Society Publishing and Open Access

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Managing Director, Publishing
Royal Society of Chemistry
My Background

- Ph.D. Chemist
- Post-doc research in Germany
- Ca. 20 papers published
- Associate Editor Angewandte Chemie
- Editor of Advanced Materials
- Editorial Director Wiley-VCH
- Since 2002 Managing Director RSC Publishing
Thomas Graham House
RSC Publishing

- 23 Journals
- Several databases (Analytical Abstracts, Methods in Organic Synthesis…)
- Ca. 45 books/year
- Own web platform
- Based in Cambridge
- Ca. 150 staff
RSC Products
Journals

advancing the chemical sciences
RSC Products

Journals

Dalton Transactions

JAAS

The Analyst

JEM

advancing the chemical sciences
New in 2005

- Weekly issues
- 3-page communications
- Monthly issues
- Comprehensive reviews
- Weekly issues
- Monthly issues
The Plan

- Society mission statements
- What do societies do?
- What does it cost?
- How to fund it?
- Communities and solutions
- Issues of the funding models
- Who has or wants access?
- What do societies want?
- Conclusions
Mission Statements

- IOP: “Established to promote the advancement and dissemination of physics
- ACS: “advances knowledge and research through scholarly publishing, information resources…..”
- IEE: “support electrical engineering…through providing business and technical information…”
Mission Statements

- CUP: “Dedicated to the advancement of knowledge through publishing and printing, advancing knowledge, ….”
- OUP: “furthers the University’s objective of excellence in research, scholarship, and education by publishing worldwide”
- RSC: “to foster the chemical sciences by the dissemination of chemical knowledge…”
What do societies do?

- Support the development of their scientific areas
- Provide member services and products
- Provide funding and infrastructure for charitable activities
How does publishing contribute?

- Furtherance of science
- Dissemination of scientific information
- Quality control
- Scientific and ethical standards
- Services to memberships
- Providing funding and infrastructure for charitable activities
Furtherance of science

- The development of new fields supported by publication of results
- Guarantee of the scientific record
- Determination of priority in discovery
- International collaborations
Dissemination of scientific information

- Relatively low-cost print products
- Investment in web platforms
- Promotion to large professional memberships
- Close relationships with the scientific communities
- Flexible payment models
Quality control

- Facilitation of the self regulation of the scientific community
- Application of peer-review procedures
- Qualified professional staff
- Technical standards & editing
- Centralised checking the viability of content
Scientific and ethical standards

Policing of:

- Ethical behavior (fraud, favoritism)
- Publishing behaviour (multiple, changes..)
- Use of nomenclature
- Publication and promotion of protocols and standards
- Maintenance of the scientific record
What does it cost?

In 2004, for the cost of The Tetrahedron and Tetrahedron Letters (combined subscription $29,035),

a Librarian could buy:

(Package A + Package G + AA = $25,795)

Annual Reports A, B & C
Chemical Communications
Chemical Society Reviews
CrystEngComm (online only)
Dalton Transactions
Faraday Discussions
Geochemical Transactions (online only)
Green Chemistry
Journal of Materials Chemistry
Methods in Organic Synthesis
Natural Product Reports

Natural Product Updates
New Journal of Chemistry
Chemical Science
Physical Chemistry Chemical Physics
PhysChemComm (online only)
Analytical Abstracts
The Analyst
Journal of Analytical Atomic Spectrometry
Journal of Environmental Monitoring

AND receive free site-wide access to RSC print journals

AND have more than $3,000 left over
Is that expensive?

- Compared to scientific equipment?
- Compared to consumables?
- Compared to the cost of running a library?
- Compared to the cost of a repeated experiment?
What do Subscriptions and Other Things Cost?

- $1725  Subscription to ChemComm
- $125  1 g d₈-anisole
- $3000  Cost/researcher/month
- $60k  IR spectrometer
- $1.5m  RSC Library
- $???? Cost to repeat an experiment
So what is really the issue?

