Let’s make a DEAL: Open Access, Business Models, and Transformation Dynamics

Günter M. Ziegler
Freie Universität Berlin
Member of the DEAL project team
Agenda I: Open Access

*Our mission of disseminating knowledge is only half complete if the information is not made widely and readily available to society.*

(Berlin Declaration, 2003)
Agenda, II

1. My roles and perspectives
2. The publication process/value-added chain, then and now
3. Open Access, Piracy, Business models
4. The DEAL Project
5. Transformation Dynamics, Perspectives,
6. Comments, Discussion
1. My roles and perspectives

Role 1: I am a scientist, a mathematician
• author, referee, editor, …

Role 2: I am a science manager
• DMV, DFG, DEAL, …
2. The publication process, then

The value-added chain, then:

1. **do the research**
2. type it (on a typewriter)
3. do corrections
4. mail to the editor
5. they mail out to referees, etc.
6. **refereeing**
7. manuscript is revised, finalized
8. mail final manuscript to the publisher
9. **typesetting**
10. drawing figures
11. proofs, corrections
12. **printing**
13. **mail** the journal to subscribers
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ON THE POSET OF PARTITIONS OF AN INTEGER

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Abstract: We study the posets (partially ordered sets) $P_n$ of partitions of an integer $n$, ordered by refinement, as defined by BIRKHOFF. In particular we disprove the conjecture that the posets $P_n$ are COHEN-MACULAY for all $n$, and show that even the MÖBIUS function on the intervals does not alternate in sign in general.
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On the Poset of Partitions of an Integer

GÜNTER M. ZIEGLER

Department of Mathematics, 2-251, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

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We study the posets (partially ordered sets) \( P_n \) of partitions of an integer ordered by refinement, as defined by G. Birkhoff, "Lattice Theory" (3rd ed., Publ. Vol. 25, 1967, Amer. Math. Soc. Providence, R.I. In particular we show the conjecture that the posets \( P_n \) are Cohen–Macaulay for all \( n \), and show the Möbius function on the intervals does not alternate in sign in general.

Academic Press, Inc.
2. The publication process, then and now

The value-added chain, now:
1. do the research
2. type it (using LaTeX, TikZ, etc.)
3. do corrections
4. (pre)publish it on the arXiv
5. submit to the editorial system (or email to the editor)
6. email out to referees, etc.
7. refereeing (?)
8. manuscript is revised, finalized
9. submit final manuscript to the publisher
10. typesetting formatting
11. drawing figures
12. proofs, corrections
13. indexing, generate metadata
14. put it on the journal website, make accessible to subscribers
15. printing (?), distribute (?) journal to subscribers
3. Open Access, Piracy, Business Models

3a. Open Access

*Our mission of disseminating knowledge is only half complete if the information is not made widely and readily available to society.* (Berlin Declaration, 2003)

We are not anymore publishing in a scientific journal in order to make our work accessible (so that it can be found/read), but
- for the quality-control stamp and
- for the reputation.

Crazy situation: with the reputation the work disappears behind a paywall?!

Demand true Open Access!
Not green OA (we have that anyway)
Not fake gold OA (see lecture to follow mine…)
3. Open Access, Piracy, Business Models

3b. Piracy

- Piracy is illegal, but it helps with access.
- **The most effective way to fight piracy is Open Access!**
- As long as the publishers fight open access, piracy works on our side
- What’s the difference to piracy in the music industry, piratebay?
- As of Nov. 2017, the DNS entry for [http://sci-hub.bz](http://sci-hub.bz) inactive,
  ... but **80.82.77.83** works
- ResearchGate? Academia.edu?
- Publishers (claim to) agree that the system is not sustainable, it has to change to “paying for publishing” in place of “paying for reading”.
3. Open

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3b.

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Abstract. We characterize all pairs of integers \((E, S)\) such that there exist convex 4-dimensional polytopes with exactly \(E\) edges and \(S\) 2-dimensional faces.
3. Open Access, Piracy, Business Models

3b. Piracy

• Springer and others (including e.g. Princeton University Press) let POD printing (or rather the polishing?) be done by “lightning source,” not very high quality.

• At the same time, lightning source acts as a pirate printing company, who illegally reprint books and sell them on Amazon (who are thus a piracy platform, like sci-hub?)

• Does Springer sell its own pirated books? See Chinese characters on book covers… They do they sell cheap reprints that don’t feel like a real Springer book.
3. Open Access, Piracy, Business Models

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As a second year graduate textbook, **Cohomology of Groups** introduces students to cohomology theory (involving a rich interplay between algebra and topology) with a minimum of prerequisites. No homological algebra is assumed beyond what is normally learned in a first course in algebraic topology. The basics of the subject are given (along with exercises) before the author discusses more specialized topics.
3. Open Access, Piracy, Business Models

3c. Quality publishing

Do we need the publishers? What do they provide/add? Do we pay for that?
Pay only the quality publishers, for the quality work!

