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The European perspective on shifting power centres in schol comms

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Background

- 20 years+ working in libraries
- Director of Irish University Libraries Collaboration Centre (IULCC) (IReL Consortium)
- Co-Chair of Irish Elsevier Negotiation Group
- Irish representative on the EUA's High-Level Group on Big Deals

Current (dominant) model of scholarly publishing is dysfunctional

- Costs soaring – €22 billion+ in global revenues (increasing c.5%/€1 bn+ p.a.) – unique business model
- Outlandish profit margins – top publishers more profitable than 97% of other PLCs and than many ‘big brands’ including BMW, Google and Apple
- Concentrated control of Top 4 Publishers (Elsevier, Springer, T&F and Wiley)
- Expensive *AND* limited access - bad deal for tax payers and other funders
- Undue influence on publication and research process of impact factors and publication venue

EUA 2019 study – the need for change is clear

- 31 consortia, 30 countries, 167 contracts with 5 major publishers
- €700M+ annual spend, c.€500M with the top 5.
- Annual average cost increase of 3.6%
- 55% of Big Deals currently have no OA provisions
- Lack of transparency around deals

eua EUROPEAN
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2019 Big Deals Survey Report

An Updated Mapping of Major
Scholarly Publishing Contracts
in Europe

By Rita Morais, Lennart Stoy and Lidia Borrell-Damián
May 2019

Europe and OA

- Amsterdam Call for Action on Open Science (April 2016)
- EU Recommendations on access to and preservation of scientific information (April 2018)
 - Member States should set and implement clear policies ... for the dissemination of and open access to scientific publications resulting from publicly funded research. Those policies and action plans should provide for:
 - **concrete objectives and indicators to measure progress,**
 - **implementation plans, including the allocation of responsibilities and appropriate licensing,**
 - **associated financial planning**
- Plan S (Sept. 2018)
 - 10 principles and implementation guidance subsequently
- EUA Study on Publish and Read Agreements (May 2019)

National impacts – case study of Ireland

- IReL Review – Sept. 2018 – June 2019
- National Open Research Forum – July 2019
- IReL principles for Open Access publisher agreements from 2020 - July 2019
- Science Foundation Ireland – new OA Policy – due to be launched Nov. 2019



REPORT
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Shifting power centres....

Actor	Shifts
Funders	Increased agency but increasing dependency on consortia.
Consortia	Higher profile but reduced agency, more diverse membership/leadership
Individual Libraries	Reduced agency around deals but greater/more complex institutional role
Publishers	Increased demand for customer service, decreasing margins
Authors	Increase in outlets, decrease in barriers to access

Europe – a key driver in the shifting power centres

- Current market unsustainable by any measure
- Increasing OA policy focus, pace of change accelerating
- Transparency and Openness priorities
- Funders and funding key drivers
- Different implications for different actors

Go raibh maith agaibh

Thank You

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