- All journals are too expensive?
  OR
- Some journals are too expensive?
- Some journals are more expensive than others?
- Some publishers have higher prices than others?
- Libraries are under funded?
- Your issue here
Serials Prices

• Why not just inflation?
  • Inflation
  • Attrition
  • Investment

• Increased submissions
• Increased published output
RSC Journal Submissions

Total submissions

Jan-99 Jan-00 Jan-01 Jan-02 Jan-03 Jan-04

03/02
+17%
RSC Journals – Rejection Rates in %
Published Pages—RSC Primary Journals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
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<td>2003</td>
<td>32000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>34000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

04/03
+6.5%
2005 RSC Package Growth

- Package A increases from 219 issues to 276 (+26% vs. 2004)
- Package B increases from 132 journal issues to 180 (+36%)
How to fund it?

- Subscription revenue
- Licence income
- Pay-per-view charges
- Author charges
- Advertising
- Sponsorship
- Others
Different Communities

- Chemistry: High proportion of best chemistry is published by society publishers; some influence of commercial publishers

- Physics: High proportion from societies

- Bioscience: Much higher proportion from commercial publishers

- Materials/Engineering: Very high proportion from commercial publishers
Different Solutions

- Currently, many models co-exist
  - Subscription
  - Pay-per-view
  - Author/page charges

- Author-charging models have failed in chemistry/physics but may have better chances in biosciences
Consequences of Subscription Models

- Centralised buying
- Stress on library funding
- Industry pays for use
- Publication cannot be “bought”
- Market-driven: The consumer, not the provider, determines the development
- Academic library funding does not keep pace with scientific output/pricing of the journals
- Niche journal topics less viable
- Library services need to be maintained
Issues with Pay-per-View

- Publishers concentrate on publishing material likely to be highly “viewed”
- Worthy-but-dull articles not published
- Worthy-but-dull work repeated ad infinitum
- Huge additional costs to science
- Only useful as a supplementary model
Issues: Author-pays models

- Favors the “can-pay” and “have computer”
- Social discrimination “if you can’t pay we’ll waive the fee” instead of “if your work is correct we will publish”
- No libraries necessary
- Loss of income from industry—academics subsidize industrial access
- Academic funding not in place
Issues: Author-Pays II

- Huge additional admin bureaucracy
  - Few customers vs. many authors
  - Credit control with individuals
  - Unis have many more transactions

- Rich and famous won’t (always) pay

- They have been tried before: Phil. Trans, ACS, Maxwell journals
Open Access

• Who has access?
  • Academics in subscribing organisations
  • The public through legal deposit libraries
  • Whole countries (Russia, Israel, Australia...)
  • Whole states (California, NRW, Ohio...)
  • Those using PPV
  • Those in the poorest countries (HINARI/PERI/INASP)

• Who does not have free access?
  • The general public at home
What else is wanted?

- Copyright retention
- Institutional repositories
- Lower prices
- Access for the “have-nots”
- No simultaneous-user restrictions
- Perpetual access on cancellation
- Services for referees
- Guarantee of the scientific record
- Healthy Societies
What is the Answer?

- Publish with the RSC or with any number of other society-based publishers!
Yes to Maximum Access!

No to Author Pays!

- Maximizing access is good
  - For science
  - For scientists
  - For Societies
  - For publishers

- “Author-pays” is fundamentally flawed
What do societies want?

- Quality information
- Reliability
  - E.g. for scientific record
  - Maintenance of standards
- Equality (not who pays wins)
- Sustainability
- Efficiency
- Information to be valued and treasured
- Free market competition
Which model then?

- Mixture of:
  - Subscription models
  - Author-pays models
  - Pay-per-view

- Market (not supplier or Governmental) regulation of the mix
Conclusions

- Publishing is part of science
- One model does not fit all
- Competition to publish should be based on quality not money
- Access has never been higher
- Author-pays models are supplier-driven, are not new, and have failed
- Infrastructure and services need investment and funding