Quality?

- referees are not paid, editors only partially
- language editing?
- infrastructure (editorial systems, but also springerlink, sciencedirect)?
3. Open Access, Piracy, Business Models

3d. Current business model

- get the goods for free (papers from scientists, already typeset)
- add rather little added value
- sell expensively back to us – in “subscription model”: outdated, but still very profitable
  → big business, huge profits,
  → which are invested into lobbying, but not into quality
3. Open Access, Piracy, Business Models

3d. Business models

Business model jeopardized:

- libraries are broke, not sustainable!
- big publishers kill small publishers, by bundles/contracts
- journals kill books, by bundles/contracts
  - by Open Access movement (not taken seriously yet)
  - by Internet/piracy
3. Open Access, Piracy, Business Models

3d. New business models

What do we need from the publishers?
What do we want to buy from them?
What do they provide?

Pay the publishers for publishing, not for the letting-read

“What is it worth?”
4. The DEAL Project

The DEAL project has a mandate to negotiate national licences for the Electronic Journals for “all of Germany” with the three major Science Publishers

- Elsevier
- SpringerNature
- Wiley
4. The DEAL Project – Principles

1. One, New, Contract
   (we have to determine fair prices “ab initio”, not a reduction)

2. Transparency
   (one contract for all, and of course it is going to be public),

3. Open Access
   (all papers from Germany should be published gold-OA immediately)

4. Fair Prices
   (gauged by “per paper published with first author from Germany”)

5. Future-Oriented, Sustainable Pricing
   (designed for an open-access future; sustainable for the sciences, for the publishers, also in view of prepublishing, piracy, open access)
4. The DEAL Project – the price to pay

What should we pay?

We pay for the German share in publishing with N.N.

The fair price is

#articles published (with a German first author)

* (reasonable) PAR (“publish and read fee”)

* (possibly) growth factor
5. Transformation Dynamics

*Elsevier to resigning editor W. Marquardt, Oct. 2017:*

Germany has always been an innovation leader, but other countries are catching up quickly. (…)

The complexities involved in the negotiations largely stem from Germany’s ambition to move to a fully gold open access world. (…)

Germany’s challenge, however, is that the vast majority of research nations – among which the US, China and Japan – do not pay to broadcast their research to the rest of the world like Germany wants to do. Instead they prefer to publish under the subscription model, and support green open access (i.e. delayed manuscript sharing). As a result, immediate access to content from the rest of the world is not free.
5. Transformation Dynamics

Germany is 5-6% of the World Science Market (e.g. in terms of publications)

… comparable to UC system

… we are fighting not alone, but more support would be helpful

… this is the time to say we want Open Access!
DEAL Negotiations: Elsevier

- **Non-renewal** of licence agreements
  - Approx. 70 academic institutions cancelled their contracts for 2017
  - This number grew to about 200 for 2018, including major universities and research institutes

- Elsevier finally kept access open in 2017 and approaches research managers, academics and politicians directly. They are mostly keeping it open right now. They do a lot of lobbying. Misleading information about possible extensions of old contracts.

- Renowned scientists have started to **resign from Elsevier functions**, with more to come.

- DEAL is prepared to continue negotiations at any time on the basis of its clearly defined goals and “what it wants to buy.”
A bold open-access push in Germany could change the future of academic publishing

By Gretchen Vogel, Kai Kupferschmidt  |  Aug. 23, 2017, 12:15 PM
No Deal: German Universities Prepare For Cut-Off From Elsevier Journals

16/12/2016 BY MONIKA ERMERT FOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY WATCH — 8 COMMENTS

https://www.ip-watch.org/2016/12/16/no-deal-german-universities-prepare-cut-off-elsevier-journals/

RELX Group’s Elsevier fights open access in Germany

Posted on August 6, 2017

http://kevin.lexblog.com/2017/08/06/relx-groups-elsevier-fights-open-access/

German researchers resign from Elsevier journals in push for nationwide open access

By Gretchen Vogel | Oct. 13, 2017, 3:30 PM

DEAL Negotiations: SpringerNature and Wiley

- Negotiations since early 2017
- Productive discussions and agreement on the Publish & Read model (PAR) in principle
  - Both publishers acknowledge the transformative nature of the journals market
  - Challenges remain
- Next steps
  - Interim continuation of current agreements for 2018 with frozen prices in order to gain time for concluding the negotiations
  - Aiming at DEAL licence starts during 2018
6+. Comments, Discussion

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