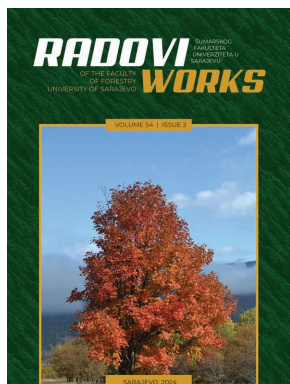
### ○ Low visibility

- Only a third are registered in the [Directory of Open Access Journals](#), and only ~5% are indexed in either [Scopus](#) or [Web of Science](#). Diamond OA journals publish ~9% all articles (less in CH).

### ○ Lack of sustainable funding

- 25% of Diamond OA journals operate at a loss, and just over 40% report breaking even. The rest did not know their financial status. Most depend on volunteer work and institutional funding.

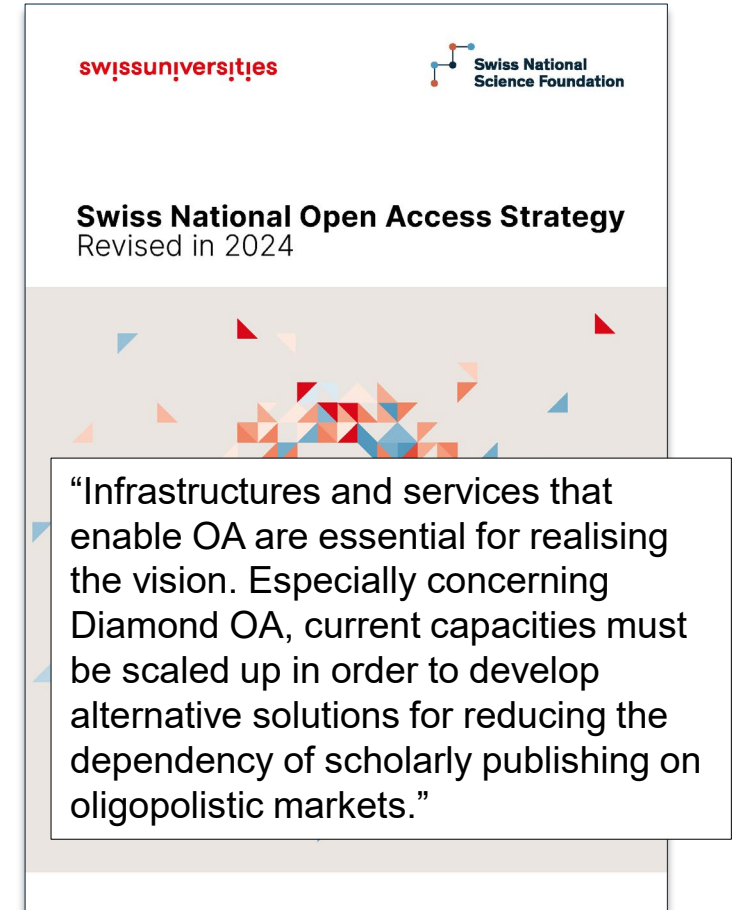
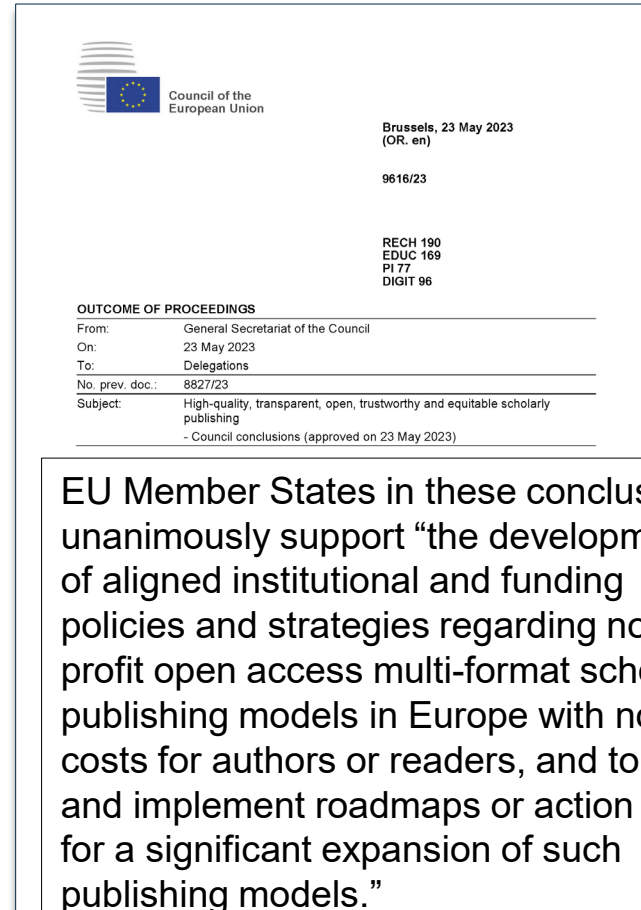
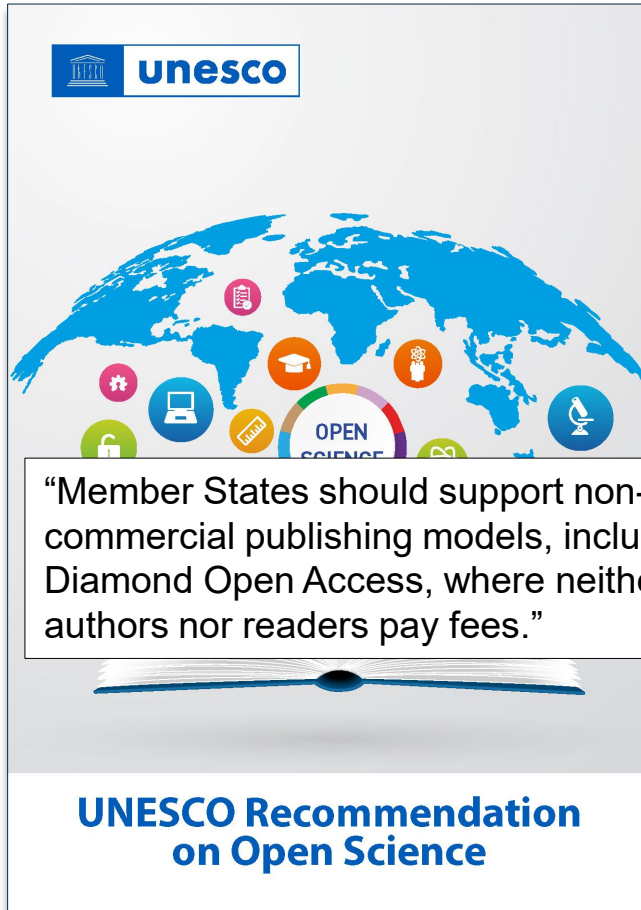
## Some examples from the survey



(authors need to pay to publish OA)



# Political support for Diamond OA is growing



## New momentum for Diamond Open Access

- Opportunity for Diamond Open Access to position itself as a **solid alternative to the APC** and other commercial models
- Opportunity for the scientific community to **take back control over scholarly communication**
- Opportunity to **invest in a sustainable publishing ecosystem**