

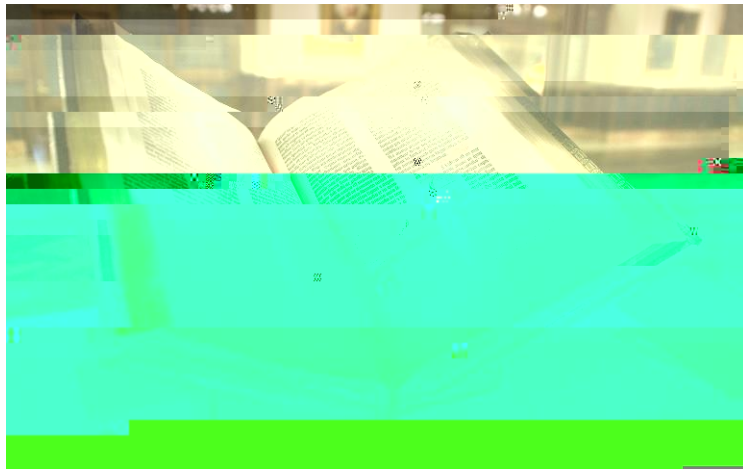
OAT 2022

I view the world of publishing with the eyes of a strategist and a financial analyst, not an academic

I collaborate with SPARC in the US since 2018, focusing my work on the strategy of the scholarly publishers, the introduction of commercial research data analytics and the future shape of scholarly communications

I became concerned with the state of scholarly publishing as early as 2012, when I argued that Reed Elsevier would see its value decline because the academic community would not tolerate the inequities and the costs of high-priced subscriptions

It took 215 years to go from the Gutenberg Bible to the first scholarly journal. Any assumption on what scholarly publishing will look in 200 years appears premature





COVID-19 has shown that, in an emergency, the system must be uprooted altogether. Restrictive licenses, lack of access to backfiles with relevant foundational knowledge, high APCs, restrictions on machine reading, and long publication queues are incompatible with advancing and sharing knowledge.

Global emergencies are everywhere, from climate change to loss of biodiversity

Other diseases represent a daily emergency for individual and communities around the world.

There is a well-known replication crisis, as journals and authors strive to publish eye-catching findings. This phenomena drives a wide array of deviant behavior. It also drives research spending to explore blind alleys.

University rankings also have pernicious effects on the policies of even some of the best funded and/or most prestigious academic institutions in the world

Publishers that also assess research put authors in an untenable position, since they must fear the consequences of publishing their work elsewhere

Assessment of research seeps into every facet of academic life in inscrutable ways, ranging from decisions on funding to hiring and promotion.

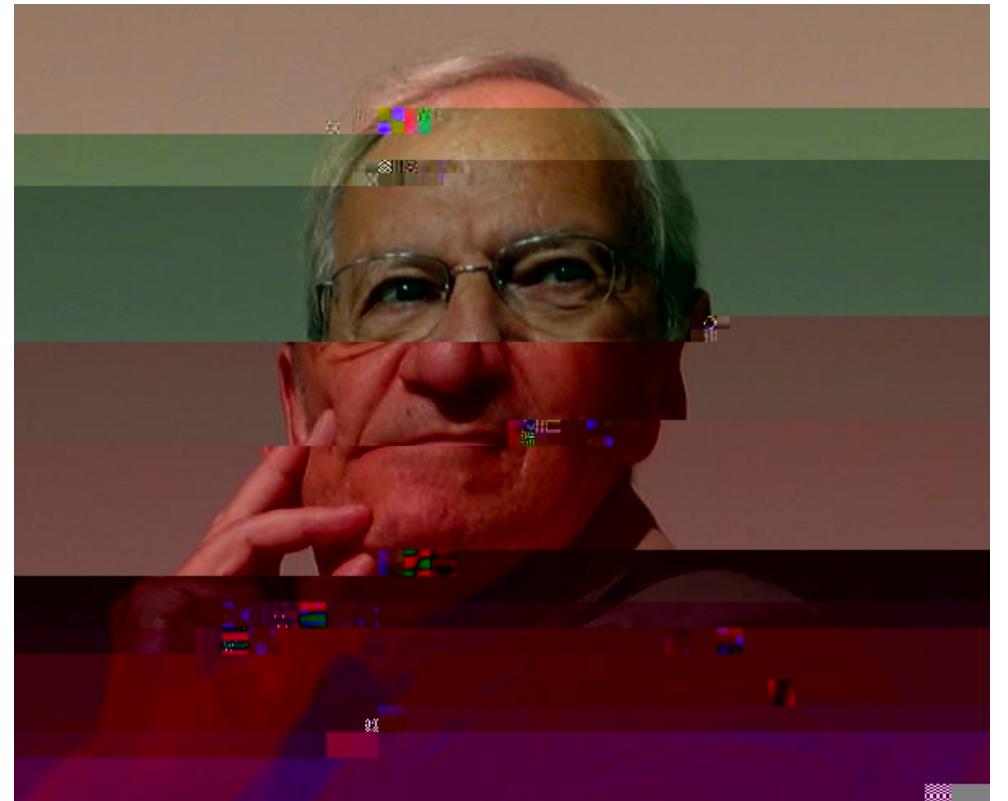
Many of the issues that affect publishers have roots in mechanisms that plague the academic community

Publishers can legitimately claim that senior academic leaders and faculty are involved in many of the decisions that lead to the issues outlined earlier.

Ultimately, however, publishers are responsible for the quality of their products and for the impact of their activities. Participating in (and profiting from) the activity of a "academic-industrial complex" is a choice.

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